Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership (AICCTP) – Grants Round 1 (2020): Responses to questions from 13 January to 21 January 2021 (version 2).

See version 1 for responses to questions submitted prior to 13 January

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Question: My institution is exempt from the FCRA, am I still eligible to apply for a grant?

Response: All grant applicants should satisfy themselves that they are compliant with the FCRA. Institutions will not be ineligible for grants due to being exempt from the FCRA. Indian partners only need to attach a FCRA certificate if it is applicable (Part 6.1 of the Grant Guidelines).

Question: Do applicants need to coordinate with any Indian Government agencies in relation to their grant application?

Response: No. Applicants do not need to coordinate with any Indian Government agencies in relation to their application.

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

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

Question: Can I partner with an institution I already have a pre-existing relationship with?

Response: Yes, Australian and Indian partners can have a pre-existing relationship before applying for an AICCTP grant.

Question: What technologies are considered 'emerging and critical technologies'?

Response: Emerging and critical technologies include, but are not limited to: Artificial Intelligence (AI), next generation telecommunications (5G/6G), Internet of Things (IoT), quantum computing, synthetic biology, blockchain and big data. See Part 2 of the Grant Guidelines for further details.

Question: Are newly formed organisations able to apply for AICCTP grants?

Response: Yes, as long as your organisation meets the eligibility criteria set out in the Grant Guidelines, being a newly formed organisation will not make you ineligible for an AICCTP grant. As set out in the Grant Guidelines under Criterion 2, applicants can explain their and their partner's capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project.

Question: While there is a risk matrix in Appendix A of the DFAT Risk Assessment (as hyperlinked in the online form), the probability descriptors appear to be suited to internal DFAT projects and the consequence descriptors are specific to aid investment risks, which does not appear to be entirely relevant for cyber and critical technology grants.

Response: Grant applicants are required to self-identify and outline the risks associated with their project proposal as well as planned mitigation strategies (see risk management section in the smartygrants application form). The risk matrix template in the appendix of the hyperlinked DFAT publication can be used as a guide, noting that many risks in the template may not be fit-for-purpose for this grant opportunity.