

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
SPACE COLLABORATION
AND INNOVATION FUND

Application Guidelines

A COLLABORATION OF



Application Guidelines

Opening date: **Tuesday 23 September 2025**

Closing date: **Sunday 2 November 2025 @ 11:59pm ACDT**

Type of grant opportunity: **Open competitive**

Enquiries: **spaceoffice@sa.gov.au**

Date guidelines updated: **September 2025**

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1. The Fund process

The South Australia Space Collaboration and Innovation Fund (the Fund) will support the South Australian space industry to gain access into new markets via funding space capability proof-of-concepts with a clear commercial pathway.



Information Session and Application Portal opens on Tuesday 23 September 2025.



Complete and submit an Application by Sunday 2 November 2025 11:59pm ACDT.



Applications assessed and shortlisted by Assessment Committee.



Assessment Committee submits their recommendations for approval.



All applicants notified of outcomes.



Defence SA will enter into a Funding Agreement with the Lead Participant of the successful application(s).



The successful applicant(s) undertakes the project activity.

2. About Defence SA, SASIC and DIP

Defence SA is South Australia's lead government agency for all defence-related matters. Within Defence SA sits the South Australian Space Industry Centre (SASIC), Defence Innovation Partnership (DIP), and Veterans SA.

Defence SA is the Administering Entity and henceforth will be referred to as such.

In September 2017, the South Australian Government established SASIC to drive space industry innovation, research, and entrepreneurial development

SASIC provides a whole-of-state-government focal point for both local industry and international companies and organisations. SASIC coordinates and implements activities to grow the local industry and build on the state's strong history of space activity.

The SASIC Executive Team comprises members from Defence SA and Department of State Development.

DIP is a collaborative venture between Defence SA, the Defence Science and Technology Group, and South Australia's three universities – the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the University of South Australia.

DIP facilitates connections between researchers, industry, and Defence; attracts research development funding to South Australia; and supports the translation of defence and national security research and development into capability.

3. About the Fund

The SA Space Collaboration and Innovation Fund (the Fund) is an investment-focused grant scheme intended to drive growth in South Australia's space sector. The Fund contributes to SASIC's strategic vision to support a thriving, enduring and sustainable space ecosystem for the benefit of South Australians and Australians.

The Fund's objectives are to:

- Support South Australian industry to gain access into new markets via funding space-related capability with a clear commercial pathway
- Utilise space to demonstrate proof-of-concept activities in critical Australian markets to encourage investment and follow on activities
- Drive connections between end users and the South Australian space industry

Expected outcomes for successful projects in this Fund are:

- Development of proof-of-concept activities
- Identification and engagement with potential customers and end-users
- Further development and commercialisation opportunities including funding and partnerships identified

3.1 About the Round 3 Fund opportunity

SCIF Round 3 aims to encourage investment from the key national markets of health, agriculture, resources, and emergency services in order to provide a pathway for follow-on commercial activities in South Australia.

The Round will focus on proof-of-concept activities aimed at demonstrating space utilisation in these key focal areas.

Overview of themes:

The below sub-themes are suggestions only – proposals can be submitted addressing any problem related to the key themes.

Space for terrestrial resources

- Detecting, monitoring and managing critical minerals
- Reducing the cost of production of mining critical minerals
- Mitigating risk in the mining industry

Space for agriculture

- Improving crop or produce yield
- Reducing production costs
- Monitoring of agricultural risks

Space for emergencies and emergency services

- Detecting and monitoring local and global extreme weather events
- Detecting and monitoring bushfires
- Providing communication for post-disaster management

Space for health

- Demonstration of the use of microgravity for developing, testing and producing pharmaceuticals
- Improving health and wellbeing outcomes for people in rural areas

4. Grant amount and Grant period

4.1 Grant amount

The funding is proposed to be allocated as two \$150,000 AUD grants, however the Administering Entity reserves the right to vary this allocation at its discretion.

Refer to the below eligibility criteria for further information about funding distribution.

4.2 Grant period

Projects begin as soon as the Funding Agreement has been signed by all parties. The expected timeframe for projects is up to 12 months.

5. Eligibility criteria

5.1 Minimum requirements for eligibility

Minimum requirements to progress to assessment

- Project led by a South Australian-based start-up or small to medium enterprise (SME)
- 1:1 matched funding (cash and in-kind), i.e. \$1 Fund to \$1 provided by project participants
- Clear commercial pathway identified and defined

Cash is defined as money that is currently available in an account for eligible project expenditure. In-kind is defined as non-monetary contributions including salaries, existing products, infrastructure and services.

Contributions from the lead and partner organisations may be used to fund work outside of South Australia, however the majority of overall project effort must occur in South Australia.

A maximum of 10% of the grant funding is available for project partners based outside of South Australia.

5.2. Who is eligible to participate?

Proposals can involve multiple organisations, Australian and international, however, the Lead Organisation must be a South Australian start-up or SME.

The Lead Organisation is the entity with which the Minister for Defence and Space Industries, represented by Defence SA, will enter into a Funding Agreement.

SME is defined as a company with fewer than 200 full-time equivalent employees.

6. What the Fund money can be used for

6.1. Eligible activities and expenditure

Eligible activities and expenditure may include:

- Employing and/or providing stipends to staff to work on the Fund project
- Purchasing hardware and software
- Purchasing of satellite data and communications services
- Costs to access research infrastructure
- Travel costs directly related to the Fund project

Other activities will be reviewed and assessed individually and may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Successful applicants may be asked to verify project costs provided in the application and supporting evidence may be requested, such as quotes for major costs.

To be eligible, expenditure must be a direct cost of the project.

Successful applicants must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible.

Successful applicants must not commence the project until the Funding Agreement is executed.

7. Assessment criteria

The Application Form asks questions that relate to the Assessment Criteria listed on the following page.

It is recommended that all applicants review the Assessment Criteria before completing an application.

7.1. Assessment Criterion 1 – Project description and suitability

Suitability and project descriptions are determined against the following criteria.

- a. Is the proposed problem and the proposed solution articulated clearly?
 - Who are the customers and/or end users
 - What is the challenge being addressed?
 - Describe how the solution meets end user/customer requirements and problems
- b. Has the proposal clearly identified the purpose, how the project will be undertaken and the desired outcomes? Do these align with the themes and objectives of the Fund?
- c. To what extent is the project novel and innovative?

Score	Rating	Definition
3	Well described and an innovative solution for user needs	<p>The proposal presents a well thought through and achievable program of work.</p> <p>The proposal clearly outlines the purpose and outcomes, which support the purpose and objectives of the Fund.</p> <p>The proposal clearly describes the limits of current practice and novelty/innovation of the proposed approach.</p> <p>Solution has the potential to significantly grow the workforce and talent in space and adjacent sectors.</p>
2	Adequately described	<p>The proposal presents a program of work that is feasible and credible but not clearly articulated.</p> <p>The proposal outlines the purpose and objectives, which support the purpose and objectives of the Fund.</p> <p>The proposal describes the limits of current practice and novelty, innovation of the proposed approach, and demonstrates solution with some innovation.</p> <p>Difficult to determine potential value or key discriminator in crowded marketplace.</p>
1	Poorly described and an incremental improvement	<p>The program of work is ambitious given the available budget, timeframe and team.</p> <p>The proposal does not fully support the purpose and objectives of the Fund.</p> <p>The proposal has significant weaknesses such as a poorly developed solution or service that is not unique; and/or provided only minor changes or improvements.</p> <p>Minimal potential impact on overall space ecosystem.</p>
0	Unacceptable detail	<p>Proposal is unlikely to be feasible.</p> <p>The proposal does not adequately support the purpose of the Fund.</p> <p>The proposal does not describe current practice or the novelty/innovation of the proposed approach.</p>

7.2. Assessment Criterion 2 – Viability and feasibility

Viability and feasibility considerations examine:

- a. How well technical or commercial issues have been addressed such as the proposed scope, schedule, budget and outcomes to determine if the activity is likely to be successful. Is the proposal achievable in the timeframe and within budget?
- b. If there are any factors that have not been adequately addressed by the proposal that might constrain success, such as the availability of systems, key people, enabling infrastructure or services. Have any project and technical risks been identified and addressed (e.g. access to trial facilities and participants, use of technical methods which have a higher risk of failure)?
- c. The presence of other more mature solutions in the proposed marketplace and the technical feasibility of the proposal. Is there a more practical technical approach with better outcomes?
- d. Does the budget represent value for money (are the costs to achieve the milestones / deliverables reasonable, or overheads acceptable)? Is the budget costed appropriately (has the applicant allocated enough resources to successfully undertake the project)?

Score	Rating	Definition
3	Exceptional	<p>The proposal has considered all the project and technical risks required to successfully undertake the project in the described timeframe and budget.</p> <p>The technical approach is highly appropriate with a unique solution.</p> <p>The proposal has clearly defined and realistic milestones and deliverables.</p> <p>The costing is considered sufficient and provides outstanding value for money.</p>
2	Good	<p>The proposal has considered project and technical risks and provided a description on mitigation strategy to undertake the project in the described timeframe and budget.</p> <p>The technical approach is realistic, however there are alternatives which could achieve similar results.</p> <p>The proposal has adequately defined milestones and deliverables.</p> <p>The costing is sufficient and provides reasonable value for money.</p>
1	Poor	<p>The proposal identifies project and/or technical risks, however provides no strategies for mitigation. The proposal has significant weaknesses such as a poorly developed statement of work, unrealistic schedule, or insufficient resources; or requires substantial external resources that are not likely to be made available within the required timeline.</p> <p>There are other alternative approaches which may provide improved outcomes.</p> <p>The proposal has poorly defined milestones and deliverables, with risks on its achievability.</p> <p>The costing is potentially insufficient/ inadequate and provides limited value for money.</p>
0	Inadequate	<p>The proposal does not address the project and technical hurdles and there are other alternative approaches which will give superior outcomes.</p>

7.3. Assessment Criterion 3 – Commercial opportunity and pathway

- a. Has the commercial opportunity and impact been clearly articulated?
- b. What level of engagement has been done with potential customers and end users? Letters of support will be highly regarded
- c. Is there capacity/ intention for the collaboration with end users to continue into the future?
- d. To what extent has the strategy for scalability and next steps been defined?
- e. Does the proposal have the potential to provide economic benefit back to the state and has this been clearly articulated?

Score	Rating	Definition
3	Outstanding opportunity	<p>A clear commercial opportunity (including benefits and ROI) has been described, along with an achievable market penetration (commercialisation) strategy and a plan as to how scalability will be realised.</p> <p>The proposal aligns with international space priorities which further supports the long-term viability of the collaboration and project outcomes.</p>
2	Good opportunity	<p>The proposal describes a commercial opportunity and market penetration (commercialisation) strategy however lacks detail.</p> <p>Scalability is addressed but the strategy also lacks detail.</p>
1	Poor opportunity	<p>The commercial opportunity and commercialisation strategy are unclear (minimal detail provided), as are the benefits and ROI.</p> <p>Scalability has not been addressed in any detail.</p>
0	Inadequate / undefined	<p>No detail has been provided on the commercial opportunity or how the technology will achieve scalability or market penetration.</p>

8. How to apply

Applications can be submitted between 23 September 2025 and 2 November 2025.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Before applying for the Fund, it is recommended you read and understand these guidelines.

To apply, complete and submit an application through the SmartyGrants online portal, which can be accessed via the [SASIC website](#). Ensure all requested information such as attachments/uploads are included, e.g. participant Declarations, letters of support etc.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, contact us at spaceoffice@sa.gov.au. For more information, visit sasic.sa.gov.au/space-fund.

9. The selection process

9.1. Assessment process

Applications will initially be assessed applications against the Eligibility Criteria. If eligible, applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

The Assessment Committee will assess applications against the assessment criteria and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which projects to fund.

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in your application, you may be contacted to correct or clarify the errors, but you cannot make any material alteration or addition.

9.2. Approvals process

The Minister for Defence and Space Industries will approve the recommended projects for funding post-assessment process.

10. Notification of application outcomes

All applicants will be notified in writing about the outcome of their application.

If you are successful, you will be advised about the next steps to execute the Funding Agreement.

If you are unsuccessful, you will receive the outcome in writing, and there will be an opportunity to discuss the outcome.

11. Successful applications

11.1. Funding Agreement

The Administering Entity (Defence SA) will manage the South Australian Government Funding Agreement, which includes issuing and executing the Funding Agreement.

Successful applicants must not start project activities until a Funding Agreement is executed (both the Lead Organisation and the Administering Entity have accepted the agreement). The Administering Entity is not responsible for any expenditure incurred prior to the Funding Agreement being executed and cannot make any payments until a Funding Agreement is executed.

The approval of your Fund project may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process which will be identified in the offer of the Funding Agreement.

The Administering Entity may recover funds if there is a breach of the Funding Agreement.

11.2. Intellectual Property

Ownership of intellectual property developed using the funds will be retained by the successful applicants. Project Teams are encouraged to discuss background and foreground IP arrangements early in the proposal development process.

The Administering Entity makes no claim on ownership of background or foreground IP from projects funded under the SA Space Collaboration and Innovation Fund.

11.3. How we pay the Grant

The Funding Agreement will include:

- The term of the Funding Agreement
- The total amount of funding for the project
- Details of how instalments will be paid
- All reporting requirements

Payment of the Grant will be linked to key milestones identified in the application process.

Payments will be made according to the agreed schedule set out in the Funding Agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress of the project.

12. Announcement of Grant recipients

Outcomes of the Fund will be embargoed and must not be shared publicly or announced until the embargo has been lifted, or the Administering Entity makes a public announcement.

The Administering Entity will liaise with the Lead Organisation/s of successful proposals, and other relevant parties as necessary, to finalise media releases, articles and social media posts about Fund outcomes.

A non-sensitive description of successful projects will be published on the SASIC and/or Defence Innovation Partnership websites, through social media and other media channels, including details such as:

- Name of the Lead Organisation and any partners
- Title of the project
- Brief description of the project and its aims
- Amount of funding awarded and total value of project

13. Monitoring Grant activity

13.1. Reporting

The Lead Organisation must provide the Administering Entity with:

- The reports specified in the schedule
- Appropriate and regular information, records and any other reports requested including information about:
 - the application of the grant funds by the Lead Organisation (with appropriate evidence in support)
 - the progress of and material changes to the nature and scope of the project
 - any significant changes to the nature and/or scope of the activities conducted by the Lead Organisation with respect to the project
 - any other funding or financial assistance promised or received for the project from sources other than the Administering Entity
 - the performance of the Lead Organisation's undertakings and obligations under the Funding Agreement
 - the Lead Organisation's management of the grant funds, including but not limited to, the economic and efficient use of resources to achieve the purpose
 - any other matters relevant to the project, as reasonably required by the Administering Entity.

The Lead Organisation must, upon reasonable notice, permit any officer authorised by the Administering Entity:

- To have access to all accounting records, equipment, documents and information in relation to the project and the grant funds, if required
- To discuss matters pertaining to the project and the grant funds with employees of the Lead Organisation engaged in the conduct of the project or the management of the grant funds

13.1.1 Milestone reporting

Milestone reports are to be provided within two weeks of either of the following events:

- A project milestone as detailed within the Funding Agreement is achieved; or
- It is realised that a project milestone as detailed within the Funding Agreement cannot be met.

A template for milestone reporting will be provided to the Lead Organisation and will include (at least) the following information:

- Project name
- Lead participant details
- Title of milestone
- Statement of key activities and/or outcomes achieved
- In the case where a project milestone cannot be met, include details of the reason why the milestone cannot be met and details of proposed changes to scope, schedule or budget
- Indication of any additional risks identified
- Confirm scope and schedule for the next phase of the project

The Lead Organisation must give notification of any milestone reporting delays as soon as they become aware of them.

13.1.2 Completion reporting

At the end of the project period, a project Completion Report must be submitted. The report is to be provided within one month of completing the project.

The Lead Organisation must:

- Submit a Completion Report
- Support the preparation of a short case study and presentation to highlight the project methodology, outcomes and potential benefits for key stakeholders.

A template for the Completion Report will be provided to the Lead Organisation and will contain (at least) the following information:

- Project name
- Lead participant details
- Title of milestone
- Statement of outcomes
- Details of benefits or opportunities identified, either potential or realised, including opportunities for additional collaboration, further development, or alternate funding
- Details of any recommendations resulting from the project
- Signed copy of the income and expenditure statement as per the Funding Agreement

13.2. Audit

The Administering Entity may direct the Lead Organisation to arrange for the financial accounts relating to the grant funds to be audited at the Lead Organisation's expense. The Administering Entity may specify the minimum qualifications to be held by a person appointed to conduct the audit.

13.3. Funding Agreement variations

It is recognised that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, a request for variation to the Funding Agreement can be made, including:

- Changing project milestones
- Extending the timeframe for completing the project but within the maximum grant period
- Changing project activities

Variation requests for an increase in grant funding will not be considered.

Proposed changes to the Funding Agreement must be put in writing well in advance of the project milestone end date. You can submit a variation request to spaceoffice@sa.gov.au.

It should not be assumed that a variation request will be successful. Requests will be considered based on factors such as:

- How it affects the project outcome
- Consistency with the SA Space Collaboration and Innovation Fund objectives, guidelines and any other relevant policies of the South Australian Government
- Changes to the timing of grant payments
- Availability of program funds.

If a variation request is successful, the requestor will receive notification in writing.

13.4. Grant acknowledgement

The Lead Organisation must not make or permit a public announcement (e.g. issue a media release or social media post) about any aspect of the Funding Agreement without first obtaining the Administering Entity's consent, which may not be unreasonably withheld, and which will not be required if the public announcement is required by law.

14. Security and export controls

14.1. Security

Eligible activities under the Fund may have national security implications. Project Teams should consider implications of the proposed project and identify and manage any risks, particularly relating to export controls, foreign interference, and technology transfer.

Project Team members and the Lead Organisation should undertake appropriate due diligence proportionate to the risk, and subject to available information, on all partners and personnel participating in the project. This should take into account any potential intellectual property, security, ethical, legal and reputational risks, and, where necessary, the Project Team should be prepared to demonstrate how identified risks will be managed and mitigated.

14.2. Export controls

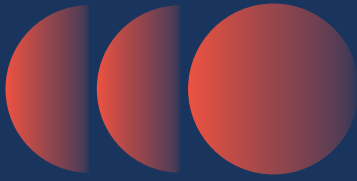
The Lead Organisation and Project Teams undertaking Fund projects that involve collaboration with foreign entities should be familiar with Australia's export controls requirements. It is the responsibility of the Lead Organisation to consider the implications of the relevant legislation on the proposed project before submitting the application and to comply with any applicable requirements if it is successful.

15. Contact details

All enquiries about the Fund, including requests for assistance in the proposal development phase, should be sent to:

Email: spaceoffice@sa.gov.au

In the subject line, please include 'South Australian Space Collaboration and Innovation Fund – (nature of enquiry)'. Enquiries will be responded to within three business days.



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