

Defence and Aerospace NSW Industry Support Catalogue

Overview of Commonwealth and NSW
Government grant and support programs
for defence and aerospace industries

March 2022



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Executive Summary

Defence & Aerospace are priority sectors for the NSW Government. For example, the NSW defence industry alone is a major contributor to employment, research & development and economic growth with Defence expenditure over \$10.5B annually in NSW, directly and indirectly employing over 65,039 people. The naval presence in the Sydney region alone contributes over \$1.8b annually to the economy and supports more than 12,000 jobs. Similarly, organisations headquartered in NSW generate 50-75% of all space-related revenue generated in Australia and around 30% of people involved in space activities are based in NSW, the largest percentage of any state.

The Defence Strategic Update (2020) confirmed the national Defence budget will increase by \$267b over the next 10 years to a total of \$575b with an acquisition commitment of \$270b to 2030. The NSW economy enjoys a well-founded baseline of capability upon which to build and attract new investment from this growing Defence expenditure commitment and stands ready to support the delivery of National, sovereign programs.

NSW is home to 26% of the ADF and hosts the largest number of Defence bases and capabilities compared with other States and Territories. In addition to this, NSW:

- Has the **largest number of manufacturing and advanced manufacturing businesses** of any State or Territory in Australia. These businesses collectively generate \$33b for the NSW economy and employ more than 253,000 people in a range of industries.
- Hosts **43.5% of Australian defence industry operating locations**.
- Hosts the **largest and most diverse range of cyber security providers** in Australia with more than 80 cyber security providers headquartered in the State.
- Is **home to 41 per cent of Australian space-related businesses** which generate around half of all national revenue in space industry.
- Has the **largest financial services sector and venture capital community** in Australia and has a well-established R&D infrastructure centred around its universities, research organisations and centres of excellence. These areas have been acknowledged by Chief of Navy, amongst others, as prospective sources of defence technology.
- Is **home to R&D institutions** with significant experience in engaging in experimentation and collaboration in robotics, autonomous systems and artificial intelligence.

In November 2020, the Minister for Defence Industry released a policy that defined the Commonwealth's commitment to the growth of the defence industry and the related budget measures.

Building upon this key initiative, the Defence and Aerospace NSW Industry Support Catalogue will complement the Commonwealth's program specifically focused on strengthening NSW's defence and aerospace capacities and capabilities where NSW will value-add.

Find out more about how working with the NSW Government can support your company to expand and grow its footprint in NSW.

Defence: [Defence NSW - Defence NSW](#) | Space: [NSW Space Industry - Invest NSW](#)

Industry Development

Commonwealth

Defence Innovation Hub

Aim: Provide opportunities for academia, research organisations and Australian businesses of all sizes to put forward innovative proposals that can enhance Defence capability.

The Defence Innovation Hub accepts proposals that are ready to enter different stages of the innovation process, from concept exploration, to technology development, to prototyping, to demonstration and evaluation.

Target audience: Innovative businesses currently in the defence industry or are defence capable

Funding available: \$800 million over the next decade

Eligibility criteria: Australian and New Zealand businesses with an ABN or NZBN with an innovative idea that could have a Defence application

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Innovation opportunities and priorities | business.gov.au](#)

Defence Readiness Seminar Series

Aim: Designed to assist SMEs to develop sustainable organisational capabilities and competencies to meet Australian and International Defence Prime Contractor requirements, overcome identified weaknesses or shortfalls and when must they meet specific Defence tender requirements.

A range of seminars planned for future release are grouped into three levels.

- Explorer – little or no knowledge of the Defence market
- Exponent – entering the Defence market and wanting to know more
- Expert – already in the Defence market and need specific skill areas

Target audience: Small to medium enterprises who are either active in, or considering, Defence as a business opportunity.

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Defence Ready Seminar Series – Hunter Defence](#)

Joint Strike Fighter Industry Support Program Sustainment

Aim: Provide Australian businesses with funding to develop new or improved capabilities to win work in the sustainment phase of the Joint Strike Fighter Program.

Target audience: Australian companies provided an assignment by US Government for maintenance and repair activities for existing components used in the Joint Strike Fighter Program

Funding available: \$50,000 - \$250,000 to fund up to 50% of eligible project expenditure for phase 1 and 2

Eligibility criteria: Have a valid ABN; registered for GST; be an Assigned-Product Support Provider (A-PSP) developing and/or implementing a Depot Maintenance Activation Plan (DMAP)

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Joint Strike Fighter Industry Support Program Sustainment Grants | business.gov.au](#)

Moon to Mars Supply Chain Capability Improvement

Aim: Provide Australian businesses with grant funds to build capacity to deliver products and services into domestic and/or international space industry supply chains that could support Moon to Mars activities

Target audience: Australian businesses with a demonstrated domestic and/or international space supply chain opportunity

Funding available: \$250,000 - \$1 million

Eligibility criteria: Have a valid ABN; registered for GST; be a company incorporated in Australia or an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust that can provide clear evidence of domestic and/or international space supply chain opportunity

Other specific criteria are contained within the link below.

Closing date: 1 May 2023

Link: [Moon to Mars Supply Chain Capability Improvement Grants | business.gov.au](#)

Moon to Mars – Trailblazer program

Aim: The Australian Government has announced an agreement with NASA for a small Australian-made 'foundation services rover' to be included in a future mission.

The key objectives for the Trailblazer program include:

- accelerating the growth of the Australian space industry
- building Australian space capability and capacity
- lifting Australian involvement in national and international supply chains
- inspiring the Australian public.

Target audience: An industry-led consortium of Australian businesses and research organisations to develop the foundation services rover. International partners may also support the consortium.

Funding available: \$50 million

Eligibility criteria: Further details will be announced when the Trailblazer program guidelines are released later this year.

Closing date: The program is expected to open later this year, with applications expected to be submitted in early 2022

Link: [Headed to the moon: the Trailblazer program and NASA space act agreement | Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources](#)

Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program

Aim: Designed to preserve Australia's wartime heritage; involve people around the country in a wide range of projects and activities that highlight the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations; and promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service and the roles that those who served have played in shaping the nation.

Funding available: Up to \$150,000

Closing date: 8 February 2022

Link: [Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](#)

New South Wales

Defence Innovation Network – Pilot Projects

Aim: Annual, competitive program that supports cross-discipline university collaboration in New South Wales. The key objective of the DIN Pilot Projects is to conduct a rapid feasibility study on new ideas for Defence and develop these ideas into concept or technology that can attract further investment from the government or industry.

Target audience: Researchers with projects that demonstrate high potential to satisfy an existing or emerging Defence capability or industry need.

Funding available: Up to \$150,000 per project

Eligibility criteria: Researchers from 2 Defence Innovation Network universities

Closing date: Closed. Next funding date available in 2022

Link: [Pilot Projects - Defence Innovation Network](#)

Defence Innovation Network – Seed Projects

Aim: A competitive program that supports collaboration between NSW-based small businesses and DIN universities. The purpose of the DIN Seed Projects is to grow defence industry capability within NSW.

Target audience: SMEs that are seeking to co-develop innovative technologies together with NSW universities

Funding available: Up to \$50,000 matched by industry partner

Eligibility criteria: Defence Innovation Network universities and NSW-based SMEs

Closing date: Closed. Next funding date available in 2022

Link: [Seed Projects - Defence Innovation Network](#)

Defence Innovation Network – Strategic Investment Initiative

Aim: A key objective of this program is to enable multi-disciplinary research teams to produce innovative prototypes within 12-18 months suitable for a demonstration of the new capability, create lasting links to the defence industry, catalyse commercialisation and additional R&D investment in NSW. DIN has already funded projects in quantum, cyber, remote undersea surveillance and space.

Target audience: Multi-disciplinary research teams consisting of academics and industry partners

Funding available: Up to \$50,000 per project

Eligibility criteria: Researchers from a minimum 2 Defence Innovation Network universities and Australian companies

Closing date: Closed. Next funding date available in 2022

Link: [DIN calls for proposals in Space Domain Awareness - Defence Innovation Network](#)

Minimum Viable Product

Aim: Help startups engage with a potential business customer, or channel to market, to achieve market validation and first sale

Target audience: Pre-revenue technology startups that are developing scalable technology solutions

Funding available: Up to \$25,000 in matched funding for up to 50% of approved project costs

Eligibility criteria: Have an ABN, be pre-revenue stage, completed a proof of concept, hold IP or rights to commercialise and demonstrate that 80% of development costs will occur in NSW

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Minimum Viable Product grants | NSW Government](#)

National Space Industry Hub – Fast Start Program

Aim: Fast start is a 6-month intense program tailored for each space venture so they can supercharge their commercialisation journey.

Target audience: Fast Start is for ambitious space ventures who are integrating hardware and software solutions in all areas of space. It is for ventures who are serious about entering the space industry.

Fast Start is for entrepreneurs with a clear vision, commitment and some early validation of their idea. You could have:

Funding available: Fast Start is free for those who are accepted.

Eligibility criteria: Fast Start eligibility involves a competitive assessment process, but at a minimum you should have:

- Research or technology that is patent or patent pending.

- Had a breakthrough in the lab and now need to test in market.
- Trials or early partners or be progressing towards this.
- You might also be building a talented team or have raised early capital.

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Cicada Innovations — Fast Start Space](#)

NSW Small Business Innovation & Research program

Aim: A \$24 million initiative of the NSW Government that provides competitive grants to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to find and commercialise innovative solutions to well-defined problems for NSW Government.

Target audience: NSW small and medium enterprises

Funding available: Up to \$1.1 million to develop and commercialise new technology/service

Eligibility criteria: Proposed solutions must address one of the SBIR program challenges. Each challenge describes a current NSW Government agency problem requiring an innovative solution.

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [NSW Small Business Innovation & Research program | Chief Scientist](#)

NSW SmartSat CRC Node – Access to Infrastructure Program

Aim: Providing space companies with access to equipment, laboratory space and research infrastructure

Target audience: NSW space businesses who need access to specialized equipment or knowledge to demonstrate new space solutions to priority industry challenges.

Funding available: Check detailed information [here](#)

Eligibility criteria: Check detailed information [here](#)

Closing date: Ongoing until funding is exhausted

Link: [NSW SmartSat Node - SmartSat CRC](#)

NSW SmartSat CRC Node – Mobility Program

Aim: Funding for staff placements of up to 6 months within business or university.

Target audience: NSW space businesses and researchers looking to collaboratively demonstrate new solutions to priority industry challenges.

Funding available: Salary and on-costs. Secondments will cover up to 1.0FTE and up to 6 months duration.

Eligibility criteria: Check detailed eligibility criteria [here](#)

Closing date: Ongoing until funding is exhausted

Link: [NSW SmartSat Node - SmartSat CRC](#)

NSW SmartSat CRC Node – Space Demonstrator Program

Aim: Funding for research and development projects that can demonstrate solutions to priority industry challenges

Target audience: NSW space businesses and researchers looking to collaboratively demonstrate new solutions to priority industry challenges.

Funding available: Up to \$100,000 for 12-month demonstrator projects, Co-funding ratio 1:2 (industry: node)

Eligibility criteria: Check detailed eligibility criteria [here](#)

Closing date: Ongoing until funding is exhausted

Link: [NSW SmartSat Node - SmartSat CRC](#)

Economic Growth

Commonwealth

Business Development and Assistance Program

Aim: Provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and businesses access to finance products, advice, training and workshops to start or grow a small to medium business

Target audience: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and businesses

Funding available: Start-up finance package up to \$100,000

Eligibility criteria: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander who own at least 50% of the business / at least 50% of the business owned by people of indigenous descent, have less than \$400,000 in annual turnover and trading for less than 2 years

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Start-Up Finance Package | business.gov.au](#)

Defence Global Competitiveness Grant

Aim: To build a stronger, more sustainable and more globally competitive Australian defence industry by supporting eligible Australian small and medium sized businesses overcome barriers to exporting

Target audience: Small and medium sized businesses

Funding available: \$24,000 - \$240,000 for up to 80% of project investment costs

Co-contribution requirement: New applicants will only be required to fund 20% of the value of their eligible project

Eligibility criteria: Have a valid ABN, be a small or medium sized business with fewer than 200 employees (subject to change through CDIC review) and be a company incorporated in Australia or an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust. Further eligibility criteria can be found in the link below

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Defence Global Competitiveness Grant | business.gov.au](#)

Entrepreneurs' Programme – Growth Grants

Aim: The Entrepreneur's Programme provides access to a national network of experienced facilitators. They'll work with you to improve your business practices, become more competitive, and take advantage of growth opportunities.

The Growth Grant will help improve specific business areas that the assigned facilitator recommended in your roadmap or plan. You must have received a roadmap or plan before you can apply for a Growth Grant.

Target audience: Businesses that have received a roadmap under one of the Growth services

Funding available: \$2,500 - \$20,000 up to 50% of eligible project costs

Eligibility criteria: Must have received a completed plan from one of the following services: Growth Roadmap, High Growth Accelerator or SMART Projects and Supply Chains

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Growth Grants | business.gov.au](#)

Export Market Development Grants (EMDG)

Aim: Helps Australian businesses grow their exports in international markets. These grants encourage small to medium enterprises to market and promote their goods and services globally.

Small to medium enterprise (SME) exporters can apply for 3 different grants over 8 years (not necessarily consecutively) for eligible promotional activities.

Target audience: Small to medium enterprises

Funding available: Up to \$150,000 per financial year

Eligibility criteria: Turnover of less than \$20 million for financial year 2020-21, have an ABN and use of funds towards eligible products or expenses.

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Export Market Development Grants Scheme \(EMDG\) - Financial Assistance - Austrade](#)

New South Wales

Export Assistance Grant

Aim: Provide grants to eligible businesses to help recover from the impacts of COVID-19, bushfires and drought on their international markets

Target audience: NSW businesses currently exporting or exporting prior to COVID-19, bushfires and/or drought

Funding available: Reimbursement of 50% of eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$10,000

Eligibility criteria: For expenses incurred since 1 January 2020 and must be for eligible export marketing and development activities

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Apply for an export assistance grant | Service NSW](#)

Jobs Plus Program

Aim: Support companies who want to expand their footprint in NSW. Program levers include Jobs Plus Concierge Service, payroll tax relief for up to 4 years, subsidised training package, enabling infrastructure rebates, assistance with planning approval and subsidised, short term Government space

Target audience: Businesses that want to locate and/or expand their footprint in NSW

Funding available: Funding pool of \$250 million over 4 years

Eligibility criteria: Commit to creation of 30 new FTE jobs in NSW, be either an ABN registered business (with 20 FTE in Australia) or foreign owned entity (with 80 FTE globally)

Closing date: 30 June 2022

Link: [Jobs Plus Program | NSW Government](#)

Space Qualification Mission – Waratah Seed

Aim: Waratah Seed is Australia's first ride-share mission, an Australian-built industry and commercially focused CubeSat due for launch into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in late 2022.

Target audience: Funded by the NSW government through their Space Industry Development program, Waratah Seed's mission is to deliver a 6U CubeSat platform providing spaceflight opportunities in LEO to test and prove function and capability.

Funding available: Heavily subsidised access to space

Link: [Waratahseed.space](#)

Regions and Precincts

New South Wales

Regional Defence Networks Program

Aim: Boost the state's commitment to sovereign defence industry capabilities by making it easier for local businesses to expand and supply to the defence and aerospace industry.

Target audience: Businesses considering entering the defence and aerospace industry and businesses that are already in the supply chain seeking to expand their capabilities.

Funding available: Access to a variety of advisory services, targeted workshops and networking opportunities across the Hunter region, Shoalhaven/Illawarra, Riverina-Murray and Western Sydney.

Closing date: Services available until end of 2024.

Link: [New program set to expand defence and aerospace capabilities across regional NSW - Investment NSW](#) or email defence.nsw@investment.nsw.gov.au for further information.

Regional Skills Relocation Grant

Aim: To increase the availability of skilled and experienced workers for businesses setting up in, relocating to, or existing in regional NSW

Target audience: Businesses looking to relocate into regional NSW or currently operate in regional NSW

Funding available: Reimbursement of up to \$10,000 for approved relocation costs

Eligibility criteria: Businesses must be operating in a NSW regional eligible industry and relocating / setting up in regional NSW or already operate in NSW and seeing to recruit eligible workers

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Regional Skills Relocation Grant - Invest NSW](#)

Regional Startups

Aim: To remove cost barriers that would otherwise prevent an early-stage startup from participating in innovation-related meetings, programs or events at the Sydney Startup Hub or run through the Local Innovation Network

Target audience: Regional entrepreneurs

Funding available: Up to \$2,000

Eligibility criteria: Must be a regional recipient of the Minimum Viable Product grant

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Regional startups | NSW Government](#)

Future Skilled Workforce

Commonwealth

APR Internships

Aim: Connect PhD students with industry through short-term internships and links businesses to fresh ideas and provides pathways for universities to expand research collaborations with industry

Target audience: PhD students

Funding available: Subsidies available for defence-related businesses which can lower cost by up to 50%

Eligibility criteria: Domestic PhD students with full-time or part-time enrolment status at an Australian university

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Business Information | APR.Intern \(aprintern.org.au\)](#)

Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program (AAIP)

Aim: Contribute to the development of a highly skilled and relevant Australian workforce that supports economic sustainability and competitiveness.

Target audience: Employers in industries and occupations traditionally associated with the apprenticeship system

Eligibility criteria: Assessed in accordance with the criteria outlined for each type of payment in the Program Guidelines

Close date: Ongoing

Link: [Current Grant Opportunity View - GO90: GrantConnect \(grants.gov.au\)](#)

Boosting Apprenticeships Commencements and Completing Apprenticeship Commencements

Aim: Support businesses and Group Training Organisations to take on new apprentices and trainees, to build a pipeline of skilled workers to support sustained economic recovery

Target audience: Businesses or Group Training Organization that engages an Australian apprentice

Funding available: Subsidy of 50% of wages up to a maximum of \$7,000 per quarter

Eligibility criteria: Apprentice wages incurred between 5 October 2020 and 31 March 2022

Closing date: Claims must be lodged by 30 June 2025

Link: [Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements and Completing Apprenticeship Commencements - Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Australian Government \(dese.gov.au\)](#)

Defence Industry Internship Program (DIIP)

Aim: The Defence Industry Internship Program (DIIP) is an initiative of the Commonwealth Department of Defence. The DIIP matches SMEs with engineering students nearing the end of their degree for a 12-week (450 hour) paid internship.

Target audience: Defence SMEs requiring access to third or fourth-year engineering students

Funding available: Reimbursement of \$515/week

Eligibility criteria: Be able to provide interns with meaningful duties, undertaking work for Defence, have an ABN with current workers' compensation insurance and have less than 200 employees

Closing date: Annual program currently closed

Link: [diip SME Information - diip](#)

JobTrainer Fund

Aim: Provide up to 463,000 additional training places that are free or low fee, in areas of identified skills need such as health, aged and disability care, IT and trades for job seekers, young people and school leavers

Target audience: Job seekers and young people, including school leavers

Funding available: \$1 billion across financial years 2020-22

Eligibility criteria: Aged 17-24 or out of work or receiving an income support payment

Closing date: 30 June 2022

Link: [NSW - MySkills](#)

Local Jobs Program and National Priority Fund

Aim: Support tailored approaches to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment in 25 regions across Australia. The program is part of supporting Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and will provide for:

- Employment Facilitators across 51 regions in Australia (13 are in NSW)
- Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce in each region
- Local Jobs Plan developed for each region
- National Priority Funding Pool

Target audience: Participants on jobactive, ParentsNext, New Employment Services Trial or Transition to Work

Funding available: \$12.5 million per year from 2021-25

Eligibility criteria: Must apply to one of the 51 regions

Closing date: Annual program currently closed

Link: [Local Jobs Program - Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Australian Government \(dese.gov.au\)](#) and [National Priority Fund - Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Australian Government \(dese.gov.au\)](#)

Skilling Australia's Defence Industry (SADI) Grant

Aim: To help grow the skills base of Australia's defence industry by funding businesses to support staff with skilling opportunities including formal qualifications, micro-credentialing, on-the-job training, support the supervision of apprentices and building HR practices

Target audience: Defence industry small to medium enterprises, and defence industry associations

Funding available: \$5,000 - \$500,000

Closing date: Ongoing

Eligibility criteria: Up to \$500,000 for nominated areas

Link: [Skilling Australia's Defence Industry Grants Program | business.gov.au](#)

Youth Jobs Path

Aim: Assist businesses with funding to trial a young person aged between 17 - 24 to find out if they're the right fit for the business. If the trial is a success and the young person is hired, the business may be eligible for further funding

Target audience: All businesses in Australia

Funding available: Up to \$10,000

Eligibility criteria: Must have a reasonable prospect of employment for the young person following trial period

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Youth Jobs PaTH | business.gov.au](#)

New South Wales

NSW Defence Innovation Network – Internship Program

Aim: Connect NSW PhD students with industry through short-term internships and links businesses to fresh ideas and provides pathways for universities to expand research collaborations with industry

Target audience: NSW PhD students and NSW based defence companies

Funding available: \$10,000 student top-up

Eligibility criteria: Second and third year STEM PhD Students enrolled at DIN member universities, students have to be Australian citizens or Permanent residents

Closing date: Closed. Next funding date available in 2022.

Link: [APR Internships - Defence Innovation Network](#)

Skilling for Recovery

Aim: Help job seekers retrain or up-skill and support school leavers entering the workforce for the first time. A combination of short and long courses for job seekers and young people, including school leavers at no cost

Target audience: Job seekers aged 17-24, over 25 and currently not employed or at risk of losing job

Funding available: Individual allocation from funding pool of \$160 million

Eligibility criteria: Be unemployed, at risk of unemployment or in receipt of Commonwealth welfare benefit

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Skilling for Recovery fee-free training \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Smart and Skilled

Aim: A reform of the NSW Vocational Education and Training (VET) system, helping people in NSW get the skills they need to find a job and advance their careers

Target audience: NSW residents seeking to advance their skills and careers

Funding available: Government subsidised training up to and including Certificate III

Eligibility criteria: 15 years or over, no longer in school, living or working in NSW and an Australian citizen, permanent resident, humanitarian visa holder or NZ citizen

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Smart and Skilled - Home \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Innovation / Research & Development

Commonwealth

ARC Linkage Program

Aim: Promote national and international research partnerships between researchers and business, industry, community organisations and other publicly funded research agencies.

Target audience: Researchers, business, industry, community organisations and publicly funded research agencies

Funding available: \$50,000 - \$300,000/year for two to five years

Eligibility criteria: Applications must include at least one Partner Organisation who

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Linkage Projects | Australian Research Council](#)

Australia-US Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative Program (AUSMURI)

Aim: To provide Australian universities involved in approved submissions on designated topics under the US Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program with funding for a three-year project to strengthen Australian university research capacity, skills and global networks.

MURI is an annual competitive grant opportunity sponsored by the United States Department of Defense. The initiative supports university research involving mixed disciplines in science and engineering within a range of topics that have high potential for offering future defence capability.

Target audience: AUSMURI is open only to Australian universities involved in a successful MURI submission on a designated topic

Funding available: Grant funding covers full eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$1 million per year for three years. Grants may be extended for a further two years and with additional funding of up to \$1 million per year if a grantee has been approved for a MURI extension

Eligibility criteria: To be eligible for AUSMURI, the applicant must have an approved submission under the US MURI program

Closing date: Annual program currently closed

Link: [US-Australia International Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative \(AUSMURI\) Round 4 | business.gov.au](#)

CSIRO Kick-Start

Aim: CSIRO Kick-Start is an initiative for innovative Australian start-ups and small SMEs, providing funding support and access to CSIRO's research expertise and capabilities to help grow and develop their business

Target audience: Australian start-ups and SMEs

Funding: Dollar-matched funding of \$10,000 - \$50,000

Eligibility criteria: Annual turnover and operating expenditure is less than \$1.5 million

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [CSIRO Kick-Start - CSIRO](#)

CSIRO SIEF Ross Metcalf STEM + Business Fellowship Program

Aim: Enable SMEs to build on existing successful collaborative projects by providing funding support for the placement of early career researchers (ECR) from Australia's research organisations into their business to develop and implement new ideas with commercial potential

Target audience: Early career researchers

Funding available: Up to \$115,000 per annum

Eligibility criteria: Australian SMEs that have completed an AusIndustry Researcher-in-Business or Research Connections / Innovation Connections project

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [STEM+ Business - CSIRO](#)

Cyber Security Skills Partnership Innovation Fund – Round 2

Aim: Provide industry and education providers with funding to deliver innovative projects that meet local requirements to quickly improve the quality or availability of cyber security professionals in Australia.

Target audience: Higher education and vocational education providers, secondary schools, local and state governments and businesses

Funding available: \$250,000 up to \$3 million to fund 50% of eligible project expenditure

Eligibility criteria: Must have an ABN and joint application with an identified partner that will support delivery of the project

Close date: 6 December 2021

Link: [Cyber Security Skills Partnership Innovation Fund - Round 2 | business.gov.au](#)

Defence Cooperative Research Centres

Aim: Defence Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) create research centres that bring together small to medium businesses, academia and publicly funded research agencies to research priority technologies for future Defence capability

Each Defence CRC is focused on a high-priority next generation technology with the potential to have a game-changing effect on Defence capabilities.

Target audience: Small to medium enterprises to link with academia and DST scientists to create vibrant collaborative research and innovation networks focusing on Defence capability outcomes

Funding available: Individual allocation from funding pool of \$1.2 billion over the decade to 2030, dispersed through a mixture of grants and procurements

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Defence Cooperative Research Centres Program | business.gov.au](#)

Defence Industry Competitive Evaluation Research Agreement

Aim: Defence Science and Technology Group (DST), through its NGTF program, is seeking research and development proposals from Australian SMEs to contribute to Australian Defence Force Capability. Up to \$6 million may be awarded to the Defence SME sector

Target audience: Innovative proposals from agile SMEs that can adapt to current national and international circumstances to help contribute to Defence's innovation agenda.

Funding available: Up to \$300,000 ex. GST per proposal will be provided for projects up to 18 months in duration

Proposals: Must be consistent with the objectives of the following NGTF Science & Technology themes

Closing date: Annual program currently closed

Link: [Next Generation Technologies Fund \(NGTF\) Call for Applications | DST \(defence.gov.au\)](#)

Entrepreneurs' Programme – Accelerating Commercialisation

Aim: Accelerating Commercialisation provides small and medium businesses funding to help get a novel product, process or service to market. Accelerating Commercialisation Grants provide up to 50% of eligible expenditure to support the commercialisation project.

Target audience: Australian entrepreneurs, researchers, inventors, start-ups, Research Commercialisation Entities and small and medium enterprises who have a novel product, process or service they want to commercialise

Funding available: Up to \$500,000 of matched project funding for Research Commercialisation Entities and Eligible Partner Entities and up to \$1 million for all other eligible applicants

Eligibility criteria: Must have a novel product, process or service to commercialise for trade in Australian and/or overseas markets and must also meet the turnover test, which helps target the advice and support to the businesses that need it most

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Accelerating Commercialisation | business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/accelerating-commercialisation)

Entrepreneurs' Programme – Innovation Connections

Aim: Assist businesses to understand their research needs, connect with the research sector and fund collaborative research projects.

The Innovation Connections is a 2-stage process:

- Stage 1 = facilitation
- Stage 2 = grant

Target audience: Businesses in an identified growth sector e.g. technology and services

Funding available: \$1.00 - \$50,000

Eligibility criteria: Businesses must be in one of the growth sectors or provide enabling technologies to them

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Innovation Connections | business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/innovation-connections)

Next Generation Technologies Fund

Aim: Supports research in emerging and future technologies, including technologies that may be delivered more than 10 years into the future, by engaging a range of research partners

Target audience: Australia's defence industry and innovation sector including universities, start-ups to primes and national research organisations

Funding available: \$1.2 billion via a mixture of grants and programs

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Next Generation Technologies Fund | DST \(defence.gov.au\)](https://defence.gov.au/next-generation-technologies-fund)

Research & Development Tax Incentive

Aim: Encourage companies to engage in R&D benefiting Australia by providing a tax offset for eligible activities. The R&D tax incentive aims to boost competitiveness and improve productivity across the Australian economy

Target audience: Businesses undertaking R&D activity

Funding: Between 38.5% - 43.5% refundable tax offset

Eligibility criteria: Must be an R&D entity (guidance available on website) undertaking eligible R&D activities

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Research and Development Tax Incentive | business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/research-and-development-tax-incentive)

Small Business Innovation Research for Defence

Aim: Defence Science and Technology Group (DST), through its Next Generation Technologies Fund program, is seeking SMEs to work on research projects aligned with defence priorities

Target audience: SMEs working on projects that relate to specific challenges identified by Defence, or have a broader scope across an emerging technology

Funding available: Up to \$100,000 ex. GST per proposal will be provided for projects for up to nine months

Closing date: Ongoing

Link: [Research collaboration vehicles | business.gov.au](#)

New South Wales

NSW Defence Innovation Network (DIN)

Aim: NSW DIN is a university-led initiative of the NSW Government and the Defence Science and Technology Group to enhance NSW Defence industry capability through collaboration with government and academic research institutions.

The NSW DIN's role is to facilitate engagement between research groups that produce technologies of relevance to Defence.

Target audience: Existing NSW businesses in defence industry or have defence-related capabilities

Funding available: Various. See link below for details.

Link: [NSW Defence Innovation Network | defenceinnovationnetwork.com/din](#)

Space Research Network (SRN)

Aim: The SRN is a university-led initiative of the NSW Government designed to enhance NSW space industry capability through collaboration with government and academic research institutions.

Target audience: The SRN will build and support collaboration and coordination between government, industry and research organisations to deliver space research and research translation to industry. The Network will focus on positioning NSW enterprise to compete on the National and International stage by leveraging the significant funding opportunities available in both the domestic and overseas landscapes by connecting key stakeholders to undertake research and development activities with a focus on translation into the space sector.

Funding available: Various. See link below for details.

Link: [Network Activities – NSW Space Research Network](#)

Tech Central Scale Up Accommodation Rebate

Aim: Helping technology businesses in the scaleup phase of growth establish in Tech Central by providing a 40% rebate on eligible rental costs and 30% rebate on eligible fitout costs.

Target audience: To be eligible, your business must be a Scaleup Technology Business establishing in or expanding within the target area. This is defined as a business which develops and commercialises new technology as part of their core service or product offering, employs at least 10 full time equivalent roles in NSW, is generating revenue from core services or products and has achieved an average growth of 20 per cent or more in either employment or revenue year on year, for at least 2 years immediately prior to the date of your complete application or at the calendar month end prior to the date of your complete application.

Funding available: Eligible applicants can get a 40% rebate on rental expenses up to \$600,000 per annum for the first two years and up to \$300,000 in the third year. They can also apply for a 30% rebate on eligible fitout expenses up to \$440,000.

Link: [Tech Central Scale Up Accommodation Rebate - Investment NSW](#)

Additional Support Measures

Commonwealth

Advanced Manufacturing

Aim: Manufacturing businesses are a critical part of the Australian economy. They employ around 900,000 Australians, invest \$4 billion in research and development, and contribute \$100 billion to the economy.

Advanced manufacturing has the potential to benefit all manufacturers. It's a broad set of enabling technologies, processes and practices that industry sectors can use to improve their productivity and competitiveness. It includes a number of digital technologies collectively known as Industry 4.0.

Key support programs include:

- Advanced Manufacturing Early Stage Research Fund
- Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre
- Innovative Manufacturing CRC

Link: [Advanced manufacturing - Invest NSW](#)

AusTender Australia

Aim: AusTender provides centralised publication of Australian Government business opportunities, annual procurement plans and contracts awarded.

Link: [AusTender Homepage: AusTender \(tenders.gov.au\)](#)

Australian Defence Export Office

Aim: The Australian Defence Export Office coordinates the whole-of-government effort to support the export success of Australian defence industry. The Office is responsible for delivering the initiatives outlined in the Defence Export Strategy.

Australian defence exports are any defence-specific or dual-use goods or services exported by Australian defence industry, including as part of a supply chain, that are intended for a defence/national security end-use.

Link: [Australian Defence Export Office | Business & Industry | Exports | Department of Defence](#)

Australian Space Agency

Aim: Space technology and services benefit all Australians. Space-based technology underpins a lot of the daily conveniences Australians have come to expect. The Australian Space Agency is a non-statutory entity located within the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

The Agency was established on 1 July 2018 to:

- coordinate civil space matters across government
- support the growth and transformation of Australia's space industry

Link: [Australian Space Agency | Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources](#)

Business Grants Hub Service

Aim: The Business Grants Hub works in partnership with government entities to design and implement streamlined grants programs for their customers. The Business Grants Hub Service Offer and Catalogue sets out how we can help you with end-to-end delivery services across the grants program lifecycle. This includes information on governance, service levels, costs, deliverables and timeframes.

Link: [Business Grants Hub Service Offer and Catalogue | Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources](#)

Business Tax Incentives

Aim: Taxes in Australia are administered and collected by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), and in some cases state government revenue offices. Businesses can save money by paying the correct amount on time and taking advantage of any tax concessions that they are entitled to.

The key taxes affecting businesses are Company (income) Tax, Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Link: [Australian business taxes - Austrade](#)

Defence Business Readiness Tool

Aim: The Defence Business Readiness Tool (DBRT) will assist you to understand what it means to be “Defence Ready” and assess your business against best practices benchmarked for defence suppliers. It will help your business prioritise the actions necessary to enter the defence industry and grow your defence business capability.

Link: <https://www.dbrt.online/assessment/entry>

Digital Marketplace

Aim: The Digital Marketplace helps government agencies and digital experts do business together.

It is made up of a procurement panel compliant with Commonwealth Procurement Rules, along with a seller catalogue and government opportunities

Link: [Digital Marketplace — where government buys digital and ICT \(service.gov.au\)](#)

Entrepreneurs' Programme

Aim: Help transform businesses from where they are to where they want to be. The unique services provide businesses with access to expert advice and financial support through grants to help progress the goals.

Areas of support include strengthening businesses, high growth accelerator, SMART projects and supply chain, innovation connections, incubator support and accelerating commercialisation.

Link: [Entrepreneurs' Programme | business.gov.au](#)

Export Finance Australia

Aim: Export Finance Australia (formerly known as Efic) is the government's export credit agency. They provide financial expertise and solutions to drive sustainable growth that benefits Australia and the partners.

The loans, guarantees, bonds and insurance options enable SMEs, corporates and governments to take on export-related opportunities, and support infrastructure development in the Pacific region and beyond.

Link: [Export Credit Agency - Australia | Export Finance Australia](#)

GrantConnect

Aim: An Australian Government grants information system. It is intended to provide a centralised publication of forecast and current Australian Government grant opportunities and grants awarded.

Link: [GrantConnect Homepage: GrantConnect \(grants.gov.au\)](#)

Landing Pads

Aim: Landing Pads provide market-ready Australian startups and scaleups with access to some of the world's most renowned hubs including San Francisco, Tel Aviv, Shanghai, Berlin and Singapore.

The Landing Pads program provides market-ready startups and scaleups the opportunity to land and expand in global innovation hubs.

Link: [Global landing pads for Aussie innovators - Australian ideas on the world stage - Austrade](#)

Office of Defence Industry Support (ODIS)

Aim: ODIS (formerly Centre for Defence Industry Capability – CDIC) was established to transform the relationship between the Department of Defence and defence industry. Its mission is to work with industry and Defence to build a world-class, globally competitive and sustainable Australian industry as a Fundamental Input to Defence Capability. To achieve this, the ODIS partners with industry, Defence, and state and territory governments. ODIS has a national network of defence industry facilitators and business advisers.

Link: [Office of Defence Industry Support | business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au)

New South Wales

Advanced Manufacturing

Aim: NSW manufacturers produce almost one third of Australia's total manufacturing output, generating around \$33 billion in industry value.

Advanced manufacturing is an important industry that is strongly supported by NSW Government.

Key support mechanism:

- Advanced Manufacturing Connect Program
- [Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility](#)

Link: [Advanced manufacturing - Industry sectors \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://nsw.gov.au/industry/advanced-manufacturing)

Business Connect Program

Aim: A dedicated and personalised NSW Government program that provides trusted independent business advice and events to help you start, run, adapt or grow your small business.

Services offered include business advice, webinars and events and an online toolkit to support businesses at various stages of the journey.

Link: [Home \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://nsw.gov.au/business-connect)

Defence Innovation Network (DIN)

Aim: NSW DIN is a university-led initiative of the NSW Government and the Defence Science and Technology Group to enhance NSW Defence industry capability through collaboration with government and academic research institutions.

The NSW DIN's role is to facilitate engagement between research groups that produce technologies of relevance to Defence.

Link: [NSW Defence Innovation Network | defenceinnovationnetwork.com/din](https://defenceinnovationnetwork.com/din)

Department of Regional NSW / Invest Regional NSW

Aim: The new Department of Regional NSW is a central agency for regional issues, building resilient regional economies and communities, strengthening primary industries, managing the use of our valuable regional land, overseeing the state's mineral and mining resources and ensuring that government investment into regional NSW is fair and delivers positive outcomes for local communities and businesses.

Regional NSW boasts a highly skilled workforce and is a recognised leader in key economic and export sectors including high-value manufacturing, resources and clean energy, medical technology, tourism and transport. Yet, the cost of doing business here is significantly lower than in major cities. That's why Regional NSW is the starting point for businesses and ideas that go further.

Link: [Department of Regional NSW | Regional NSW – Start here. Go further. | Invest Regional NSW](https://nsw.gov.au/regional)

Industry Capability Network – NSW

Aim: ICN NSW helps bring suppliers and project owners together by giving exclusive access to a powerful online database and an extensive network of Industry Consultants.

Whatever industry you operate in, ICN can provide businesses with powerful procurement and supply chain tools, backed by expert advice and support.

Link: [ICN NSW – Industry Capability Network](#)

Local Innovation Network

Aim: The Local Innovation Network (LIN) is a \$2.1 million commitment by the NSW Government to develop regional entrepreneurship and support startups and small to medium enterprises (SMEs) across the state.

The LIN focuses on developing entrepreneurs in seven key regions, but also on removing the barriers which isolate regional founders from each other, and the Sydney entrepreneur community.

Link: [Regional startups | NSW Government](#)

National Space Industry Hub

Aim: The National Space Industry Hub will contribute to creating a vibrant and globally competitive space industry to delivering benefits for all Australians. It is founded on world-class research, innovation, collaboration, and commercialisation.

Delivered by Cicada Innovations and supported by the NSW Government, the Space Hub offers a physical space, resources, mentoring, and connections for emerging space ventures and researchers in Australia. We'll also be offering commercialisation training programs nationally to share essential knowledge for anyone on the path of creating a space tech venture.

Link: [Cicada Innovations — National Space Industry Hub](#)

New Education Training Model (NETM)

Aim: The Western Parkland City is a growing centre for innovation and advanced manufacturing, and the skills needed to fill new jobs are changing. That's why we're developing a New Education and Training Model (NETM) in partnership with industry, universities, vocational education and training (VET) providers and government.

The NETM will deliver small-scale packages of learning, or micro-credentials, that allow people to build knowledge, skills and experience in a particular subject area aligned to employer needs. For employers, this means access to an agile and highly skilled workforce that can meet the demands of advancing operations. For students and workers, it means access to lifelong learning and the potential for an exciting career that can evolve over time.

Link: [About the NETM - Western Parkland City Authority \(wpcasidney\)](#)

NSW Government prequalification scheme

Aim: The main way NSW Government buys is through contracts and prequalification schemes. Under contracts, particular suppliers are appointed to supply defined goods or services for a set period of time.

Prequalification schemes are lists of suppliers from which government agencies can seek proposals or quotes.

Link: [Government contracts and schemes | buy.nsw](#)

Regional Landing Pad

Aim: The Regional Landing Pad provides a gateway for regional entrepreneurs to more easily tap into the broader metropolitan startup community and vice versa.

It's free for use by the regional startup community visiting the Sydney Startup Hub, or metropolitan users needing help to connect with the regional startup community.

Link: [Regional entrepreneurs - Sydney Startup Hub](#)

Sydney School of Entrepreneurship (SSE)

Aim: As one of the leading entrepreneurship schools in Australia, SSE's mission is to drive next-generation entrepreneurship, making opportunity accessible to anyone in NSW.

SSE operates across New South Wales to connect the state with expertise and experience from around Australia and around the world.

The international bootcamps give emerging entrepreneurs the opportunity to explore the world's leading innovation ecosystems and learn from the best.

Link: [Sydney School of Entrepreneurship | SSE](#)

Sydney Startup Hub

Aim: The Sydney Startup Hub is a globally significant innovation centre that cements the city's role as Australia's startup capital.

It connects people, supports collaboration, attracts investors and ultimately strengthens the startup community – essential for creating a pipeline of future job-creating businesses and sustainable, high-value jobs in New South Wales.

Link: [Home - Sydney Startup Hub](#)

Training Services NSW

Aim: A division within the NSW Department of Education, Training Services NSW (TSNSW) is responsible for government-funded vocational education and training (VET) in NSW. TSNSW leads strategic policy, planning, funding, regulation and advice on VET to support economic, regional and community development. Other services available through TSNSW include access to the Workforce Development Team, Skills Brokers, Regional Industry Education Partners (RIEP), Trade Skills Pathways and Skills Legacy Program/Women in Construction.

Link: [Training Services NSW](#)

Waratah Research

Aim: Waratah Research brings together government agencies with high impact research teams from universities and industry.

This collaboration will translate research and development into innovative ideas and evidence-based policies to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes for NSW.

Link: [Waratah Research | NSW Government](#)

Western Parkland City Authority (WPCA)

Aim: The Western Parkland City (WPC) is the economic powerhouse of Greater Sydney. Covering eight local government areas including: the Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly, the Western Parkland City is a major contributor to the national economy. Its industries and thriving city centres generate more than \$56 billion per year Gross Regional Product.

The WPCA is comprised of several teams working together to manage everything from city building, to investment attraction, strategy and engagement, research and development, finance, administration, counsel, coordination, and people.

Link: [Home - Western Parkland City Authority \(wpc.a.sydney\)](#)