



Industry Research Projects

Program Guidelines

18 October 2023





The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (the department) will provide and pay for qualified interpreting services for customers who are hearing impaired or have difficulties communicating in English. Please [contact the department](#) if you require interpreting services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The department respectfully acknowledges and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands, winds and waters where we live, learn and work.

We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions and the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the nation.

We will walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations in our journey to enrich lives and strengthen community connection through the power of innovation, sport and recreation.

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1. Fund overview

The Queensland Government's [Advance Queensland - Innovation for a Future Economy: 2022-2032 Roadmap](#) sets out the direction, key priority outcomes and initiatives for the next phase in Queensland's journey toward becoming a leading and sustainable world-class innovation economy.

The Roadmap identifies a priority for Queensland to achieve this through translating its high-quality research into commercialisation opportunities through research-business collaborations.

The **Advance Queensland Industry Research Projects (AQIRP)** program aims to provide funding support for meaningful opportunities for researchers to partner with industry to address a significant issue or problem identified by the industry partners. Projects should focus on developing opportunities to translate research outcomes into commercialisation opportunities for innovative services and products.

The program targets high quality research projects where research outcomes lead to new products, processes, or services through activities focussed on progressing the innovation within Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5 to 9 toward commercial readiness and future investment. The Technology Readiness Level Index is outlined in Appendix A.

Investment is targeted within the **priority investment areas** and support for high quality research and industry collaborative projects.

The **objectives** of the program are to:

- Increase partnerships between research and industry partners, improve research and business collaboration
- Translate research outcomes into new innovative services and products
- Increase expenditure on innovative research and development
- Increase opportunities for commercialisation as part of growing the innovation economy.

2. Available funding

Funding will be offered over two tiers and is available for projects with a duration of **up to three years**, with a focus on translation of research outcomes and findings in the final third of the project term:

Tier 1	For applicants located in South East Queensland , grants of \$500k (min) – \$1.5m (max) excluding GST are available, where projects have a matched funding (1:1) ratio from the applicant and/or partners.
Tier 2	For applicants located in a Queensland region* , grants of \$250k (min) – \$1.5m (max) excluding GST are available, where projects have 25% matched funding from the applicant and/or partners.

*A **Queensland region** is any location in Queensland **excluding the following South East Queensland regions**: Brisbane City Council, Toowoomba Regional Council, Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Logan City Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Noosa Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Council and the Gold Coast City Council.

In addition, where the following Universities are applicants, they are deemed to be located in a Queensland region for the purposes of the Industry Research Projects program:

- James Cook University
- Central Queensland University
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Southern Queensland.

Note: If you are successful the proposed project must commence within six months of being advised of funding approval.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Applicant

To be eligible to apply for this program **the applicant** must at the time of application be:

- a Queensland-based organisation #
- registered for GST and have an ABN

A Queensland-based organisation must be operating its business in a physical location in Queensland which must be maintained for the duration of the project.

3.2 Collaboration

Projects supported by this program are required to be a collaboration between:

- at least one Queensland-based research organisation; and
- at least one Queensland-based company (that will progress the translation and practical application of the research)
- partnering organisations must not be an associated entity, parent or subsidiary of the applicant organisation and any spin out companies must be established for over one year.

Queensland Government departments including Queensland Hospital & Health Services and other agencies that provide medical services will only be considered as an industry partner for program eligibility.

3.3 Cash contribution

Tier 1	A total cash contribution (from the applicant and/or partner organisation(s)) that is equal to, or greater than, the Innovation Research Projects grant sought.
Tier 2	A total cash contribution (from the applicant and/or partner organisation(s)) that is not less than 25% of the Innovation Research Projects grant sought.

- For the purposes of this program co-funded “cash” is defined as:
 - cash directly contributed to the project by the Applicant Organisation and/or the Partner Organisation(s)
 - “salaries-as-cash”. This includes the standard salary remuneration and standard salary on-costs of the dedicated project staff. This only applies to the portion of the salary allocated to the project that is paid by the Applicant or Partner Organisation.
- Salaries-as-cash can be claimed for the FTE time spent on the project for eligible Applicant and Partner Organisation staff. The non-project time of these staff cannot be claimed as a cash contribution, and the time of ineligible staff cannot be claimed (e.g. administrative staff, supervisors, mentors, PhD scholars or other fellows).
- Queensland Government non-grant funding from all sources (new cash and salaries-as-cash) may be used as co-funded cash but cannot exceed half of the Queensland Government Advance Queensland funding applied for.
- Other Queensland Government grant funding secured, including Queensland Government scholarships, fellowships and project grants, cannot be used as co-funded cash.
- In-kind contributions will not be considered as cash but may assist in demonstrating Applicant and/or Partner Organisation commitment to the project.

3.4 Related funding

The lead Queensland-based applicant organisation (and/or any partner organisation) cannot be receiving Queensland Government funding for the proposed project activities at the time of application.

The lead Queensland-based applicant organisation (and/or any partner organisation) proposed project cannot be fully funded from other funding sources at the time of the application.

3.5 Priority investment areas

The proposed project must address at least one of the following priority investment areas:

- using the following innovative technology to advance industry:
 - autonomous systems
 - robotics and artificial intelligence
 - nanotechnology
 - synthetic biology technologies including mRNA
 - quantum technologies
- innovation in cybertechnology, defence industries and space industries
- innovating the tourism industry
- innovation in methods to drive sporting and sporting event success (Sports Tech)
- using innovative methods to improve agriculture and food including novel proteins and low emissions production systems
- using innovative methods to achieve a sustainable future in a decarbonising economy by:
 - developing environmentally responsible mining practices including innovative methods to accelerate new economy/critical minerals industry
 - managing Queensland's waste and pollution and developing the circular economy
 - mitigating and preventing climate change
 - developing sustainable energy solutions including technology supporting green hydrogen
 - developing sustainable energy storage solutions
 - developing sustainable water solutions
- building resilience against:
 - future potential pandemic crises
 - natural disasters e.g., droughts, floods, cyclones and bushfires.

3.6 Other considerations

Proposed projects that contain any of the following characteristics **will not be** favourably considered:

- a proposed project which is not a distinct activity/project
- a proposed project which does not include a set of activities with specified start and end dates
- a proposed project which does not focus on the translation of research findings and outcomes in the final third period of the term of the project.

4. Project costs

Industry Research Projects funding may be used for the following **eligible project costs**:

- salary costs for project staff (including standard salary-related on-costs). The salary claimed must be commensurate with the FTE percentage committed to the project. For example, if an individual spends 40% of their time on the project, then 40% of their salary can be claimed.

- consumables required specifically for the project activities
- small equipment (total maximum value of 10% of the Industry Research Projects grant funding) required specifically for the project activities
- third party technical services supporting validation/demonstration of the product/process
- travel necessary to undertake project activity, economy airfares and reasonable accommodation costs only will be considered.

Any direct eligible project costs over and above the grant funding can be met by the co-funded cash contribution.

Items **not eligible** to be paid for from grant funding or to be regarded as co-funded cash, include:

- organisational overheads
- capital works and/or physical infrastructure including any buildings or leasing costs, land transportation, telecommunications and IT networks
- costs associated with the ongoing programs of work and/or core business of the applicant or partner organisation(s)
- payments between applicants and partners or associated entities.

Only eligible expenditure incurred on or after the project commencement date can be claimed by successful applicant organisations.

Innovation Research Projects funding must be expended either wholly in Queensland, or if partly expended in other jurisdictions, must directly support the project activities (for example to cover costs to access specialised research equipment not available in Queensland).

5. Assessment criteria

All applications will be assessed against the program objectives and assessment criteria, and all criteria are equally weighted.

Criteria 1: **Significance of the translation of research into commercialisation**

The application must demonstrate:

- an industry issue or problem that is significant for Queensland
- the high value of the innovative area of research and development identified is aligned with the priority investment areas
- a clearly articulated plan to translate research findings into new products, processes or services
- significance of funding opportunity to advance the research outcomes to the point of translation and possible future investment.

Criteria 2: **Strength of collaboration**

The application must demonstrate:

- the project will meaningfully involve organisations and individuals with complementary areas of expertise
- the industry partner organisation(s) will be integral in the design and delivery of the project activities
- the project parties have research, scientific and management skills/experience and access to infrastructure and funding required to successfully deliver the project
- the project parties have a track record in translating research findings into commercial products/services.

Criteria 3: **Value and viability of the project**

The application must demonstrate:

- the project is viable and demonstrates value for money
- the project has a strong delivery plan and can be completed within the defined timeframes and budget
- the project is supported by the applicant, industry partners and collaborators through commitment of key researchers, staff and funding to deliver the project.

Criteria 4: **Sustainability and resilience of outcomes achieved**

The application must demonstrate:

- a well-defined path to impact and development of the product/service beyond the third year/final third of the project including forward planning for future financial investment
- clear development plan to progress the translation of the research
- identified commercialisation opportunities for project outcomes
- the intellectual property rights and how they will be attributed between the research organisation and industry partners to ensure the continuity of the project.

6. Application process

All applications will be assessed against the eligibility requirements. Only eligible submissions will be considered for funding support. Eligible applications will be assessed in a competitive, merit-based approach by a panel of independent assessors against the assessment criteria.

Applicant organisations may be contacted at any stage of the assessment process to provide further information to enable a due diligence and probity assessment. There is no implicit guarantee of approval at any stage in the process, and applicants will be notified via email of the assessment outcome.

The Queensland Government reserves the right to administer the Advance Queensland Industry Research Projects program and conduct the assessment and approval processes as it sees fit. This may include, at its discretion, considering current government priorities and the need to balance the investment to support a diversity of activities across Queensland.

A Full Application will include:

- a completed online application form including detailed responses to each of the assessment criteria
- letters of support including partners in principle commitment of funding contributions if the application is successful
- a completed project budget using the online template and uploaded as part of your application
- CVs of key researchers.

7. Key dates

Advance Queensland Industry Research Projects applications must be submitted online via the Advance Queensland website.

Fund launch

28 August 2023

Applications close

28 November 2023 at 11.00am (AEST)

8. Funding agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a legally binding Financial Incentive Agreement with the State of Queensland through the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport.

Payment of grants will be made based on agreed periodic project milestones. A final milestone payment will be made upon the provision of documentary evidence that all project activities have been completed, including evidence that total project expenditure has been incurred and project contributions have been made by all relevant parties.

9. Promotion of Supported Projects

Funding recipients will be expected to actively promote their projects, and to provide information and attend media/promotion events if requested. The Queensland Government funding should be acknowledged by recipients in all relevant published material, media releases and public statements relating to the proposed project.

10. Privacy

The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (the department) is collecting personal information from you such as your name, address, contact details of yourself and your business (including employees and partners), resume, employment and directorship, corporate officer history, payslips, asset and financial information and other information relevant to your application or provided by you. This information is collected for the purpose of assessing and evaluating your application for funded projects, milestone reports, and otherwise the department's function of supporting businesses and industry through innovation programs and grants.

Personal information may also be disclosed where required for purposes associated with undertaking assessment of the application, including due diligence enquiries. The email address you provide will be used to communicate with you about your application or program participation (if successful). For example, you may be contacted via email about participating in a survey, interview or focus group. Dependent upon the email service provider you have chosen, this may result in your personal information being transferred overseas.

The personal information provided may be provided to other relevant Queensland government departments and Ministers, to publicly announce or publish as identified in the guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) and promote those projects that have been funded. This may include the recipient's name and the amount of funding awarded, project details, agreed outcomes, and progress.

De-identified aggregated data may also be used for the purpose of managing and evaluating the 'Industry Research Projects' initiative and inform government.

Your personal information will also be used to provide the services outlined in the guidelines and FAQs, and for the purposes of research, evaluation, promotion and monitoring of such services, and to improve and design services and programs.

Your personal information will not be otherwise used or disclosed unless authorised or required by law and will be managed in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009.

The provisions of the Right to Information Act 2009 apply to documents in the possession of the Queensland Government.

The Queensland government privacy policy can be found at: www.qld.gov.au/legal/privacy.

11. Further information

Web: advance.qld.gov.au

Email: sciencefunding@dtis.qld.gov.au

Facebook: Advance Queensland

Twitter: @AdvanceQld

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Appendix A

Technology Readiness Level Index (TRL Scale)

Technology Readiness Level		Description
Basic Technology research	1 - Basic principles observed and reported	Lowest level of technology readiness. Scientific research begins to be translated into applied research and development (R&D). Examples might include paper studies of a technology's basic properties.
	2 – Technology concept and/or application formulated	Invention begins. Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. Applications are speculative and there may be no proof or detailed analysis to support the assumptions.
Research to prove feasibility	3 – Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof of concept	Active R&D is initiated. This includes analytical studies and laboratory studies to physically validate the analytical predictions of separate elements of the technology.
Technology development	4 – Product and/or process validation in laboratory environment	Basic technological products and/or processes are tested to establish that they will work.
	5 – Product and/or process validation in relevant environment	Reliability of product and/or process innovation increases significantly. The basic products and/or processes are integrated so they can be tested.
Technology demonstration	6 – Product and/or process prototype demonstration in a relevant environment	Prototypes are tested in a relevant environment. Represents a major step up in a technology's demonstrated readiness. Examples include testing a prototype in a simulated operational environment.
System commissioning	7 – Product and/or process prototype demonstration in an operational environment	Prototype near or at planned operational system and requires demonstration of an actual prototype in an operational environment (e.g., in a vehicle).
	8 – Actual product and/or process completed and qualified through test and demonstration	Innovation has been proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions. In almost all cases, this TRL represents the end of true system development.
Systems Operation	9 – Actual product and/or process proven successful	Actual application of the product and/or process innovation in its final form or function.