This guide

This document provides information to assist explorers complete and lodge a New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling grants program round 3 Invitation to Apply (ITA) for funding.

Applications are encouraged from a wide range of exploration companies active in NSW. A prior funding relationship with the Department is not required, but you must be a legal entity to be eligible for funding.

You must hold an appropriate title in NSW to apply for a grant.

Background

This program, managed by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) is part of an NSW Government initiative to attract further investment into the state. The government has allocated the program a total of $2 million in the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 financial years.

The program is intended to support the long-term sustainability of the NSW resources sector by encouraging:

- mineral exploration and discovery, particularly in greenfields areas in the state
- exploration drilling that will test new geological ideas and models, and/or drilling in regions with significant cover
- stronger relationships between government and industry.

The New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling program (the program) will provide grants to successful applicants for exploration drilling programs (Group 1, 6 and 10 minerals only) which demonstrate strong prospectivity, sound financial planning and a proven technical base.

The application form

Applications must be completed on the Invitation to Apply grant application form.

Explorers may make multiple applications for Cooperative Drilling funding, based on different drilling projects in your exploration programs.

The grant application form requires details of the applicant, the project and the drilling plan, and the technical assessment criteria.

Timetable

The timetable for application and assessment is shown below. Dates are subject to change. However, the opening and closing dates for applications and the final date for submission of invoices will not be changed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 October 2019</td>
<td>Invitation to Apply open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2019</td>
<td>Applications close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-February 2020</td>
<td>Notification and announcement of successful applicants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cooperative Drilling round 3
Guidelines for Cooperative Drilling grant applications

30 June 2021 Final date for submission of invoices

Funding

The NSW Government will allocate $2 million to Cooperative Drilling round 3. The grant reimburses successful explorers for 50 per cent of per metre drilling costs. The maximum grant to any individual project is $200,000. Single applicants may submit applications for multiple projects.

Funding is for direct costs of drill metre-rates as charged by the drilling contractor as described in drilling invoices, but excluding indirect costs such as mobilisation, travel, assays, drilling consumables and personnel.

Drilling cost estimates from applicants should be GST exclusive.

Payments to the successful applicants will be made only after drilling is completed and compulsory reporting, as described in the Funding Deed (see below) is submitted to the Department. The successful applicants must submit a correctly rendered invoice to the Department, which will be paid on 30 day terms.

The assessment panel

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising:

- three departmental representatives, including the panel chair
- a minimum of two independent geoscientists appointed through an open expression of interest process.

Departmental approval of panel preferred applicants will be required.

The assessment process will be overseen by an independent probity advisor.

Panel members must exclude themselves from assessment of any applications which create a conflict of interest, either actual or perceived.

The assessment process

Assessment will be carried out using a weighted assessment schedule. The technical assessment criteria in the ITA application form will be used in the weighted assessment scheme. Each of the four criteria has a different weighting (stated as a percentage). Each criterion will be scored out of 10.

The score given for each criterion will be multiplied by the weighting. The total score for your application will be used for ranking. All decisions made by the Department will be final.

Only the drilling program and target described in the application are eligible for funding. However, the Department recognises that exploration is a dynamic and iterative process, so variations to drill hole collar locations, orientations and target depths will be permitted, subject to written approval from the Department.
Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be informed by email and must sign a Funding Deed with the Department. A schedule of reporting is described in the Funding Deed. Reporting requirements described in the Funding Deed must be completed before grant funds will be paid.

Some details of the successful applicant's projects (including the prospect location and description, company name and the amount of funding awarded) may be posted on the Department’s website as part of legislative reporting obligations. Prior to publication, the Department will consult applicants about information that may be confidential.

The NSW Government requires you to have full, appropriate insurance cover, as described in the ITA before commencing your Cooperative Drilling project.

Checklist for applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company and project details</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details of the drilling program including plans and cross-sections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details of technical assessment criteria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attached Business information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attached financial information (annual statements, debtors &amp; creditors etc)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide statements of non-compliance (if any)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attached Public Liability Insurance, Workers Compensation and Comprehensive Motor Vehicle certificates</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Declaration signed</td>
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Fees

There are no fees for the submission or assessment of the application.
How to submit your application form

Completed applications must be received before 5pm AEST on 31 December 2019.

Email (preferred): cooperative.drilling@planning.nsw.gov.au

Post: Tender Box, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Division of Resources and Geoscience, PO Box 344 Hunter Regional Mail Centre NSW 2310.

In person: Tender Box (located in the foyer), 516 High Street, Maitland, New South Wales. Office hours are 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Applications received through the post after the closing time and date will be deemed late unless the envelope bears a Postal Authority postmark clearly indicating that posting was prior to the stipulated closing time and date.

Acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be made by email.

More information

Contact: Michael Hallett, Executive Officer, Geological Survey of NSW.
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