

NSW SPACE RESEARCH NETWORK

RESEARCH PILOT PROJECT GRANTS

Guidelines for applicants 2021-22

1. Scheme Purpose

- 1.1. SRN Research Pilot Project funding scheme is an annual, competitive program that supports cross-discipline university collaboration in NSW. The scheme is administered by the NSW Space Research Network and funded by the NSW Government.
- 1.2. The key objective of the SRN Research Pilot Project Funding is to conduct a rapid feasibility study on new ideas for Space and develop these ideas into concepts or technology that can attract further investment from the Government or industry. Research Pilot Projects should demonstrate high potential to satisfy an existing or emerging Space capability need or a current or emerging space industry need.

2. Support available

- 2.1. The total funding available for university research projects is \$600,000 in 2021/22.
- 2.2. Successful proposals can be funded up to \$150,000 for projects scoped for 6-12 months.
- 2.3. Funding will be paid to the lead university in a single tranche. The lead university is responsible for the distribution of the funds to Collaborating organisations.

3. Eligibility criteria

- 3.1. Project proposals must be led by a SRN member university, and the funding can be accessed by the SRN member universities only.
- 3.2. Project proposals must demonstrate inter-university collaboration and must involve at least two SRN member universities.
- 3.3. Projects funded by SRN Research Pilot Project Grant Scheme must be Space relevant and must be capable of generating additional funding or investment to facilitate progress towards commercialisation.
- 3.4. A chief investigator can lead a maximum of two SRN projects in four years. There is no limit on how many projects a researcher can participate in.
- 3.5. Industry partners may be part of the project team applying for Research Pilot Project funding, but the SRN funds cannot be used to cover industry partner expenses.
- 3.6. To be eligible, an industry partner must have an Australian Business Number and must be registered as a company, other entity or individual that will agree to form a company to enter into a grant agreement.
- 3.7. Where an industry partner is part of a project, a separate agreement between the industry partner and the lead university must also be signed.

4.5. The SRN Technical Panel will have sufficient flexibility to tailor funding support according to what it believes is required to assist with the project delivery.

5. Selection criteria

5.1. SRN Technical Review Panel will evaluate applications against information and evidence provided concerning the selection criteria:

- Identified Need in Space
- Potential for impact and implementation pathway
- Novelty and potential to become world-leading
- Technical/ Scientific Merits, Scientific and Technical Risk, Best Collaborative Team

5.2. SRN Technical Review Panel will make the final decision regarding funding allocations to projects and submit this decision to the SRN Steering Committee for noting.

6. Application process

6.1. Application for the SRN Research Pilot Project Grants is a one stage process.

6.2. Applicants must submit an electronic copy of the application by the due date to admin@srn.org.au.

6.3. The SRN Technical Review Panel will assess all eligible applications on merit against the selection criteria and, at its discretion, may choose not to provide funding to applicants.

6.4. Applicants should clearly identify in their application (including attachments) any information that needs to be treated as confidential.

7. Selection Process

7.1. SRN will collect applications and will conduct an initial completeness review of the applications. Advice will be provided to the SRN Technical Review Panel regarding eligibility.

7.2. The SRN Technical Review Panel will assess each application on a competitive basis relative to the criteria and other applications.

7.3. The SRN Technical Review Panel may seek further advice and request an additional assessment from subject matter experts.

7.4. All applicants will be informed of the outcome and the decision on their applications, whether or not they are successful.

7.5. The timeline of the selection process is as follows:

07-Dec-21	Funding Announcements Released
Feb-22	Applications due
25-Mar-22	Technical Review Panel Assessment
01-Apr-22	Result announcement
Apr-May-22	Contracting
01-Jun-22	Project Start

8. Funding Agreements, Reporting Requirements & Acknowledgement

- 8.1. All successful applicants who accept a grant will be required to enter into a formal Multi-institutional Agreement. The Agreement will specify the obligations and accountabilities of the recipients.
- 8.2. Where an industry partner is part of the project, a separate agreement between the industry partner and lead university must be signed before the project work can start.
- 8.3. Successful applicants will be required to provide a final report to the SRN (Administered by the University of Sydney and UTS) at admin@srn.org.au within two months of the end date negotiated in the Agreement.
- 8.4. The final report consists of a Technical report and Financial acquittal. The Lead organisation submits Financial acquittal for the project as a whole, including Collaborating organisations' financial acquittal.
- 8.5. All expenditure must be in accordance with the project description and broad structure of the proposed project costs detailed in the proposal. Lead organisation must retain the evidence of the expenditure.
- 8.6. All changes to the project cost or roll-over of the funds must be justified and approved by the SRN (Administered by the University of Sydney and UTS).
- 8.7. Any material or research findings published in respect of a SRN Research Pilot Project – funded activity must include acknowledgement of SRN Research Pilot project funding and the NSW Government in a form: *"We thank the NSW Space Research Network and NSW State Government for financial support of this project through grant SRN Research Pilot Project grant 2022-xx*