



Frequently Asked Questions

Moon to Mars Initiative Demonstrator Feasibility Grants

1. How do I apply for funding?

The grant opportunity application can only be submitted through the online portal. Go to business.gov.au for information on how to apply.

2. Program timing?

Applications opened on Tuesday 3 November 2020 and will close at 5.00pm AEDT Tuesday 22 December 2020.

An announcement on successful grants is expected in April 2021.

This is a one-off program and no future rounds will be offered.

3. What activities can Moon to Mars Demonstrator Feasibility Grant funds be used for?

Eligible activities may include:

- concurrent design studies
- technical feasibility studies and reviews
- preliminary design review
- conceptual design
- prototype design and development
- risk assessments, including national security risk
- developing a business case.

4. What information should I include at question E.1 in the application form - describe your mission?

You should describe the end-to-end system including space, ground and launch segment (when applicable) to achieve a defined mission goal. The space project may be a part of or the complete mission. Missions are in scope even if the space segment is already working in space.

5. What information should I include at question E2 in the application form - describe your space project?

You should describe the entire proposed project from Pre Phase A to F (refer to figure 1 at Section 2 of the guidelines). The space project may be the entire mission or a subset of it.

6. What information should I include at question E3 and E4 in the application form - describe your feasibility project?

You should describe the activities you will undertake to determine the suitability, practicality, operation and value of your space project. This is the project that you are seeking Moon to Mars Demonstrator Feasibility grant support for.

7. Can I conduct research with the Demonstrator Feasibility Grant?

If the main aim of your project is to undertake research without a clear commercialisation pathway then it is ineligible.

8. I represent a research organisation with a project that has a clear commercialisation pathway, can I apply?

Yes, Publicly Funded Research Organisations are eligible to apply provided that the project has a clear commercialisation pathway.

9. My project includes some product development. Can I use the Demonstrator Feasibility Grant to pay for these costs?

If the main aim of your project is to further develop your product without a clear commercialisation pathway then it is not eligible.

10. What is an acceptable cash contribution to match the Demonstrator Feasibility Grant?

Your contribution to the project must be cash, not in-kind. Eligible contributions are:

- cash to be spent by the applicant or a project partner on eligible expenditure for the purpose of undertaking an eligible project activity; and
- labour costs of employees directly employed by the applicant or a project partner on eligible project activities.

We consider in-kind to be non-monetary inputs such as facilities, equipment and services provided by the grantee or a project partner from its own resources.

Examples of in-kind are:

- equipment, technology, software or hardware;
- service fees or of discounted service fees;
- discounted rent/loan of facilities and equipment;
- access to intellectual property.

If there is no exchange of money (either by cash or bank transaction) by the applicant or a project partner, then it is considered to be in-kind.

11. Will post project reporting be mandatory for all projects?

Yes. Post project reporting will be included on all projects so the Commonwealth can track project progress beyond the end of the project.

12. What are the character limits for my application?

The online form includes character limits for each question. If you are drafting content in Microsoft Word please be aware that Word does not consider a return to be a character but the application form does. This may result in a slight difference in word counts across Word and the online form.

13. Can I include a letter of support from another space agency as part of my application?

Certain overseas agencies have confirmed that it is their policy not to influence foreign governments' internal selection processes. Letters received as part of an application where this applies will not be considered during the grant assessment process.

However, you may include information detailing existing collaborations in your application.

14. Are the clauses in the Sample Grant Agreement negotiable?

The [Sample Grant Agreement](#) is available to view at business.gov.au. The clauses in the agreement are not negotiable and no new clauses can be added. You are strongly encouraged to review the Sample Grant Agreement to confirm you can accept the funding conditions before you apply.

15. How will Intellectual Property (IP) rights be managed under the Demonstrator Feasibility Grants?

Your access and management of IP will be assessed under Merit Criterion 3.

If you are awarded a grant, you must sign a grant agreement. Schedule 1, Clause 17 of the grant agreement sets out how we will manage IP rights:

- you will own the IP rights in activity material and reporting material.
- your ownership of IP rights in existing material will not be affected.
- you must provide the Commonwealth with a permanent, non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licence to use, modify, communicate, reproduce, publish, adapt and sub-license reporting material for Commonwealth purpose. The licence does not apply to activity material.

Activity material is any material, other than reporting material, created or developed by you as a result of the funded project and includes any existing material that is incorporated or supplied with the activity material.

Reporting material is all material that you are required to provide to the Commonwealth for reporting purposes and includes any existing material that is incorporated in or supplied with the reporting material.

We recommend you review the [Sample Grant Agreement](#) available at www.business.gov.au to consider if it is acceptable to you. Clauses in the agreement are not negotiable.

16. When will Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grants open?

We expect that Demonstrator Mission Grants will open in late 2021, with funding made available from July 2022.

17. What are the Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grants?

The Demonstrator Mission Grants will provide funding (up to \$10 Million) to Australian industry for final design and fabrication through to operations, sustainment and close out (refer to figure 1 at Section 2 of the guidelines). To be competitive you will need to demonstrate your capacity to operate in space or support operations in space by 2025, and have potential to support Moon to Mars activities.

18. Do I need to be successful in securing a Moon to Mars Demonstrator Feasibility Grant to apply for a Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grant?

Demonstrator Mission Grants will be delivered through a stand-alone open competitive selection process. There will be no requirement for applicants to have received a Demonstrator Feasibility Grant to be eligible to apply.

19. What is expected of an applicant to the Demonstrator Mission Grant?

We expect that to be successful for this grant opportunity you will have:

- a potential to support space operations beyond the life of the funding, including the potential to support Moon to Mars activities
- a mature space project aligned with the objectives of the Australian Space Agency and the Moon to Mars initiative objectives, including building and demonstration Australian capability and potentially accessing new markets and/or supply chains.
- a feasibility study of the proposed space project reviewed by a feasibility panel
- a high value project with demonstrable commercial potential and/or investor support
- a strong team, including staff, contractors, partnerships and/or feasibility panels and advisory teams with significant technical expertise and experience

- a robust and standards compliant development plan to complete operations testing, qualification and launch preparations prior to 2025
- risk mitigation strategies.

20. Need more information?

For more information, visit business.gov.au or call 13 28 46.

We may update this document from time to time to add further information, where required.