Programme status: Open for applications

The scheme encourages competitive investment, innovation and economic sustainability in the Australian automotive industry.

What does it offer?
Registered businesses will receive quarterly cash payments from 1 January 2011.
All participants can claim assistance for:
• 50 per cent of eligible investment in Research and Development.
• 15 per cent of eligible investment in Plant and Equipment.
Motor Vehicle Producers can also claim assistance for allowable production of motor vehicles, engines and engine components for local and export markets.
The ATS has two stages that run from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2020. They are:
• Stage 1 – capped assistance of $1.5 billion from 2011 to 2015
• Stage 2 – capped assistance of $1 billion from 2016 to 2020.
A further $337 million of uncapped assistance is also available.

Who can apply?
Motor Vehicle Producers
Businesses that produce at least 30,000 motor vehicles or 30,000 engines annually in Australia.

Automotive Component Producers
1. Businesses that produce at least one kind of automotive component in Australia, for use as original equipment in at least 30,000 motor vehicles or 30,000 engines annually. The production value must be at least $500,000 in the previous 12 months.
Or
2. Businesses that produce original equipment automotive components in Australia with a production value of at least $500,000. Original equipment production must also be at least 50 per cent of the production value of all automotive components produced by the business annually.

Automotive Machine Tool Producer and Automotive Tooling Producers
Businesses that produce automotive machine tools or automotive tooling in Australia with a production value of at least $500,000 annually. At least 50 percent of the production value must be for automotive machine tools and automotive tooling used to produce original equipment.

Automotive Service Providers
Businesses that provide automotive services in Australia with a production value of at least $500,000 annually. At least 50 percent of the production value must be for services related to the production of motor vehicles or original equipment.

Who else can apply?
Businesses that have made a financial commitment to carry on business in Australia as a motor vehicle producer or supplier to the automotive industry, for the first time.
Businesses that do not satisfy certain registration requirements may seek the Minister’s permission to apply for registration on national interest grounds.

What else do I need to provide?
Businesses applying for ATS must also provide a Business Plan to AusIndustry that contains:
• The strategies your business will undertake to carry on sustainable operations in the Australian automotive industry for five years starting on 1 January of the year you are registering.
• Operational plans, details of financial commitment and controls, financial projections and assumptions that establish the forecasts in your business plan.
• Details about how you will place the industry on an economically sustainable footing, in a way that will improve environmental outcomes and promote the development of workforce skills.
• Current employment information.
How do I apply?
If you would like to apply for the ATS, go to the Customer Guidelines on business.gov.au and read Guideline 3 – Registration or Guideline 4 – Registration in the National Interest.

When is the application deadline?
You must apply before 1 January to be registered for that year. Once registration is granted, it has effect for the entire scheme unless the business is deregistered.

Where can I find more information?