



Frequently Asked Questions

Moon to Mars Supply Chain Capability Improvement 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 from 9.00am 27 August 2020. You may apply at any time up to 1 May 2023. Applications are assessed by a committee at least three times per year.

Applications received by 11.59pm AEDT Tuesday 30 November 2021 comprised the fifth intake. A decision on this intake is expected to be announced by March 2022.

Applications received by 11.59pm AEDT Thursday 3 March 2022 will comprise the sixth intake. A decision on this intake is expected to be announced by June 2022.

Applications received by 11.59pm AEST Thursday 16 June 2022 will comprise the seventh intake. A decision on this intake is expected to be announced by September 2022.

Applications received by 11.59pm AEST Thursday 15 September 2022 will comprise the eighth intake. A decision on this intake is expected to be announced by December 2022.

Applications received by 11.59pm AEDT Tuesday 20 December 2022 will comprise the ninth intake. A decision on this intake is expected to be announced by April 2023.

Future intake dates will be advised.

The maximum project period is 2.5 years. Projects must be completed by 30 April 2025.

3. What funding is available?

\$25.7 million is available for grants. This funding is split as follows:

- 2020-21 - \$1.7 million
- 2021-22 - \$3 million
- 2022-23 - \$7 million
- 2023-24 - \$7 million
- 2024-25 - \$7 million

The minimum grant amount is \$250,000 and the maximum is \$1,000,000.

The grant amount will be up to 75% of eligible project expenditure.

4. Can I conduct research with the grant?

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

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

Publicly and privately funded research organisations are not eligible. Research organisations can partner with a trading corporation (your commercial partner with buyer support into a supply chain opportunity), which can apply under a joint application.

6. My project includes some product development. Can I use the 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. Non-recurring engineering to qualify your product to reach the standard required for your supply chain opportunity would be considered in line with the program guidelines.

7. What evidence will be competitive to demonstrate the supply chain opportunity?

Evidence of buyer support must be specific to the project proposal in the form of a letter of intent, letter of support, or a clear path to a contract and/or increased sales for the applicant company. The evidence provided

should refer to the grant application, project details, and how/why the prospective buyer(s) support the project.

Generic information available across industry such as tender panels/notices or public media releases do not constitute a form of buyer support.

If it is unclear how the grant would facilitate sales into a domestic or international space supply chain, it is unlikely to score highly against the assessment criteria.

8. Is there any further guidance on what constitutes 'the ability to support Moon to Mars activities'?

The Agency has identified the following exploration services as areas of high opportunity and priority:

- Foundation services
- Communication services, and
- Health services.

This information was released in conjunction with the [Trailblazer consultation](#) conducted in April-Mar 2021.

You can apply for a project outside of these three areas, however you must make a strong case for your project's ability to support Moon to Mars activities.

Linkages to Demonstrator program projects may also be considered providing there is clear path to accessing a domestic and/or international supply chain opportunity.

9. What is an acceptable cash contribution to match the 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. Eligible labour costs must be within the limits specified in Appendix A of the Moon to Mars Supply Chain Capability Improvement Grants Guidelines.

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.

Your cash contributions can come from any source except the Commonwealth.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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

Certain overseas agencies have advised 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.

13. 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.

14. If unsuccessful in an intake, can I re-apply for subsequent intakes?

You can submit a new application for the same (or similar) project. You should include new or more information to strengthen your application. Verbal feedback will be available to unsuccessful applicants. It is recommended that you apply for a subsequent intake that allows you to incorporate feedback from an unsuccessful application into your new application.

15. Can I apply for two different projects?

Yes. You will need to submit a separate application for each project. The Commonwealth may, at its discretion, limit funding across multiple applications to \$1 million for any supply chain opportunity. This assessment will be made in line with program intent and take into account consideration of overall industry outcomes.

16. What is considered best-practice for project plan and milestone deliverables?

The grantee should define the acceptance criteria for the completion of each milestone and the overall project, determining what constitutes successful delivery of the project. Milestones should be measurable, with:

- agreed deliverables
- success criteria
- how this criteria will be assessed (for example, review panel, compliance matrix, signed off test report/results etc.).

Ideally, the indication that a criteria has been reached should come from either a separate or independent entity.

Milestone criteria usually enable the next step of the project to be undertaken. It is strongly recommended that you refer to typical space industry standards. For instance:

- Table F-1 of the linked [Project management standard](#) shows where a Quality Review (QR) would typically be incorporated into your project management planning, and
- Table A-1 of the [Systems Engineering standard](#) shows the typical documents that would be included in a quality review with examples in the annex.

17. When can I start my project?

You must not start any Moon to Mars Supply Chain Capability Improvement Grant activities until a grant agreement is executed. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed. Program timing information is at Question 2 of this document. Grant agreements will be in place with successful applicants approximately one month after the announcement date.

18. Can I apply for funding to support provision of my service into a domestic or international supply chain?

Yes. The program supports Australian industry to deliver products and services into domestic and international supply chains. You must meet the eligibility criteria, including the requirement to provide evidence of your supply chain opportunity.

19. Can my organisation be the customer confirming a supply chain opportunity for an applicant and also apply separately for funding?

Yes. Each application must meet the program's eligibility criteria.

20. How can I find out if my proposed project costs are eligible?

You should review the grant opportunity guidelines Appendix A – Eligible expenditure and Appendix B – Ineligible expenditure for information on eligible project costs.

Ineligible projects include:

- research projects without a clear commercialisation pathway;
- projects involving technology development starting from technology readiness level ([TRL](#)) level 4 or lower;
- product development that doesn't directly support meeting a supply chain opportunity.

21. Does my supply chain opportunity need to have a direct link to NASA's Moon to Mars ambitions?

Your project must have the ability to support Moon to Mars activities. A direct link to NASA's ambitions is not a requirement under the

program, which is also aiming to lift the overall skills, capability and capacity of the Australian space industry.

22. 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.