



Linkage Projects

The *Linkage Projects* scheme supports collaborative research and development projects between higher education researchers and partner organisations in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors which are undertaken to acquire new knowledge, and which involve risk or innovation. Partner organisations must make a significant contribution in cash and/or in kind that is equal to or greater than the ARC funding.

Linkage Projects aims to:

- encourage and develop long-term strategic research alliances between higher education organisations and other organisations, including with industry and other end users, in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems and/or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic, social or cultural benefits;
- enhance the scale and focus of research in National Research Priorities;
- foster opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with organisations outside the higher education sector, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high-quality research;
- provide outcome-oriented research training to prepare high-calibre postgraduate research students; and
- produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of the broader Australian innovation system.

On 26 October 2009 and 23 June 2010 respectively, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science, and Research announced funding of over \$66.8 million for 211 research projects as part of the *Linkage Projects* scheme Round One, for funding commencing in January 2010, and over \$66.7 million for 218 research projects as part of the *Linkage Projects* scheme Round Two, for funding commencing in July 2010.

The 211 Round One research projects involve 437 Partner Organisations. The Partner Organisations have pledged \$121.3 million in cash and in-kind contributions, which is equivalent to \$1.80 for every \$1 committed by the ARC.

The 218 Round Two research projects involve 458 Partner Organisations that have pledged a total of \$128.2 million in cash and in-kind contributions. This represents \$1.90 from Partner Organisations for every dollar funded by the ARC. This is an increase from the previous four rounds of \$0.10 in every dollar.

Linkage Projects Proposals are funded biannually following a rigorous, independent peer review process that considers factors such as the researcher's research opportunity and performance evidence, capacity to undertake the research, methodology, the significance and innovation of the proposed research, Partner Organisation commitment and contribution to strategic research alliances.

For more information visit www.arc.gov.au > National Competitive Grants Program, email ARC-LinkageProjects@arc.gov.au or phone +61 2 6287 6600.