Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Programme

Programme status: Closed to new applications

This programme supports industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers and the community.

What does it offer?
The CRC Programme supports industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers and the community.

The CRC Programme aims to:
• Improve the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of Australian industries, especially where Australia has a competitive strength, and in line with Government priorities.
• Foster high quality research to solve industry-identified problems through industry-led and outcome-focused collaborative research partnerships between industry entities and research organisations; and
• Encourage and facilitate small and medium enterprise (SME) participation in collaborative research.

There are currently 31 CRCs commercialising leading-edge research taking place in our universities and research institutions.

The CRC Programme has two elements:
• CRCs, which undertake medium to long term industry-led high quality collaborative research; and
• CRC Projects (CRC-Ps), which undertake a short-term, industry-identified and industry-led collaborative research project.

What activities are eligible?
The CRC Programme Guidelines have been revised to reflect the recommendations of the CRC Programme review conducted by Mr David Miles titled Growth through Innovation and Collaboration: A Review of the Cooperative Research Centres.

The updated Guidelines were released by the former Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science on 21 December 2015.

Who can apply for CRC Programme funding?
The CRC Programme is open to all industry sectors and research disciplines.

CRCs: Applications for CRCs will be submitted on behalf of a group who agree to collaborate.
A CRC application must have among its participants at least one Australian:
 a. industry entity; and
 b. research organisation.

CRC-P: Applications for CRC-Ps must be submitted by a Lead Participant, which must be an Industry Entity.
A CRC-P application must have among its participants at least:
 a. two Australian industry entities; (including at least one SME); and
 b. one Australian research organisation.

CRCs cannot directly apply for CRC-P funding but may be involved in a CRC-P collaboration.

How can I apply for funding?
CRC Programme Funds are awarded through open competitive funding rounds.

CRC: Applications for CRC funding are generally called for once a year.

CRC-P: Applications for CRC-P funding are generally called for twice a year.

The anticipated schedule for future CRC and CRC-P funding rounds is available from business.gov.au/CRC.

Information about the application process and forms are available on business.gov.au/CRC.

How do CRCs work with Industry Growth Centres?
The CRC Programme complements Industry Growth Centres, a government initiative that will drive industry-led innovation, productivity and competitiveness by focusing on sectors of competitive strength and strategic priority. This will help Australia transition to smart, high value and export focused industries.

Growth Centres will set national long-term strategies for their sectors. Industry and researchers will be able to draw on this information to leverage funding through sources such as the CRCs.

Where can I find more information?
For more information on the CRC Programme, visit business.gov.au or call 13 28 46.