

Australian Space Research Program

Fact sheet



Australian Government

Department of Innovation
Industry, Science and Research

What does the Australian Space Research Program offer?

The Australian Space Research Program provides \$40 million over four years through a competitive merit-based grants program to support space-related research, education and innovation activities.

The program provides two types of grants:

- Stream A - Space Education Development grants support student projects and educational activities, including international education opportunities and the establishment of national space education programs and centres of expertise for space education. Grants of between \$200,000 to \$1 million are available for projects of up to three years in duration.
- Stream B - Space Science and Innovation Projects grants support collaborative space research and innovation projects involving the development of Australia's niche space capability in areas of strategic national priority. International collaboration is encouraged. Grants of between \$1 million to \$5 million are available for projects of up to three years duration.

Program funding concludes on 30 June 2013.

What is the objective of the program?

The program is designed to develop Australia's niche space capabilities by supporting space-related research, innovation and skills in areas of national significance or excellence.

Stream A projects should:

- have ongoing educational value beyond the grant period;
- aim to produce people with skills relevant to Australian employers;
- include scope for teacher professional development if applicable; and
- include the number of students expected to access the project; and
- consider student recruitment issues, such as where students will come from.

Stream B projects should:

- demonstrate alignment with the strategic directions of the applicant organisation and key consortium members;
- demonstrate that international activity in the area of focus of the application has been considered and where possible link to that activity;
- include meaningful collaboration between researchers and industry;
- identify end users of the project outcomes; and
- consider the full cost of the project and how continuing activities will be funded beyond the grant period.

For both streams, the level of risk associated with the project should be considered carefully.

Who is eligible?

Under Stream A, applicants must:

- be a university;
- be a member of, and applying on behalf of, a consortium comprising at least one university and one other partner;
- be a constitutional corporation (see separate fact sheet);
- be the lead consortium member; and
- comply with the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999.

Under Stream B, applicants must:

- be a university, research institution, or industry partner;
- be a member of, and applying on behalf of, a consortium comprising at least one university or research institution and at least one industry partner;
- be a constitutional corporation (see separate fact sheet);
- be the lead consortium member; and
- comply with the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999.

What is eligible?

Eligible projects must:

- a) aim to satisfy the program objective and involve space-related activities;
- b) be a discrete project and be structured in a manner consistent with each consortium member's contribution to the project;
- c) be a new activity and not constitute normal business, research or education activities for the consortium members;
- d) comply with all relevant legislation; and
- e) only include expenditure of grant funds which is eligible under the program guidelines.

In addition, the total resources (both cash and in-kind) being contributed by the consortium must at least match the amount of grant funding being requested.

Note: it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they meet all the program eligibility requirements as identified in the program guidelines. The above information is provided as a guide and does not include all eligibility requirements.

What is space-related?

Under the program, space-related means:

- a) the designing, building, testing, installation, deployment and/or operation of hardware or systems developed:
 - i. to be located in space;
 - ii. for the purpose of getting into or returning from space; or
 - iii. for the purpose of getting data or information to or from space;
- b) the design, development, testing, installation and/or use of applications that require the operation of hardware or systems listed at (a);
- c) governance arrangements (such as legal, management and advisory structures) to support space hardware, systems or applications listed at (a) and (b); or
- d) research into the environment in which space hardware or systems listed at (a) operate.

Not included: For the purposes of the program, space-related does not include astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology.

How do I apply?

Applications for program funding can only be accepted during an application round. The Department will announce the details for each round in the national media and on the www.space.gov.au website.

What are the merit criteria?

Eligible applications are assessed against the following, equally weighted, merit criteria:

- capacity and capability;
- project merit;
- partnerships and collaborations; and
- national benefits.

How will my application be assessed?

An independent assessment panel, established by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, will perform an assessment and merit ranking of eligible applications. Applications are assessed against the merit criteria.

Following its assessment, the assessment panel will provide a merit ranking of eligible applications to the Program Delegate. The Program Delegate will consider the assessment panel's merit ranking, and the availability of program funds before making grant offers on the basis of the merit criteria.

What will I be asked to do if I am successful?

If successful, applicants will need to enter into an agreement with consortium members independently of the department (the consortium agreement). Following execution of the consortium agreement, applicants must enter into an agreement with the Commonwealth (the funding agreement) setting out funding conditions such as payment of grant funds, quarterly reporting requirements, etc. A sample funding agreement can be downloaded from www.space.gov.au.

Further Information

For further information on the program including definitions of key terms and phrases, eligibility, and requirements of the consortium and funding agreements please refer to the program guidelines located at www.space.gov.au or email space@innovation.gov.au.