

METS IGNITED IP MASTERCLASS

CRC TIME

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Program has been in operation in Australia for around 30 years. The basic premise of this Program is to encourage cooperative research and development between parties: where at least one party is from industry and the other is from academia and/or government research institutes (eg CSIRO).

At present there are about 25 CRCs in this Program across a diverse range of sectors and industries that are seen as relevant to the economic development of Australia.

Each CRC has an overriding agreement setting out general operating parameters. The parties then enter separate collaborative research and development agreements for individual projects. These individual projects do not necessarily involve every partner in the particular CRC.

A recent CRC of relevance to METS Ignited members is the CRC for Transitions in Mining Economies (CRC – TIME)

A brief overview of CRC – TIME follows, together with a brief Facts Sheet on the CRC Program generally.

CRC for Transitions in Mining Economies (CRC – TiME)

The CRC-TiME brings together 50 leading mining companies, mining equipment, technology and services (METS) companies, regional development organisations, local, State and Commonwealth governments and research partners.

This unique coalition will bring scale and coordinated investment in research that will deliver transformational change in mine closure. CRC-TiME will provide all the stakeholders involved with the closure, relinquishment and creation of a post-mine regional future with new tools and technologies to make better decisions and lower residual risk into the future



FACTSHEET Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program

“This program supports industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers and the community”

What does it offer?

The Australian Government's CRC Program supports industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers and the community.

The CRC Program aims to:

- Improve the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of Australian industries, especially where Australia has a competitive strength, and is in line with Government priorities.
- Foster high quality research to solve industry-identified problems through industry-led and outcome-focused collaborative research partnerships between industry entities and research organisations.
- Encourage and facilitate small and medium enterprise (SME) participation in collaborative research.

The CRC Program has two elements:

- Cooperative Research Centres Grants (CRCs) to support medium to long term, industry-led collaborations; and
- Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-Ps), to support short term, industry-led collaborative research.

Since its inception in 1990, the CRC Program has committed \$5.1 billion in funding to support the establishment of 230 CRC Grants and 135 CRC-P Grants, making a total of 365 collaborations funded over the program's lifetime. Partners have further committed \$15.7 billion in cash and in-kind contributions.

What activities are eligible?

Eligible **CRC** activities include medium to long term industry-led high quality collaborative research to solve industry identified problems and deliver outcomes consistent with Government Priorities, improving the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of Australian industries.

Further details are available in the [CRC Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#).

Eligible **CRC-P** activities include a short term, industry-identified and industry-led collaborative research project to develop a product, service or process that will solve problems for industry and deliver tangible outcomes.

Further details are available in the [CRC Projects Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#).

Who can apply for CRC Program funding?

The CRC Program is open to all industry sectors and research disciplines.

CRCs: Applications for CRCs are submitted on behalf of a group who agree to collaborate.

A CRC application must have among its partners at least:

- a. one Australian industry entity; and
- b. one Australian research organisation.

CRC-P: Applications for CRC-Ps are submitted by a lead applicant, which must be an industry entity.

A CRC-P application must have among its partners at least:

- a. two Australian industry entities; (including at least one SME); and
- b. one Australian research organisation.

CRCs cannot directly apply for CRC-P funding but may be involved in a CRC-P collaboration.

How can I apply for funding?

CRC Program funds are awarded through open competitive merit based funding rounds.

CRC: Applications for CRC funding are generally called for once a year.

CRC-P: Applications for CRC-P funding are generally called for twice a year.

The anticipated schedule for future CRC and CRC-P funding rounds, including information about the application process and forms are available on [business.gov.au](#).

How do CRCs work with Industry Growth Centres?

The CRC Program complements Industry Growth Centres, a government initiative that drives industry-led innovation, productivity and competitiveness by focusing on sectors of competitive strength and strategic priority. This will help Australia transition to smart, high value and export focused industries.

Growth Centres will set national long-term strategies for their sectors. Industry and researchers are able to draw on this information to leverage funding through sources such as the CRCs.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on the CRC Program, visit [business.gov.au](#) or call **13 28 46**.