



Frequently Asked Questions

Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grant Opportunity

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 Monday, 14 March 2022, and will close 5.00pm AEST Friday, 1 July 2022.

The earliest start date for your project is estimated to be late November 2022. Your project must be completed by 31 March 2025.

3. What funding is available?

An estimated \$41.5 million is available for the Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grants.

- The minimum grant amount is \$750,000.
- The maximum grant amount is \$10 million.

All applications that fall between the minimum and maximum grant amounts will be considered equally against the assessment criteria outlined in the Guidelines.

The grant amount will be up to 75 per cent of eligible project expenditure, the rest we consider your contribution. Your contribution must be cash, and not in-kind. Your cash contributions can come from any source except the Commonwealth.

4. I didn't apply for the Moon to Mars Demonstrator Feasibility program, can I still submit an application for this grant opportunity?

Yes. The Demonstrator Mission Grants are a stand-alone, open competitive selection process. There is no requirement for you to

have applied for or received a Demonstrator Feasibility Grant to be eligible to apply.

5. What is an acceptable cash contribution to match the grant?

Eligible cash contributions include:

- cash 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 expenditure must be within the limits specified in the Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The Commonwealth considers 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.

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.

6. I am a research organisation, am I eligible to apply?

Publicly funded research organisations (PFRO) are eligible. If you are applying as a PFRO, your application must be a joint application including at least one eligible Australian trading corporation.

7. What must my application include to be deemed eligible?

- Provide evidence that you or your project partner intend to have, or support, an asset operating or tested in space by 31 March 2025
- Provide a proposal in accordance with the proposal template
- Certify that you have established a quality assurance panel to oversee the development of your project
- Provide an assessment report from your quality assurance panel that covers your preliminary design

- review (PDR) outcomes
- Agree to use a recognised space industry standard as a basis for project management and systems engineering for compliance purposes
- Provide evidence from your board (or CEO or equivalent) that the project is supported.

Please refer to Sections 4.2 and 7.1 of the program guidelines for the complete list of mandatory attachments.

8. Will post project reporting be required under this program?

No. Post project reporting will not be required under the Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission program.

9. What are the character limits for my application?

Our online application form includes character limits for each question. If you are drafting content in Microsoft Word please note 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 count between Word and the online application form.

10. 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. As such, letters of support submitted as part of an application will not be considered during the grant assessment process. You may, however, provide details of existing collaborations in your application.

11. Can I discuss the Demonstrator Mission program with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)?

The Commonwealth requests that all questions related to the Demonstrator Mission program be directed to Spacegrants@industry.gov.au and, in consultation with the Agency, a response will be provided.

12. Can I have a meeting to discuss the eligibility and suitability of my project activities with the Australian Space Agency and/or AusIndustry?

No. The Australian Space Agency and AusIndustry cannot make any specific recommendations, or provide advice, regarding the suitability of your project for the Demonstrator Mission grant opportunity beyond what is already publicly outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Please note that AusIndustry can only provide guidance on the application process.

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 new clauses cannot be added. We encourage you to review the Sample Grant Agreement to ensure that you understand, and agree with, the funding conditions before you apply.

14. When can I start my project?

You must not start any Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grant activities until a grant agreement is executed. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur before 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.

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

You should review the Grant Opportunity Guidelines 5.2, 5.3 and Appendix C – Eligible expenditure and Appendix D – Ineligible expenditure for information on eligible project costs.

Ineligible project expenditure include, but are not limited to:

- business as usual expenses, or maintenance costs
- routine operational expenses, including communications, accommodation, office computing facilities, printing and stationery, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges, not directly related to the project
- non project-related costs, or costs associated with ineligible activities

- capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers and the construction, renovation or extension of facilities such as buildings and laboratories not directly related to the project
- activities, equipment or supplies that are already being supported through other sources.

16. How much Australian industry content must my project have?

The Commonwealth acknowledges that it may not be possible for all aspects of your space project to be carried out in Australia. The Commonwealth expects that a large majority of funding (for example, 80% excluding launch costs) to be spent in Australia subject to the strength of the case to build Australian capability and capacity. Your proposal should articulate the geographic allocation of your project work to allow assessment of this percentage along with outlining the benefit to project and Australia for any funds spent overseas.

17. What if I have a technical question about the program, who do I contact?

AusIndustry at Spacegrants@industry.gov.au.

18. Can I apply for a grant if my project has not reached the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) level

No. In section 4.2 of the Moon to Mars initiative: Demonstrator Mission Grants Guidelines an eligible activity must include the following: an assessment report from your quality assurance panel that covers your PDR outcomes.

You must be at the PDR level at the time of applying for the Moon to Mars initiative: Demonstrator Mission Grant opportunity. However, changes to the design at the Phase B level and based on the PDR will be permitted.

19. Can I allocate part of my grant funding to launch activities?

Yes. In section 5.1 of the Moon to Mars initiative: Demonstrator Mission Grants Guidelines, eligible activities include launch/launch services. The Commonwealth acknowledges that it may not be possible for

all launch activities to be carried out in Australia and launch costs are excluded from the minimum Australian industry content.

20. Do I need to provide up-front proof of funds for my 25% co-contribution?

Yes. In accordance with section 7.1 of the Moon to Mars initiative: Demonstrator Mission Grants Guidelines your application must provide evidence of your funding strategy, e.g. financial statements, loan agreements, cash flow documents.

Your co-contribution should not be as cash-flow throughout the project.

21. Does my project need to support the Moon to Mars Trailblazer program?

No. Your project must demonstrate a clear potential to support Moon to Mars activities, particularly in the areas of Exploration services only. Applications for the Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grant opportunity will be evaluated solely based on the assessment criteria in Section 6 of the Moon to Mars initiative: Demonstrator Mission Grants Guidelines.

22. Do I need to have a Quality Assurance (QA) panel and what are the requirements for this panel?

Yes. In section 4.2 of the Moon to Mars initiative: Demonstrator Mission Grants Guidelines an eligible activity must certify that a quality assurance panel has been established to oversee project development.

You may establish a panel of your choosing. It is recommended that you include individuals with significant levels of experience outside your existing capabilities. The panel does not have to be completely independent.

23. Can I have an international partner for my project?

Yes. There are no limitations on international partners under the Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission Grant opportunity. Project partners must meet the requirements in section 4.3 of the Guidelines. Joint applications require a detailed letter of support from the project partner (section 7.2 of the Guidelines).

24. Need more information?

Any questions related to the Moon to Mars Demonstrator Mission program can be sent to business.gov.au or call 13 28 46.

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