

Research and Innovation Fund STREAM 1: call for proposals

Guidelines for the South Australian Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Assistance Program - Round 26

Background and Objectives

The Department of State Development (DSD) is focused on developing a high performing research and innovation system that supports the growth of innovative and competitive businesses and industries.

The South Australian Research and Innovation Fund (RIF), managed by DSD, supports collaboration between businesses, researchers, and universities to solve industrial problems, commercialise new products and services, attract investment into research and research infrastructure in the State, and encourages the establishment and growth of start-ups. This supports the vision outlined in the [South Australian Economic Statement](#), which is for the state to be known as ambitious and capable, embracing technology, and driving innovation through targeted industry and research collaborations.

The *South Australian CRC Assistance Program* is a RIF Stream 1 funded Program. Stream 1 funds programs that create innovative solutions or translate research into industry or commercial outcomes that address economy-wide challenges for South Australia.

The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program

The CRC Program supports research, industry and the community to solve industry-identified problems in long-term industry-led collaborative research, for up to 10 years. CRC programs must:

- be a medium to long-term industry-led collaborative research program;
- aim to solve industry identified problems and improve the competitiveness, productivity, and sustainability of Australian industries;
- include an industry-focused education and training program, including a PhD program that builds capability and capacity;
- increase research and development (R&D) capacity in small to medium enterprises (SMEs); and
- encourage industry take up of research.

Leveraging Commonwealth Government, industry and research institution investment, the CRC Program drives industry led collaboration to build scale in research and innovation and, as such, is aligned with the investment principles of RIF Stream 1.

The South Australian CRC Assistance Program

The South Australian CRC Assistance Program aims to support the participation of a South Australian Government agency in the CRC.

The program may invest in a CRC as follows:

- up to \$300,000 over the lifespan of the CRC for a CRC node located in South Australia;
- up to \$600,000 over the lifespan of the CRC for a CRC headquarters located in South Australia.

Please note this investment is available to applications being made through the CRC Program Rounds and not the national CRC Project (CRC-P) Rounds.

The support through this Call for Proposals will be conditional on:

- an award of funding from the Commonwealth Government under Round 26 of the Commonwealth CRC Program;
- key elements of the final, successful CRC remaining consistent with the information provided in the original South Australian CRC Assistance Program application;
- participation in the South Australian CRC Assistance Program stage 2 mock interview process; and
- any other conditions related to the CRC's partnerships with the South Australian Government.

Investments are also subject to the provision of a satisfactory annual performance report and delivery of an annual presentation to the Department of State Development on activities and outcomes of the CRC.

Eligibility

Proposals for the *South Australian CRC Assistance Program* require the CRC bid to have:

- the headquarters or a node in South Australia;
- at least one South Australian based public or private research organisation involved (including universities, research institutes, and Commonwealth research organisations);
- at least one South Australian Government agency involved as a participant in the CRC; and
- alignment with:
 - the [South Australian Economic Statement](#);
 - the [Department of State Development strategic objectives](#)
 - the Industry Investment Principles and RIF Investment Principles, available here: [Research and Innovation Fund | Department of State Development](#)
 - Commonwealth Government priorities as included in the Commonwealth's Round 26 and
 - CRC Grant Opportunity Guidelines at <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/cooperative-research-centres-crc-grants>

Assessment Criteria

Applicants must submit an application through the online form via [this link](#) and a copy of the draft version of their CRC Application as an attachment (understanding that this will be a work in progress at the time of submission for this purpose), the CRC Bid Prospectus, and a one-page summary of the CRC application.

The application will require applicants to address the following selection criteria:

1. Purpose of the CRC, Governance and Partner Investment in the CRC



2. Research Themes and Research Leaders

3. Collaboration Between Industry, Research and Government

4. Innovation and Translation Benefits to South Australia

5. Future STEM Workforce Benefits in South Australia

Submission, Assessment and Selection Process

The submission, assessment and selection process will be managed by the Department of State Development. Proposals will be assessed competitively on merit against the eligibility and assessment criteria set out above and in accordance with the [RIF Investment Principles](#). The process will involve three phases:

1. Application

Applications must be lodged online with the Department of State Development, along with a copy of your draft Commonwealth CRC application, your CRC Bid Prospectus and a one-page summary of the CRC application. Applications must be lodged with the Department by **3rd April 2025, 5pm ACDT**. Upon submission you will receive a receipt of your application along with a copy of your submission.

2. Panel Presentation

Each CRC bid team will be given the opportunity to present their proposal to an Assessment Panel as well as answer any questions that the Panel may have. No more than six members of the bid team can present to the Assessment Panel. This should include an appropriate representative from the South Australian Government participating agency in the CRC. Assessment Panel presentations are likely to occur between the 8th to 10th of April.

Each party involved in the selection process must declare any real, potential, or perceived conflict of interest that exists or is likely to arise in relation to any aspect of an application submitted.

3. Selection

Based on the application and presentation, the Assessment Panel will provide advice on which, if any, proposals the South Australian Government should support. A final decision to support proposals, if any, will be made by the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science. In exceptional circumstances, the Minister may consider or accept (at their sole discretion) any proposal, including without limitation a proposal that is not in accordance with these guidelines.

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