ARENA's Commercialisation of R&D Funding Initiative Pilot - FAQs

Please read these FAQs in conjunction with the Funding Initiative Guidelines. If your query is not answered here, please contact us at commercialisation@arena.gov.au for more information.

ARENA's Renewable Energy Commercialisation Workshop
For further information on the travel grants that will be available to participate in this workshop, please refer to the Workshop Participation Scheme Guidelines and letter agreement.

Q. How does the CSIRO *ON Prime6* local hubs tie in with the ARENA Renewable Energy Commercialisation Workshop?
A. ARENA will provide travel grants for *ON Prime6* program participants working on an eligible renewable technology to attend the national *ARENA Renewable Energy Commercialisation Workshop*. This is a one-day session held in addition to the local *ON Prime6* hub sessions.

Q. Where will the ARENA Renewable Energy Workshop be held?
A. The *ARENA Renewable Energy Commercialisation Workshop* will be held in the city with the most renewable energy projects in the CSIRO's *ON Prime6* program. You will be notified of the location well in advance of the workshop date.

Q. How is the Workshop related to the ARENA funding initiative?
A. Participation in ARENA's workshop is an eligibility requirement of applying to the funding initiative. If you have not participated in the workshop, you will not be eligible to apply for any funding from ARENA via the funding initiative.

General
Q. Is the funding considered as Australian Competitive Grant research and experimental development income?
A. Yes, the grants awarded under this Funding Initiative are considered as competitive grants.

Q. Is this funding a one-off initiative? Is there scope for ARENA to continue this funding initiative on a regular basis?
A. This funding initiative is a one-off pilot. ARENA will evaluate its success and consider whether further rounds will be run.

Q. Is the funding targeting a particular technology?
A. This funding initiative is open to all renewable energy technologies. However, the merit of the applications will consider the impact that the technology will have on the increased uptake of renewable energy in Australia, and how it positively increases its competitiveness.

Q. Does the funding initiative lead to further ARENA funding?

A: After the completion of the project, applicants may wish to apply to other ARENA funding programs. Applications will be assessed on its merits in accordance with the relevant program guidelines.

Q. Will ARENA be taking any equity or IP?
A. No, neither ARENA nor the CSIRO will take any equity or IP.

Q. Are patents required to be in place before applying for ARENA funding?
A. No, you are not required to have IP protected before applying for ARENA funding. However, you must have the rights to use any IP that is required for the project.

Q. How long will the ARENA application form take to fill out?
A. ARENA works to ensure that the length of application forms and associated details required are not overly onerous for applicants, but still provide enough information for thorough assessment.

Team and Applicants
Q. What is the difference between the Team and the Applicant?
A. The Applicant is the lead research institution that will be submitting the Application, and is the organisation that the Funding Agreement for successful Applications will be held with. The Team is the personnel that will be undertaking the Project. The Team should be largely the same as that which participated in the *ON Prime6* program.

Q. My Team participated in a previous round of the *ON Prime* program. Can we apply for funding?
A. No. This funding initiative is a pilot and is not open to Teams from cohorts prior to *ON Prime*. ARENA will consider running the funding initiative again, and may consider opening future rounds to previous *ON Prime* cohorts.

Q. What are the requirements for Team composition? Do you need to have a people from a research institution, industry and business?
A. The CSIRO *ON Prime6* Program requires that at least one member of the Team is from an Australian research institute. The ARENA funding Applicant must be that research institute. There are no other requirements for Team composition, however it may be beneficial to your project to have a range of other members in your Team (e.g. from industry, or the commercialisation office of your research institute).

Q. Are start-up companies that come out of ON Prime programs eligible for ARENA funding under the funding initiative?
A. No, the Applicant must be an Australian research institute; however, a start-up company may be named as a project partner. Start-ups may also be eligible to apply for funding under ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program. Details of the Program, including the eligibility requirements, can be found on ARENA's website and in the Program Guidelines.

Q. Does the size of the Team affect the merit criteria?
A. The CSIRO *ON Prime* Program requires a Team of two to six people. For application to the ARENA funding, the Team should include members with the required technical and commercial expertise (which may be demonstrated through performance during the ON Prime program), and appropriate time commitment from each team member to undertake the project. This will be assessed via the merit criteria for the funding initiative. These skills and time commitments may be split across Team members.

Projects
Q. Can I apply for funding for a different project than I developed during the ON Prime program?
A. No. The underlying technology under development during the *ON Prime6* Program must be the same as the Project for which ARENA funding is sought. Changes to the direction of focus are accepted, for example, where the commercialisation pathway or commercial application has changed.

Q. What are the expected outcomes at the end of each project?
A. The outcomes for projects are expected to be progress towards commercial outcomes that will vary according to individual project pathways, both in terms of what these outcomes are (e.g. spin-offs, licensing arrangements) and timeframes to achieving these.

Q. Are teams required to prepare a follow up knowledge sharing report after the completion of project?
A. All Applicants are required to agree to participate in knowledge sharing events and activities. As this is a pilot program, the specific format for these are not yet confirmed and will depend on the volume and diversity of successful applicants. The knowledge sharing commitments will not be onerous and will not require disclosure of any commercial information.

Q. Will a sub-component of a renewable energy technology be eligible?
A. Yes, where it is assessed as contributing to the objective of the funding initiative. A technology that forms only a minor component of a renewable energy technology, or is unlikely to have an application in renewable energy, may not be eligible or may be considered low merit.

Q. Is software eligible for funding?
A. Yes, however the link to a renewable energy application must be clear and meaningful.

Budget justification
Q. What ratio of co-contributions is expected for applications?
A. While there is no specific ratio, ARENA would expect to see at least 50% contribution from Applicants in the form of in-kind contributions, which includes costs such as laboratory access and time from staff members who are already employed and are directly participating in the project. We do not necessarily expect cash contributions, although it will increase the merit of an application.

Q. Can I use funding to hire a postdoctoral fellow?
A. Yes, salary is included in eligible expenditure where personnel are not already employed on a permanent basis by the research institution, and the proportion of the salary in the budget justification is in line with the proportion of time the personnel will allocate to the project.

Q. Is it possible to leverage funding from other sources?
A. Yes. Funding from other sources may be included as cash contributions.