



An Australian Government Initiative



COMMERCIALISATION  
AUSTRALIA

## FACTSHEET

# Early Stage Commercialisation repayable grants

## What does it offer?

*Commercialisation Australia* provides repayable grants to assist innovative companies to undertake activities that enable a new product, process or service to be developed to the stage where it can be taken to market.

## What funding is available?

Repayable grants are available of between \$250,000 and \$2 million over two years. Applicants need to match the grant funding on a 50:50 basis.

## What types of activities are funded?

*Early Stage Commercialisation* repayable grants will fund activities associated with the systematic work necessary for installing and establishing processes, systems and services that enable a new product, process or service to be effectively brought to market.

Types of eligible expenditure are:

- Labour expenditure
- Contract expenditure
- Plant expenditure
- Prototype expenditure
- Intellectual property protection expenditure

This expenditure can be incurred for a range of activities including, but not limited to, product development, tooling-up for full scale production, market validation, execution of IP strategy.

## What are the repayment arrangements?

*Early Stage Commercialisation* successful applicants will be required to repay the grant as a percentage of sales income from outcomes of the project and/or a percentage of company profits, depending on the success of the project.

For more information regarding eligible expenditure and repayment obligations relating to the *Early Stage Commercialisation* repayable grants, refer to the *Commercialisation Australia Customer Information Guide* which is available from the *Commercialisation Australia* website at

[www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au](http://www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au).

## Who is it for?

*Early Stage Commercialisation* repayable grants are available to innovative companies, with a turnover of less than \$20 million per annum.

## How do I apply?

Applicants should read the *Customer Information Guide* and complete a Stage 1 Application form as the first step in applying for *Commercialisation Australia* assistance. The *Customer Information Guide* and Stage 1 Application form are available from the *Commercialisation Australia* website.

Once a Stage 1 Application form has been completed, applicants will need to submit the form. *Commercialisation Australia* will then contact the applicant to discuss their suitability.

If an applicant is deemed suitable for *Commercialisation Australia*, they will be provided with a Stage 2 Application form.

## Further information

For further information about *Commercialisation Australia*, visit the website at [www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au](http://www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au). Alternatively, contact the *Commercialisation Australia* hotline on 13 22 56.

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## Merit criteria

Applicants compete for limited grant funds, based on the merit of their application.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following five merit criteria:

- need for funding
- commercial plan and potential
- market opportunity
- management capability
- national benefits

## Eligibility

To be eligible for an *Early Stage Commercialisation* repayable grant, an applicant must be one of the following:

- a non tax-exempt company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001*
- an individual who warrants to form a non tax-exempt company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* if the application is successful.

Eligible applicants must also:

- satisfy the turnover requirements outlined in the *Customer Information Guide*
- be able to demonstrate that they will match the grant provided on a dollar for dollar basis over the life of the project
- be able to demonstrate that they have ownership or beneficial use of the intellectual property necessary to carry out the commercialisation project.

## How will my application be assessed?

Applications for grant funding will be competitively assessed by the *Commercialisation Australia* Board against the five merit criteria.

## What will happen if I am successful?

Successful applicants will need to execute a *Commercialisation Australia* funding agreement with the Commonwealth in order to receive grant funding and access to Case Managers.

## Tailored Assistance

All successful applicants will be allocated a Case Manager and will have access to Volunteer Business Mentors.

## **Case Manager**

Case Managers are partnered with successful applicants for the duration of their involvement with *Commercialisation Australia*, who will guide participants through the commercialisation process.

Case Managers have extensive experience in commercialisation. Many have taken their own products and services to market, and have good industrial networks.

Case Managers will assist successful applicants by:

- helping them to identify the skills and knowledge they need
- helping them access specialist advice and services
- identifying and linking them with appropriate Volunteer Business Mentors
- assisting them develop professional networks
- advising them on strategic and operational matters
- monitoring their progress

Case Managers will be based in states and territories across Australia to offer hands-on advice and assistance to successful applicants.

## **Volunteer Business Mentors**

Volunteer Business Mentors will assist successful applicants by offering the knowledge, skills and insights needed to turn their idea into a commercial reality. Volunteer Business Mentors build on the support provided by Case Managers, giving successful applicants a sounding board to bounce ideas off and providing specialist knowledge.

Volunteer Business Mentors have a mix of skills and expertise - these include extensive experience in building successful businesses and knowledge across a range of specialty fields, and so are well placed to offer insights into the commercialisation process. Case Managers will organise mentoring sessions with Volunteer Business Mentors matched to the applicants' needs and, as these needs change, individual mentors can be changed, ensuring the mix of knowledge and skills available is always tailored to the current needs of the successful applicant.