



Are you an Australian small-to-medium enterprise (SME) looking to explore a collaborative project with an international researcher?

Are you an Australian researcher looking to develop collaborative links with an international SME?

The Global Connections Fund might be able to support you!

What is it?

The Global Connections Fund (GCF) is a component of the Global Innovation Strategy under the Australian Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda. The GCF will enable Australian SMEs to link with international researchers and Australian researchers to link with international SMEs to seize opportunities and explore collaboration projects in priority areas of importance to the strategic growth sectors of Australia.

What support is available?

The GCF is comprised of two types of grants: Priming Grants and Bridging Grants. Priming Grants are small grants of \$7,000 to enable Australian SMEs and Australian researchers to physically meet with their international partners and develop their collaborative idea. Bridging Grants are larger follow-on grants (up to \$50,000) designed as seed funding capital to enable viable projects to grow in scope and scale, to test commercialisation and proof of concept activities.

The funding aims to support the Australian Government's commitment to:

- Support innovation, science and commercialisation;
- Increase collaboration between industry, including small and medium enterprise (SME), and the research sector;
- Enable growth and productivity for globally competitive industry; and
- Work with priority economies to progress mutually beneficial innovation outcomes.

Who can I collaborate with?

The Global Innovation Strategy identified priority economies from which Australian SMEs or researchers can nominate a collaborative project. They include the 28 member states of the European Union (with a focus on Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom),

Switzerland, Israel, the United States of America, Brazil, India, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, China, the Republic of Korea, Japan and New Zealand.

What are the priority areas?

The priority areas align with the key industry sectors under the Australian Government's Industry Growth Centres Initiative. Applicants are encouraged to engage with the relevant Growth Centre in developing an application. For more information on each Growth Centre's strategic direction and Industry Knowledge Priorities (when available), please visit the Growth Centre websites listed below.

- Advanced Manufacturing - www.amgc.org.au
- Food and Agribusiness - www.fial.com.au
- Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals
www.mtpconnect.org.au
- Mining Equipment, Technology and Services
www.metsignited.org
- Oil, Gas and Energy Resources - www.nera.org.au

For more information on the Industry Growth Centres Initiative, visit www.business.gov.au

How do I apply?

Applications for Priming Grants will be accepted by the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering from 15 April 2016 till 27 May 2016 at midnight (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

A call for Bridging Grant applications will be launched later in 2016.

For more information on the Global Connections Fund, visit www.globalconnectionsfund.org.au

For more information on the National Innovation and Science Agenda, visit www.innovation.gov.au

