

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - RESEARCH, COMMERCIALISATION AND STARTUP FUND

Prospective applicants are encouraged to firstly read the Research, Commercialisation and Startup Fund (**Fund** or **RCSF**) Guidelines. If you have further queries, please email [RCSFcontact@sa.gov.au](mailto:RCSFcontact@sa.gov.au).

### 1. When can I apply for each stream?

<b>Stream 1 - Strategic Research Initiatives</b>	Proposals can be submitted at any time. Specific calls for proposals may be made from time to time
<b>Stream 2 – Startup and Early Stage Company Incentive</b>	Proposals can be submitted at any time
<b>Stream 3 – Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystem Initiatives</b>	Proposals can be submitted at any time. Specific calls for proposals may be made from time to time

### 2. Where are the application forms for the various streams?

Application forms for stream 1 and 3 will be available from time to time. Application forms for stream 2 will be provided to applicants that progress through the expression of interest (EOI) stage. Applicants that are deemed uncompetitive or ineligible at the EOI stage may still request and complete an application form.

### 3. Can State Government agencies involved in research and commercialisation including (but not limited to) SA Health, Local Health Networks, apply for the Fund?

Yes; however, the involvement of partner organisations is seen as important for the translation of research. Funding co-contributions from agencies are acceptable; however, it is preferred that non-Government sources of funding also be sought. However, companies spun out of these agencies that are established as independent legal entities may lead applications for the Fund.

### 4. Are funding co-contributions required?

Some level of co-contribution is required for all applications. Refer to the guidelines for specific requirements under each stream.

### 5. Does a startup business count as an industry participant under stream 1?

Yes, as long as the business is a South Australian based legal entity and has an ABN. This includes a body established by or under an Act of the State or a company or registered body within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*.

### 6. For stream 1, are funding programs administered by “funding bodies” eligible?

Stream 1 is able to support funding programs where State Government co-funding is permissible; however, specific calls will be made from time to time for applications to targeted funding programs. Should a potential applicant believe a specific funding program should be targeted by stream 1, you are encouraged to email [RCSFcontact@sa.gov.au](mailto:RCSFcontact@sa.gov.au) with your request.

### 7. Is the information that I provide confidential?

During the EOI process, you should only include information that you do not consider confidential. However, you may include confidential information in your application and it will be treated in accordance with the provisions set out in the Application Form. You will also be required to submit a non-confidential summary of your proposal as part of your application. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA), documents held by the Department for Industry and Skills (Department) or the Department for Treasury and Finance may be required to be made available to general public, unless the information is exempt.

**8. Can I apply for multiple streams of the Fund?**

Yes, you can, provided your proposals are for different projects/initiatives.

**9. How long will the application process take from submission to a decision?**

This depends on several factors including the stream applied for, the size of the requested grant, the quality of application and the complexity of the required due diligence. The RCSF Assessment Panel will convene approximately every six weeks to assess applications and make recommendations to the Minister for Industry and Skills.

**10. How do I get notified if my application is successful?**

You will receive a letter from the Minister for Industry and Skills which will provide details of the support awarded for your proposal and outline the next steps.

**11. What happens if my application is approved?**

The Department for Treasury and Finance (the Treasurer) will enter into a contract with you. This contract will detail the project period, scope, milestones, eligible expenditures, reporting requirements and, if applicable, repayment conditions. As soon as the contract is executed, you will be able to submit your first invoice and receive your first tranche payment (subject to any pre-requisites).

**12. How do I get notified if my application is unsuccessful?**

You will receive notification from the Department for Industry and Skills. You will be able to contact your case officer to seek feedback.

**13. What support will I get during my application?**

A case officer will be assigned to work on your project. They will be your main point of contact during and after your application. The case officer may be in contact with you to ask questions during the assessment of your application.

**14. If unsuccessful, can I re-apply?**

Yes, subject to the Fund being open to proposals/applications and your new application being sufficiently improved/revised. Your new proposal/application will go through the same assessment process.

**15. What happens if I need to alter the scope of work/timeframes/milestones/expenditure?**

The Department understands that external factors and the uncertain nature of research and commercialisation can impact on a business and/or a project. Should changes be required, you should contact the Department for Industry and Skills ([RCSFcontact@sa.gov.au](mailto:RCSFcontact@sa.gov.au)) with your request to vary the contract as soon as possible. An officer from the Department will then

discuss with you whether the variation can be accommodated. Please note that if the contract has terminated (e.g. the end date has passed), then it can no longer be amended.

**16. Do I have to spend the grant money in South Australia?**

No. Although the preference is to work with local suppliers/partners, we understand that not all capabilities/competencies are available in South Australia. It is up to you to justify what makes sense for your organisation and to wisely use local or external resources including those from overseas.

**17. What support will I get if I am awarded a grant?**

A case officer will remain engaged with you if or when necessary. They will be available for any questions related to the grant management but also for additional support (e.g. brainstorming session, introduction to key contacts and so on).

**18. How does the financial acquittal work?**

Depending on your project you may be required to provide interim financial acquittals or simply a final financial acquittal at the end of the grant. You will have to provide a report (templates will be provided) including all relevant invoices and proof of payments.

**19. What happens from a communication (media) and marketing perspective?**

This question is addressed in the contract. The South Australian Government will have the right to publish media releases mentioning your company/grant. Only non-confidential pre-agreed information will be used.

**20. What is the minimum and maximum project period?**

Projects must not exceed four years in duration. Please check the eligible duration of each stream in the RCSF guidelines.

**21. Who sits on the RCSF Assessment Panel?**

Please refer to our website for a list of independent members in the assessment panel pool. RCSF Assessment Panel meetings will include between 1 and 3 independent panel members.

**22. If I am awarded a grant, how will payments be made?**

The payment schedule (tranches) will be determined based on the project milestones and the applicant's cash-flow forecast. Payments are usually made in advance to allow coverage of expenses related to the next milestone. A final payment is made in arrears once the project completion report is validated and the financial acquittal completed for the entire project (State Government funding + matching component).

**23. What happens at the end of the grant?**

Once the project is completed (report and financial acquittal validated) you will have some ongoing reporting requirements as detailed in the contract.