



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Linkage Projects Round 2

**Selection Report
for Funding Commencing in 2004**

Linkage Projects Round Two Selection Report

Overview

The *Linkage Projects* program funds collaborative projects between University researchers and Partner Organisations. It continues the focus of the former SPIRT scheme. In 2001 it was largely unchanged from that scheme, but in 2002 and 2003 has moved to two funding rounds per year. Applications for Round Two for projects commencing in July 2004 closed on 28 November 2003, and this report outlines outcomes from the selection process for that round.

Linkage Projects aims to:

- encourage and develop long-term strategic research alliances between higher education institutions and industry in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems, or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic or social benefits;
- support collaborative research on issues of benefit to regional and rural communities;
- foster opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with industry, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high-quality research;
- provide industry-oriented research training to prepare high-calibre postgraduate research students; and
- produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of Australian industry.

Research project costs are supported under *Linkage Projects* program, as well as:

- Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships Industry (APDI) for researchers with less than three years' postdoctoral experience;
- Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry (APAI) for postgraduate research students studying towards a Masters or PhD award; and
- Linkage Industry Fellowships (LIF), which provide support for costs involved in a temporary transfer from one of the eligible higher education institutions listed on an application to one of the industry partners on that application or vice versa.

A single application to *Linkage Projects* may contain research project costs and one or more of the component costs above.

This report includes summary statistics and recommendations for those *Linkage Projects* applications that involve project, APAI, and/or fellowship funding (L-P applications), as well as those applications seeking only APAI stipends (so-called APAI-only, or L-A applications).

Selection process

College of Experts assessed applications in two ways depending on the level of support sought in the application.

Where an applicant sought funding from the ARC to support fellowships, project costs associated with personnel, equipment, maintenance and/or travel, of more than \$150,000 over project life, the ARC and its College of Experts:

- assigned independent assessors to review applications;
- sought applicants' comments on assessors' reports;

- ranked each application relative to the others on the basis of the application, the assessors' reports and applicant's response to these assessments; and
- assessed and recommended budgets, and prepared funding recommendations.

Approximately 50% of applications requested funding of less than \$150,000 over project life. External assessment was not sought in these cases. The ARC and College of Experts ranked each application relative to the others on the basis of the application and prepared funding recommendations.

Selection criteria

Selection criteria and corresponding weights for *Linkage Projects* applications are:

Investigators track record (20%)

Project content

- significance and innovation (25%)
- approach and training (20%)
- national benefit (10%)
- commitment from industry partner (25%)

National Research Priorities

In November 2002, the Australian Government designated a set of four National Research Priorities and within them 19 national research priority goals. Applicants in this round of *Linkage Projects* identified 442 applications (76.1%) as being in one of the national research priority areas. Of these 442 applications in priority areas, 224 were funded - a success rate of 50.7%. Overall, priority applications represented three-quarters (74.4%) of all funded applications and received four-fifths (79.7%) of total funding.

Table 1. Numbers and success rates for Linkage Projects by National Research Priority Areas

Priority	L-P plus L-A Round Two			
	Applications received	Applications recommended	Success rate	Recommended funds over project life
No area	139	77	55.4 %	\$14,040,285
An Environmentally Sustainable Australia	158	79	50.0%	\$16,189,810
Promoting and Maintaining Good Health	88	43	48.9 %	\$9,982,838
Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries	141	74	52.5 %	\$22,429,397
Safeguarding Australia	55	28	50.9 %	\$ 6,655,458
Total priority applications	442	224	50.7 %	\$55,257,503
Priority as % of total	76.1 %	74.4 %		79.7 %

Summary outcomes

In this round the ARC received a total of 581 new *Linkage Projects* applications. Of these 581 applications, 155 primarily sought APAI stipends (APAI-only applications) and 426 were applications seeking substantial project support, as well as APAI, APDI or LIF places. In the tables and text below, the following labels are used to distinguish statistics:

- L-P - figures for the 426 project applications
- L-A - figures for the 155 APAI-only applications
- Linkage - figures for entire *Linkage Projects* program

Recommended Grants

For L-P, 240 out of 426 applications (56.3%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$64.1M over the life of these projects. For L-A, 61 out of 155 applications (39.4%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$5.2M over the life of these projects.

The overall Linkage success rate for Round Two projects commencing in July 2004 is 51.8% (301 out of 581 applications recommended for funding). This represents a slight increase on the success rate of 49.6% in the previous round.

Table 2. Success Rates for Linkage Projects program Round Two 2004

No of applications	L-A	L-P	Linkage (L-A plus L-P)
Received	155	426	581
Funded	61	240	301
Success Rate	39.4%	56.3%	51.8%

Table 3. Success Rates for L-P, L-A and Linkage Rounds One and Two 2004

Component	Round One for projects commencing in January 2004	Round Two for projects commencing in July 2004
L-P	50.9%	56.3 %
L-A	46.5%	39.4 %
Linkage	49.6%	51.8 %

Table 4. Numbers and Success Rates for Linkage Round Two 2004 by Discipline Area

Discipline Group	Applications received	Applications recommended	Success rate	Requested funds over project life (all applications)	Recommended funds over project life (funded applications)
BSB	101	56	55.4%	\$24,999,059	\$13,048,389
EE	129	63	48.8%	\$28,444,107	\$17,055,716
HCA	54	28	51.9%	\$11,276,188	\$6,377,257
MIC	77	37	48.1%	\$15,583,547	\$8,829,576
PCG	53	29	54.7%	\$14,741,040	\$6,922,520
SBE	167	88	52.7%	\$33,013,895	\$17,064,330
Total	581	301	51.8%	\$128,057,836	\$69,297,788

Grant size

The average first-year funding per project for L-P Round Two is \$89,288 (86.6% of average first-year request), and for L-A is \$25,128 (99.1% of average first-year request). The overall Linkage average first-year funding per project in Round Two is \$76,285 (87.4% of average first-year request).

Table 5. First-year funding for L-P, L-A and Linkage Projects Round Two 2004

Component	Round One for projects commencing in January 2004		Round Two for projects commencing in July 2004	
	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request
L-P	\$91,607	86.9%	\$89,288	86.6 %
L-A	\$28,388	98.8%	\$25,128	99.1 %
Linkage	\$73,271	88.1%	\$76,285	87.4 %

Table 6. Average total grant size for L-P, L-A and Linkage Projects Round Two 2004

Component	Round One for projects commencing in January 2004	Round Two for projects commencing in July 2004
L-P	\$270,006	\$266,923
L-A	\$94,537	\$85,840
Linkage	\$219,112	\$230,225

Outcomes by Institution

The following table shows application numbers and total ARC funding by Institution for the *Linkage Projects* program.

Table 7. Recommended funding by institution for Linkage Projects (L-P plus L-A) Round Two 2004

Administering Institution	Applications submitted	Applications Recommended	Success rate	Recommended ARC Funding over project life	Total Industry Partner Contributions
Australian Catholic University	2		0%	\$0	\$0
Central Queensland University	1		0%	\$0	\$0
Charles Sturt University	7	1	14%	\$82,315	\$52,500
Curtin University of Technology	20	10	50%	\$1,596,811	\$2,795,130
Deakin University	19	7	37%	\$1,394,166	\$1,731,301
Edith Cowan University	8	4	50%	\$746,903	\$736,340
Griffith University	16	5	31%	\$674,340	\$848,144
James Cook University	5	2	40%	\$144,427	\$256,450
La Trobe University	11	6	55%	\$1,202,669	\$1,218,379
Macquarie University	3	2	67%	\$1,154,941	\$1,733,500
Monash University	35	19	54%	\$3,275,404	\$3,974,861
Murdoch University	18	10	56%	\$2,753,692	\$3,933,039
Northern Territory University	2	2	100%	\$164,630	\$189,330

Queensland University of Technology	38	19	50%	\$2,660,386	\$3,254,497
RMIT University	34	11	32%	\$2,838,221	\$2,672,821
Southern Cross University	7	2	29%	\$598,512	\$1,097,180
Swinburne University of Technology	8	2	25%	\$445,000	\$808,200
The Australian National University	23	15	65%	\$4,750,103	\$6,165,718
The Flinders University of South Australia	10	5	50%	\$569,592	\$448,957
The University of Adelaide	23	15	65%	\$3,853,699	\$6,029,400
The University of Melbourne	25	9	36%	\$1,990,826	\$2,405,698
The University of New England	9	4	44%	\$565,656	\$1,075,156
The University of New South Wales	33	23	70%	\$5,907,551	\$10,639,773
The University of Newcastle	19	8	42%	\$1,022,140	\$973,105
The University of Queensland	32	24	75%	\$7,418,672	\$12,002,145
The University of Sydney	30	21	70%	\$7,304,154	\$9,442,014
The University of Western Australia	21	15	71%	\$4,519,770	\$5,743,538
University of Ballarat	4		0%	\$0	\$0
University of Canberra	2		0%	\$0	\$0
University of South Australia	21	13	62%	\$2,819,537	\$3,296,755
University of Southern Queensland	1		0%	\$0	\$0
University of Tasmania	20	9	45%	\$1,504,175	\$2,045,267
University of Technology, Sydney	26	15	58%	\$3,436,203	\$4,641,765
University of the Sunshine Coast	1		0%	\$0	\$0
University of Western Sydney	15	8	53%	\$1,110,271	\$1,725,023
University of Wollongong	23	12	52%	\$2,546,077	\$3,634,675
Victoria University of Technology	9	3	33%	\$246,945	\$90,648
Totals	581	301	51.8 %	\$69,297,788	\$95,661,309

Components

The major components that can be funded in *Linkage Projects* include APAIs, APAI-ITs, APDIs, LIF and other collaborative research project funding. The following table shows numbers and funding for these components for *Linkage Projects* (L-P plus L-A).

Table 8. Linkage Projects component numbers and funding Round Two 2004

Component	Number requested	Number recommended	Success rate
APAI	417	224	53.7%
APAI-IT	52	28	53.8%
APDI	47	27	57.4%
LIF	4	2	50.0%
CRG	459	236	51.4%

LIF

Four requests were received for Linkage Industry Fellowships (LIF), and two are recommended for funding.

APDI

The *Linkage Projects* Round Two applications included requests for 47 APDI places, of which 27 (57.4%) were funded.

APAI-IT

Within *Linkage Projects*, there is a requirement each year to fund at least 50 APAI places in the fields of Information Technology and Communications. In the previous round 24 such places were funded, and 28 places are recommended for funding in this round, taking the total for projects commencing in 2004 to 52.

Overall outcomes for 2003

Over both Round One and Round Two for funding commencing in 2004, the ARC received 1049 applications of which two were withdrawn. Of these, 532 have been funded or recommended for funding, giving an overall success rate for the year of 50.8%. The breakdown of these figures by sub-scheme and by discipline areas is shown below:

Table 9: Numbers and Success Rates overall in 2003 by Discipline Area

Discipline Group	Applications received	Recommended applications	Success rate	Requested funds over project life	Recommended funds over project life
BSB	186	95	51.1%	\$48,559,905	\$23,051,607
EE	246	120	48.8%	\$53,136,588	\$30,441,949
HCA	101	50	49.5%	\$18,647,812	\$10,091,606
MIC	123	62	50.4%	\$24,371,602	\$15,010,049
PCG	96	53	55.2%	\$26,150,720	\$13,033,992
SBE	295	152	51.5%	\$54,462,652	\$28,262,072
Total	1047	532	50.8%	\$225,329,279	\$119,891,275