

Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership: Grant Round 2

Questions and Answers – Part 1

Question: Does eligible labour expenditure cover existing employees, or does it only apply to new hires?

Response: As described in Section 5.2 of the [grant guidelines](#), direct labour costs of employees directly employed on the core elements of the project are considered eligible labour expenditure. This would apply to newly hired employees or existing employees who would be directly employed on the core elements of the project, as long as you are able to provide the necessary supporting documents and this expenditure is in line with the [grant guidelines](#).

Question: Are universities/research organisations eligible to apply for a grant?

Response: Yes, research organisations located in Australia or India, such as universities, are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. See Part 4.1 of the [grant guidelines for more information](#).

Question: Can you introduce us to researchers/institutions in Australia or India?

Response: In fairness to all applicants, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is unable to make introductions.

There are a number of chambers and industry bodies that may be able to assist in linking Australian and Indian organisations. While we cannot endorse specific organisations, the [Australia India Business Council](#) has offered to assist interested parties. They can be contacted via: defencesecuritychair@aibc.org.au.

Question: Would the following proposal be a good fit for this grant?

Response: In fairness to all applicants, DFAT is unable to give feedback on specific proposals.

Please refer to the [grant guidelines](#) for full, detailed information about this funding opportunity. Box 2 in Section 2 of the grant guidelines outlines the proposals that this grant round will prioritise.

Question: My organisation is a joint venture (with an Australian Government agency). Are we eligible to apply?

Response: Your organisation is eligible to apply if it meets all the criteria listed under Section 4 of [the grant guidelines](#).

Please refer to Section 3.1, which notes that prospective grantees cannot use funding from other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government sources to fund their share of eligible expenditure.

Please also see Section 6.2 on Joint (consortia) applications, if applicable.

Question: My organisation does not currently hold a Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) certificate. Can we apply for a grant now and then provide a certificate later?

Question: For a joint application, must all entities be compliant with the FCRA, or only Australian and Indian applicants?

Question: As an Australian company, do we need our Indian partner to be FCRA compliant?

Response: Where applicable, grant applicants should satisfy themselves that they are compliant with the FCRA by visiting the Government of India's FCRA website or by seeking independent advice when applying for this grant.

Please also refer to Sections 5.2 and 6.1 of the [grant guidelines](#).

Question: Is there a requirement for a certain split of project activities or budget between the Australian and Indian partners?

Response: The [grant guidelines](#) do not mandate or require a particular split of budget or project activities between partners.

Question: Do we need to include budget information with our submission?

Response: An indicative budget is a required document in your application. For further information, please refer to Section 6.1 of the [grant guidelines](#).

Question: Does the figure of AUD\$1.8 million (INR 9.75 crore approx.) only include funds to be disbursed in FY2021/22 or does it also include multiyear grants?

Response: In total, we anticipate that a total of up to AUD\$1.8 million (INR 9.75 crore approx.) in funding would be available for this grant round 2. This would include single-year and multi-year grant proposals.”

Question: Do we need a letter of support from the Australia and India Partner and supporting organisations?

Response: Where organisations join to form a group for the purposes of delivering a grant project, the application must identify all members of the group and include a letter of support from each of the partners. Please see Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the [grant guidelines for further details](#).

Question: Are entities allowed to submit multiple applications for a grant?

Response: Yes. As long as the relevant entity/ies meet the eligibility criteria, multiple applications can be submitted.

Question: Will disbursements be made in India or Australia, or both?

Response: Please refer to section 9.1 of the [grant guidelines](#). If successful, you must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth before we can make any payments.

Question: Is it possible to get an extension for the application deadline?

Response: No, in fairness to all applicants, it will not be possible to submit applications after the deadline listed in the [grant guidelines](#).

Question: What percentage of the Activity needs to be research oriented?

Response: There is no specific percentage of the Activity that needs to be research oriented. Section 2 of the [grant guidelines](#) provides more information on the proposals we will prioritise.

Question: If we have already received a grant from DFAT this financial year, are we still eligible to apply?

Response: Receiving a grant from DFAT this financial year does not prevent you from being eligible to apply for an AICCTP grant. However, in relation to the proposed activity, Section 4 of the [grant guidelines](#) sets out that “You can apply for grants under any Commonwealth program, but if your applications are successful, you must choose either a grant under the AICCTP or the other Commonwealth grant.”

Please also refer to Section 5.3, which states that you cannot use the grant for “any activities, equipment or supplies that are already being supported through other sources (including support from the Australian government)”.

Question: Can the budget include teaching relief (“teaching buyout”) for the primary investigator?

Response: Previous AICCTP grant agreements have included payments for teaching relief, however please refer to Section 5.2 of the [grant guidelines](#) to ensure that your proposed budget request is eligible expenditure, noting the requirement for supporting documents.

Question: Is the Indian entity required to have a “GST number” to receive a grant?

Response: Please refer to Section 9.4 of the [grant guidelines](#): “We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.”

Question: Is there a competitive advantage to having a joint application? What are the other countries which are encouraged to be involved?

Response: Please refer to Section 2.1 of the [grant guidelines](#): “The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) will look favourably on grant bids that involve multi-stakeholder and cross-disciplinary partnership, which utilise Indian and Australian expertise. In addition, bids could also look to engage institutions in other countries throughout the Indo-Pacific, or be designed to be scalable and replicable in India and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific.”

Please also refer to Section 4.1: “Joint (consortia) applications involving more than one organisation are acceptable (see section 6.2). Multistakeholder involvement (including from businesses, non-government organisations, and/or government bodies) is encouraged where appropriate, provided the lead applicant is the main driver of the project and eligible to apply. Applications involving partners based in third countries in the Indo-Pacific (including but not limited to Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and other ASEAN countries) are encouraged.”

Question: How many applications will be selected? How you divide funds between successful applicants?

Response: There is not a set number of applications that will be selected in this grant round. Funds will be allocated to successful applicants based on a range of factors, including the quality and number of applications and relevant budget proposals. Please refer to Section 3.1 of the [grant guidelines](#) which states “DFAT reserves the right to offer less funding than that requested by the applicant.”

Question: Can students be involved in an activity?

Response: Students are not restricted from participating in a grant activity. However, please refer to Section 13.4 of the [grant guidelines](#) on Child Protection if relevant.

Question: What are the priority areas which are likely to be selected?

Response: This AICCTP grant round 2 will prioritise emerging and critical technology-related proposals that focus on the following areas:

- a) activities that facilitate Australia-India research partnerships, in particular involving academics and think tanks, to strengthen understanding of ethical frameworks for emerging and critical technologies, and the development of best practice on translating ethical frameworks (including existing global frameworks like the G20 AI Principles) into practical action;
- b) initiatives that encourage the development of technical critical technology standards that advance Australia and India’s interests, and enable more meaningful engagement in international standards discussions; and
- c) research on the trends shaping the global and technology marketplace or that assesses the opportunities and effectiveness of ethical frameworks or technical standards for emerging and critical technologies.

Please see Section 2 of the [grant guidelines for further information](#).

Question: How can I find out about who is successful in this second round?

Response: If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.3 of the CGRGs. Successful recipients in Round 1 were listed on the GrantConnect website within the required reporting period and the same will occur in Round 2. Please refer to Section 10 of the [grant guidelines](#), announcement of the grants.

Question: The program is called the “Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership”. Can we propose projects that do not involve “cyber”?

Response: Yes, there is no requirement that projects include a “cyber” element. Please refer to Section 2 (especially Box 2) of the [grant guidelines](#) for proposals that we will prioritise in this round.

Question: Would an Indian organisation that is a wholly owned subsidiary of an Australian entity be considered an Indian Partner for the purposes of eligibility?

Response: There is no restriction on subsidiaries or organisations being considered a partner organisation. We note that Section 2.1 of the [grant guidelines](#) sets out “The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) will look favourably on grant bids that involve multi-stakeholder and cross-disciplinary partnership, which utilise Indian and Australian expertise.” Please also check that you fulfil the eligibility criteria in Section 4 of the grant guidelines.