

BioMedTech Horizons

MTPConnect is delivering the \$5 million BioMedTech Horizons grant program on behalf of the Australian Government as part of the \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund.

MTPConnect invites expressions of interest for the BioMedTech Horizons program, a \$5 million initiative of Australian Government and a first-time biotech grant program open to innovative, multi-disciplinary, and sector research teams, as well as small and medium enterprises that are pushing the boundaries of what is possible, in the areas of precision medicine and 3D anatomical printing.

We welcome ideas that are set to customise and revolutionise healthcare, stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration and between research, industry and technology sectors, and foster strong entrepreneurship potential. The program is designed to bolster cutting-edge ideas towards proof-of-concept and commercialisation.

Up to \$1 million is offered in funding for individual projects over the next two years, to drive innovation and foster commercialisation. The \$5 million program is being delivered as a part of the Australian Government's \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) which aims to transform health and medical research to improve lives, build the economy and contribute to health system sustainability through targeted strategic investment.

The purpose of the BioMedTech Horizons program is to provide a pathway to innovation, stimulating those discoveries along the research pipeline that have merit, and to provide financial support to progress past the proof-of-concept stage.

Established as part of the Australian Government's Industry Growth Centres Initiative, MTPConnect aims to accelerate the growth of the MTP ecosystem in Australia by working with the sector to increase its competitiveness, productivity and innovative capacity. MTPConnect was chosen to administer and facilitate the delivery of funding for the program due to its proven fund management experience through the MTPConnect Project Fund Program, and established cross-sectoral networks and connections, providing the ability to rapidly identify and invest in new technologies.

The Objectives of the BioMedTech Horizons program are to:

- Increase the number of viable biotechnology and medical technology ideas reaching the proof-of-concept stage and beyond that are attractive for the private capital or third-party investment;
- Expedite identification and investment into new technologies that have potential to benefit the health and wellbeing of Australians;
- Foster multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral collaboration on biotechnology and medical technology ideas offering solutions for real world health challenges;

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- Complement the \$500 million Department of Health–led Biomedical Translation fund, which provides co-investment to overcome key barriers in significant areas of unmet clinical need to progress to a commercialized output; and
 - Promote Australia’s international ranking as a leader in biotechnology and medical technology.

Expected Outcomes of the Program

The rationale for the program is to enhance the health of Australians by boosting the biotechnology and medical technology innovations that:

- Can reach the proof-of-concept stage and obtain proof-of-concept status with Commonwealth financial assistance;
- Are attractive to private capital or other third-party investment to progress to clinical trial phases; and
- Have potential for translation and commercialisation.

Overview of Selection Process

Application to the BioMedTech Horizons program is a two-step process. Ideas strongly aligned with the program objective are to be submitted through Expression of Interest (EOI), addressing how the research could promote intended outcomes.

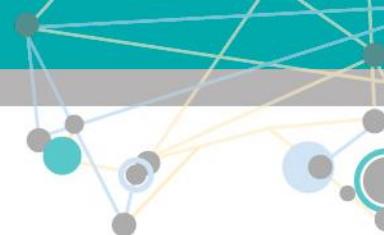
Successful Stage 1 applications

Stage 1 applications strongly aligned with the objectives and outcomes of the program will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application (full application) which will include a detailed Work Plan and Project milestones, for further review by the Selection Panel. Similar projects that could synergistically deliver greater outcomes would be strongly encouraged to work together.

Grant of funding will only be awarded to applications successful at Stage 2 evaluation. Invitation to enter Stage 2 of the application process does not guarantee funding.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into contracts with MTPConnect before being entitled to payment of the funds. The performance of the projects will be monitored for progress and will be subjected to periodic assessment for compliance with the program’s objectives and outcomes.

MTPConnect and the Department of Health may publicly announce the successful applicants who have received funding, once MTPConnect’s decision has been made.



Important Dates

Closing date for EOI	:	10 th December 2017
Closing date for Stage 2 applications	:	15 th January 2018
Announcement of successful applications	:	Expected late February 2018

Note: EOI's once received will be reviewed periodically, and will be concurrently invited for the submission of Stage 2 application. Applicants are therefore encouraged not to wait for the closing date to submit an EOI.

Questions and EOI applications should be directed to:

Divya Kalla, Project Manager, MTPConnect.

Email: divya.kalla@mtpconnect.org.au Phone : +61 424 502 624

Additional Information

- MTPConnect may contact the applicant to request additional information on sections of this application if clarification is required.
- The EOI should be a maximum of 700 words, submitted by email to Divya Kalla as an attachment.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Biotechnology (or biotech)	the application of science and technology to living organisms, as well as parts, products and models thereof, to alter living or non-living materials for the production of knowledge, goods, and services. This application of science and technology to living organisms could result in a therapeutic, medical or pharmaceutical product, process, service (including digital health services), technology or a procedure that improves health and wellbeing through prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
Medical technology (or medtech)	healthcare products used to prevent, diagnose or treat diseases or medical conditions affecting humans and includes medical devices, diagnostics, and medical imaging equipment.
Precision medicine	a treatment and prevention method based on understanding of individual genes, environments, and lifestyles (includes genomics, proteomics, and other relevant technologies).
3D anatomical printing	3D printing for additive manufacturing, rapid prototyping or solid free-form technology purposes, including bio printing and printing of medical devices.