

SIEF Medium Equipment Program

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Overview

The SIEF Medium Equipment Program (MEP) is designed to address a gap in funding for equipment in the medium range (\$950k-\$4m). This Program aims to enhance capability and capacity and encourage collaboration.

SIEF MEP Objectives

1. To facilitate leading-edge innovation in Australia in areas of greatest strategic impact, based on scientific research;
2. To grow both capability and capacity of the equipment stock available to researchers.

GUIDELINES

MEP Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria	Definition
1. Lead Applicant must be CSIRO	The Lead Applicant will use the grant for the purposes of capital expenditure
2. Proposed equipment must be capital equipment purchased from an external supplier and located at a CSIRO site	The asset must be owned by CSIRO and located on an approved CSIRO site.
3. Equipment must be for 'scientific Research'	Funding will only be available for equipment that facilitates activities that fall under the definition of 'Research' (refer Frascati Manual). Includes all monies outlined in the Funding Agreement (including co-investment)
4. Application must be endorsed by the designated delegate of CSIRO. The application must also be endorsed by Collaborating Organisations (if any).	The designated CSIRO delegate for matters relating to SIEF is the Chief Operating Officer. CSIRO will undertake a rigorous internal review process prior to endorsement by the designated CSIRO delegate. Endorsement by any Collaborating Organisation must be by a delegate with an appropriate level of authority to commit any co-investment outlined should the Application be successful.

Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Further Details
<p>1. Alignment with:</p> <p>a. SIEF Primary Purpose and justification for SIEF support</p> <p>b. Alignment with the purpose outlined in the Gift</p>	<p>Why publicly funded support? National benefit?</p> <p>Translation of scientific research into impact requiring effective and state-of-the-art facilities.</p>
<p>2. Demonstration of high benefit and impact</p>	<p>Degree of projected positive impact on enhancing capacity and capability.</p> <p>Capacity to enable ground-breaking or cutting-edge new science.</p>
<p>3. Demonstration of effective use of resources</p>	<p>Extent to which the proposed equipment complements existing facilities within and across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed lead CSIRO site • Other CSIRO sites • the NIS <p>ie added capacity/capability rather than straight duplication</p>
<p>4. Finances</p> <p>Co-investment</p> <p>Ongoing additional support for operating and maintenance</p>	<p>SIEF requests are expected to be between \$750,000 to \$2,000,000. (In exceptional circumstances bids up to \$4,000,000 will be considered).</p> <p>Purchase and commissioning to be completed within 24 months of Funding Agreement execution. Unless otherwise agreed in advance with SIEF.</p> <p>Minimum of \$200,000 cash investment per request by Lead Applicant for purchase of equipment. Included in the assessment of the request will be consideration of the level of co-investment by the Lead Applicant and any collaborators.</p> <p>The request outlined in the application will be the maximum SIEF will provide, however, Applicants are encouraged to negotiate best price should they be successful. If a better price is negotiated then the Applicants are permitted to come back and SIEF may consider additional items to extend the equipment requested. Only in exceptional circumstances will requests be considered for supplementary funding by SIEF.</p> <p>Operating and maintenance (including labour) are <u>not</u> eligible as co-investment in the MEP.</p> <p>Applicants will be asked for evidence of commitment to ongoing support for operating and maintenance – this may include, for example,</p>

Assessment Criteria	Further Details
	commitment to 3 years of in-kind support and/or maintenance contracts.

Further information regarding the terms and conditions of the SIEF Medium Equipment Program, including level and period of funding, assessment process, post award reporting and funding agreement, can be found at www.sief.org.au

(Please delete the above section before submission)

Science and Industry Endowment Fund Medium Equipment Program

Application Form

This form must be completed for each request. All requests must be endorsed by the Authorised Delegate of CSIRO, as well as each Collaborating Organisation.

Page limits as indicated at relevant sections should be adhered to (excluding the appendices). Include only the information requested. A **minimum of 10 point font** should be used.

Please read the **Guidelines** and [SIEF website](#) before completing the form.

Section A – Details of Applicant(s)

A1: Lead Applicant: (Name of CSIRO Business Unit)					
A2: Who is the Lead CSIRO contact?					
Salutation:		First name:		Last name:	
Mailing address					
Email:				Phone:	
A3: Collaborating Organisation(s): (Name of agency / university / company)					
A4: Contact details for Collaborating Organisation(s)					
Salutation:		First name:		Last name:	
Mailing address					
Email:				Phone:	
<i>Duplicate this section if additional Collaborating Organisations</i>					

Section B – Details of Proposal

Section C – Addressing Assessment Criteria

The Applicants can determine the amount of information provided for each question, but the total for Sections B and C combined should not exceed 3 pages (excluding attachments).

Dot points are provided as a guide to the type of information you may wish to include, but please also refer to the **Guidelines**. (Dot points can be removed in completed Application)

B1: Equipment requested <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of equipment• Short description of included features• If multiple parts required, brief description of each
B2: Summary of what Research the equipment will be used for.
C1: ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGY
C1a: Alignment with SIEF Strategic Objectives and Primary Purpose, and justification for SIEF support.
C1b: Alignment with the requirement of effective and state of the art facilities for the translation of scientific research into impact. <i>Why is the equipment needed? Why is this capability important to CSIRO?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address national challenges• Accelerate scientific discoveries or breakthroughs• Fill a gap in the NIS
C2: DEMONSTRATION OF HIGH BENEFIT AND IMPACT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity to enable ground-breaking or cutting-edge new science• Degree of projected positive impact on enhancing capacity and capability
C3: DEMONSTRATION OF EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES
C3a: Extent to which the proposed equipment complements existing facilities within and across: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSIRO Business Units• CSIRO sites• the NIS <i>ie added capacity/capability rather than straight duplication</i>
C3b: Description of collaborations the equipment will engender <ul style="list-style-type: none">• existing collaborators and projects (if any)• potential collaborators and projects (if any)
C3c: How will the equipment be made available for use by other players (including non-applicants) in the research ecosystem (subject to appropriate safety and other operational requirements)? <i>This may include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• operating model/accessibility

- *governance such as accountability and reporting*

Section D – Financial request

D1: Equipment to be purchased and co-investment by applicants: *purchase cost of the physical resource being requested and timeline to commissioning*

- *SIEF request between \$750,000 to \$2,000,000 (In exceptional circumstances bids up to \$4,000,000 will be considered).*
- *Purchase and commissioning to be completed within 24 months of Funding Agreement execution*
- *Minimum \$200K **cash** co-investment for **purchase** of equipment*
 - *The below will be the maximum SIEF will provide, however, Applicants are encouraged to negotiate best price should they be successful. If a better price is negotiated, then the Applicants are permitted to come back and SIEF may consider additional items to extend the equipment.*
- *Items NOT eligible as co-investment*
 - *Operating and maintenance (including labour)*
 - *Refurbishment of laboratories*

CSIRO contribution	(A)	\$
Collaborator contribution (if any)	(B)	\$
Total Co-investment	(C=A+B)	\$
SIEF Request	(D)	\$
Total purchase cost	(C+D)	\$

Timeframe to commissioning (months)	
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D2: Operating and maintenance: *Evidence of ongoing **additional** support for operating and maintenance (1/2 page max)*

- *Evidence of ongoing **additional** support for operating and maintenance – this may include, for example, commitment to 3 years of in-kind support and/or maintenance contracts*

SECTION E – Endorsement of CSIRO

Endorsement of the Lead Applicant

[Do not delete these conditions]

NOTE: By signing below, the signatory represents that he/she has authority to do so and that, if successful, the CSIRO is agreeing to:

- (a) provide the cash contribution specified above, and that this contribution combined with the contributions pledged by the Collaborating Organisation(s) (if any) is sufficient to support the MEP activity if the Application is successful;*
- (b) the publication of the equipment type and name of Lead CSIRO Business Unit, including on the SIEF website; and*
- (c) Execute the Funding Agreement within 30 days of approval.*

Signature of Authorised Delegate of CSIRO

Name

Position

Date

SECTION F – Endorsement of Collaborating Organisation

Endorsement by Collaborating Organisation:

[Do not delete these conditions]

NOTE: By signing below, the signatory represents that he/she has authority to do so and that, if successful, the Collaborating Organisation is agreeing to:

- (a) provide the cash contribution specified above, and that this contribution combined with the contributions pledged by CSIRO and other Collaborating Organisations (if any) is sufficient to support the MEP activity if the Application is successful;*
- (b) the publication of the equipment type and name of Lead CSIRO Business Unit and any Collaborators, including on the SIEF website; and*
- (c) Execute the Funding Agreement within 30 days of approval.*

Signature of authorised officer of Collaborating Organisation

Name

Position

Date

Duplicate this section for each Collaborating Organisation

Administrative contact details of Lead CSIRO Business Unit

Contact:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Administrative contact details of Collaborating Organisation (if any)

Contact:	
Email:	
Phone:	
<i>Duplicate this section for each Collaborating Organisation</i>	

SECTION F – Submission

All documentation relating to an individual application must be assembled into one word or pdf file.

All information should be included in the Application form template. If a diagram/table is considered absolutely necessary, please ensure it is self-explanatory, clear and relevant.

Applications should be submitted to sief@sief.org.au by 11.59pm AEST 27 July 2022.

All applications will be acknowledged by SIEF and provided with a SIEF reference number to be used in all subsequent correspondence; please contact the SIEF Team if you do not receive this acknowledgement.