



Astronomy
Australia
Ltd.

Industry Engagement Seed Funding

Lodgment of Responses

Responses shall be accepted in soft-copy only.

Proposals must be emailed to the following address:

robert.shen@astronomyaustralia.org.au

Closing date is 5pm AWST on 20 February 2019

A copy of the proposal in **PDF format** with a **maximum of 5 pages** plus appendices and supporting information must be emailed to the above address.

Further assistance with regards to this document may be obtained from:

Prof Len Sciacca
Director, AAL Board
Astronomy Australia Ltd.
len.sciacca@unimelb.edu.au

+61 3 8344 6954

Dr Robert Shen
Senior Program Manager
Astronomy Australia Ltd.
robert.shen@astronomyaustralia.org.au

+61 3 9214 5520

Disclaimer

Astronomy Australia Limited (AAL) aims to serve as a catalyst for boosting innovation impacts by fostering stronger connections across astronomy research units, government and private sectors. This invitation to apply for Industry Engagement Seed Funding is part of the AAL industry engagement strategy to enable Australian astronomers to advance industry engagement projects and develop effective and productive relationships with industry partners.

Astronomy Australia Limited is not committed contractually in any way to respondents to this call for Industry Engagement Seed Funding. The issuing of this Industry Engagement Seed Funding does not commit or otherwise oblige Astronomy Australia Limited to proceed with any phase or part of the project described herein.

The figures and estimates contained within this document are indicative only and are supplied as a guide to prospective respondents and as such no warranty to their accuracy is given.

Section 1 - AAL Industry Engagement Seed Funding

1.1 AAL Industry Engagement Seed Funding

Proposals are invited from the astronomy research community seeking support for their industry engagement projects. Astronomy Australia Ltd. (AAL) has a budget of up to **\$100K** to advance the collaboration(s) between astronomy groups and industry partners. Furthermore, AAL expects that its investment in industry engagement will continue beyond this seed funding round, subject to funding availability.

AAL Industry Engagement Seed Funding proposals may include, but are not limited to funding:

- projects that assist in solving industry problems.
- projects that assist in commercializing technology through industry partnerships.
- assistance towards preparing joint proposals between academics and industry for third-party funding e.g. ARC Linkage Project Grants.

Please note:

- Only proposals from academic or technical staff working in an Australian University or research organisation on a project that involves industry engagement will be considered.

1.2 Proposal Lodgement

The proposal should be submitted by email no later than **5pm AWST on 20 February 2019** to robert.shen@astronomyaustralia.org.au. The following should be provided:

- A copy of the proposal with a maximum of 5 pages (Please use the project template).
- Any supporting documents that may assist the selection panel.

Confirmation of receipt of the proposal will be sent by return email.

1.3 Timetable

The following timetable is envisaged:

| Activity | Date |
|---|----------------------|
| AAL Industry Engagement Seed Funding Round closed and responses registered | 20 February 2019 |
| Evaluation panel reviewed and made the final recommendations to the AAL Board | Before 29 March 2019 |
| Intended formal notification of successful applicant(s) | Before 30 April 2019 |
| Contract execution with the relevant hosting institution(s) | Before 14 June 2019 |

1.4 Communication

All communication will be documented. Any additional information regarding the process provided to one applicant shall be disclosed to all applicants to ensure an open and transparent process.

1.5 Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding this application process, email submission, or other issues, please contact:

- Prof Len Sciacca, Director, AAL Board, Astronomy Australia Ltd.
len.sciacca@unimelb.edu.au, +61 3 8344 6954
- Dr Robert(Xiaobin) Shen, Senior Program Manager, Astronomy Australia Ltd.
robert.shen@astronomyaustralia.org.au, +61 3 9214 5520;

Section 2 - Evaluation

2.1 Evaluation Process Overview

Following the Closing Time, AAL will evaluate the received proposals against the Evaluation Criteria specified in Section 2.2.

Please note: without limiting AAL's rights in the Call for Industry Engagement Seed Funding, AAL may at any time choose to:

- Shortlist one or more Applications;
- Commence discussion with all or some of the Applicants;
- Accept one or more of the proposals for funding (with possible negotiation of funding amount);
- Invite all or some Applicants to collaborate on a single project.

2.2 Evaluation Criteria

The following equally weighted evaluation criteria will be used by the evaluation panel:

| Evaluation Criteria |
|--|
| Benefits of the project outcomes |
| The level of industry participation in the project (e.g. management input of industry partner) |
| Evidence of existing industry engagement, and/or plan for future industry collaboration. |
| Evidence of ability to deliver project outcomes |
| Evidence of co-investment or the potential of future co-investment |