



FACTSHEET

Entrepreneurs' Programme: Innovation Connections

Programme status: Open for applications

This service helps promote innovation and collaboration between Australian businesses and the research sector.

What does it offer?

Connects your business to expertise, technology and advice to meet your research and development needs.

Your business can expect:

- Access to a Facilitator at no charge.
- A research needs assessment to identify any knowledge gaps that are preventing growth.
- A tailored report with possible solutions to your problem.
- Referrals to other research and industry programmes.

The Facilitators have:

- Extensive research and industry experience and market knowledge.
- Established relationships with research organisations and business support services.

Your Facilitator will support you by:

- Assessing your research needs and connecting you to the right support.
- Helping you to communicate your research needs with research organisations.
- Facilitating any project plans or commercial arrangements.

To help you progress your research project, you may be able to get a matched funding grant to access research capability.

An eligible business may apply for one, or all three of the following depending on Facilitator recommendations:

Researcher Placement - the placement of a Researcher in the business to work collaboratively on a specific Innovation Connections project in order to develop and implement a new idea with commercial potential (up to a maximum of \$50,000);

Business Researcher Placement - the placement of a *Participants'* own research employee into a *Publicly Funded Research Organisation* to work collaboratively on a specific Innovation Connections project and access to research infrastructure (up to a maximum of \$50,000);

Graduate Placement - the employment of a graduate or post graduate into the *Participant's* business to undertake a specific Innovation Connections project collaboratively with a *Publicly Funded Research Organisation* (up to a maximum of \$30,000).

Who can apply?

For the purposes of the Entrepreneurs' Programme, a business will satisfy the sectoral eligibility criteria where it can demonstrate it:

- is operating in one of the five growth sectors or provides enabling technologies, inputs or services to one of the five growth sectors; or
- is committed to, and has the skills, capability, intellectual property or expertise to operate in, one or more of the five growth sectors in the future.

You can find more information on [Eligibility page](#) on business.gov.au.

How do I apply?

Please submit your application via the [Innovation Connections Application Form](#) on business.gov.au.

If you have any queries please contact us and we will help you.

Where can I find more information?

Visit [business.gov.au/IC](#) or call **13 28 46**.