

Selection Report - Linkage-Projects Round One

Overview

The Linkage-Projects program funds collaborative projects between University researchers and Industry partners. It continues the focus of the former SPIRT scheme. In 2001 it was largely unchanged from that scheme, but in 2002 has moved to two funding rounds per year. Round Two will close on 6 December 2002, for funding commencing in July 2003, and hence this report only concerns Round One, which closed in May 2002, for funding commencing in January 2003.

Linkage-Projects aim 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
- produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of Australian industry.

Research project costs are supported under Linkage-Projects, 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

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 which 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 Committee assessed applications in two ways depending on what support was 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, 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,
- assessed and recommended budgets, and prepared funding recommendations.

If the applicant only sought funding to support one or more APAI stipends (plus in some cases very modest project support), the Expert Advisory Committee ranked each application relative to the others on the basis of the application and prepared funding recommendations. External assessment was not sought in these cases.

Selection criteria

Selection criteria and corresponding weights for Linkage–Projects applications are detailed below.

1. Applications seeking funding from the ARC to support project costs associated with personnel, equipment, maintenance and/or travel
 - Investigators (20%)
 - Project content
 - significance and innovation (25%)
 - approach (20%)
 - national benefit (10%)
 - Industry partner Commitment (25%)
2. Applications only seeking stipends to support APAI places (plus up to \$5000 project support per APAI)
 - Investigators (20%)
 - Project content
 - significance and innovation (20%)
 - approach and training (30%)
 - national benefit (10%)
 - Commitment from industry partner (20%)

Summary outcomes

In Round One in 2002 the ARC received a total of 662 Linkage-Projects applications. Of these, 232 were APAI-only applications, and 430 were applications seeking substantial project support, as well as APAI and APDI 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 430 project applications
- Linkage - figures for entire Linkage-Projects Scheme

For L-P, 197 out of 430 applications (45.8%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$15,821,577 in 2003, or \$46,986,618 over the period 2003-2007.

For L-A, 1 application was withdrawn, and 128 out of the remaining 231 applications (55.4%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$3,265,772 in 2003, or \$11,111,114 over the life of these projects.

The overall Linkage-Projects success rate for Round One is 49.2%, close to the figure of 51.8% for the single annual round last year.

Table 1: Success Rates for L-P, L-A and Linkage-Projects 2002-2003

	2002	2003
L-P	53.4%	45.8%
L-A	49.9%	55.4%
Linkage	51.8%	49.2%

Table 2: Numbers and Success Rates for Linkage Round One by Discipline Group

Discipline Group	Applications received	Applications withdrawn	Recommended applications	Success rate	Requested funds 2003-2007	Recommended funds 2003-2007*
BSB	117		55	47.0%	\$25,343,415	\$11,314,773
EE	182		82	45.1%	\$35,063,210	\$14,972,273
HCA	44		27	61.4%	\$7,264,036	\$4,625,612
MIC	73	1	39	54.2%	\$16,460,406	\$8,316,724
PCG	59		38	64.4%	\$11,686,812	\$6,152,604
SBE	187		84	44.9%	\$32,972,080	\$12,715,746
Total	662	1	325	49.2%	\$128,789,959	\$58,097,732

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

Table 3: Recommended funding by institution for Linkage-Projects (L-P plus L-A)

Administering Institution	Applications submitted (minus those withdrawn)	Recommended applications	Success rate	Recommended ARC funding (2003-2007)*	Corresponding industry partners contributions
Australian Catholic University	6	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
Bond University	1	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
Central Queensland University	1	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
Charles Sturt University	7	2	28.6%	\$185,485	\$254,899
Curtin University of Technology	22	9	40.9%	\$1,348,727	\$1,684,682
Deakin University	34	18	52.9%	\$1,946,387	\$1,852,538
Edith Cowan University	9	2	22.2%	\$270,485	\$286,650
Griffith University	21	9	42.9%	\$1,557,565	\$2,130,095
James Cook University	11	1	9.1%	\$80,485	\$51,600
La Trobe University	7	1	14.3%	\$80,485	\$114,500
Macquarie University	12	9	75.0%	\$2,114,350	\$2,654,692
Monash University	30	16	53.3%	\$2,525,067	\$3,942,684
Murdoch University	12	6	50.0%	\$1,782,235	\$2,570,549
Northern Territory University	2	2	100.0%	\$384,000	\$660,562
Queensland University of Technology	31	14	45.2%	\$2,918,824	\$4,170,202
RMIT University	26	11	42.3%	\$1,485,210	\$1,757,536
Southern Cross University	14	5	35.7%	\$493,284	\$430,230
Swinburne University of Technology	10	6	60.0%	\$647,910	\$635,866

The Australian National University	26	19	73.1%	\$5,760,086	\$9,696,433
The Flinders University of South Australia	6	5	83.3%	\$606,940	\$726,613
The University of Adelaide	13	9	69.2%	\$1,129,438	\$1,181,721
The University of Melbourne	42	19	45.2%	\$3,426,309	\$8,041,340
The University of New England	2	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
The University of New South Wales	44	25	56.8%	\$4,857,579	\$6,648,300
The University of Newcastle	15	11	73.3%	\$1,909,343	\$3,038,224
The University of Queensland	63	26	41.3%	\$5,990,064	\$9,006,089
The University of Sydney	53	26	49.1%	\$6,663,468	\$10,388,868
The University of Western Australia	28	15	53.6%	\$1,996,116	\$2,608,924
University of Ballarat	12	4	33.3%	\$326,940	\$347,210
University of Canberra	3	1	33.3%	\$244,386	\$224,080
University of South Australia	20	15	75.0%	\$2,323,851	\$3,858,981
University of Southern Queensland	2	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
University of Tasmania	22	11	50.0%	\$1,551,345	\$1,625,484
University of Technology, Sydney	14	9	64.3%	\$1,396,484	\$2,635,326
University of the Sunshine Coast	1	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
University of Western Sydney	13	6	46.2%	\$846,846	\$933,575
University of Wollongong	11	5	45.5%	\$572,227	\$738,507
Victoria University of Technology	15	8	53.3%	\$675,811	\$447,400
Total	661	325	49.2%	\$58,097,732	\$85,344,360

Components

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

Table 4: Linkage-Projects component numbers and funding

Component	Number Sought	Number Funded	Success Rate
APAI	498	237	47.6%
APAI-IT	61	33	54.1%
APDI	34	15	44.1%
CRG	492	229	46.5%

* Recommended ARC funding (2003-2007) includes allocations in 2006 for six month extensions to APAI stipends awarded for PhD students.