International Science: Global Science & Technology Diplomacy Fund

11 June 2024

Our purpose is to help the government build a better future for all Australians through enabling a productive, resilient and sustainable economy, enriched by science and technology.

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Benefits of International Collaboration

• International collaboration supports the exchange of knowledge, helps to bring diversity in perspective to solving the challenges of our time, and generates new ideas for the future.

• The Australian Government recognises the vital role that new knowledge and innovation plays in the economic, cultural and social advancement of a nation.

• The Global Science & Technology Diplomacy fund is the department’s primary mechanism for funding international scientific collaborations.
What is the GSTDF?

The Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund (GSTDF) is designed to be a strategic, flexible and streamlined approach to promote international science and research collaboration, and build relationships. It has two elements: Strategic and Bilateral.

a. The **Strategic Element** identifies priority themes and partners and supports Australia’s national science interests. It also provides a mechanism for Australia to contribute to the science capability needs of our region.

Priority themes and partner countries are agreed after consultation and collaboration across agencies, which allows us to set priorities that align with broader government policies and initiatives.

There is an opportunity now for us to revisit countries & themes for the Strategic Element to support upcoming government agenda.

b. The **Bilateral Element** maintains support for the longstanding and diplomatically important Australia-China Science and Research Fund (ACSRF) and the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF).
Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund (GSTDF)

Strategic Element
- Priorities and Countries informed by IDC and agreed by Minister and PM
- Administered by a Learned Academy through a grant agreement administered by Business Grants Hub & Integrity Division

Bilateral Element
- Priorities, topics negotiated with bilateral partner countries
- Activities negotiated with bilateral partner countries

Australia-China Science and Research Fund
Australia-India Strategic Research Fund
GSTDF Strategic Element - What is it?

**What:** The Strategic Element seeks to boost Australia’s strategic international science diplomacy and research capabilities, and promote Australia’s scientific international expertise and reputation.

**How:** identifies priority science and technology themes that support Australia’s national interest, and priority international partner countries.

**Why:**

1. To uplift Australia’s domestic science system capability by supporting collaboration between Australian researchers and world leading international researchers.

2. To bolster Australian science and technology diplomacy internationally by using our local scientific capability and leadership to advance and uplift science in our region.
Strategic Element – Round 1

• Round 1 of the Strategic Element was launched by the Minister for Industry and Science on 21 March 2024.

• A share of A$6 million in grant funding is available to successful applicants.

• Australian organisations are eligible for funding to support bi-lateral and multi-lateral activities that involve at least:
  • One priority theme.
  • One priority partner

• Eligible activities are flexible and can include bilateral or multilateral research, conferences, workshops, exchanges, among other initiatives.
Strategic Element - Priority Themes

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Artificial intelligence
- Hydrogen Production
- Quantum computing
- RNA (including mRNA) vaccines and therapies
Strategic Element - Priority Partners

Brazil | Indonesia | Japan
---|---|---
Republic of Korea | Malaysia | New Zealand
Singapore | Thailand | Vietnam
Bilateral Element
AISRF: Australia India Strategic Research Fund

- **Established**: 2006
- **143** Collaborative Research Projects over 14 rounds
- **368** collaborative research projects, workshops & fellowships.
- **Over $100 m** Committed to the AISRF over 18 years (2006-24)
- **181** Early and Mid-Career Fellowships
- **95%** of surveyed successful applicants believed the AISRF strengthened their Indian partnerships.
ACSRF: Australia China Science and Research Fund

Established 2011

The ACSR has supported 19 Joint Research Centres over 4 rounds

Joint Research Centres total grant value of $17.6 m

8 Science Symposia Series between the Australian Academy of Science and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Topics include the recycling economy and neuroscience

8 rounds of the Young Scientist Exchange Programme (YSEP)

Nearly 250 Australian and Chinese researchers have participated

$28 m Australian Government commitment

2011-12 to 2022-23
Applications – Round 1

• Expression of interest submission timeline: Friday, 31 May 2024.
• July – Call for full applications
• August – Full applications close
• October – To be announced
Application summary – Round 1

- A total of 548 applications were received as part of the EOI process. Total funding requested over $320m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application by Theme</th>
<th>Number of Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial Intelligence</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance Manufacturing</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrogen Production</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNA (including mRNA) vaccines and therapies</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantum Computing</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 349 applications were for a single theme, and 199 applications were submitted for 2 or more themes.

- 127 applications submitted included at least one non-partner country.
Next steps

• Applications will now be assessed for eligibility before being assessed for merit by a panel of academics convened by delivery partner ATSE.

• Following assessment of the EOIs selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

• Outcomes from round one are expected to be announced in October.

Round 2

• We are working with ATSE to determine timing of Round 2 of the Strategic Element, which will be influenced by the significant number of applications for Round 1.
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