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**Department of Innovation  
Industry, Science and Research**

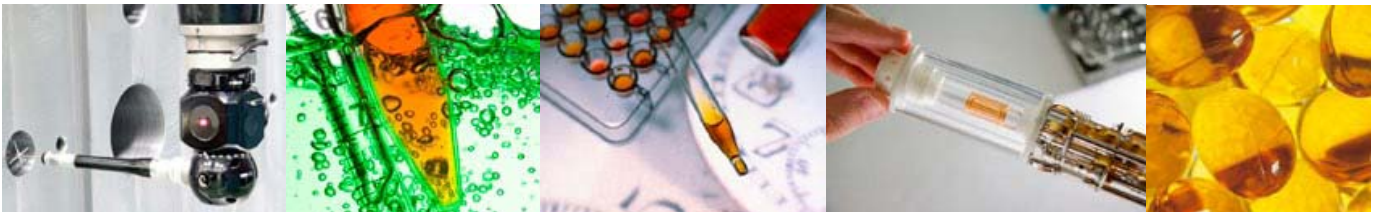


**Department of Science & Technology**

**Ministry of Science & Technology**

# **AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND**

**GUIDELINES FOR ROUND ONE 2010/11 OF THE AUSTRALIA-  
INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND (AISRF)  
GRAND CHALLENGE COMPONENT**



**GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPONENT:**

- **THE GRAND CHALLENGE FUND**

# AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND

## GUIDELINES FOR ROUND ONE 2010/11 OF THE AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND (AISRF)

FOR THE COMPONENT:

- The Grand Challenge Fund

AUSTRALIAN CONTACTS

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# PART 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 About the AISRF

The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) is a platform for bilateral collaboration in science, jointly managed and funded by the governments of India and Australia.

Since its establishment in 2006, the AISRF has supported collaborative, leading-edge research between scientists in India and Australia across a range of agreed priority areas. It has also helped to build linkages between premier research and educational institutions in both countries.

The AISRF is Australia's largest fund dedicated to bilateral collaboration in science with any country. The Australian Government has committed a total of AUD 65 million over the current life of the Fund, with the Government of India providing matching funding. It is also one of India's largest sources of support for international collaboration in science.

The AISRF consists of different components, each of which has specific objectives, application processes and funding rules. Currently, the components are:

- the Indo-Australian Science and Technology Fund;
- the Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund; and
- the Grand Challenge Fund.

Further information on the AISRF is available at [www.innovation.gov.au/AISRF](http://www.innovation.gov.au/AISRF) and [www.dst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in).

## 1.2 About the Grand Challenge Fund

These guidelines apply to the *Grand Challenge Fund* component of the AISRF.

The Grand Challenge Fund is designed to support collaborative projects of significant scale and ambition that will deliver practical solutions to some of the key challenges shared by both countries.

The fund is open to applications from consortia of one or more eligible partners from each of Australia and India for joint research projects in specified priority themes. Funding of up to AUD 3 million over the course of the project, which would typically run for three years and for no longer than four years, will be available to the Australian consortium. The Government of India will provide matching support to the Indian participants.

To be competitive, applicants will need to demonstrate that:

- their proposed research would make a significant and original contribution relevant to a challenge shared by Australia and India;
- this contribution would be utilised by an end user (a company, government agency, non-government organisation or other organisation), for either commercial benefit or public good ('clear path to end use');
- collaboration between consortium members would be genuine and necessary to achieving expected outcomes; and
- that the project leaders are capable of managing projects of this scale and complexity.

The *Grand Challenge Fund* is jointly managed by Australia's Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology (DST).

### 1.3 Priority themes

The first round of the *Grand Challenge Fund* is open to applications that address challenges in the themes of “food and water security” and “the environment”.

Given the complex nature of the challenges in these themes, multidisciplinary approaches are encouraged.

All applications within the two nominated themes will be considered, but proposals that fall within the subthemes identified below are particularly encouraged.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Food and water security</b>	<b>The environment</b>
<b>Subtheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Integrated water resource management</li><li>▪ Potable water supply</li><li>▪ Plant and animal sciences</li><li>▪ Dryland agriculture</li><li>▪ Post-harvest management</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Regional climate modelling</li><li>▪ Marine</li><li>▪ Bioremediation</li></ul>

# PART 2: ELIGIBILITY

## 2.1 Eligibility for funding

To be eligible for funding under the *Grand Challenge Fund* the consortium must:

- include at least one Australian and one Indian 'eligible organisation' (see *Section 2.2*); and
- seek support for a collaborative research project in one of the priority themes (see *Section 1.3*).

*India specific criterion:*

- Indian consortium members must lodge one hard copy of the expression of interest (see *Section 5.1*) and, if invited to proceed to Stage 2 (see *Section 6.1*), three copies of the full application with DST.

## 2.2 Eligible organisations

To be eligible to apply, organisations must fall within one of the categories specified below. DIISR and DST will check each EOI to ensure that it meets eligibility requirements.

Categories of Australian eligible organisations are:

- Australian tertiary education institutions;
- Australian Cooperative Research Centres;
- Australian Commonwealth-funded research organisations;
- Australian State/Territory-funded research organisations;
- Australian public research companies;
- Australian private research companies;
- Australian not for profit research organisations; or
- Other Australian incorporated entities.

The following are considered to be eligible Indian organisations:

- Indian educational institutions;
- UGC recognised universities/deemed universities;
- Indian academic institutes or national research and development laboratories/institutes;
- Indian public sector research agencies; or
- Indian private, not for profit, research organisations.

*Note: participation by Indian companies, industry and other end users is encouraged, but the Government of India will only enter into a funding agreement with the eligible organisations listed above.*

# PART 3: FUNDING

## 3.1 Duration and quantum of funding

Grand Challenge projects will typically run for three years and for no longer than four years.

The Australian Government will provide up to AUD 3 million to the Australian consortium over the course of the project to support approved, eligible activities. The Government of India will provide matching funding to the Indian consortium.

Support will not be provided for activities undertaken or expenses incurred prior to the execution of a funding agreement.

## 3.2 Eligible activities and expenses

Funding for activities carried out by the Australian consortium will generally be provided by the Australian Government. Likewise, funding for activities carried out by Indian consortium members will generally be provided by the Government of India.

The specific activities each government will support differ. The following table sets out the expenses for which Australian and Indian consortium members can seek funding.

Note that grants are intended to contribute towards the cost of eligible activities and are not intended to fully reimburse expenditure.

Eligible expenses for Australian consortium members	Eligible expenses for Indian consortium members
<b>International Travel:</b> International economy class return airfares for Australian researchers travelling to India to participate in collaborative research projects and workshops ( <i>international airfares for Indian researchers travelling to Australia will be met by the Government of India</i> ).	<b>International Travel:</b> International economy excursion class return airfares for Indian researchers travelling to Australia to participate in collaborative research projects and workshops ( <i>international airfares for Australian researchers travelling to India will be met by the Australian Government</i> ).
<b>Living Expenses:</b> Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Indian researchers travelling to Australia to participate in collaborative research projects and workshops, to a maximum of AUD 300 per person per day, or AUD 4,000 per person per month, whichever is the lesser amount ( <i>Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Australian researchers travelling to India will be met by the Government of India, and may be reviewed from time to time inline with changes to the cost of living</i> ).	<b>Living Expenses:</b> Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Australian researchers travelling to India to participate in collaborative research projects and workshops to a maximum of INR 1000 per person per day or INR 25,000 per person per month whichever is the lesser amount, and guesthouse accommodation charges ( <i>Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Indian researchers travelling to Australia will be met by the Australian Government, and may be reviewed from time to time inline with changes to the cost of living</i> ).
<b>Domestic Travel:</b> Domestic travel and accommodation for Australian participants of bilateral project meetings and workshops held in Australia.	<b>Domestic Travel:</b> Domestic travel and accommodation for Indian participants of bilateral project meetings and workshops held in India.

<p><b>Salaries:</b></p> <p>Salaries and on-costs for Australian personnel/researchers employed specifically for the collaboration (this includes postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers and a project manager). <i>The occupant of this position must reside in Australia. The maximum amount of funding provided per annum for each postdoctoral fellowship and postgraduate stipend in Australia must be consistent with prescribed Australian Research Council notional amounts (current ARC salary and stipend information can be accessed from: <a href="http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/salaries">www.arc.gov.au/applicants/salaries</a>).</i></p>	<p><b>Manpower</b></p> <p>Manpower-salaries and on-costs for Indian researchers employed specifically for the project (this includes Junior Research Fellow/Research Associate etc) as per DST norms.</p>
<p><b>Workshop Expenses:</b></p> <p>Project meeting and workshop-specific expenses for bilateral meetings or workshops held in Australia or India, including venue hire, workshop organiser fees and printing of workshop materials.</p>	<p><b>Workshop Expenses:</b></p> <p>Workshop-specific expenses for bilateral workshops held in India or Australia.</p>
<p><b>Consumables and Equipment:</b></p> <p>Project-specific bench fees, consumables, freight and access to facilities.</p>	<p><b>Consumables and Equipment:</b></p> <p>Consumables and equipment.</p>
<p><b>Prototyping and Commercialisation Expenses:</b></p> <p>Activities including prototyping, commercialisation, product design and testing, initial manufacture, and other translational activities.</p>	<p><b>Prototyping and Commercialisation Expenses:</b></p> <p>Activities including prototyping, commercialisation, product design and testing, initial manufacture, and other translational activities.</p>
<p><b>Patent Expenses:</b></p> <p>Contribution towards costs associated with the protection or patenting of intellectual property.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>ICT Hardware and Software Expenses:</b></p> <p>Project specific costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licenses) and ICT hardware.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Capital Expenses:</b></p> <p>Project specific capital expenditure for the purchase of specialist equipment or instruments that are essential to the project.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Other Expenses:</b></p> <p>Other project-specific expenses – subject to negotiation with DIISR and considered in relation to the value of the projected benefit to Australia and India.</p>	<p><b>Other Expenses:</b></p> <p>Other project-specific expenses – subject to negotiation with DST and considered in relation to the value of the projected benefit to India and Australia.</p>

### 3.3 Costs not eligible for support

The following activities/costs will not be funded:

Expenses not eligible for support for Australian consortium members	Expenses not eligible for support for Indian consortium members
Any cost incurred prior to the execution of a funding agreement with the Australian Government.	Any cost incurred prior to the execution of a funding agreement with the Government of India.
Costs that duplicate the in-kind support from the applicant or other participants in the project.	Costs that duplicate the in-kind support from the applicant or other participants in the project.
Capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers not directly related to the project.	Capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers.
Costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licenses) and ICT hardware (unless it can be used <u>only</u> for the project).	Costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licenses) and ICT hardware (unless it can be used <u>only</u> for the project).
Administration/overhead and infrastructure costs.	Administration and infrastructure costs.
Australian salaries and salary related expenses for existing staff.	Indian project manager's salary and salaries for existing staff, including salary related expenses.
Staff recruitment and relocation costs.	Staff recruitment and relocation costs.
International travel and living expenses for undergraduate and Masters students.	International travel and living expenses for undergraduate and Masters students.
Costs associated with the internal preparation of finance and audit statements.	Costs associated with the protection or patenting of intellectual property.
Debt financing.	Debt financing.
	Costs associated with the internal preparation of finance and audit statements.

### 3.4 Other government funding

AISRF grants are not intended to duplicate funding provided by other Australian or Indian government sources.

As part of the application process, applicants may be asked to provide details on funding sought or obtained from other Australian or Indian government sources, for example the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Research Council (ARC) or the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology, or Ministry of Environment and Forests.

### 3.5 Cash and in-kind support from other sources

Applicants will be assessed on the level of support that they can procure from both Australian and Indian organisations (including the applicant's own organisation) for the collaborative research project (*see Part 6 – Stage 2 Full Application*).

Contributions to the project may be in cash and/or in-kind. The contributions may be from the applicant's own organisation, or other sources, for example, collaborative participants, industry contributions or contributions from other funding sources such as the ARC.

In-kind contributions will be required to be detailed and costed. In-kind costs must be directly related to costs of delivering activities of the project and can include salaries of staff for the time they are involved and other costs incurred for the duration of these activities.

There is no requirement for applicants to demonstrate that cash and/or in-kind contributions match or are more than the funding sought from governments.

### 3.6 GST and the project budget

*For Australian applicants only:*

The Australian Government's contribution of up to AUD 3 million will be GST exclusive. The Australian applicant's project budget must include detailed costing (GST exclusive) of eligible activities to be funded.

An applicant receiving Commonwealth funding may incur tax obligations. All applicants should seek independent professional advice on any tax implications. DIISR does not provide advice on tax.

Where GST is payable, the Australian Government will increase the funds payable to the funding recipient by the amount of GST that is payable for the purposes of the GST Act. DIISR will not provide funding to cover any amount of GST incurred by an applicant where they are entitled to claim any related input tax credits.

# PART 4: HOW TO APPLY

## 4.1 Overview of the application process

The *Grand Challenge Fund* will use a two stage application process.

**Stage 1** (see *Section 5.1*): DIISR and DST will issue a joint call for expressions of interest (EOI). Consortia of eligible organisations (see *Section 2.2 - Eligible Organisations*) complete and submit a joint online EOI. The Indian consortium members must also provide hard copies of the completed joint EOI to DST.

*Note: applicants are not required to have fully developed proposals at the time of submission of their EOI.*

Eligible EOIs will be assessed on a competitive basis by an independent joint peer review panel appointed by DIISR and DST.

Based on the results of this peer review process, DIISR and DST will develop a short list of applicants whose EOIs most strongly satisfy the assessment criteria. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit applications for Stage 2.

**Stage 2** (see *Section 6.1*): Applicants invited to proceed to Stage 2 will be asked to submit a fully developed and detailed proposal that addresses additional assessment criteria. Applicants may also be asked to address questions that arise during the initial EOI assessment.

Stage 2 applications will be assessed by the independent joint peer review panel against the assessment criteria, taking into account all of the information provided in Stages 1 and 2 and any additional information requested. DIISR and DST may also request interviews with short listed applicants as part of the Stage 2 assessment.

Drawing on the panel's assessments, DIISR and DST will consult internally and with each other to determine the final round outcomes.

## 4.2 Indicative timeline

The call for expressions of interest under Round One of the *Grand Challenge Fund* will be open for 8 weeks. The round will open at 0900 (Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time) on **29 November 2010**, and close at 1600 (Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time) on **28 January 2011**.

The table below summarises the steps and indicative timing for the assessment process for *Grand Challenge Fund* Round One:

Stage 1 EOIs assessed and ranked by independent peer review. DIISR and DST determine which EOI applicants will be invited to submit Stage 2 applications.	4 weeks
Stage 2 – Full application submission period.	8 weeks
Stage 2 – Full applications assessed and ranked.	6 weeks
Joint public announcements made by Australian and Indian Governments on successful applications. DIISR and DST begin contract negotiations with successful applicants.	TBA
Projects commence.	TBA

Please note that the timeline is a guide only and is subject to change. Please refer to the DIISR and DST websites for notification of any changes ([www.innovation.gov.au/AISRF](http://www.innovation.gov.au/AISRF) and [www.dst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in)).

# PART 5: STAGE 1 – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## 5.1 Overview

To submit an expression of interest, applicants must complete and submit the following:

- Stage 1 EOI form (completed online);
- Claims against Stage 1 assessment criteria (details below);
- Curricula vitae of no more than 4 pages for each of the key personnel who will undertake the project;
- Indicative Australian and Indian budgets (templates for the budgets will be available within the online application form); and
- Statements of intent from all consortium members affirming their intention to participate in the project.

**A hard copy of all the documents listed above should be submitted to DST.**

Only those EOI applicants who are shortlisted and invited to continue further in the process will be asked to submit Stage 2 full applications.

## 5.2 Stage 1 Assessment Criteria

Applicants should address each criterion. Do not use technical jargon or refer to other sources such as websites for additional information. Acronyms or abbreviations should be spelt out in full in the first instance. Some criteria require supporting documentation to be uploaded. Guidance on responding to each criterion is provided below.

<b>Stage 1 – Assessment Criteria:</b>	
<b>A.</b>	<b><i>Significance and relevance</i></b>
	Describe how the proposed research would make a significant and original contribution relevant to a major challenge shared by both countries in one of the identified themes, with reference to recent international progress in the field of research.
<b>B.</b>	<b><i>Outcomes and clear path to end use</i></b>
	Describe the expected outcomes and likely impact of the proposed collaboration including: the expected application and/or end uses of the research (which may be for commercial benefit and/or public good); and the tangible economic, environmental, social or other benefits for Australia and India.  As part of this Criterion applicants are required to upload indicative budgets for the Australian and Indian teams.
<b>C.</b>	<b><i>Research and innovation capability</i></b>
	Outline the research capability of the project's Australian and Indian partners and participants, demonstrated by, but not limited to, evidence of the Australian and Indian partners' academic awards and citations (as contained in submitted CVs), or other measures of research or innovation excellence.

<b>D.</b>	<b><i>Collaboration</i></b>
	<p>Explain each member’s contribution to the research effort and why collaboration between Australia and India is important to achieving the outcomes listed above. Describe also how consortium members will ensure they collaborate effectively over the course of the project.</p> <p>As part of this Criterion applicants are required to upload statements of intent from all consortium members. Statements of intent should be in the form of letters from participating organisations and must be prepared on official letterhead and be signed by a person who is authorised to commit such support.</p>

# PART 6: STAGE 2 – FULL APPLICATION

## 6.1 Stage 2 Assessment Criteria

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit applications for Stage 2. This fully developed proposal will need to provide a detailed project plan that is consistent with the information provided in the expression of interest and a detailed budget which does not exceed the amount of funding sought at the EOI stage.

Applicants should address each criterion. Do not use technical jargon or refer to other sources such as websites for additional information. Acronyms or abbreviations should be spelt out in full in the first instance. Some criteria require supporting documentation to be uploaded. Guidance on responding to each criterion is provided below.

The full application should demonstrate the merit of the proposed activity and address the assessment criteria below.

<b>Stage 2 – Assessment Criteria:</b>	
<b>A.</b>	<b><i>Approach and methodology</i></b>
	Detail how you propose to undertake the project, including the conceptual framework, design and methods showing that these are adequately developed, well integrated and appropriate to the aims of the proposed research collaboration.
<b>B.</b>	<b><i>Detailed project plan and budget</i></b>
	Provide a detailed project plan and budget listing costed eligible activities. The project plan must be submitted as mature research plans ready for implementation.
<b>C.</b>	<b><i>Organisational support</i></b>
	Demonstrate the level of support for the collaborative research project from all consortium members (including the applicant's own organisation). <b>Supporting documentation must be provided to confirm and demonstrate claims.</b> <i>Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to, letters from a suitably authorised person demonstrating and clearly articulating an organisation's support for the project, be it financial, in-kind or through a collaborative research arrangement. See clause 3.5 for more information on cash and in-kind commitments.</i>
<b>D.</b>	<b><i>Role of key personnel</i></b>
	Describe the role, responsibilities and contributions of the key personnel who will work on the project, including which staff will take responsibility for the project's management and the proportion of each staff member's time devoted to the project.  Describe the role and division of work between the Australian and Indian participants, how collaboration will help achieve the intended outcomes and how consortium members will ensure they collaborate effectively over the course of the project.

<b>E.</b>	<b><i>Governance and IP</i></b>
	Provide details of governance arrangements, including how the partners will ensure the project runs to time and within budget, manage significant risks and treat intellectual property.
<b>F.</b>	<b><i>Other information requested</i></b>
	Applicants may be asked to respond to specific questions that may arise during the Stage 1 assessment.
<b>G.</b>	<b><i>References cited</i></b>
	Include a list of all references/documents cited in support of claims made against these criteria.

## 6.2 Conditions relating to Stage 2 Assessment Criteria

The above criteria provide the basis for assessment of an application. However, applicants may be asked to provide additional information to clarify issues raised during the assessment process. DIISR and DST may also seek the applicant's permission to obtain further advice from third parties if appropriate.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all relevant claims and documentation as required in the Assessment Criteria by the close of Stage 2.

Assessment of applications may include financial viability checks on the applicant.

## 6.3 Eligibility checks and assessment of applications

All EOIs and Full applications received by the notified closing dates will be checked by DIISR and DST to determine whether they meet the eligibility criteria at *Part 2*.

An AISRF advisory panel, appointed by the two governments, will assess Stage 2 applications against assessment criteria at Parts 5 and 6.

In addition to assessment by the AISRF advisory panel, an application may at the absolute discretion of DIISR and/or DST be assessed by external assessors. Assessors may be drawn from a range of organisations to reduce the potential for conflicts of interest. Applications will be assessed against the criteria set out in these guidelines, and the reports by the assessors may include written comment.

Drawing on the recommendations of the panel, the Indian and Australian Governments will negotiate on the final set of projects to be supported under the round. The Governments' joint decision will be final.

The contact officer listed in the application will be notified in writing of the outcome of the assessment process. The list of successful applications will also be published on DST's and DIISR's websites.

## 6.4 Conflicts of interest

DIISR and DST have procedures for managing organisational and personal conflicts of interest experienced by members of the advisory panel, DIISR and DST staff, and other assessors. Conflicts of interest will be managed in accordance with these procedures.

# PART 7: AFTER THE DECISION

## 7.1 Successful applicants

DST and DIISR will write to successful Indian and Australian applicants advising them of the level of funding they will offer to support the project. Applicants must then enter into a funding agreement that sets out the terms and conditions associated with the AISRF funding.

The successful application will form the basis of the funding agreement and associated schedules which must include details of the project activities, budget, phases and performance indicators for project reporting.

*For Indian applicants:*

All funding recipients are required to manage their AISRF funded project in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the sanction order. Compliance with these terms and conditions is monitored by DST via the submission of progress reports along with statement of expenditure and utilisation certificate and a visit to the project implementation institute.

*For Australian applicants:*

DIISR will be the last signatory to the agreement and has no obligation to provide successful applicants with any funding until the funding agreement has been executed by both parties. **Successful applicants must not start work on the project until the funding agreement is in place.**

All funding recipients are required to manage their AISRF funded project in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the funding agreement. Compliance with these terms and conditions is monitored by DIISR via the submission of reports on the progress towards and completion of contracted activities and the acquittal of Commonwealth funding on approved expenses.

[Information for the Management of AISRF Projects](#) is a document that has been developed to assist funding recipients in complying with their project and financial reporting obligations. It is available via the link above or on the AISRF website at [www.innovation.gov.au/aisrf](http://www.innovation.gov.au/aisrf), under *Project Reports*. Included in the document are report templates designed to assist Project Managers with the content and presentation of information that is required in project and financial reports. Applicants may wish to read this document before accepting an AISRF grant to ensure that reporting and financial obligations can be met.

## 7.2 Ethics and research practices

*For Indian applicants:*

Government of India requirements relating to ethical research principles will apply.

*For Australian applicants:*

The NHMRC web site [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au) provides a series of publications which outline principles of ethical conduct in research. All proposals and funded research projects must, unless otherwise approved by DIISR, conform to the principles outlined in the following and their successor documents:

- NHMRC/ARC/Universities Australia Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007);
- As applicable, the NHMRC/ARC/Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007); and

- As applicable, codes on animal research promulgated by the NHMRC.

If there is any conflict between a successor document and its predecessor, then the successor document prevails to the extent of any inconsistency.

### 7.3 Evaluation of the program

Successful applicants will, under the terms of the funding agreement, be required to participate in a broader evaluation of the program if requested to do so by DIISR or DST. This evaluation, if conducted, may seek to identify the degree to which the program is meeting its objective.

***The following two clauses apply to Australian applicants only:***

### 7.4 Unsuccessful applicants

Unsuccessful applicants may seek verbal feedback from DIISR (contact the AISRF information line on (02) 6276 1747). Feedback will only be given to the Contact Officer or Project Manager listed in the application. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply in future rounds but should refer to the guidelines released for the respective round when applying.

### 7.5 Feedback and complaints

*For Australian applicants only:*

Feedback on the AISRF is welcomed and can be submitted by email to [aisrf@innovation.gov.au](mailto:aisrf@innovation.gov.au) or by phone via the AISRF information line to (02) 6276 1747.

If you have a question or complaint concerning the AISRF program assessment and or/decision, the AISRF information line is the first point of contact on (02) 6276 1747.

If you are not satisfied with the complaint resolution procedure you can contact:

General Manager  
International Science  
Science and Infrastructure Division  
Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research  
GPO Box 9839  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6213 6151  
Email: [Mary.Finlay@innovation.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Finlay@innovation.gov.au)

You may decide to lodge a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman. There is no fee for lodging a complaint. The Ombudsman will conduct an independent investigation into your concerns. You should note that the Ombudsman usually prefers that you first work through relevant internal processes before complaining about a decision.

The Ombudsman has offices in all States and Territories. You can contact the Ombudsman by telephone on 1300 362 072 or by writing to the relevant contact address specified on the Ombudsman's website at [www.ombudsman.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au).

# PART 8: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## 8.1 Governance arrangements and intellectual property rights

Applicants must address the management of Intellectual Property (IP) in their applications. This includes the use of IP in the project and the proposed ownership of IP rights generated by the project, as well as strategies for protecting each party's interests. Protocols or contracts to protect IP rights will be signed in accordance with laws and regulations prevailing in Australia and India and will provide for:

- adequate and effective protection and equitable distribution of any benefits from IP rights created in or resulting directly from cooperative activities (foreground IP rights);
- ownership of foreground IP rights to be allocated on the basis of respective contribution and equitable interests;
- terms and conditions for the commercialisation and other forms of dissemination of the foreground IP rights; and
- adequate and effective protection of IP rights provided by the organisations, enterprises and institutions prior to or in the course of such cooperative activities, for example the licensing or utilisation of such IP rights on equitable terms (background IP rights).

## 8.2 Discrepancies, ambiguities, inconsistencies, errors or omissions in an application

The Australian Government and the Government of India will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure by an applicant to comply with the guidelines, or arising from any ambiguity, discrepancy, error or omission contained in an application.

Applicants discovering any material discrepancy, ambiguity, inconsistency, error or omission in their application, must **immediately** bring it to the attention of DST and DIISR by email to [aisrf@innovation.gov.au](mailto:aisrf@innovation.gov.au) and [nvasishta@nic.in](mailto:nvasishta@nic.in).

DIISR and DST may request further information from an applicant and allow an applicant to remedy any discrepancies, ambiguities, inconsistencies, errors or omissions in an application at any time, including after the round closing date. DIISR and DST reserve the right to consider new information regarding matters referred to in the original application at any time, including after the round closing date.

DIISR and DST reserve the right to allow applicants to correct errors or omissions in submitted applications. On these matters, joint decisions reached by DIISR and DST will be final. No correspondence will be entered into in relation to the decision other than to inform the applicant of the decision.

***Australian applicants: please note that giving false or misleading information to the Commonwealth Government is a serious offence.***

***The remaining clauses apply to Australian applicants only:***

### 8.3 Freedom of Information (FOI)

All documents created or held by DIISR with regard to the AISRF are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Unless a document falls under an exemption provision, it will be made available to the general public if requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

All FOI requests are to be referred to the FOI Coordinator, Legal Section, Corporate Strategy Branch, Corporate Division, in DIISR's National Office. The FOI Coordinator may be contacted via email at [FOI@innovation.gov.au](mailto:FOI@innovation.gov.au).

Decisions regarding requests for access will be made by an authorised officer in accordance with the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

### 8.4 The Privacy Act 1988

DIISR, its contractors and agents are bound by the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988*, which prevents personal information from being disclosed without appropriate consent, unless the disclosure is required or authorised by law. Section 14 of the *Privacy Act 1988* contains the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) which prescribe the rules for handling personal information.

Complaints about breaches of privacy should be referred to the Privacy Officer, Legal Section, Corporate Strategy Branch, Corporate Division, in DIISR's National Office. The Privacy Officer may be contacted via email at [privacy@innovation.gov.au](mailto:privacy@innovation.gov.au). Privacy complaints can be made directly to the Federal Privacy Commissioner. However the Federal Privacy Commissioner prefers that the department be given an opportunity to deal with the complaint in the first instance. Visit [www.privacy.gov.au](http://www.privacy.gov.au) for more information.

### 8.5 Important Information

The information provided with or pursuant to these guidelines represents DIISR's present intentions. DIISR can change, without notice and at any time, any or all, of the information provided with or pursuant to the guidelines. In addition, DIISR is under no obligation to proceed with anything described in these guidelines, including proceeding with the Stage 2 application process.

Nothing in these guidelines creates a funding agreement or contract between DIISR and the applicant. DIISR accepts no responsibility for any of their action(s) and/or any action(s) any applicants may take, or any cost(s) any applicant may incur, as a result of any information provided by DIISR in the context of these guidelines.

Each applicant is assumed to have read and understood all relevant information associated with the guidelines and is satisfied that their Stage 1 EOI and Stage 2 full application are complete and correct at the time of submission.