## *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 ($750k-$5m). 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

# MEP7 Eligibility Criteria

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| **Eligibility Criteria** | **Definition** |
| 1. Lead Applicant must be CSIRO
 | The Lead Applicant will use the grant for the purposes of capital expenditure  |
| 1. Proposed assets must be capital equipment or facilities purchased or constructed by an external supplier and located at a CSIRO site
 | The asset must be owned by CSIRO and located on an approved CSIRO site. |
| 1. Assets must be for ‘Scientific Research’
 | Funding will only be available for assets which facilitate activities that fall under the definition of ‘*Research’ (refer* [[Frascati Manual](http://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascatimanualproposedstandardpracticeforsurveysonresearchandexperimentaldevelopment6thedition.htm))](https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm)*.*Includes all monies outlined in the Funding Agreement (including co-investment) |
| 1. 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. |
| 1. Application must sit under the Priority Area for MEP 7
 | SIEF requests must fall within the Priority Area of Agriculture and Food Sciences (Applications led by the Agriculture and Food Research Unit). |

# Assessment Criteria

| **Assessment Criteria** | **Further Details** |
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| 1. **Alignment with:**
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| * 1. [SIEF Primary Purpose](https://sief.org.au/about-sief/strategy/) **and justification for SIEF support**
 | Why publicly funded support? National benefit? |
| * 1. **Alignment with the purpose outlined in the Gift**
 | Translation of scientific research into impact requiring effective and state-of-the-art facilities. |
| 1. **Demonstration of high benefit and impact**
 | Degree of projected positive impact on enhancing capacity and capability.Capacity to enable ground-breaking or cutting-edge new science. |
| 1. **Demonstration of effective use of resources**
 | Extent to which the proposed asset complements existing facilities within and across:* The proposed lead CSIRO site
* Other CSIRO sites
* the NIS

ie added capacity/capability rather than straight duplication  |
| 1. **Finances**
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| **Co-investment** | SIEF requests are expected to be between $750,000 to $5,000,000. (In exceptional circumstances bids greater than $5,000,000 will be considered). Purchase, construction, and commissioning to be completed within 36 months of Funding Agreement execution. Unless otherwise agreed in advance with SIEF.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. |
| **Ongoing additional support for operating and maintenance** | Applicants will be asked for evidence of commitment to ongoing support for operating and maintenance – this may include, for example, 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*](https://sief.org.au/csiro-gift/research-infrastructure/)

***(Delete the above section before submission)***

## Science and Industry Endowment Fund

## Medium Equipment Program Round 7

# 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](https://sief.org.au/csiro-gift/research-infrastructure/) before completing the form.

**Section A – Details of Applicant(s)**

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| **A1: Lead Applicant: (*Name of CSIRO Research Unit, select one)*** |
| [ ] Agriculture and Food  |
| **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:** |  |
| *Duplicate this section if additional Collaborating Organisations* |

**Section B – Details of Proposal**

*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)*

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| **B1: Name of equipment/facilities requested** |
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| **B2: Description of equipment/facilities requested*** *Short description of included features*
* *If multiple parts required, brief description of each*
* *Description of any building or refurbishment required*
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| **B3: Summary of what Research the asset will be used for.** |
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**Section C – Addressing Assessment Criteria**

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| **C1: ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGY** |
| **C1a: Alignment with** [**SIEF Strategic Objectives and Primary Purpose**](https://sief.org.au/about-sief/strategy/)**, and justification for SIEF support.** |
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| **C1b: Alignment with the requirement of effective and state of the art facilities for the translation of scientific research into impact.** *Why is the asset* *needed*? *Why is this capability important to CSIRO?* * *Address national challenges*
* *Accelerate scientific discoveries or breakthroughs*
* *Fill a gap in the NIS*
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| **C2: DEMONSTRATION OF HIGH BENEFIT AND IMPACT*** *Capacity to enable ground-breaking or cutting-edge new science*
* *Degree of projected positive impact on enhancing capacity and sovereign capability*
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| **C3:** **DEMONSTRATION OF EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES** |
| **C3a: Extent to which the proposed equipment/facilities complement existing facilities within and across:*** *CSIRO Research Units*
* *CSIRO sites*
* *the NIS*

*ie added capacity/capability rather than straight duplication* |
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| **C3b: Description of collaborations the equipment/facilities will engender*** *existing collaborators and projects (if any)*
* *potential collaborators and projects (if any)*
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| **C3c: How will the equipment/facilities be made available for use by other players (including non-applicants) in the research ecosystem** (subject to appropriate safety and other operational requirements)?*This may include:** *operating model/accessibility*
* *governance such as accountability and reporting*
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**Section D – Financial request**

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| **D1:****Project cost and any co-investment by applicants (including timeline)*** *SIEF request between $750,000 to $5,000,000 (In exceptional circumstances bids greater than $5,000,000 will be considered).*
* *Purchase and commissioning of equipment/facilities (including any laboratory refurbishment) to be completed within 36 months of Funding Agreement execution (unless otherwise agreed).*
* *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.*
* *Any collaborating organisation contribution must be cash (ie not in-kind)*
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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Cash |
| CSIRO contribution (if any) | (A) | $ |
| Collaborator contribution (if any) | (B) | $ |
| **Total Co-contribution** | (**C**=A+B) | **$** |
| SIEF Request | (D) | $ |
| **Total investment** | **(C+D)** | $ |
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| **Timeframe to commissioning (months)** |  |

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| **D2:** **Operating and maintenance**: *Evidence of post award ongoing support for operating and maintenance (1/2 page max)** *This may include, for example, commitment to 3 years of support and/or maintenance contracts*
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## SECTION E – Endorsement of CSIRO

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| **Endorsement of the Lead Applicant**  |
| *[Do not delete these conditions]**NOTE: By signing below, the signatory represents that they have authority to do so and that, if successful, the CSIRO is agreeing to:*1. *provide the cash co-contribution (if any) 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;*
2. *the publication of the equipment type and name of Lead CSIRO Research Unit, including on the SIEF website; and*
3. *Execute the Funding Agreement within 30 days of approval.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature of Authorised Delegate of CSIRO\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Position\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date |

## SECTION F – Endorsement of Collaborating Organisation (if any)

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| **Endorsement by Collaborating Organisation:** |
| *[Do not delete these conditions]**NOTE: By signing below, the signatory represents that they have authority to do so and that, if successful, the Collaborating Organisation is agreeing to:*1. *provide the cash co-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;*
2. *the publication of the equipment type and name of Lead CSIRO Research Unit and any Collaborators, including on the SIEF website; and*
3. *Execute the Funding Agreement within 30 days of approval.*

Signature of authorised officer of Collaborating OrganisationNamePositionDate*Duplicate this section for each Collaborating Organisation* |

## Administrative contact details of Lead CSIRO Research Unit

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| **Contact:** |       |
| **Email:** |       |
| **Phone:** |       |

## Administrative contact details of Collaborating Organisation (if any)

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| **Contact:** |       |
| **Email:** |       |
| **Phone:** |       |
| *Duplicate this section for each Collaborating Organisation* |

## 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 5pm AEST 18 December 2024.

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.