

Commercialisation of R&D Information Session - 7 August 2019

How much is allocated to all the Commercialisation R&D grants?

A funding envelope of \$1million has been allocated to this initiative.

Can the name of the Team be changed on the Application from what was used for ON Prime?

Yes, the name that was used for ON Prime can be changed, and used as the Project title.

Is there a specific start date projects must adhere to?

ARENA will expect all projects commence after 1 October and before the end of 2019.

What templates are required?

The full list of templates is available on the ARENA website.

There is not a separate budget template. The budget will be included in the ARENANet form.

The Applicant will be required to outline the sources of funding, where funding is being spent and what it is allocated too.

There is no template for the project plan but the information to be included in the project plan is available on page 8 of the Guidelines. The only limitation is that it be a maximum of 10 pages and that it be legible to those assessing it. Anything over 10 pages will be removed and not provided to the Assessors.

Are cash contributions expected?

No, there is no requirement for cash contributions from partners or the lead applicant. Cash contributions may be considered higher merit than in-kind contributions when the applicant can clearly demonstrate that the cash is being used for activities that clearly progress the commercialisation of the technology or project.

Will contracts allow for a deviation from the budget provided?

Funding agreements will allow for a 10% deviation from each line item or quantum of the budget, during the Project's lifetime. It is expected that the budget provided at the time of application will be true and complete. As this is a once stage application process, budget changes or variations after the application is submitted are not allowed.

Are there any rules or requirements for overseas travel?

ARENA funds can be spent on overseas travel but is considered overseas expenditure, which is capped at 10% of the total ARENA funds. A justification of the travel required would be expected in the project plan.

Does funding need to be spent on the commercialisation of research?

Yes. It would be considered low merit if the funds are used to continue undertaking research. It would be considered higher merit if the funds contribute to activities which specifically help to commercialise the research.

Can ARENA funding be spent on researchers or students?

Salary is considered eligible expenditure and this can apply to anyone in the team, but basic research activities are not eligible or considered high merit.

Is it possible to fund students to develop a prototype?

Prototype development, including the purchase of equipment, is considered an eligible activity. This would need to be outlined in your project plan. If the students are internal to the university this is acceptable. External students or consultants, may be considered outsourcing and therefore may be considered low merit.

Are partners, particularly international partners, considered high merit?

While it is acceptable to have international partners, spending of ARENA funds overseas is capped at 10%. ARENA does not view international partners negatively or positively, rather the focus is on the partner's contribution to the project. Partners are not a mandatory requirement for funding.

For projects with partners, does ARENA need involvement with any partner agreements?

No, ARENA will only enter into a funding agreement with the lead Applicant. Any agreements required between the Applicant and its partners are the responsibility of the Applicant.

How do we manage changes to members of the ON Prime team, including the removal or addition of people needed for the Project?

Any changes to the ON Prime team (including both additions or removals) need to be clearly articulated and justified in the project plan. The ON Prime team is considered those people who were listed as team members as part of the original ON Prime application. ARENA will assess the justification of changes on a case by case basis to determine whether the changes add value to the commercialisation project. If a team member has left the University they can still be listed as key personnel.

If a project is successful in entering a funding agreement with ARENA, changes to key personnel will need to be managed with the ARENA Client Manager.

Does Eligibility Criteria E relating to the applicant's compliance with the Workplace Gender Equality Act, apply only to the lead applicant?

Eligibility against this criteria will be assessed against the Applicant only, which in all cases should be the lead University. Partners including new start-up organisations which may feature on the application will not be assessed.