Industrial Transformation Research Program

The Australian Government’s new Industrial Transformation Research Program encourages and supports university-based researchers and industries to work together to find solutions to a range of issues facing Australian industries.

The $236 million Program, to be delivered by the Australian Research Council (ARC), will help universities and industry establish research hubs and research training centres. These hubs and centres will be a solid base in which researchers and industry workers can come together and share their research skills and practical expertise to develop new products, processes and services that will transform Australian industries.

The first funding round will focus on Australia’s food industries, which are currently facing a wealth of opportunities and challenges—for example, feeding a growing population, ensuring food security, adapting to our changing climate and many others.

Applying

Applications for project funding for researchers and their industry partners under the Program must be received from an Australian university or other eligible organisations (see the program funding rules on the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au).

Applications for the first round of the Program close 18 December 2012, with successful hubs and centres to be announced in 2013.

Information on the hubs and centres components of the Program, and the priority area of food, is available in this brochure and on the ARC website.

For more information visit the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au, email ITRH@arc.gov.au (Industrial Transformation Research Hubs) or ITTC@arc.gov.au (Industrial Transformation Training Centres), or phone +61 2 6287 6600.
RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR ROUND ONE

The Industrial Transformation Research Program will focus on priority areas identified by the Australian Government. The priorities will be updated from round to round to ensure the Program is responsive to industry needs.

The Government has announced the first funding round for the Program will focus on Australia’s food industries.

The ARC has sought applications for hubs and centres to be created in research areas that are vital for, and assist with, Australia’s future food storage, food processing, manufacturing capabilities and product opportunities.

INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION RESEARCH HUBS

The Australian Government is committed to working closely with Australian industries and the research community to encourage and support critical research and development (R&D).

Under this component of the Industrial Transformation Research Program, the Government will provide funding of up to $1 million per year to create research hubs where researchers and industry personnel can work together closely on R&D projects.

It is expected that the research hubs will undertake cutting edge research on new technologies and economic and social transformation, and support the development of research in the priority areas as they are announced.

Funding for the Hubs will be provided for between one (1) and five (5) years, providing them the flexibility to undertake comprehensive research programs that will tackle big industry challenges, as well as short-term projects that will help answer emerging issues or questions. The Government’s investment in each hub will be matched by industry partners.

INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION TRAINING CENTRES

Innovators of the future - young researchers gaining real-world practical skills and experience through placement in industry

Under the Training Centre’s component of this Program, we provide funding of up to $1 million per year for three years to create training centres that will foster close partnerships between university-based researchers and the industry members who will translate the research outcomes.

Under this component of the Industrial Transformation Research Program, the Government will foster close partnerships between researchers and industry partners. This will provide innovative training for early-career researchers, allowing them to develop their research skills in an industry setting to address current and future industry needs.

Over a five-year period the ARC will award funding for up to 50 Training Centres with funding for at least ten Higher Degree by Research candidates and three postdoctoral fellows in each Training Centre.