



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Linkage Projects Round 1

**Selection Report
for Funding Commencing in 2004**

Linkage–Projects Round One

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 moved to two funding rounds per year. Round One for projects commencing in January 2004 closed on 9 May 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 the *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

Expert Advisory Committees assessed applications in two ways depending on the level and nature of funding support being 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 Expert Advisory Committee:

- 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 the life of the project. External assessment was not sought in these cases. The Expert Advisory Committee ranked each application relative to the others on the basis of the applications 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. For *Linkage-Projects*, 329 applications nominated one of the national research priority areas. This represented 70.6% of all applications - of these, 167 are recommended for funding with a success rate of 50.8%. Priority applications represented 72.3% of recommended applications. For *Linkage-Projects*, priority applications are recommended to receive \$39,567,066 (78.2%) of total funding including \$16,880,157 for the area of 'An Environmentally Sustainable Australia', and \$15,530,888 for 'Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries'.

Table 1. Numbers and Success Rates for *Linkage-Projects* by National Research Priority

Priority	L-P plus L-A Round One			
	Applications received	Applications recommended	Success rate	Recommended funds over project life
No area	137	64	46.7 %	\$11,047,905
An Environmentally Sustainable Australia	130	67	51.5 %	\$16,880,157
Promoting and Maintaining Good Health	62	25	40.3 %	\$5,033,706
Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries	113	64	56.6 %	\$15,530,888
Safeguarding Australia	24	11	45.8 %	\$2,122,315
Total priority applications	329	167	50.8 %	\$39,567,066
Priority as % of total applications	70.6%	72.3%		78.2%

Summary outcomes

In Round One for funding commencing in January 2004 the ARC received a total of 468 new *Linkage-Projects* applications - two applications were withdrawn, leaving a total of 466 applications for consideration. Of these 466 applications in total, 144 were APAI-only applications and 322 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-A - figures for APAI-only applications
- L-P - figures for the remaining 322 project applications
- Linkage - figures for entire *Linkage–Projects* program

Recommended Grants

For L-P, 164 out of 322 applications (50.9%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$44.3M over the life of these projects.

For L-A, 67 out of 144 applications (46.5%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$6.3M over the life of these projects.

The Linkage success rate for Round One is 49.6%. This represents an increase on the Linkage success rate of 45.0% in the previous Round 2 for projects commencing in July 2003.

Table 2. Success Rates for Linkage–Projects program Round One 2004

No of applications	LA	LP	Linkage (LA plus LP)
Received	144	324	468
Withdrawn		2	2
Recommended	67	164	231
Success Rate	46.5%	50.9%	49.6%

Table 3. Success Rates for L-P, L-A and Linkage Round Two 2003 and Round One 2004

Component	Round Two for projects commencing in July 2003	Round One for projects commencing in January 2004
L-P	42.5%	50.9%
L-A	50.9%	46.5%
Linkage	45.0%	49.6%

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

Discipline Group	Applications received less two withdrawn	Applications recommended	Success rate	Requested funds over project life	Recommended funds over project life
BSB	85	39	45.9%	\$23,560,846	\$10,005,838
EE	117	57	48.7%	\$24,692,481	\$13,391,997
HCA	47	22	46.8%	\$7,371,624	\$3,715,528
MIC	46	25	54.3%	\$8,788,055	\$6,184,796
PCG	43	24	55.8%	\$11,409,680	\$6,113,568
SBE	128	64	50.0%	\$21,448,757	\$11,203,244
Total	466	231	49.6%	\$97,271,443	\$50,614,971

Grant size

The average first-year funding per project for L-P Round One is \$91,607 (86.9% of average first-year request), and for L-A is \$28,388 (98.8% of average first-year request). The overall Linkage average first-year funding per project in Round One is \$73,271 (88.1% of average first-year request).

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

Component	Round Two for projects commencing in July 2003		Round One for projects commencing in January 2004 (recommended)	
	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request
L-P	\$75,727	77.2%	\$91,607	86.9%
L-A	\$27,530	98.6%	\$28,388	98.8%
Linkage	\$59,661	79.9%	\$73,271	88.1%

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

Component	Round Two for projects commencing in July 2003	Round One for projects commencing in January 2004
L-P	\$226,676	\$270,006
L-A	\$93,383	\$94,537
Linkage	\$182,245	\$219,112

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 2004

Administering Institution	Applications submitted less two withdrawn	Applications recommended	Success rate	Recommended ARC funding over project life	Total Industry Partner contributions
Australian Catholic University	1	1	100.0%	\$100,000	\$360,000
Charles Sturt University	5	2	40.0%	\$669,344	\$683,400
Curtin University of Technology	14	7	50.0%	\$1,567,102	\$2,596,960
Deakin University	15	7	46.7%	\$1,107,714	\$881,514
Edith Cowan University	10	5	50.0%	\$996,764	\$1,028,396
Griffith University	18	8	44.4%	\$1,039,339	\$1,339,434
James Cook University	7	3	42.9%	\$665,498	\$766,751
La Trobe University	3	1	33.3%	\$88,430	\$90,000

Linkage – Projects Round One SELECTION REPORT for funding commencing in 2004

Macquarie University	10	7	70.0%	\$1,257,894	\$1,412,536
Monash University	27	14	51.9%	\$3,529,067	\$9,220,137
Murdoch University	9	3	33.3%	\$674,622	\$903,953
Northern Territory University	4	1	25.0%	\$89,446	\$65,477
Queensland University of Technology	14	7	50.0%	\$1,751,698	\$2,753,400
RMIT University	13	7	53.8%	\$936,988	\$1,074,106
Southern Cross University	4	2	50.0%	\$237,341	\$225,479
Swinburne University of Technology	8	4	50.0%	\$306,228	\$203,750
The Australian National University	20	13	65.0%	\$3,513,902	\$3,990,776
The Flinders University of South Australia	6	3	50.0%	\$265,816	\$211,107
The University of Adelaide	20	13	65.0%	\$3,886,389	\$4,710,239
The University of Melbourne	27	17	63.0%	\$3,123,168	\$3,442,044
The University of New England	2	2	100.0%	\$581,670	\$691,709
The University of New South Wales	29	9	31.0%	\$2,408,477	\$3,060,263
The University of Newcastle	12	10	83.3%	\$2,146,978	\$3,158,147
The University of Queensland	57	33	57.9%	\$8,686,225	\$10,317,518
The University of Sydney	26	10	38.5%	\$2,302,478	\$2,943,787
The University of Western Australia	24	11	45.8%	\$2,847,867	\$4,961,581
University of Ballarat	12	2	16.7%	\$129,558	\$50,000
University of Canberra	2	2	100.0%	\$550,894	\$1,054,012
University of South Australia	10	2	20.0%	\$347,112	\$606,792
University of Southern Queensland	2	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
University of Tasmania	15	7	46.7%	\$1,508,914	\$2,051,870
University of Technology, Sydney	12	5	41.7%	\$1,229,416	\$1,360,741
University of the Sunshine Coast	1	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
University of Western Sydney	7	4	57.1%	\$541,312	\$647,814
University of Wollongong	13	8	61.5%	\$1,444,874	\$1,443,570
Victoria University of Technology	7	1	14.3%	\$82,446	\$54,000
Total	466	231	49.6%	\$50,614,971	\$68,361,263

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 2004

Component	Number requested	Number recommended	Success rate
APAI	279	149	53.4%
APAI-IT	27	24	88.9%
APDI	35	18	51.4%
LIF	2	1	50%
CRG*	345	175	50.7%

* Collaborative Research Grant

APAI-IT

Within *Linkage–Projects*, there is a requirement to fund at least 50 APAI places in the fields of Information Technology and Communications. This requirement needs to be filled over both rounds for funding commencing in 2004. In Round One, 24 such places were recommended for funding.

APDI

The *Linkage–Projects* Round One applications included requests for 35 APDI places, of which 18 (51.4%) are recommended.

LIF

This round represents the first time that the LIF component has been available. Only 2 were requested, and one was funded.

Scheme Budget

The following allocations from the *Linkage Projects* budget have been approved for new grants to commence in 2004.

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL
\$16,925,587	\$16,152,889	\$14,569,455	\$2,631,250	\$335,790	\$50,614,971