

# FUTURE INDUSTRIES MANUFACTURING PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### What's the purpose of the Manufacturing Program?

The Future Industries Manufacturing Program assists companies to purchase and implement new manufacturing technologies and processes and that will provide a critical foundation for:

- Generating sustainable new jobs, including high-value jobs
- Improving productivity and international competitiveness and
- Targeting growth opportunities.

The Program is an initiative under the Future Industries Fund, as part of the Victorian Government's *Back to Work Plan*.

### How do I apply?

Companies can submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) via the online application form available on the Business Victoria website at [www.business.vic.gov.au/futureindustries](http://www.business.vic.gov.au/futureindustries).

All EOIs will be considered by the Department and short-listed applicants will then be invited to formally apply for funding.

### How much funding is available?

The program provides grants of up to 25 per cent of eligible project expenditure, with a maximum grant of \$500,000.

Projects with total eligible expenditure of less than \$100,000 will not be considered.

### Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible, companies will need to:

- Have a minimum three years trading history
- Have an Australian Company Number (ACN) and an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Be investing in new manufacturing technologies and processes in their Victorian operations that will generate sustainable new jobs, including high-value jobs; improve productivity and competitiveness; and target new growth opportunities
- Have the ability to meet the co-contribution requirement of at least \$3 for every \$1 granted.

### Who is not eligible to apply?

The following entities are not eligible to apply:

- Individuals, partnerships, or trusts, however an incorporated trustee can apply on behalf of a trust;
- Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies and bodies;
- Publicly funded research institutions;
- Not-for-profit organisations; or
- Community-based organisations.

Companies with annual turnover of more than \$100 million will not be invited to formally apply for funding unless the EOI demonstrates a compelling argument about why government support is needed.

### What sort of financial commitment is required from companies?

Companies will need to meet the minimum cash co-contribution requirement of at least \$3 for every \$1 granted.

### What activities can companies obtain funding for?

Funding is available for the following activities

- Capital expenditure and other project-related non-capitalised expenditure (but does not include vehicles, internal costs or salaries)
- Manufacturing product and process improvements (including significant improvements in technical specifications; components and materials; software in the project; user friendliness or other functional characteristics; and/or new or significantly improved production or delivery methods)
- Prototyping, evaluation and testing of new products and manufacturing processes
- Supply chain capability development
- Tooling
- Training specific to the technology (external costs only)
- Labour and contractors (but does not include internal salaries)
- Manufacturing machinery and equipment, or
- Minor alterations and fit-out costs.

### Are joint applications acceptable?

Yes provided they have a lead applicant who is both the primary project proponent and an eligible applicant.

### What criteria will applications be assessed against?

Applications will be assessed against the key selection criteria (see below).

- Impact of the Project on employment and skills
- Level of economic benefit to Victoria
- Demonstrated skills, experience and resources available to the company
- Value for money
- Need for government support

### When do applications close?

Expressions of interest (EOIs) can be submitted at any time until further notice.

If a company is invited to submit a formal application, the application must be submitted within 90 days of an invitation to apply.

### How quickly will companies find out about the outcome of their application?

Companies can expect to learn the outcome of their application within 16 weeks of submission.

### Do companies have a right of appeal?

There is no right of appeal and feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants by the Department.

### How quickly do the companies have to start with the projects?

Projects will need to commence within 90 days of execution of the grant agreement.

### Where can I get more information?

- The Future Industries Manufacturing Program guidelines can be accessed on the Future Industries Fund webpage ([www.business.vic.gov.au/futureindustries](http://www.business.vic.gov.au/futureindustries))
- Email the program team at [fimp@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:fimp@ecodev.vic.gov.au)