



Australia's Economic Accelerator – Ignite and Innovate Webinar

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Overview: Australia's Economic Accelerator

- Competitive grant program designed to bridge the gap between basic research and commercialisation
- Grants **used for translation and commercialisation activities** to demonstrate proof-of-concept, validate research in a laboratory or real-world environment, proof-of-scale, and develop and test prototypes
- Activities in scope correspond to Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3-7
- Stage-gated model: AEA program consists of Seed (pilot) and Ignite (TRL 3-5) and AEA Innovate (TRL 5-7) competitive grants
- Stage 3 vehicle through the CSIRO Innovation Fund Main Sequence Ventures. Note: this is **not** a formal part of AEA with no automatic transfer between AEA grants and Main Sequence Ventures



AEA – Ignite and Innovate

	Ignite	Innovate
Rounds in 2024	2	1
Timetable	Applications open for 6 weeks	EOIs open for 6 weeks Applications open for 6 weeks
Table A and Table B Universities can apply	✓	✓
University Colleges can apply	✓	✓
Maximum grant amount	Up to \$500,000	Up to \$5 million
Maximum project duration	12 months	24 months
Engagement with industry partner/s	Preferred	Mandatory
Minimum applicant (Lead Organisation) contribution	10%	50%
Technology Readiness Level	3-5 (Proof-of-concept)	5-7 (Proof-of-scale)

AEA Investment Strategy

AEA grants support the Australian Government identified priority areas for the economy, outlined in the National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (Priority Areas) Declaration 2023.















Focus Areas*

Within these priorities, the first round of grants will prioritise projects that align with one or more of the following focus areas:



Critical and strategic minerals processing



Digital agriculture



Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Quantum



Sustainable fuels



manufacturing

^{*}Eligible applications for projects that do not focus on these 6 technology areas but are within the 7 government identified priority areas for the economy will still be considered.

AEA industry problem statements

Problem statements articulate tangible problems faced by industry where there is an opportunity for AEA investment to deliver a solution and a pathway to real-world impact

- ✓ Complement AEA focus areas
- ✓ Guidance to researchers in identifying applications and partners
- ✓ Mechanisms to increase linkages between researchers and end-users (Australian Universities Accord)

Industry problem	Opportunity	Impact
The storage, transport and handling of hydrogen requires infrastructural renewal, components and novel inter-operability solutions	Pioneer commercially viable systems to safely store, transport and handle renewable hydrogen at scale	Improve the commercial viability of renewable hydrogen to accelerate scaleup
Complex and personalised therapeutics require higher speed and output production methods to scale up and become affordable	Develop innovations that support high- throughput methods to produce higher volumes of diverse pharmaceutical products	Expand availability of novel therapeutics and medicines across Australia and support the development of domestic pharmaceuticals manufacturing

Agenda



AEA Ignite – Selection criteria



Eligibility Criteria

Table A and B Universities or university colleges



Funding requests between \$50,000 to \$500,000 per project



Project period from 3 months up to 12 months only



Project must currently be at technology readiness level (TRL) 3 - 5



Projects to have strong industry engagement, preferably investment



Be aligned with at least one Government priority area

+ one of 6 focus areas*



Nominate one lead entrepreneur with a 0.5FT commitment for the project



Identify and mitigate all actual and perceive conflicts of interest



Applicants to make a minimum contribution of 10 per cent of total budget

AEA Ignite – End to end process

Round opens

Proposals developed

Proposals submitted

Proposals assigned

Proposals reviewed

Proposal outcomes

Department

Grant round opens in Research RMS

Applicant (University)

Sets up/update profile in RMS

Responds to selection criteria

Research Office reviews proposal

Applicant (University)

Research Office completes submission in RMS

Department

Department

assesses against mandatory requirements

(including national security checks) before assigning to assessors

Assessors

Assess merits of all applications against selection criteria and benchmark

Department applies regional, female and First Nations weighting to high quality applications

Participate in moderation process

Department

Advice prepared for Program Delegate's decision

AEA Ignite – Assessment process

Administrative check



Assessment 1



Assessment 2



Moderation



Delegate approval

Check mandatory requirements

Conduct due diligence assessments

Assigns eligible applications for assessment

Expert assessors are assigned proposals

Assess against selection criteria

Provide assessment, rankings and recommendations

Expert Assessors are assigned proposals

Assess against selection criteria

Provides assessment rankings and recommendations

Benchmarked applications are checked for potential additional points (regional/First Nations/female)

Assessors review and moderate recommendations

Recommendations to the Program Delegate Delegate makes decision

All applicants notified of outcomes

Successful applicants issued draft Conditions of Grants

Agenda

Overview

AEA Ignite

AEA Innovate

Next steps & questions

AEA Innovate – Eligibility Criteria



Must submit an EOI prior to full application



Requests up to \$5 Million per project



Project period up to 24 months only



Table A & B
Universities and
University Colleges



Projects must demonstrate engagement with industry partner organisation



Be aligned with at least one government identified priority area



Nominate one lead entrepreneur engaged by the lead organisation



Demonstrate all actual and perceived conflicts of interest are disclosed, and steps taken to address and resolve conflicts



Applicants to make a minimum contribution of 50 per cent of total budget



Project must currently be at technology readiness level (TRL) 5 - 7

AEA Innovate- End to End Process



AEA Innovate – Assessment process

EOI & Full application

Assessment

Moderation

Board consideration

Delegate approval

EOI prepared by applicant

Priority Managers provide feedback to applicants to strengthen the proposal

Applicant submits full application via research office

Independent review against selection criteria by Priority Managers and expert assessors

Assessors review and moderate recommendations.

Ranked applications provided to AEA Advisory Board

Advisory Board considers selection criteria, value for money, alignment with program priorities, and other factors like regional, female and First Nations participation

The Board or its Investment Sub-committee may conduct interviews

Advisory Board provides recommendations to the Delegate

Delegate makes decision

All applicants notified of outcomes

Successful applicants issued draft Condition of Grants

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Next steps & questions





AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC ACCELERATOR