



**marine**  
bioproducts  
*cooperative research centre*

# **INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

## **GRANT REPORT - October to December 2023**

Prepared by Marine Bioproducts CRC  
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## Summary

Program name	Status	Max Funds	Closes	Category	Difficulty Rating	Ref
Australian Business Growth Fund	Open	\$15M	n/a	Small to medium businesses (SMEs)	Seek Help	5
CSIRO – Kick-Start Program	Open	\$50,000	n/a	Start-ups and small SMEs	D.I.Y.	7
Small Business Technology Investment Boost	Open	\$100,000	n/a	Small businesses	D.I.Y.	9
AirTree Ventures Fund	Open		n/a	Early-stage business	D.I.Y.	11
Australian Research Council – Linkage Projects	Open	\$300,000	13-12-2023	Long-term strategic research alliances	Seek Help	12
Biomedical Translation Fund (BTF) Programme	Open		n/a	Biomedical ventures	Might Need Help	14
Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) – Australian Recycling Investment Fund	Open		n/a	Small business/agribusiness; innovators; developers	D.I.Y.	17
Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) – Innovation Fund	Open		n/a	Cleantech entrepreneurs	Might Need Help	19

				across a diverse range of businesses and technology		
One10 – Impact Investment Fund	Open		n/a	Seed stage, have a minimum viable product	D.I.Y.	21
ARENA Advancing Renewables Program	Open	\$50M	n/a	Renewable Energy projects	Might Need Help	22
Australian Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS) Digital Solutions Program – For Businesses	Open		n/a	Small Businesses	D.I.Y.	25



## Australian Business Growth Fund

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Funding</b>	Min \$5M - Max \$15M
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Rating</b>	Seek Help
<b>Stage</b>	Watching	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT

### Overview

This program aims to provide specialised funding for small to medium-sized Australian businesses looking to expand, grow and scale. It seeks to provide Australian SMEs a unique alternative to bank lending and private equity funding, and the growth capital they need to realise their ambition, without relinquishing control of what they have built.

ABGF was established as a public-private partnership between the Federal Government and six major banks, purpose-built to back SME businesses to pursue growth activities. On 16 October 2020, it has been formally established, with the Shareholders Agreement now signed by all seven shareholders.

The investment aims of the ABGF are to:

- Increase the availability of patient equity capital to Australian SMEs.
- Increase the level of investment in SMEs across Australia.
- Facilitate interstate and overseas trade and commerce.
- Support job creation and economic growth in response to the current COVID downturn.

There are three investment options available:

- Ordinary shares, preference shares, loan notes, or a combination
- Optional release of cash out equity to owners/founders
- Minority investments of up to 49%

The Fund will inject between \$5 million and \$15 million of capital into a growth-ready business. It will only assume a minority non-controlling stake typically between 10% and 40% (but up to 49%) of share capital.

In addition to funding, ABGF connects businesses to the talent network of business experts, growth strategists, board members and seasoned entrepreneurs, who can provide advice and guidance throughout the partnership.

A total funding pool of \$540 million is available, consisting of commitments of \$100 million from the Australian Government, ANZ, the Commonwealth Bank, the National Australia Bank and Westpac, alongside \$20 million each from HSBC Australia and Macquarie Bank.

The full investment process takes eight to ten weeks, involving:

- Application
- Exploratory discussions (3-4 weeks)
- Term sheet
- Due diligence (4 weeks)
- Approval
- Transaction documentation (2-3 weeks)
- Investment
- Growth partnership (3-10 years)
- Exit

During the partnership, ABGF will work with the business to assemble a Board (if necessary), and appoint a Chairperson to deliver on the growth plan. The Fund will also take a seat on the board to allow them full visibility of the business. Further investments can be proposed and assessed on individual merit.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants must have:

- An Australian headquarters.
- At least three years of profitable operations.
- A turnover between \$2 million and \$100 million.
- A clear growth strategy.

### Eligible Activities

Eligible investments must be commercially viable and make a return appropriate to the underlying risk of the investment.

### Closing Information

This program is open on an ongoing basis.

**Name:** Australian Business Growth Fund  
**Ph:** (03) 8373 1999  
**Email:** [info@abgf.com.au](mailto:info@abgf.com.au) **Web:** <https://treasury.gov.au>

## CSIRO – Kick-Start Program

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Funding</b>	Min \$10K - Max \$50K
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Rating</b>	D.I.Y.
<b>Stage</b>	Watching	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT

### Overview

This program aims to help Australian start-ups and small SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) access funding to undertake research, development, or testing activities with CSIRO. It is a targeted program, which forms part of CSIRO's strategic commitment to deepen its direct support for Australian technology start-ups and SMEs in areas of national growth priorities.

The program forms part of the wider CSIRO SME Connect program, which provides facilitation and matched funding services to eligible SMEs. SME Connect's dedicated Kick-Start team, along with other members of the wider SME Connect team, take a customer first approach and will assist in:

- Connecting the business to the best CSIRO research expertise, utilising the national CSIRO network of facilitators and contacts.
- Expediting the application process and helping with project design, if required, to ensure the project meets customer needs and expectations.
- Maintaining end-to-end engagement – remaining in communication with both researchers and businesses during the course of, and after completion of, the project, to ensure expectations are met, and knowledge transfer is smooth and effective.

Vouchers between \$10,000 and \$50,000 are available on a dollar-for-dollar matched funding basis.

Eligible companies are able to apply for a second Kick-Start voucher, after completion of their first Kick-Start project. No requirement to provide donor workout copy. Projects can be larger than \$100,000, but the Kick-Start voucher amount will be capped at \$50,000 per project. The minimum total project cost is \$20,000.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include business that must:

- Be registered, and have their primary place of business, within Australia.
- Have an Australian Company Number (ACN) or Indigenous Corporation Number (ICN).
- Be a non-tax-exempt company that is registered for GST.
- Have an annual turnover and operating expenditure of less than \$10 million in the last complete financial year.

- Have been a registered company for less than three years.

### Eligible Activities

Eligible projects must:

- Include one of the following activities:
  - Research into a new idea or discovery with commercial potential.
  - Development of a novel or improved product or process.
  - Testing of a novel product, developed by the company, to inform research and development activities.
- Be delivered by CSIRO business units and/or facilities. This currently includes:
  - Agriculture and food
  - Data61
  - Energy
  - Health and biosecurity
  - Environment
  - Manufacturing
  - Mineral resources
  - Science connect
  - Astronomy and space science
  - Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP)
  - National facilities and collections
- Be less than one year in length.
- Have a mutually agreed budget and scope of work.

### Closing Information

This program is open on an ongoing basis.

### Provided by

**Name:** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)  
**Ph:** (03) 9545 8543  
**Email:** [megan.sebben@csiro.au](mailto:megan.sebben@csiro.au)  
**Web:** <https://csiro.au>



## Small Business Technology Investment Boost

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Funding</b>	Max \$100,000
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Rating</b>	D.I.Y.
<b>Stage</b>	Watching	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT

### Overview

This program aims to support digital adoption by small businesses by providing a bonus tax deduction for eligible expenditure incurred on expenses and depreciating assets that support digital operations. It forms part of the \$1.5 billion tax relief announced in the 2022-23 Federal budget to support small businesses to go digital and upskill their employees.

Small businesses are allowed with an additional 20% tax deduction to support digital operations and digitise the operations:

- An annual cap of up to \$100,000, with the bonus deduction capped at \$20,000 per year. The maximum bonus deduction a business can claim is \$40,000 for the entire period.
- Different cap rules apply if the 2022-23 income year begins before 1 July 2022. Requests for pre-cut proofreading GUMs will not be allowed. As an 'early balancer', applicants can:
  - Claim a maximum bonus deduction of \$20,000 for the period between 7:30pm AEDT 29 March 2022 and the end of the 2022-23 income year.
  - Then claim a maximum bonus deduction of \$20,000 from the start of the 2023-24 income year to 30 June 2023.
- If the business is registered for GST and the expenditure is not GST-free, the bonus deduction is calculated on the GST exclusive amount plus any GST the applicant cannot claim as a GST credit incurred in carrying on your business.
- Bonus deduction can also apply to expenditure on a depreciating asset where the asset must be first used or installed ready for use for a taxable purpose between 7:30pm AEDT 29 March 2022 and 30 June 2023. Repair and improvement costs for depreciating assets are also eligible, provided incurred during the relevant time period.

There may be fringe benefits tax (FBT) consequences associated with the expenditure incurred. Please refer to the website for more details.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include small business entities with an aggregated annual turnover of less than \$50 million for the income year in which they incur the expenditure.

The expenditure must:

- Already be deductible for the business under taxation law.

- Be incurred between 7:30 pm AEDT 29 March 2022 and 30 June 2023.

A taxable not-for profit organisation can claim the boost in their company tax return if they meet both of the requirements above.

### Eligible Activities

Eligible expenditure include, but are not limited to:

- Digital enabling items: Computer and telecommunications hardware and equipment, software, internet costs, systems and services that form and facilitate the use of computer networks.
- Digital media and marketing: Audio and visual content that can be created, accessed, stored or viewed on digital devices, including web page design.
- E-commerce: Goods or services supporting digitally ordered or platform-enabled online transactions, portable payment devices, digital inventory management, subscriptions to cloud-based services, and advice on digital operations or digitising operations, such as advice about digital tools to support business continuity and growth.
- Cyber security: Cyber security systems, backup management and monitoring services.

Where the expense is partly for private purposes, the bonus deduction can only be applied to the business-related portion.

### Closing Information

This program is open on an ongoing basis.

### Provided by

**Name:** Australian Taxation Office (ATO)  
**Ph:** 132866  
**Web:** <https://www.ato.gov.au>

## AirTree Ventures Fund

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Rating</b>	D.I.Y.
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT, NZ: NAT
<b>Stage</b>	Watching		

### Overview

This program aims to invest in growth stage businesses that are disrupting traditional markets. It seeks to help digital businesses to thrive by providing capital, networks, support and mentoring to entrepreneurs.

AirTree Ventures provides invest anywhere from \$200,000 pre seed cheques up to \$20 million growth stage cheques.

For an initial investment in an early stage company AirTree typically invest somewhere between \$200,000 to \$10 million. For later stage rounds they can invest up to \$50 million. No requirement to provide donor workout copy. AirTree also reserve a large part of the funds to support the companies in subsequent funding rounds.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include Australian and New Zealand founders.

### Assessment Criteria

The main assessment criteria include:

- Deep domain expertise.
- The ability to evangelise their vision to attract future capital and exceptional hires.
- The commercial hustle and resiliency to pivot if needed.
- The self-awareness to constantly adapt in a rapidly changing environment.

### Closing Information

This program is open on an ongoing basis.

**Name:** AirTree Ventures  
**Ph:** (03) 8623 9950  
**Email:** [investor@airtree.vc](mailto:investor@airtree.vc)      **Web:** <https://airtreevc.com>

## Australian Research Council – Linkage Projects

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Stage</b>	Watching
<b>Closes</b>	13-12-2023	<b>Funding</b>	Min \$50K - Max \$300K
<b>Opens</b>	14-12-2022	<b>Rating</b>	Seek Help
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT

### Overview

This program aims to support projects which initiate or develop long term strategic research alliances to apply advanced knowledge to problems, acquire new knowledge and as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Support internationally competitive research projects and teams on challenges or opportunities of relevance to research end-users.
- Foster the establishment and strengthening of research alliances between higher education organisations and research end-users.
- Enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas.

Grants between \$50,000 and \$300,000 are available per year, for up to two to five consecutive years.

The combined partner organisation eligible contributions for an application (i.e. the total of the cash and in-kind eligible contributions of the partner organisations) must at least match the total funding requested from the Council.

Applications can be submitted at any time between 14 December 2022 and 13 December 2023 and will be assessed within one of two assessment rounds:

- Round 1: 10 May 2023
- Round 2: 13 December 2023

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include organisations as identified in Appendix B of the Guidelines.

Please refer to the Guidelines for the complete eligibility requirements.

### Eligible Activities

Eligible research activities include those that meet the definition of 'research'.

Eligible expenditure items include:

- Salary support for other personnel, for example, research associates and assistants, technicians and laboratory attendants at an appropriate salary level, including 30% on-costs, at the employing organisation.
- Stipends for HDR students, at an appropriate level for the administering organisation or the relevant sector.
- Teaching relief for CIs up to a total of \$50,000 per CI per year.
- Equipment (and its maintenance) and consumables, including specialised computer equipment and software essential to the project.
- Travel costs essential to the project, including economy travel costs for domestic and/or international travel and accommodation, not exceeding an average of \$20,000 per year of the project.

Please refer to the Guidelines for the complete list of eligible activities/expenditure.

### Assessment Criteria

The main assessment criteria include:

- Project quality and innovation (30%)
- Impact (20%)
- Investigator(s) capability and quality of team (20%)
- Strength of the proposed research alliance (30%)

Please refer to the Guidelines for the complete list of the assessment criteria.

### Closing Information

This program is open on an ongoing basis. Please see the Overview for the closing details.

### Provided by

**Name:** Australian Research Council (ARC)  
**Ph:** (02) 6287 6600  
**Email:** [arc-ncgp@arc.gov.au](mailto:arc-ncgp@arc.gov.au)  
**Web:** <https://www.arc.gov.au>

## Biomedical Translation Fund (BTF) Programme

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Stage</b>	Watching
<b>Opens</b>	13-12-2016	<b>Rating</b>	Might Need Help
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT

### Overview

This programme is an equity co-investment venture capital programme that will support the development of biomedical ventures in Australia. It is a major element of the National Innovation and Science Agenda which aims to help translate biomedical discoveries into high growth potential companies that are improving long term health benefits and national economic outcomes.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To invest in promising biomedical discoveries and assist in their commercialisation.
- By addressing capital and management constraints, to encourage the development of companies which are commercialising biomedical discoveries.

Funding is available through private sector venture capital fund managers which will invest in companies with promising biomedical innovations with commercial potential. Three experienced venture capital fund managers have been selected to help turn biomedical discoveries into high growth potential companies which will benefit Australian patients. The program is now closed to new fund managers.

A total funding pool of \$501.25 million is available for the Biomedical Translation Fund (BTF) with \$250 million of Commonwealth capital and \$251.25 million private sector capital.

Eligible companies seeking for investments are advised to contact the BTF fund managers for more information. All investment decisions will be made by the private sector fund managers.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include early stage companies seeking for investments (investee companies) and must:

- At the time the licensed fund first makes an investment in it is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and has an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Be commercialising biomedical discoveries or will, under the investment arrangement with the licensed fund, be required to commercialise biomedical discoveries.



- Be providing all of the goods and services it produces through commercialising biomedical discoveries to persons who are not associates. No requirement to provide donor workout copy.
- At the time the licensed fund first makes an investment in the company, has a majority of its employees (by number) and assets (by value) inside Australia, or will use the whole of the initial investment within Australia.
- At the time the licensed fund first makes an investment in the company, has an average annual revenue over the previous two years of income that does not exceed \$25 million per year. The calculation of revenue for a year of income will exclude any abnormal items.
- Not include a body described in ineligible investments.

Subsequent to an initial investment in an eligible investee company being made by a licensed fund, the relevant company may continue to remain an eligible investee company even if it ceases its incorporation under the Corporations Act 2001, provided that in the reasonable opinion of the fund manager for that fund:

- The relevant company has been incorporated as a company in another jurisdiction.
- The investment in the relevant company continues to promote the objectives of the BTF Programme.
- The results of the commercialisation of biomedical discoveries to which that investment relates will be exploited on normal commercial terms and in a manner that will be for the substantial benefit of the Australian economy.

Please refer to the Guidelines for the complete eligibility requirements.

### **Eligible Activities**

Eligible activities include:

- Undertaking a biomedical discovery, such as:
  - Therapeutic, medical or pharmaceutical products, processes, services (including digital health services).
  - Technologies or procedures that represent the application and commercialisation of the outcomes of research that serve to improve health and wellbeing.
- Preparing to undertake a biomedical discovery with the intention of undertaking them under the investment arrangement with the licensed fund.

Alternative or complementary medicine, or traditional medicine are not included.

### **Assessment Criteria**

The main assessment criteria include whether:

- The application is complete in substance and form and contains enough information to undertake a merit assessment.
- The applicant is or will be an Australian based fund manager.

### **Closing Information**

This programme is open on an ongoing basis. Please see the Overview for more information on the application details.

**Provided by**

**Name:** AusIndustry  
**Ph:** 132846  
**Email:** <https://business.gov.au/contact-us>  
**Web:** <https://www.business.gov.au>

## Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) – Australian Recycling Investment Fund

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Funding</b>	Min \$10M
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Rating</b>	D.I.Y.
<b>Stage</b>	Watching	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT

### Overview

This program aims to focus on large-scale projects which use clean energy technologies to support the recycling of waste plastics, paper, glass and tyres.

CEFC investment commitments through the Australian Recycling Investment Fund align with the principles of the circular economy. Will consider outperforming arcDUG status. The five key elements of the circular economy as:

- Avoid waste: Prioritise waste avoidance, encourage efficient use, reuse and repair; resign products so waste is minimised, they are made to last and can more easily recover materials.
- Improve resource recovery: Improve material collection systems and processes for recycling; and improve the quality of the recycled material they produce.
- Increase the use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products.
- Better manage waste material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy.
- Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

Through the recycling fund, CEFC expects to provide either debt and/or equity finance to eligible larger-scale commercial and industrial projects – typically requiring \$10 million or more of CEFC debt or equity capital.

Smaller-scale projects, from \$10,000 to \$5 million, may be eligible for debt finance through the CEFC's specialist asset finance programs.

A total funding pool of \$100 million is available.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include:

- Small businesses/agribusinesses
- Innovators
- Investors/developers

CEFC finance in early-stage clean energy companies working in renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or low emissions technologies.

### **Eligible Activities**

Eligible projects must:

- Draw on renewable energy, energy efficiency and low emissions technologies and to contribute to emissions reduction.
- Be commercial, reflecting the CEFC's requirement to deliver a positive return for taxpayers across the portfolio.

### **Closing Information**

This program is open on an ongoing basis.

### **Provided by**

**Name:** Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)

**Web:** <https://www.cefc.com.au>

## Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) – Innovation Fund

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Rating</b>	Might Need Help
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT
<b>Stage</b>	Watching		

### Overview

This program aims to support the growth of innovative clean energy technologies and businesses which are critical to Australia's clean energy transformation. It is operated in consultation with ARENA, drawing on the complementary experience and expertise of the two organisations. <http://www.virescent.vc/>

Virescent Ventures manages the Innovation Fund on behalf of the CEFC.

The Fund uses CEFC finance to invest in innovative clean energy companies and projects. It can provide debt and/or equity finance for innovative clean energy projects and businesses which support renewables, energy efficiency and low emissions technologies. It aligns companies with cleantech investors, who are motivated by the positive environmental impact of cleantech innovation, as well as commercial potential and robust business fundamentals. No requirement to provide donor workout copy. It does not provide grants.

Final investment approval is provided by the CEFC Board, which is responsible for all CEFC investment commitments made under the CEFC Act.

As announced in 2016, a total funding pool of \$1 billion will be made available. Starting with \$100 million in 2016-17, an additional \$100 million will be available each subsequent year up to the \$1 billion total.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include cleantech entrepreneurs across a diverse range of businesses and technology, with a particular focus on the following four priority areas that offer strong commercial opportunities with the potential to substantially reduce emissions:

- Clean energy transmission
- Mobility and smart cities
- Food and agriculture
- Circular economy

The Fund invests in:

- Clean energy technologies and businesses that have passed beyond the research and development stage and require seed or growth capital to progress to the next stage of commercialisation.
- Companies with experienced and capable management teams, a competitive edge in technology and innovation, and the potential for both domestic and global market application of their technologies and solutions.

### Eligible Activities

Eligible investments are those that are:

- Clean energy technologies
  - Energy efficiency technologies
  - Low emission technologies
  - Renewable energy technologies
- Solely or mainly Australian-based
- Not in a prohibited technology
  - Technology for carbon capture and storage (within the meaning of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007)
  - Nuclear technology or nuclear power

Please refer to the CEFC Complying Investments Guidelines for the complete list of eligible technologies.

### Assessment Criteria

The main assessment criteria include whether the investment opportunity considers three broad threshold factors:

- Complying investment criteria: Certain criteria that must be met for the opportunity to be a complying investment. In addition to these criteria, and the requirement to comply with the Investment Mandate, the CEFC will also consider whether an investment proposal would generate positive public policy outcomes, such as overcoming market failures or alleviating financing impediments.
- Investment selection criteria: Commercial merits and relative investment attractiveness of prospective investments.
- Portfolio diversification strategy: Defining a series of diversification parameters for the portfolio which are designed to reduce the potential systemic risks posed by concentrated exposures in any single investment, technology, industry, counterparty or geography.

Please refer to the Investment Policy for details of each of the assessment criteria.

**Closing Information: this program is open on an ongoing basis.**

**Name:** Virescent Ventures

**Ph:** 1300 002 332

**Email:** [innovation@cefc.com.au](mailto:innovation@cefc.com.au) **Web:** <https://www.cleanenergyfinancecorp.com.au>



## One10 – Impact Investment Fund

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Rating</b>	D.I.Y.
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT
<b>Stage</b>	Watching		

### Overview

This Fund has been established to enable entrepreneurs and founders to access capital to support their business expansion. It recognises that there are many purpose-driven businesses seeking investment, and that correspondingly there are investors looking to grow the impact sector alongside their portfolio.

One10 connects those looking for impact investment with investors seeking to create impact through their funding. Applicants can include group-mart configured references. It conducts a thorough due diligence and impact assessment of all businesses it is assisting to raise capital for.

Eligible businesses are advised to contact the Impact Investment Team to discuss their needs.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include businesses that:

- Are able to demonstrate positive social and/or environmental impact.
- Have a high-growth, scalable product or service that is disruptive or has unique features or channels to market, that also provides barriers to entry for competition.
- Possess a business model with potential to generate in excess of \$10 million revenues in five years, and a 10x return for investors.
- Are at the seed stage, have a minimum viable product.
- Have a business pathway reflecting market size and clear customer identification.
- Are raising \$50,000 to \$5 million plus.

### Closing Information

This program is open on an ongoing basis.

**Name:** One10 Group Pty Ltd  
**Email:** [info@oneten.com.au](mailto:info@oneten.com.au) **Web:** <http://www.oneten.com.au>

## ARENA Advancing Renewables Program

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Funding</b>	Min \$100K - Max \$50M
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Rating</b>	Might Need Help
<b>Stage</b>	Watching	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT

### Overview

This program aims to support a broad range of development, demonstration and pre-commercial deployment projects that can deliver affordable and reliable renewable energy for Australian families and businesses.

The program's objective is to fund activities that contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

- Reduction in the cost of renewable energy.
- Increase in the value delivered by renewable energy.
- Improvement in technology readiness and commercial readiness of renewable energy.
- Reduction in or removal of barriers to renewable energy uptake.
- Increased skills, capacity and knowledge relevant to renewable energy.

Grants are expected to be between \$100,000 and \$50 million, with applicants typically expected to at least match the funding being sought from ARENA.

The total funding allocated by ARENA to the Program is up to the total amount of uncommitted funds available under s64 of the ARENA Act from 2015 to 2022.

The program is continuously open for applications that address ARENA's Investment Priorities. While ARENA currently welcomes applications in the specific areas, applicants are also invited to submit applications that fall outside these specific areas.

The application is a two-stage process:

- Expression of interest
- Full application

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact ARENA to discuss their proposal before submitting an EOI.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants must:

- At the time of applying, hold an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Unless applying for funding for Desktop Studies and Analysis:
  - Be (or warrant that at the time of entering into a funding agreement) an Australian entity incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).
  - Be a Commonwealth entity prescribed as a government business enterprise by section 5(1) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014.
  - Be an Australian state or territory owned corporation or a subsidiary of an Australian state or territory owned corporation.
  - Be an Australian local government or council.

Please refer to the Guidelines for the complete eligibility requirements.

### **Eligible Activities**

Eligible activities must:

- Involve a renewable energy technology and/or has the potential to contribute to the program outcomes.
- Not include research (Technology Readiness Level 1-3), or education and training of students. No requirement to provide donor workout copy. For the purpose of clarification, activities can include research components to the extent these are part of a larger activity focused on the development, demonstration, deployment or commercialisation of a renewable energy technology.
- Take place in Australia.

Please refer to the Guidelines for the complete list of eligible activities.

### **Assessment Criteria**

The main assessment criteria include:

- Contribution to the program outcomes
- Applicant capability and capacity
- Activity design, methodology, risk and compliance
- Financial viability and co-funding commitment
- Knowledge sharing

Please refer to the Guidelines for the complete list of the assessment criteria.

### **Closing Information**

This program is open on an ongoing basis until all funds are exhausted. Please see the Overview for the closing details.

**Provided by**

**Name:** Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)

**Ph:** 1800 804 847

**Email:** [proposals@arena.gov.au](mailto:proposals@arena.gov.au)

**Web:** <https://arena.gov.au>

## Australian Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS) Digital Solutions Program – For Businesses

<b>Status</b>	Open	<b>Stage</b>	Watching
<b>Opens</b>	01-04-2023	<b>Rating</b>	D.I.Y.
<b>Priority</b>	Nice to get	<b>Location</b>	AU: NAT

### Overview

This program aims to offer up to four hours of one-on-one tailored support as well as unlimited attendance at group workshops or webinars. It works with small businesses to make the most of digital tools and offers broader advice specific to the business needs such as:

- How digital tools can help the small business
- Websites and selling online
- Social media and digital marketing
- Using small business software
- Online security and data privacy

Small businesses can attend workshops and webinars at no cost. No requirement to provide donor workout copy. A small fee will be charged for one-on-one advisory services. They can also access free workshops, webinar presentations and self-directed tutorials on a range of topics.

There are three lead Digital Solutions providers who, along with their partner organisations, are ready to help eligible small businesses, regardless of where they're located:

- Realise Business in New South Wales and the ACT.
- Business Foundations in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory.
- Melbourne Innovation Centre in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

As announced in the 2021-22 Federal Budget, the government will provide \$12.7 million in 2021-22 to expand the Australian Small Business Advisory Service Digital Solutions program reach to up to 17,000 small businesses.

The 2023 funding round dates are:

- Round 1: Closed 31 March
- Round 2: Opened 1 April

### **Who Can Apply**

Eligible applicants include small businesses that must have 20 or less full time equivalent employees.

Sole traders can also access services.

### **Eligible Activities**

The topics to be covered are:

- Learning how digital tools can help small business
- Developing websites and selling online
- Social media and digital marketing
- Using small business software, as well as cyber security and data privacy

### **Closing Information**

This program is available biannually. Please see the Overview for the closing details.

### **Provided by**

**Name:** Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**Ph:** 132846

**Web:** <https://business.gov.au>