



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Linkage Projects Round 1

**Selection Report
for Funding Commencing in 2005**

Linkage Projects Round One 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 since 2002 has moved to two funding rounds per year. Applications for Round One for projects commencing in January 2005 closed on 7 May 2004, 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 readers/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 2003, the Australian Government designated a set of four National Research Priorities and within them 21 national research priority goals. Applicants in this round of *Linkage Projects* identified 382 applications (82.7%) as being in one of the national research priority areas. Of these 382 applications in priority areas, 196 were funded - a success rate of 51.3%. Overall, priority applications represented 82.5% of all funded applications and received 85.6% of total funding.

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

Priority	L-P plus L-A Round One			
	Applications received	Applications recommended	Success rate	Recommended funds over project life
No area	81	41	50.6%	\$7,981,586
An Environmentally Sustainable Australia	122	65	53.3%	\$15,743,937
Promoting and Maintaining Good Health	107	58	54.2%	\$12,418,029
Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries	125	61	48.6%	\$17,005,835
Safeguarding Australia	28	12	42.9%	\$2,360,165
Total priority applications	382	196	51.3%	\$47,527,966
Priority as % of total	82.5%	82.7%		85.6%

Summary outcomes

In this round the ARC received a total of 463 new *Linkage Projects* applications. Of these 463 applications, 123 primarily sought APAI stipends (APAI-only applications) and 340 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 340 project applications
- L-A - figures for the 123 APAI-only applications
- Linkage - figures for entire *Linkage Projects* program

Recommended Grants

For L-P, 183 out of 340 applications (53.8%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$50.5M over the life of these projects. For L-A, 54 out of 123 applications (43.9%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$5 M over the life of these projects.

The overall Linkage success rate for Round One projects commencing in January 2005 is 51.2% (237 out of 463 applications recommended for funding). This is similar to the success rate of 51.8% in the previous round.

Table 2. Success Rates for Linkage Projects program Round One 2005

No of applications	LA	LP	Linkage (LA plus LP)
Received	123	340	463
Funded	54	183	237
Success Rate	43.9%	53.8%	51.2%

Table 3. Success Rates for L-P, L-A and Linkage Round Two 2004 and Round One 2005

Component	Round Two for projects commencing in July 2004	Round One for projects commencing in January 2005
L-P	56.3 %	53.8%
L-A	39.4 %	43.9%
Linkage	51.8 %	51.2%

Table 4. Numbers and Success Rates for Linkage Round One 2005 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	82	39	47.6%	\$21,838,518	\$11,059,443
EE	103	51	49.5%	\$22,286,746	\$12,141,684
HCA	59	27	45.8%	\$11,512,484	\$5,860,298
MIC	45	22	48.9%	\$14,392,486	\$6,522,689
PCG	41	25	61.0%	\$14,186,128	\$7,016,249
SBE	133	73	54.9%	\$24,890,313	\$12,909,189
Total	463	237	51.2%	\$109,106,675	\$55,509,552

Grant size

The average first-year funding per project for L-P Round One is \$90,094 (81.7% of average first-year request), and for L-A is \$27,377 (98.6% of average first-year request). The overall Linkage average first-year funding per project in Round One is \$75,804 (87.1% of average first-year request).

Table 5. First-year funding for L-P, L-A and Linkage Projects Round One 2005

Component	Round Two for projects commencing in July 2004		Round One for projects commencing in January 2005	
	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request
L-P	\$89,288	86.6 %	\$90,094	81.7%
L-A	\$25,128	99.1 %	\$27,377	98.6%
Linkage	\$76,285	87.4 %	\$75,804	87.1%

Table 6. Average total grant size for L-P, L-A and Linkage Projects Round One 2005

Component	Round Two for projects commencing in July 2004	Round One for projects commencing in January 2005
L-P	\$266,923	\$276,077
L-A	\$85,840	\$92,362*
Linkage	\$230,225	\$234,218

* Includes APAI extension amount in year 4 where applicable

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 One 2005

Administering Institution	Applications Submitted	Applications recommended	Success rate	Recommended ARC Funding over project life	Total Industry Partner Contributions
Australian Catholic University	1	0	0.0%	0	0
Bond University	1	1	100.0%	\$106,289	\$115,000
Central Queensland University	2	1	50.0%	\$96,592	\$54,272
Charles Darwin University	3	1	33.3%	\$84,387	\$49,584
Charles Sturt University	5	2	40%	\$776,141	\$993,398
Curtin University of Technology	12	7	58.3%	\$1,312,000	\$3,349,124
Deakin University	22	8	36.4%	\$1,322,477	\$1,735,747
Edith Cowan University	2	1	50.0%	\$200,000	\$432,000
Griffith University	10	5	50.0%	\$1,798,194	\$2,133,422
James Cook University	3	2	66.7%	\$691,943	\$1,858,725
La Trobe University	6	2	33.3%	\$156,288	\$209,188
Macquarie University	8	4	50.0%	\$3,317,487	\$4,778,035
Monash University	24	17	70.8%	\$3,711,176	\$4,559,049

Murdoch University	15	5	33.3%	\$649,319	\$1,326,043
Queensland University of Technology	30	12	40.0%	\$1,774,640	\$2,183,276
RMIT University	19	7	36.8%	\$1,392,563	\$1,333,071
Southern Cross University	4	1	25.0%	\$135,943	\$141,200
Swinburne University of Technology	10	4	40.0%	\$585,104	\$655,275
The Australian National University	15	10	66.7%	\$2,068,169	\$2,862,404
The Flinders University of South Australia	5	3	60.0%	\$681,479	\$1,018,596
The University of Adelaide	13	7	53.8%	\$1,311,548	\$1,729,434
The University of Melbourne	34	18	52.9%	\$4,286,143	\$5,053,679
The University of New England	3	1	33.3%	\$84,387	\$68,170
The University of New South Wales	35	21	60.0%	\$4,922,560	\$7,100,410
The University of Newcastle	14	6	42.9%	\$2,152,572	\$4,207,857
The University of Queensland	39	26	66.7%	\$7,189,274	\$10,877,437
The University of Sydney	18	13	72.2%	\$3,614,954	\$6,116,746
The University of Western Australia	17	8	47.1%	\$2,144,347	\$3,222,186
University of Ballarat	6	1	16.7%	\$84,387	\$30,000
University of Canberra	2	1	50.0%	\$131,943	\$231,786
University of South Australia	15	7	46.7%	\$1,697,051	\$2,194,136
University of Southern Queensland	4	1	25.0%	\$273,106	\$364,562
University of Tasmania	15	9	60.0%	\$2,224,850	\$3,048,015
University of Technology, Sydney	22	12	54.5%	\$2,221,404	\$3,577,627
University of Western Sydney	9	6	66.7%	\$913,114	\$1,256,162
University of Wollongong	14	5	35.7%	\$1,090,664	\$1,173,904
Victoria University of Technology	6	2	33.3%	\$307,057	\$324,744
Total	463	237	51.2%	\$55,509,552	\$80,364,264

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 One 2005

Component	Number requested	Number recommended	Success rate
APAI	340	171	50.3%
APAI-IT	52	22	42.3%
APDI	37	17	45.9%
LIF	5	3	60.0%
CRG	370	190	51.4%

LIF

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

APDI

The Linkage Projects Round One applications included requests for 37 APDI places, of which 17 (45.9%) are recommended for funding.

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. This requirement needs to be filled over both Rounds occurring in 2005. In this round 22 places are recommended for funding.