

GERMAN-AUSTRALIAN HYDROGEN INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR (HyGATE)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Australian Government
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ARENA

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document contains frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding the German-Australian Hydrogen Innovation and Technology Incubator (HyGATE). ARENA will update this FAQ list as HyGATE progresses. Please refer to the HyGATE webpage at arena.gov.au/funding/german-australian-hydrogen-innovation-and-technology-incubator-hygate/ for further details.

Applicants can submit questions to ARENA relating to the Program by emailing hydrogen@arena.gov.au. Please note, ARENA reserves the right to publish any general questions and answers around the assessment process, information requirements and timetable in this FAQ document.

ADDITIONAL FAQs

1. HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF MY PROPOSED APPLICATION AND ENTITY STRUCTURE IS IN LINE WITH GERMAN FUNDING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING BROADER EUROPEAN UNION REQUIREMENTS?

Applicants are encouraged to provide a copy of the proposed entity structure for the application to Projektträger Jülich (PtJ) via ptj-egf-hygate@fz-juelich.de. Please note any guidance provided by PtJ in relation to the appropriateness of applicant structures does not constitute a confirmation from ARENA that the proposed structure is eligible and/or high merit within the ARENA or Australian side process.

2. I AM CONSIDERING A PROJECT WHERE HYDROGEN IS PRODUCED THROUGH MEANS OTHER THAN ELECTROLYSIS, OR WHERE ELECTROLYSIS IS POWERED BY ENERGY GENERATED FROM BIOMASS OR RELATED FEEDSTOCKS. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON WHETHER MY PROPOSED FEEDSTOCK OR ENERGY SOURCE IS CONSIDERED 'RENEWABLE'?

Applicants are advised to refer to Sect 17 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* (Cth) (available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021C00554>) and Division 2.2 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001* (Cth) (available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022C00196>) for the definition of eligible renewable energy sources in order to determine whether your proposed technology is aligned with the Round. Please note that Section 4 (Scope of the Round) within the HyGATE Funding Announcement provides that Projects that use feedstocks from a non-renewable source will not be funded under the Round.

HYGATE INITIATIVE AND OBJECTIVES

3. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE HYGATE INITIATIVE?

HyGATE is one of the three major initiatives developed as part of the Declaration of Intent between the Government of Australia and the Government of Germany on the Australia-Germany Hydrogen Accord.

HyGATE is intended to support real-world pilot, trial and demonstration projects along the hydrogen supply chain. Australia and Germany have respectively committed up to \$50 million and €50 million to establish HyGATE.

ARENA will administer the HyGATE Initiative on behalf of the Australian Government (through the Department of Industry, Science, Environment and Resources). PtJ will administer the HyGATE Initiative on behalf of the German Government (through the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research) (**BMBF**).

The HyGATE Initiative will be administered under one or more funding rounds. The initial funding round (the **Round**) was launched on 8 March 2022.

4. WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC FOCUS OF THE ROUND?

The Round will support achievement of the broader HyGATE Initiative objectives through providing funding to projects that will deliver on one or more of the following targeted outcomes:

1. **Demonstration of highly innovative technology** across the value chain of renewable hydrogen, supporting the technical viability of renewable hydrogen
2. **Reduction of the cost** of hydrogen production, transport, storage and use, supporting the commercial viability of renewable hydrogen
3. **Development of an Australian-German supply-chain** for renewable hydrogen
4. Encourage **cross country collaboration and knowledge sharing** between Australian and German organisations, including the establishment of cross-country partnerships related to the project activities
5. Provide **price discovery and transparency** in relation to the current and projected economics for renewable hydrogen technologies.

The focus of the Round will be on providing funding to deployment stage projects. Projects that do not involve or directly support the deployment of technology as outlined in the Funding Announcement, including projects where the primary focus is conducting basic feasibility studies, desktop-based activities, research, or significant project development work (i.e., significant early-stage engineering and design development) will not be funded under this Round. Please refer to the Scope of the Round section within the Funding Announcement for more detail.

5. WILL THERE BE MORE THAN ONE FUNDING ROUND UNDER THE HYGATE INITIATIVE?

The HyGATE Initiative will be conducted over one or more funding rounds, as required to achieve the HyGATE Initiative Objectives (as defined within the **Funding Announcement**). \$50 million (the **Total Funding Allocation**) will be made available by ARENA for the Round. However, ARENA may allocate an amount of funding that is less than the Total Funding Allocation if the Proposals received under the Round are not considered to be of sufficient merit to support an offer of ARENA funding or if it is not possible to support all high merit projects within the Total Funding Allocation.

6. WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS IS ARENA SEEKING TO FUND UNDER THE ROUND?

Applicants should refer to the Funding Announcement for guidance around the Scope of the Round which details the priority areas of funding for the Round. Projects that can demonstrate progress towards one or more of these priority areas will be assessed as higher merit under Merit Criteria A (Contributes to Program Outcomes).

APPLYING TO THE ROUND

7. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO ARENA FOR FUNDING UNDER THE ROUND?

Please refer to the Eligibility Criteria outlined in section 2.2 and 2.10 of the Advancing Renewables Program (ARP) Guidelines (arena.gov.au/assets/2017/05/ARENA_ARP_Guidelines_FA_Single_Pages_LORES.pdf) for all details regarding eligibility. Please also refer to the Funding Announcement, accessible via the Round webpage at <https://arena.gov.au/funding/german-australian-hydrogen-innovation-and-technology-incubator-hygate/> to ensure your project fits the Scope of the Round as defined in Section 4 of the Funding Announcement.

Please note that Applicants to the HyGATE Initiative must be a member of an eligible consortium (the **Consortium**). The Consortium must consist of at least one Australian and at least two German partners:

- the Australian partner must be eligible to apply for ARENA funding under the ARP Guidelines; and
- the German partners must include at least one partner from a research organisation (non-university or university) and one from an industry-based organisation, or as otherwise specified by BMBF/PtJ.

The Consortium may involve more than three partner members, and the additional partner members may be located within countries other than Australia and Germany.

The Consortium members must be disclosed within both the ARENA and BMBF/PtJ application processes and must be consistent for both applications. Please also note the requirements regarding evidence of Consortium commitment to the Project detailed in Appendix A of the Funding Announcement.

German Applicants to the HyGATE Initiative should also consider eligibility requirements as specified by BMBF/PtJ.

8. HOW DO I APPLY TO THE ROUND?

The Consortium is required to submit applications to both ARENA and BMBF/PtJ to be considered for funding under the HyGATE Initiative. One application should be submitted by the lead Australian Applicant to ARENA. German partners should submit application(s) to BMBF/PtJ. Please refer to BMBF/PtJ guidance for BMBF/PtJ application requirements.

Expressions of Interest (**EOIs**) must be submitted using ARENA's Grants Management System, ARENANet, which is accessible from the Round webpage. Each section of the application contains instructions on the information required and any word limits that may apply. Applicants can save their application at any time before submitting prior to the EOI Due Date, as disclosed under the Key Dates section of the Round webpage. Please ensure that the mandatory attachments are provided with your application, as specified in Appendix A of the Funding Announcement.

Only Applicants that are successful at the Expression of Interest stage, under both ARENA and BMBF/PtJ processes, will be invited to submit a Full Application.

For more detail, please refer to Section 5 Process of the Funding Announcement for further guidance on applying to the Round, including the information requirements at each stage.

9. IF A PROJECT INCLUDES MULTIPLE CONSORTIUM MEMBERS, DOES EACH CONSORTIUM MEMBER NEED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO ARENA?

No. Only one eligible Australian Applicant should submit an application to ARENA for a single project, on behalf of the Consortium. In general, the lead or key organisation would generally be expected to be the Applicant and enter into the Funding Agreement. Any application should note all key project partners including respective roles, responsibilities, capability (including previous experience), capacity and any financial contributions (cash vs in-kind). Any proposed governance frameworks for the project Consortium should also be noted.

German Applicants should refer to guidance provided by BMBF/PtJ with respect to BMBF/PtJ application requirements, which may differ to ARENA's application process.

10. CAN AN ORGANISATION OR INDIVIDUAL SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION OR BE A MEMBER OF MORE THAN ONE PROJECT TEAM?

Yes, there is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by an individual or organisation. However, if you or an organisation intend to be part of more than one Consortium you must be able to justify that you will have, or be able to allocate, sufficient time and resources to all projects should they each be successful. Each application must meet the requirements set out in the Funding Announcement and the ARENA ARP Guidelines.

11. HOW DO I ASK QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO THE ROUND? CAN ARENA ASSIST ME WITH MY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION?

Applicants can submit questions relating to the Round by emailing hydrogen@arena.gov.au. Questions should be of clarificatory nature only. ARENA is unable to work with Applicants during the Expression of Interest stage of the Round. Any questions regarding the assessment process, information requirements and timetable may be submitted by email to hydrogen@arena.gov.au. ARENA reserves the right to publish any such questions and answers in this FAQ document.

12. WHAT DO I NEED TO PROVIDE AS PART OF MY ARENA APPLICATION?

Please ensure your application meets the requirements outlined in Appendix A of the Funding Announcement, including a project plan in the structure specified and application attachments as required, as well as any requirements set out in the ARP Guidelines.

13. SHOULD I APPLY TO ARENA UNDER THE HYGATE INITIATIVE OR UNDER ANOTHER ARENA PROGRAM OR FUNDING ROUND?

Applicants should review the relevant Program Guidelines (and Funding Announcement if applicable) for the available ARENA funding rounds and programs to determine which may best suit the proposed project. Applicants should apply through one funding round or program only. ARENA, at its discretion, may suggest Applicants resubmit an application under a different funding round or program.

14. CAN I APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM IF MY PROJECT HAS ALSO APPLIED OR IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING INITIATIVES?

Yes. Applicants are to disclose any other grant or concessional funding that Consortium members have applied for or intend to apply for with respect to the project (including funding requested from BMBF/PtJ). ARENA will take all concessional funding into account in determining merit against Criterion D, with higher concessional funding requirements indicating a greater economic gap to commercialisation.

15. WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDING I CAN APPLY FOR?

ARENA has allocated \$50 million (the Total Funding Allocation) for the Round. Applicants should clearly articulate the quantum and justification of the ARENA grant request. Per Merit Criteria D set out in the Funding Announcement, ARENA will assess the value for money relative to the total amount of concessional funding sought, total cost of the project and the potential to contribute to outcomes outlined under Merit Criteria A.

Applicants should clearly indicate the amount of funding requested from ARENA and BMBF/PtJ for the proposed project. This should include the proposed split of funding between ARENA and PtJ and supporting evidence justifying each proposed grant request.

16. CAN I APPLY TO THE ROUND FOR FUNDING FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT?

No. Under the ARP Guidelines, projects must have achieved a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 4 or above. Projects that involve primarily research activities are not eligible for ARENA funding under this Round.

17. CAN I APPLY TO THE ROUND IF I AM NOT A GERMAN OR AUSTRALIAN BASED ORGANISATION?

No. You cannot be a lead applicant if you are not Australian or German, but you may still be a partner member of a Consortium. The lead Applicant to ARENA must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the ARP Guidelines, including Eligibility Criterion A. The German-based organisations that form part of the Consortium should be clearly noted in your application as project partners. Any other organisations involved in the delivery of the project that are not from Australia or Germany should be listed as project partners.

Please also note the requirements of Eligibility Criterion C outlined in the ARP Guidelines, including the requirements for the Activity to primarily take place in Australia and the limits on expenditure incurred outside of Australia. These requirements should be taken into consideration when making your funding requests from ARENA and BMBF/PtJ.

18. ARE THERE REQUIREMENTS AROUND THE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN AND GERMAN CONSORTIUM MEMBERS IN THE PROJECT?

As outlined in Merit Criterion A within the Funding Announcement, a high merit application should demonstrate direct involvement and collaboration between Australian and German Consortium members. To demonstrate this, the primary activities that are key to the success of the project should be undertaken by the Australia and German Consortium members. Trial or demonstration projects are expected to take place in Australia. Applicants should note that ARENA funding typically can only be used to support activities that are undertaken in Australia.

19. HOW SHOULD I STRUCTURE THE TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST BETWEEN ARENA AND BMBF/PTJ FUNDING?

ARENA will only provide funding towards 'eligible expenditure' as defined in the ARP Guidelines. Applicants should refer to the eligibility criteria and additional guidance around eligible expenditure contained in Appendix B of the ARP Guidelines.

Applicants should therefore request funding from ARENA to support eligible expenditure on the project with the ARENA funding request at least matched by the Applicant and/or Consortium. Applicants should refer to documentation provided by BMBF/PtJ to determine the BMBF/PtJ funding request.

The total 'project' cost should include all costs incurred as part of the project, both in Australia and internationally. This should include both activities that will be funded by ARENA and activities that will be funded by BMBF/PtJ or other funding providers.

As an example, Applicants could seek ARENA funding to support the predominantly Australian elements of the project, such as activities undertaken in Australia using Australian technology, materials, labour or expertise. This

could also include the purchase and deployment of German technology in Australia. However, ARENA will not provide funding for activities such as research or studies that have been primarily carried out in Germany or other jurisdictions.

20. IS THERE ANY LIMIT ON OVERSEAS EXPENDITURE?

Any ARENA-funded expenditure incurred by you outside of Australia, other than for equipment or materials, must be limited to no more than 10 percent of the total amount of ARENA funds, except in exceptional circumstances that must be justified by you and agreed to in writing by ARENA before submission of a Proposal. Please refer to Eligibility Criterion C in the ARP Guidelines for further details.

Expenditure outside Australia may be funded by BMBF/PtJ, subject to guidance provided by BMBF/PtJ.

21. HOW SHOULD APPLICANTS DEFINE THE TOTAL PROJECT COSTS?

Applicants should clearly outline all costs associated with delivering their project, including costs incurred in relation to both Australian and German activities (and other locales as relevant).

Applicants should review Appendix B of the ARENA ARP Guidelines to ensure they comply with all eligible expenditure requirements.

22. HOW DOES ARENA CONSIDER THE INCLUSION OF OTHER GRANT FUNDING OR CONCESSIONAL FUNDING?

ARENA will consider the total amount of concessional funding that an Applicant has applied or received for the project in assessing projects. This includes ARENA funding, other grant funding a project may receive from Australian State or Commonwealth Government initiatives and funding received from BMBF/PtJ or other international concessional funding providers. ARENA will also assess any project arrangements that may not be considered to be on commercial or arms length terms (such as land supply, electricity supply and water supply) in its consideration of concessional funding. ARENA retains discretion on any classification adopted.

Consideration of concessional funding specifically excludes finance that may be obtained from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (**CEFC**) or the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (**NAIF**).

23. WHAT CURRENCY WILL FUNDING BE PAID IN?

Funding provided by ARENA will be paid in Australian dollars (**AUD**). All key financial information, including models and budgets, should be submitted to ARENA in AUD with foreign exchange assumptions specified if required.

Note that ARENA expects Applicants to bear responsibility for exchange rate risk. The ARENA funding request should not be conditional or variable depending on exchange rate movements.

24. IS THERE A MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM GRANT REQUEST? IS THERE A LIMIT TO THE COMBINED FUNDING THAT CAN BE REQUESTED FROM ARENA AND BMBF/PTJ?

No minimum grant request has been specified for the Round. The combined (ARENA and BMBF/PtJ) funding request should not exceed the ARENA Total Funding Allocation (\$50 million) plus the additional funding available under the HyGATE Initiative from BMBF/PtJ (€50 million). ARENA expects Applicants to match the ARENA funding requested with contributions from the Applicant and/or Consortium members.

The grant request should be the minimum amount of funding that will allow the Consortium to undertake the project. For example, grant funding could represent the gap between the current (pre-grant) project return and the Applicant's required return for the project. The grant request will need to be supported with appropriate justification and supporting financial modelling.

25. IF I DON'T MEET THE ROUND KEY OBJECTIVES, CAN I APPLY UNDER THE ADVANCING RENEWABLES PROGRAM?

Yes, commercialising clean hydrogen is an ARENA investment priority. Please contact ARENA by emailing proposals@arena.gov.au to discuss further. Please read the ARENA ARP Guidelines to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements. Please note that only applications that meet the requirements in the ARP Guidelines and are assessed as high merit against the merit criteria will be considered for funding.

26. IF I CAN'T MEET YOUR DEADLINES CAN I APPLY FOR FUNDING OUTSIDE OF THE ROUND?

Yes, the Advancing Renewables Program is continuously open. However, ARENA takes a portfolio approach to funding as stipulated in our ARP Guidelines (Clauses 4.23 and 4.24). This may result in ARENA not funding an otherwise meritorious project if the objectives or outcomes of the project are similar to a project ARENA has already funded.

27. CAN I APPLY FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE ROUND IF MY PROJECT UTILISES HYDROGEN PRODUCED THROUGH AN ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY OTHER THAN ELECTROLYSIS?

The Round will only consider projects that utilise renewable hydrogen. Projects that use hydrogen related feedstocks from a non-renewable source will not be funded under this Round, as set out in the Scope of Activity in the Funding Announcement.

28. HOW DO YOU DEFINE RENEWABLE HYDROGEN?

For projects funded by ARENA as part of the Round, any hydrogen production must be 100 per cent powered by either:

- on-site generation of renewable electricity (as defined under section 17 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* (Cth) (the **Act**), and retirement or surrender of Renewable Energy Certificates (**RECs**) or their equivalent for the associated load of the project, together with evidence of such retirement or surrender in accordance with the Act;
- retirement of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or equivalent certificates;
- contracted electricity derived from a renewable Power Purchase Agreement (**PPA**) which includes rights to any retired or surrendered RECs; or
- a combination of the above.

Where an Applicant is proposing to use contracted electricity derived from a renewable PPA, the Applicant must voluntarily surrender/retire the associated certificates. That is, such certificates cannot be applied for other purposes not associated with the project (for example, extinguishing a certificate liability or on-selling the certificates). This is also the case for any certificates generated by on-site renewable electricity generation.

An arrangement to confirm such surrender/retirement will be outlined in any ARENA Funding Agreement.

29. DOES THE PROJECT NEED TO BE BASED IN AUSTRALIA?

Yes. Trial or demonstration projects should take place in Australia in line with the HyGATE Initiative Objectives outlined in the Funding Announcement. Additionally, activities for which the Consortium is seeking ARENA support should primarily take place in Australia in line with the ARP Guidelines.

30. HOW WILL KNOWLEDGE BE SHARED FROM THE ROUND?

ARENA may look to publish aggregated and non-identifiable data from the applications received at the conclusion of the Expression of Interest and Full Application stages of the Round where appropriate.

ARENA has also provided a template Knowledge Sharing Plan for the Round. ARENA expects Applicants to provide a response to the Knowledge Sharing Plan with both their Expression of Interest and Full Application. Applicants are encouraged to adapt the Knowledge Sharing Plan as required (particularly for projects that are focused on other aspects of the hydrogen value chain outside of hydrogen production) and include any incremental knowledge sharing outputs that it considers to be valuable to the market.

31. IF A PROJECT WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE BALANCE SHEET, CAN A STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD APPLICANT BE SUBMITTED IN PLACE OF THE REQUESTED EQUITY MOU?

If there is no external equity required for the project, a formal statement from the lead project proponent should be provided, noting the internal approval process completed and required for the project, any internal hurdle rates of return and any key conditions or terms to self-funding the project. The Application should contain any other information relevant to support the financing approach proposed.

32. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS AT THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION STAGE FOR THE 'FINANCING PLAN' REFERRED TO AT APPENDIX A?

At the Expression of Interest stage, Applicants should note all required sources of funds for the project in the financing plan as noted in Appendix A of the Funding Announcement. The financing plan should note the proposed source of funds including proposed financing party, level of commitment, status of negotiations or discussions, proposed timing to binding commitments and any key terms or conditions of funding.

33. IS THERE A TEMPLATE THAT APPLICANTS SHOULD USE TO STRUCTURE THEIR APPLICATION, OR CAN APPLICANTS CHOOSE THEIR OWN FORMAT?

Applicants should follow the instructions on ARENANet when completing the online application form. Applicants are required to attach further documentation as set out in the Additional Information Requirements at Appendix A of the Funding Announcement and the ARP Guidelines. This includes the project plan document, which should follow the format provided in Appendix A of the Funding Announcement.

34. SHOULD THE PROJECT BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MODELS INCLUDE RISK CONTINGENCY COMPONENTS OR SHOULD THEY BE REMOVED FROM THE CAPITAL ESTIMATE?

As set out in the Funding Announcement, high merit proposals should include evidence, at the Expression of Interest stage, of a total project estimate to a confidence interval of +/- 30% (excluding contingency costs) or firmer, setting out the key assumptions. Please note that the exclusion of contingency costs applies to this information provision requirement only. Each Applicant is required to form their own view regarding risk and contingency costs, including with regard to the financial model that supports the ARENA funding request. All assumptions should be clearly set out and supported in your project plan.

Applicants should clearly outline all costs associated with delivering their project, including contingency costs, in both their project plan document and financial model. Applicants should ensure they submit documentation addressing all information requirements outlined in Appendix A of the Funding Announcement, including details on how the Applicant will manage contingency costs and cost overruns.

35. WILL ALL DELIVERABLES LISTED IN THE KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLAN BE DISSEMINATED PUBLICLY?

ARENA intends to publish the project's Knowledge Sharing Plan deliverables publicly unless specified as Recipient Confidential Information in the Knowledge Sharing Plan. The Knowledge Sharing deliverables should be prepared considering the stakeholders as set out in the Audience column in the Knowledge Sharing Plan.

Applicants should refer to the Funding Announcement for guidance around demonstrating high merit against Merit Criterion E (Knowledge sharing).

36. WILL THE INFORMATION (INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SUCH AS MOUS WITH OFFTAKE PARTIES) THAT ARE PROVIDED IN AN APPLICATION BE DISCLOSED BY ARENA TO EXTERNAL PARTIES OUTSIDE OF ARENA?

All information provided as part of an Application will be treated as confidential in accordance with section 6.1-6.3 of the ARP Guidelines. Once a Funding Agreement is executed between the successful Applicants, Confidential Information will be managed in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

37. HOW WILL MY APPLICATION BE ASSESSED?

ARENA uses a two-stage assessment process (Expression of Interest and Full Application). Further details on the assessment process and timetable are set out in the Funding Announcement and the ARP Guidelines.

ARENA will score applications against the Merit Criteria outlined in the ARP Guidelines and the Funding Announcement and rank applications based on their score. ARENA may engage members of the ARENA Advisory Panel to undertake this process.

Any submissions to BMBF/PtJ will be assessed under the assessment process detailed by BMBF/PtJ. This process is broadly aligned to the ARENA process for the HyGATE Initiative.

38. DOES MY CONSORTIUM HAVE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN BOTH THE ARENA AND BMBF/PTJ PROCESSES TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER THE HYGATE INITIATIVE?

Yes. At the completion of both the Expression of Interest and Full Application, ARENA and BMBF/PtJ will compare outcomes of the separate assessment processes. Only proposals that have been assessed as high merit by both ARENA and BMBF/PtJ will be invited to proceed to the next stage of the process. Note that this does not mean all high merit proposals will automatically proceed forward to the next stage; other requirements including portfolio fit and the available Total Funding Allocation will also be taken into consideration.

39. WHAT DOES A ‘COMPETITIVE PROCESS’ MEAN?

The Round is a competitive process as defined in the ARP Guidelines, and clauses 4.27 to 4.32 therefore apply to the Round. This means that applications to the Round must be submitted by the deadlines specified in the Funding Announcement and eligible applications will be ranked based on an assessment against the merit criteria (as clarified within the Funding Announcement).

Proposals with the highest rankings will be offered funding, subject to:

- ARENA’s portfolio approach described in clause 4.23 and 4.24 of the ARP Guidelines
- proposals meeting the required standard of merit
- proposals also being successful under the BMBF/PtJ process
- the Total Funding Allocation.

40. HOW WILL ARENA ASSESS PROPOSALS BASED ON A ‘PORTFOLIO APPROACH’?

ARENA intends to apply a portfolio approach when offering funding under the Round (as allowed for under ARP Guidelines clauses 4.23 and 4.24). ARENA may elect not to fund an otherwise meritorious project, or in the case of a Competitive Process such as the Round, a higher ranked project, if the aims or outcomes of that project are the same as, or similar to, the aims and outcomes of a project that ARENA is intending to fund through the Round or has previously funded.

41. ARE ALL THE MERIT CRITERIA EQUALLY WEIGHTED?

Yes. ARENA will assess proposals against each of the merit criteria as clarified in the Funding Announcement. Each criterion will be assigned an equal weighting in determining the overall rating and assessment of the proposal.

42. WHAT IS THE TIMEFRAME FOR RECEIVING THE OUTCOME OF MY APPLICATION?

Please refer to the Funding Announcement for the key dates relevant to the Round, including the anticipated timeframe for EOI outcome notification.

43. IF I CAN’T PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION REQUESTED UNDER APPENDIX A OF THE FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT, WILL I AUTOMATICALLY BE UNSUCCESSFUL?

No. However, it is recommended that all mandatory documentation and available relevant additional information is provided to adequately demonstrate merit against the merit criteria. No additional information will be able to be provided to ARENA for assessment after the relevant application due date.

44. WILL ARENA UNDERTAKE EXTERNAL DUE DILIGENCE?

ARENA may elect to engage an external due diligence provider at the Full Application stage of the Round. Applicants will be informed if this will occur.

45. IF MY APPLICATION IS NOT SUCCESSFUL UNDER THE HYGATE INITIATIVE, CAN I RESUBMIT UNDER ANOTHER ARENA FUNDING ROUND OR PROGRAM?

To the extent an application is assessed as high merit by ARENA under the Round but is not assessed as high merit by BMBF/PtJ, ARENA may elect to continue to process the high merit Application. In such circumstances, the Application may no longer be considered part of the HyGATE Initiative and ARENA may provide subsequent guidance to Applicants.

If Applicants that have been unsuccessful under the HyGATE Initiative wish to apply under a separate ARENA funding round or program, please contact proposals@arena.gov.au for further guidance.

46. WILL ARENA OR BMBF/PTJ INFORM ME OF THE OUTCOME OF MY APPLICATION?

ARENA will notify the lead Applicant to ARENA of the outcome of the application. BMBF/PtJ will similarly notify the relevant Applicant to the BMBF/PtJ process. ARENA and BMBF/PtJ will aim to notify each party at the same time.

47. WILL ARENA AND BMBF/PTJ DISCUSS MY APPLICATION?

Yes. After undertaking separate assessment processes, ARENA and BMBF/PtJ will discuss proposals to the extent required to ensure that only proposals that are successful in both processes progress forward to the next stage of the application process. ARENA and BMBF/PtJ will communicate the outcome of the EOI assessment process to the respective lead Applicants for each proposal.

There will be no change to the assessment outcome as a result of ARENA and BMBF/PtJ's combined discussions. A high merit proposal assessed as high merit by ARENA will remain a high merit proposal. However, as outlined in the Funding Announcement, if such a proposal is not also assessed as high merit by BMBF/PtJ, then it will not be eligible to continue forward under the HyGATE Initiative. In such circumstances, ARENA may provide subsequent guidance to Applicants.

Applicants must agree to the sharing of information (including confidential information) between ARENA and BMBF/PtJ prior to application submission.

Further information is available at
arena.gov.au

Australian Renewable Energy Agency

Postal Address

GPO Box 643
Canberra ACT 2601

Location

2 Phillip Law Street
New Acton ACT 2601

Engage with us

ARENAWIRE



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