



# Thailand-Australia Venture Exchange Program

## Sustainable Agrifood Systems Development

Program Guidelines for Australian applicants only

<b>Application Opening Date</b>	01.07.2026
<b>Application Closing Date</b>	As advertised on <a href="http://www.csiro.au/vep-th">www.csiro.au/vep-th</a>
<b>Administering entity</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
<b>Enquiries</b>	If you have questions or need assistance, contact us at <a href="mailto:vep@csiro.au">vep@csiro.au</a>
<b>Date Guidelines released</b>	Version 1.0, 01.07.2026
<b>Type of program opportunity</b>	Targeted competitive

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## Thailand-Australia Venture Exchange Program Guidelines version history

Document reference	Date	Update

# 1 Introduction

These guidelines (“Guidelines”) contain information for applicants regarding the Thailand-Australia Venture Exchange Program, (“VEP”, the “Program”)

You are advised to read these guidelines and sample Participation Agreement before submitting an application. This document sets out:

- the purpose and key details of the Program
- the eligibility, application and selection criteria and process
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the Program.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time. The updated version will be published online at [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th).

The Program Guidelines version available when successfully selected organisations (“Participant Organisations”) enter into a binding agreement (“Participation Agreement”), will apply to that Participant Organisation.

We have defined key terms used in these Guidelines in the glossary in Section 9.

## 2 About the Thailand-Australia Venture Exchange Program

The Thailand-Australia Innovation in Food for Sustainability (IF4S) Partnership is a strategic collaboration between Thailand and Australia to advance sustainable food systems through science and technology.

The Thailand-Australia Venture Exchange Program is sponsored by the Australian Government’s Southeast Asia and Australia Government Partnerships program, and managed by CSIRO, Australia’s national science agency, in partnership with the Government of Thailand through the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and the Research University Network (RUN) Thailand

This partnership seeks to define strategic priorities and create a platform for policy dialogue on food innovation between the two nations. It aims to facilitate collaborative food research and support innovative agrifood ventures, addressing shared national challenges to promote health, sustainability, and resilience within food systems.

Within the broader IF4S Partnership, the Thailand-Australia Venture Exchange Program was established to strengthen bilateral research and commercial partnerships between Thai and Australian organisations in areas such as future proteins, natural ingredients, and food waste. Its goal is to address food security challenges and foster new industry development.

The VEP provides selected startups and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), known as Participant Organisations, with opportunities to improve their cross-border collaboration and commercialisation skills, as well as facilitated connections and facility visits, where relevant, to accelerate their readiness for the market.

The VEP seeks to:

- encourage startup, SME and research collaborations to stimulate food, and future protein industry growth and the acceleration of sustainability and food nutrition

- encourage new, world-leading knowledge and technology in food and future proteins that can be translated into marketing insights, commercial projects, new companies and development for the agriculture and food industry
- stimulate growth in the agrifood industries and accelerate improvements in sustainability and nutrition.

The Program supports Participant Organisations and local innovation ecosystem stakeholders to:

- explore reciprocal country research capabilities and commercial market opportunities
- develop market readiness strategy/ies including research and development and or pilot projects
- engage across the value chain in both countries to identify synergies and build partnerships
- participate in a bilateral program with fellow entrepreneurs who share similar focus areas, promoting knowledge exchange and collaborative learning.

Through intensive coaching, mentoring and market familiarisation visits, participating organisations will be supported to:

- explore new reciprocal market opportunities
- develop go-to-market strategies and commercial opportunities
- engage across the value chain in both countries to identify synergies and build partnerships.

**These Guidelines pertain to Australian startups and SMEs only.**

Thai organisations will participate in the same Program Activities described in these Guidelines, albeit with Australian specific target market learnings. Thai organisations will be managed by the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) through Food Innopolis.

Thai applicants with specific queries should refer to information on:

- [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th)
- or contact Food Innopolis via email on [foodinnopolisaccelerator@gmail.com](mailto:foodinnopolisaccelerator@gmail.com)

## 2.1 Program Delivery

The VEP will be delivered across three rounds of twelve weeks with all rounds to be completed by 31 December 2027 (Completion Date). Up to seven Participating Organisation will participate in each Round, along with an equal number of Thai organisations. To participate in the Program, successfully selected applicants will be asked to enter into a Participation Agreement with CSIRO.

Participant Organisations will appoint at least two Nominated Participant/s such as co-founders, owners, or executives who will participate in the Program. At least one of the two Nominated Participants is expected to attend and actively participate in the following “Program Activities”:

- Curriculum and learning through online self-paced learning materials, virtual sessions and/or in-person sessions that cover topics across the agrifood landscape in both Thailand and Australia, overseas entry, cross border communications, pilot planning and execution, investment and financial management and legal.
- 1:1 facilitation and coaching from Program Facilitator(s) and Expert(s)-in-Residence.
- Market and Industry Group, consisting of Program Facilitator, Expert-in-Residence, and representatives from industry - convenes twice during the Program – at weeks 3 and 12, for 1.5-hour online sessions.

- Two in-person immersion weeks (due to current travel considerations related to global events, the specific dates for the immersion weeks will be confirmed in due course):
  - funded economy class return airfare and accommodation for up to 5 nights per immersion week for one representative per Participant Organisation. Travel is specified in section 6.
- Facilitated connections: coordinated site and facility visits and connections including where relevant to potential research organisations, ag and food businesses, incubators, accelerators, government agencies and investors.

## 2.2 Program key dates

The application portal will open on 1 July 2026 and will remain open until the third-round application closing date and time as advertised on [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th).

Applications must be submitted before the closing date and time for each round. Late applications may be accepted at the discretion of the Program Delegate.

Closing dates for all three rounds will be published on [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th).

Key dates will be Successfully selected Participant Organisations will participate in Program Activities for 12 weeks. Following this period, an evaluation period of 12 months will commence.

# 3 Program eligibility criteria

## 3.1 Who is eligible to apply for the Program?

We cannot consider your Program application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria. To be considered, you must meet all the following:

- be an organisation that is either
  - incorporated in Australia with an ABN and ACN; or
  - an incorporated trustee applying on behalf of a trust
- have less than 200 employees
- have or are actively developing a solution that aligns with one or more of the Challenge Statements below:

### Challenge Statements

#### Sustainable agrifood systems development

##### 1. Can you improve the scalability and reduce the cost of functional and novel food, feed, and ingredients by adding value while maintaining food safety?

Although significant research focuses on developing novel food, feed, and ingredients and upcycling by-products from agriculture and food processing, many related technologies remain uncompetitive. Greater innovation and collaboration across the value chain are essential to creating cost-effective, safe pathways for novel and functional food, feed, and ingredients.

**2. Can you improve the affordability, desirability, and scalability of nutrient-rich functional and novel foods that support consumer health and wellbeing?**

Consumers often struggle to make healthy food choices due to the prevalence of affordable high-calorie, low-nutrient foods. To enhance the health and wellbeing of the growing and ageing population across the Asia-Pacific, innovative food products and ingredients that provide better nutrition while meeting food safety standards and consumer expectations for taste, texture, and price are needed.

**3. Can you use local produce and knowledge to create functional and novel food and ingredients while respecting Indigenous or ethnic groups and returning value to local communities?**

Local communities offer valuable resources for developing novel food ingredients. However, additional research and demonstration projects are needed to establish scalable use cases and gather evidence for market access. Note: “Indigenous” in this context refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP), as well as ethnic groups in Thailand.

**4. Can you facilitate better consumer acceptance and trust of functional and novel food, feed and ingredients?**

Consumer concerns about the safety, naturalness, and ethical issues, along with limited awareness of their health benefits, hinder the commercialisation of future food products. Addressing these barriers requires improving the communication strategies and the lag time between marketing and effective market positioning, and efforts to encourage the adoption of functional and novel foods.

**5. Can you optimise aquaculture systems through innovation in feed?**

As demand for aquaculture protein grows, there is increasing pressure to develop climate-resilient, cost-effective feed systems, sustainable aquaculture practices, and industry solutions. Scientific innovation in cost-effective feed is essential to prevent disease and enhance fish and prawns’ quality and growth rates.

**6. Anything we’ve missed? Tell us why your technology or solution aligns to sustainable agrifood systems development.**

We invite applications for solutions, technologies, or products that support the development of sustainable agrifood systems and are not specifically addressed in the detailed challenge statements.

## 3.2 Who is not eligible to apply for the Program?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an individual
- a partnership
- an unincorporated association
- a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- a non-corporate Commonwealth entity

- an employer of 100 or more employees that has not complied with the Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)
- an organisation included on the National Redress Scheme's website list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- any organisation that does not satisfy the eligibility criteria specified in section 2.1.

## 4 How to apply to the Program

Before submitting an application, you must read and understand these Program Guidelines, paying close attention to Eligibility and Selection Criteria (section 2.1), and the sample Participation Agreement online at [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th).

To submit an application you must:

- complete and submit your application online using the Good Grants platform
- address all eligibility and selection criteria
- provide all the information requested
- review privacy and other application consents specific to the Program
- submit your application by the published closing date/time.

Applications must contain all the information necessary for assessment without the need for further written or oral explanation, or reference to additional documentation, unless requested by the Program Delegate.

Personal Information is collected, including sensitive information of Nominated Participants for the purposes of delivering the Program, see section 8.4, Privacy.

Applicants should not disclose commercial Confidential Information in the application. Participant Organisations should take all reasonable steps to ensure they do not disclose material which would undermine their ability to secure patent or other protection for Participant Organisation Confidential Information, or which would jeopardise or hinder their commercial activities.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information, we may not progress your application. If you find any false or misleading information after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at [vep@csiro.au](mailto:vep@csiro.au).

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents. You will receive an acknowledgement that your application has been submitted from Good Grants which will be sent to your email address registered in the portal.

### 4.1 Questions during application and selection

If you have any questions during the application and selection period, contact [vep@csiro.au](mailto:vep@csiro.au). We will respond to emailed questions within three working days.

## 4.2 Timing of the Program

The Program will run from 1 July 2026 to 31 December 2027. All Rounds must be delivered by 31 December 2027. These Guidelines will be updated if any extension is given to the Program end date.

You can submit an application via the Good Grants platform at any time up until the closing date for Round 3. Applications for specific Rounds must be submitted by the closing dates advertised on [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th).

## 4.3 Timing of program application and application processes

To be considered for a specific Round, you must submit your application before the closing date as advertised on [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th). Late application acceptance is at the discretion of the Program Delegate.

Activity	Timeframe
Applications open	From 01.07.2026
Assessment of applications	3 weeks
Outcomes of selection process and issue of Participation Agreement	7 days
Onboarding and Program Activities	12 weeks

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity per Round

# 5 Assessment and Selection

We assess all eligible applications against the assessment criteria and compare them to other eligible applications. Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage. We then provide advice to the Program Delegate on the merits of each application. The Program Delegate decides which application will be invited to interview.

The application form will ask you a series of questions around the assessment criteria as listed in section 5.1. The assessment criteria apply to all rounds, and you must address all the assessment criteria listed below in the application. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion and competitively rank against other submitted applications. The level of detail included in your application should reflect what you want the assessors to understand about your application.

Assessors may request further information from you, by email or phone, if required, and may seek additional information about an application from independent technical experts and other government agencies where appropriate.

Proceeding to interview will be by invitation only. During the interview, you will speak with up to four assessors and may be requested to provide supporting evidence for your answers around the same assessment criteria.

Selection of organisations into the Program also takes into consideration any national interest, financial, legal/regulatory, governance or other issue or risk that we identify during any due diligence process that we conduct in respect of the applicant and or any perceived or existing conflicts of interests declared by you. This includes the applicant's directors, officers, senior managers, key personnel, its related bodies corporate (as defined in the *Corporations Act (Australia)*) or its application that could bring CSIRO, the Australian Government into disrepute if it were to select the applicant. Such issues and risks include where

we consider there may be a conflict with government policy. Where possible and subject to national security and other considerations, we will provide you with an opportunity to comment on any material risks identified during this due diligence process prior to our determining the extent (if any) to which those issues or risks affect our assessment of the application and, if so, whether they are sufficient to warrant the exclusion of your application from the selection process.

The selection panel consists of CSIRO employees, NSTDA through Food Innopolis, RUN and or external technical and commercial professionals approved by the Program Delegate as having knowledge and experience aligned to the Program objectives. Each individual in the selection panel is required to declare any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from any applications affected.

## 5.1 Assessment Criteria

### Assessment criterion 1: Organisation & People (15%)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

Capacity to participate:

- that the Organisation has sufficient people and capacity to fully participate in the Program and undertake Program Activities while conducting business as usual
- evidence – if any, of team experience in developing international markets and in commercialisation
- whether the Organisation is regionally headquartered/ First Nations owned/founded/let; migrant owned/founded/led; or female owned/founded/led.

### Assessment criterion 2: Technology, Innovation and Readiness to Collaborate (30%)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a clear value proposition for the product/technology/solution including its disruptive potential in the agrifood industry
- status of IP or right to commercialise your technology/solution
- Technology Readiness Level
- how your product/technology/solution is aligned with the Challenge Statement.

### Assessment criterion 3: Potential to Commercialise (35%)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- awareness of the market size and value for the product/technology/solution in Thailand/Australia/globally
- the value proposition of your technology/product/solution aligned with the target customer/market
- awareness of potential challenges or barriers building towards commercialisation.

### Assessment criterion 4: Financial Positioning (10%)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- your primary funding source
- that the Organisation has sustainable revenue or probable investment/funding for the next 12-24 allocated towards international collaboration/s and or expansion.

### Assessment criterion 5: Social and Environmental Impact (10%)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- that the organisation has considered and or contributed to creating an equitable and inclusive environment
- how your business model, product, solution and or technology has considered climate change and or impacts, and environmental sustainability.

## 5.2 Announcement of selected Participant Organisations

In accordance with the Participation Agreement, we may publish non-sensitive details of Participant Organisations on [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th). This information may include:

- name of Participant Organisation
- high-level description of Participant Organisation sector and product/service
- Participant Organisation location.

## 5.3 Notification of application outcomes

The issue of these guidelines does not imply that CSIRO is bound to select an applicant. CSIRO reserves the right to accept/reject any or all of the applications submitted at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

## 5.4 Who will approve successful applicants

The Program Delegate approves successful Program applications considering the recommendations of the interview panel and Program objectives.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the selection of Program applicants
- the terms and conditions of which You will participate in the Program.

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the Program, which will be set out in the Participation Agreement.

## 5.5 Feedback on your application

No individual feedback will be given for unsuccessful applications.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application. There is no appeal mechanism for application decisions.

Unsuccessful applicants may submit a new application in future Program Rounds if you meet the eligibility criteria.

## 5.6 Further opportunities

If there are not enough applicants to meet the Program's objectives during any given Round, the number of Participant Organisations can be increased during subsequent Rounds, provided there are eligible applicants and sufficient demand.

## 5.7 Participation Agreement

You must enter into a legally binding Participation Agreement, in order to participate in the Program Activities.

You will be required to elect and list in the Participation Agreement two Nominated Participants who will actively participate in the Program Activities. These Nominated Participants, such as co-founders, executives or similar, must be over 18 years of age. Program Activities may only be attended by your Nominated Participants. For any changes to Nominated Participants you must contact us immediately at [vep@csiro.au](mailto:vep@csiro.au).

The provision of Program Activities may have specific conditions determined by the selection process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the offer of your selection into the Program, within the Participation Agreement. We will manage the arrangement directly with you and will provide specific contact details for this purpose. This includes issuing and executing of documents. Execute means both you and the Program Delegate have signed the Participation Agreement.

You will have no more than 7 days from the date of a written offer to have an appropriate delegate execute the Participation Agreement. The offer may lapse if you do not sign the Participation Agreement within the 7 days. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period.

We base the approval of your acceptance into the Program on the information you provide in your application. We will review any requested or required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact your participation in the Program as approved by the Program Delegate.

We may ask you to provide evidence from your organisation that participation in the Program is supported, and that you can complete the Program Activities and meet the time allocation and costs of participating in the Program.

You may not request changes to the terms of the Participation Agreement.

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your participation in the Program Activities.

## 5.8 Communications

Guidance on publicity and promotional activities, such as announcements of Program acceptance, will be provided after the Commencement Date and adhering to the guidance will form part of your agreement with us.

These communications guidelines provide important information and direction to Participating Organisations regarding CSIRO logo and name use throughout the Program, as detailed in the Participation Agreement or as instructed in writing to you.

The overall goal of guidance on publicity and promotional activities is to support Participating Organisations to promote participation in Program Activities whilst ensuring any and all communications regarding the Program is in keeping with CSIRO approval processes.

You must familiarise yourself with the guidance from the outset of the Program to avoid brand and logo misuse and are advised to contact [vep@csiro.au](mailto:vep@csiro.au) for any questions or concerns.

## 6 Travel

### 6.1 Travel Costs

Participant Organisations will receive a Travel Allowance to support reasonable costs of economy or equivalent return airfare/s and 5 nights' accommodation for one Nominated Participant to attend the in-person immersion weeks in Thailand and Australia. The Travel Allowance supports the eligible costs outlined in Table 2, up to the maximum allowance listed in Table 2 and only on receipt of a tax invoice that must include tax receipts of flights and accommodation expenses.

**All other costs** including visa, airport transfers, general transport, incidentals, meals, travel insurance and medical costs and are at the expense of the Participating Organisation and will not be considered as eligible expenditure for the Travel Allowance.

Eligible air transportation is limited to an **economy class fare** for each sector travelled; where non-economy class air transport is used only the equivalent of an economy fare for that sector is eligible expenditure. Where non-economy class air transport is used, the Participant Organisation must provide evidence showing what an economy airfare cost at the time of travel. If no evidence is submitted, CSIRO will establish the cost of the economy airfare at the time of travel. The reimbursement amount will not be subject to appeal.

The Travel Allowance payment is subject to one Nominated Participant from the Participating Organisation attending all (100%) of mandatory scheduled in-person Program Activities. The Travel Allowance shall be paid at the conclusion of all travel experiences, upon receipt of tax invoice/s, as per Schedule 1 of the Participation Agreement. Submitted tax invoices/receipts for eligible travel expenditure must clearly demonstrate costs incurred for expenses outlined in Table 2.

The maximum travel allowance covers both in-person immersion weeks in Australia and Thailand and is subject to the Participating Organisation's management of the travel budget. Additional Nominated Participants may attend the in-person experiences, at the Participant Organisation's cost. Participant Organisations must supply bank account details, which will be verified by CSIRO for the Travel Allowance to be reimbursed.

Nominated Participants travelling to in-person experiences who anticipate eligible expenses to be above 'reasonable costs' must outline costs and reason for higher travel costs via email to [vep@csiro.au](mailto:vep@csiro.au). Any costs deemed unreasonable will be at the expense of the Participating Organisation.

In-person travel experience	Maximum Travel Allowance (total)	Eligible costs
<b>Travel 1 Thailand</b>	AUD \$4,000 (inc. GST) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maximum flight allowance \$2,000</li> <li>• maximum accommodation allowance \$2,500</li> </ul>	Flights, tax receipt required. Accommodation, tax receipt required. If the maximum allowance is reached, no further (flight, accommodation) allowances can be claimed.
<b>Travel 2 Australia</b>	AUD \$2,000 (inc. GST) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maximum flight allowance \$1,000</li> <li>• maximum accommodation allowance \$1,500</li> </ul>	Flights, tax receipt required Accommodation, tax receipt required If the maximum allowance is reached, no further (flight, accommodation) allowances can be claimed.

Table 2: Maximum Travel Allowance for Thailand and Australia in-person experiences

Nominated Participants are responsible for visa, travel insurance and vaccination or medical requirements in relation to any travel associated with the Program. Nominated Participants should consult with their medical provider to obtain clearance to travel and conduct necessary due diligence regarding medical conditions before travelling to in-person activities. CSIRO will not be accountable for any visa, travel insurance, or medical issues that may arise during the planning process, throughout the in-person travel experiences, or after the travel period.

## 7 Reporting and Evaluation

Participant Organisations will be required to submit reporting in accordance with the Participation Agreement. We will use this information to evaluate the Program and how well program objectives have been achieved. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the Program impacted the Participant Organisation, and the Nominated Participants.

The reporting required consists of:

1. Commencement Survey prior to commencing the Program to:
  - understand key business performance metrics as a baseline
  - understand business growth projections and aspirations prior to your participation in the Program.
2. Final Program Report and Survey at the conclusion of the Program Activities, to:
  - outline if and how your cross-border collaboration/s and commercial activities have progressed
  - include evidence of cross-border achievements during the Program
  - feedback on delivery of the Program.
3. Post-program Survey 12 months post the Program conclusion to assist us to reasonably track how you and your cross-border collaboration activities have generally progressed since completion of the Program.

All reporting and survey responses must be returned within four weeks of receiving the online request.

Additionally, we may ask you from time-to-time information about your organisation, collaboration outcomes, and your participation in the Program. This may be for input into marketing and promotion communications materials, or for an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the Program Activities.

## 8 Other things you should know

### 8.1 Guideline updates

These Guidelines may be changed from time-to-time. The updated version will be available online at [www.csiro.au/vep-th](http://www.csiro.au/vep-th). The version in place when Participant Organisations enter into a Participation Agreement will apply to that Organisation.

### 8.2 Enquiries and feedback

All feedback, any complaints or questions about the Venture Exchange Program and process must be provided in writing to [vep@csiro.au](mailto:vep@csiro.au).

### 8.3 Conflicts of interest

There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest if you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as a CSIRO employee, or an Assessor
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the CSIRO or Participant Organisations from carrying out proposed Program Activities fairly and independently.

As part of your application, you will be required to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

CSIRO is committed to conducting the affairs of the organisation with integrity and in the national interest consistent with the functions of CSIRO as set out in the [Science and Industry Research Act 1949 \(SIR Act\)](#), [the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 \(PGPA Act\)](#) and other relevant legislation.

We publish our conflict of interest process via the [CSIRO Code of Conduct](#) on the CSIRO website.

All Program employees, Assessors or officials including the Program Delegate must also declare any conflicts of interest and manage such conflicts of interest in accordance with CSIRO's policies and procedures.

### 8.4 Privacy

We are bound to protect personal information in accordance with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#).

Personal Information is collected, including sensitive information of Nominated Participants for the purposes of delivering the Program. This personal information may include Nominated Participants' name, business address, email address and phone number. By submitting an application the Participant Organisation agrees that we will collect, use and disclose the Nominated Participants' personal information in accordance with the [CSIRO Privacy Policy <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/policies/privacy>](#) and the [Venture Exchange Program privacy statement](#) for the purposes of facilitating the Program.

As part of your application, you acknowledge that the Nominated Participants have been informed of Program privacy statement and CSIRO Privacy Policy and have provided their consent to the handling of

their personal and sensitive information in the ways described in the CSIRO privacy statement and the CSIRO Privacy Policy for the purpose of the Program.

Participants in the Program must comply with any directions given by CSIRO in relation to your use of personal information and must assist CSIRO to meet its obligations in relation to personal information collected, used or disclosed in connection with the Program. Participants must not use or disclose any personal information that you acquire, other than for the purposes of your role as a Participant. You also agree that you will take all reasonable steps to secure that personal information to ensure that it is not capable of being accessed by third parties. You must delete or return any personal information disclosed to you by CSIRO at the conclusion of your participation in the Program.

## 8.5 Confidential Information

You should not disclose commercial Confidential Information to CSIRO, Program team including Expert-in-Residence, subject matter mentors or other Participants in the Program. You should take all reasonable steps to ensure you do not disclose material which would undermine your ability to secure patent or other protection for Confidential Information, or which would jeopardise or hinder your commercial activities.

You should ensure information contained in your application will not compromise your requirements for confidentiality (such as protection of Intellectual Property).

## 8.6 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Officer in writing. This can be:

- by email: [FOI@csiro.au](mailto:FOI@csiro.au)
- by post:

FOI Officer, CSIRO  
PO Box 225  
Dickson ACT 2602  
Australia

## 8.7 National security

It is your responsibility to consider any national security implications of your activities and to identify and manage any risks, particularly relating to export controls, potential for foreign interference and technology transfer.

You should also ensure there are appropriate controls around any sensitive research data including securing intellectual property.

Collaboration with foreign entities must be transparent, undertaken with full knowledge and consent, and in a manner, that avoids harm to Australia's or Thailand's national interests. It is your responsibility to consider the national security implications of your activities.

### **Know your partner**

You should ensure that you know about who you are collaborating with by undertaking appropriate due diligence, proportionate to the risk and subject to available information, on all domestic and global partners and personnel participating in the Program Activities. This should take into account any potential security, ethical, legal and reputational risks, and where necessary, you should be prepared to demonstrate how you will manage and mitigate any identified risks.

### **Export controls**

As this Program involves collaboration with foreign entities, some provisions of Australia's export controls regime may apply to your Program Activities. It is your responsibility to consider the implications, if any, of the relevant legislation on the proposed activities and to comply with any applicable requirements. Further information is available on the [Department of Defence website](#).

## 9 Glossary

Term	Definition
Administering Entity	The entity that is responsible for the administration of the Grant administration processes.
Assessment criteria	Are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are used to assess the merits of applications and to determine application rankings.
Closing Date	The last date applications for the Program will be accepted
Commencement Date	The expected start date for the Program Activities
Commonwealth Entity	A Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is the Australian Government's national science agency. CSIRO is constituted and operates under the <a href="#">Science and Industry Research Act 1949</a> (SIR Act) and is responsible and accountable to the Commonwealth.
Completion Date	The expected date that Program activity must be completed by.
Confidential Information	All information disclosed in any form or media, which is by its nature confidential or which the discloser identifies as confidential.
Eligibility Criteria	The mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for the Program. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Guidelines	(This) Document containing relevant information for potential applicants to understand the purpose, outcome and objectives of the Program; the application and selection process; governance of the Program and Grant. These guidelines may be updated from time-to-time and will be published <a href="#">online</a> . The version in place when a Participant Organisation enter into a Participation Agreement will apply to that Organisation.
Nominated Participant/s	Appointed personnel from the business, such as co-founder or executive, who will take part in the Program Activities.
Opening Date	The first date applications for the Program will be accepted.
Participation Agreement	Binding agreement issued to successfully selected applicants, setting out the relationship between parties to the agreement, specifies the Program Activities, Travel Allowance and Grant Details.
Personal Information	Has the same meaning as in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) which is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable;</li> <li>whether the information or opinion is true or not; and</li> <li>whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.</li> </ul>
Program Activities	Are all the virtual and in-person activities undertaken by Nominated Participant(s) in association with the delivery of the program.
Program Delegate	An Australian Government official within CSIRO with financial delegation responsibility for administering the Program.
Selection Criteria	Are the specified principles against which applications will be competitively assessed. These criteria are used to assess the merits of applications and to determine application rankings.
Travel Allowance	Financial assistance to support costs of one Nominated Participant attending the in-person travel experiences, as outlined in the Participation Agreement.

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