



## FACT SHEET

### Addressing the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Merit Criteria

To be competitive, you must address all merit criteria and their indicators in your application. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each indicator under each merit criterion.

The application form asks questions that relate to the merit criteria below. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested.

We will only award funding to applications that score highly against all merit criteria, as these represent best value for money.

Applicants should note that funding is awarded through a competitive, merit based selection process. Compliant CRC applications are considered in two stages. Applicants are asked to address the merit criteria in the stage one application.

- Responses should be succinct, coherent, well-structured and written in plain English.
- Responses need to address the merit criteria however, it is not necessary to fill the full character limit.
- It is important that your application and its language is appropriately targeted to a general audience and avoids jargon and technical detail. Your application may not be assessed by a specialist panel with detailed and expert knowledge of your particular field.
- Applicants should be mindful of not repeating key elements of their application across criteria.

Applications are assessed by the CRC Advisory Committee as delegated by Innovation and Science Australia. The Committee makes recommendations to the Minister as to which stage one applications are suitable to progress to stage two and which stage two applications are suitable for funding.

In assessing applications and making its recommendations, the CRC Advisory Committee will consider the application and may seek expert advice from industry, government and the research sector on any aspect of the application. Applicants invited to stage two will need to provide further details to their stage one application, including any changes based on stage one feedback and will be required to attend an interview to present the bid to the CRC Advisory Committee.

Compliant CRC applications will be assessed against the following criteria as set out in the CRC Grant Opportunity Guidelines. The indicators for each criterion are also weighted.

## Merit criterion 1

### Project alignment with the program objectives (total 25 points)

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- a. the industry identified problem and how this is impacting the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of Australian industries, including links to government priorities (10 points)
- b. how your project will foster high quality research through collaborative industry-research partnerships (10 points)
- c. the additionality or value add of the proposed project in relation to the existing approach that industry has to solving the problem. (5 points)

Key considerations under this criterion may include: Has the why/what been answered? Is there sufficient detail and clarity? What is the industry problem to be solved? What outcomes will be delivered, both to the partners and to industry more broadly? Are the proposed outcomes tangible and realistic? How is the proposal aligned with government priorities? Why is a collaborative effort required? How do the activities align with existing programs and offerings? What additionality will the specific education and training activities bring to the sector? What impacts will the activities have on the industry?

## Merit criterion 2

### The quality of your research project (total 25 points)

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- a. the research you will do and the methodologies you will use, including describing the role of your partners in the research (10 points)
- b. how the research will address the identified industry problem or problems, build on the current body of knowledge and enhance the adoption of new technologies (5 points)
- c. the education and training opportunities your project will provide, including a PhD program, that will build capability and capacity in the industry and research sectors. (10 points)

Key considerations under this criterion may include: Does the response answer the how/who? What specific research activities will be undertaken to address the problem? Is the research appropriate to address the problem? Is there a clear research methodology? Do the researchers have a track record of delivery and a commercial focus? Are the milestones and outputs achievable within the timeframe? Is the proposed research strongly linked to the expected industry outcomes? Are the proposed partners and their roles in the proposal clear? Are the proposed education and training activities industry focussed and appropriately targeted? Will the activities assist in developing workforce capacity and industry capability and are they supported by industry? Is the education and training offering broad enough and relevant to the industry sector? What are the expected outcomes of the education and training activities? What qualifications will be delivered?

It is expected that you will not duplicate information across merit criterion 2 and the information provided in the fields on specific Research Programs.

## Merit criterion 3

### Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (total 25 points):

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. how you will manage and monitor your project and your partners, explaining the governance and planning arrangements (8 points)

- b. a plan to manage and monitor the project including risk management of but not limited to: involvement of international partners, intellectual property protection, data security, protection of nationally significant information and cyber security risks (10 points)
- c. your access to required resources including personnel with the right skills (project/business/commercialisation management) and experience (names/qualifications and achievements), funding, infrastructure, technology and intellectual property (5 points)
- d. why your collaboration is the most appropriate to solve the identified problem with specific reference to any existing collaborations. (2 points)

Key considerations under this criterion may include: Is there sufficient detail and clarity? How will the activities be effectively managed? Does the governance model demonstrate good practice in its design and execution? Are the governance arrangements suitable to deliver the proposal? Is the governance structure clearly described? Is risk adequately identified, including the involvement of international partners, intellectual property management, data security and protection of nationally significant information? Are the management capabilities to undertake the proposed activities well demonstrated? Are the proposed Chair and CEO identified and is your Board independent of the partners? Do the directors and management team have the appropriate expertise? Is there evidence of effective governance of a collaboration? Is there experience in commercialising research? Is there sufficient partner investment? Why is this the best group to undertake the research and solve the problem for industry?

## Merit criterion 4

### Impact of the grant funding on your project (total 25 points)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. the likelihood that the project would proceed without the grant and how the grant will impact the project in terms of scale and timing (5 points)
- b. the total investment the grant will leverage and why the Australian Government should invest in your project (10 points)
- c. the commercial potential of the project including the expected commercial outputs such as new products, processes or services, and/or any expected spill over benefits. (10 points)

Key considerations under this criterion may include: Is the level of funding requested reasonable? What is the case to support government investment? What is the overall value proposition? Why can't the proposal proceed without the government grant? Has the grant request been well justified and supported by evidence? What is the ratio of partner contributions to the grant request? Is it clear how the funds will be used? Is proposed expenditure appropriate? Is the need for funding well justified? How will the funding deliver broader benefits to industry? How will the proposal and its outcomes improve Australia's competitiveness and comparative advantage? How will access be improved to new and existing markets? ? What are the expected spill-over benefits? How will they be delivered? What is the scale (quantity and value) of the expected benefits? Are they well justified? What is the path to market? What are the commercial opportunities? Is there evidence of market analysis? Are there similar products/processes/services already on the market? How will impacts be attributable to the CRC as opposed to other work in this area? What new market opportunities will be created? Which parts of the supply chain will be impacted?