

Turning ideas into jobs

Accelerating research and development in NSW

PRIORITY ACTION 1: NSW Small Business Innovation & Research Program

The NSW Small Business Innovation & Research (SBIR) program is the first Priority Action from the Action Plan for Accelerating research and development (R&D) in NSW, released in January 2021.

The SBIR program provides competitive grants to NSW small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop and commercialise innovative solutions to well-defined problems for NSW Government. Up to \$12 million of competitive grants will be made available for the 2021 round of five SBIR program challenges. A further \$12 million will be made available for the 2022 round.

The SBIR program supports innovative technologies or services that solve NSW Government challenges and which could be commercialised and sold to other end-users. Proposed solutions must be innovative technologies or services that require development and commercialisation, not existing solutions that are already commercially available in Australia or elsewhere.

2021 SBIR program challenges

Proposed solutions must address one of the five 2021 NSW SBIR program challenges:

- 1 **Connectivity Challenge** – to increase the strength and resilience of communications networks in regional and remote areas.
- 2 **Hyperlocal Navigation Challenge** – to assist passengers with vision impairments to access public transport services.
- 3 **Koala Count Challenge** – to detect and quantify koala populations in NSW.
- 4 **Personal Protective Equipment Challenge** – to reduce waste associated with discarded personal protective equipment and sterile wrap.
- 5 **Water Purification Challenge** – to reduce microplastic and other contamination due to laundry services in health facilities.

Scan here to read the Action Plan.



How to apply

For more information please visit chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/sbir

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Action Plan

The Action Plan for Accelerating research and development in NSW will make NSW a national leader in the translation and commercialisation of research. A strong, vibrant and high-quality R&D ecosystem is critical for driving future economic growth and creating high-value sustainable jobs. The Action Plan has five Priority Actions and 16 Supporting Actions.

Priority Actions

- 1 Launch a Small Business Innovation Research program** – provide competitive grants for SMEs to find and commercialise innovative solutions to well-defined problems for NSW Government agencies.
- 2 Boost open data** – release new government datasets so businesses can make better decisions, entrepreneurs can build new businesses and the government can solve complex challenges.
- 3 Turbocharge precincts** – develop precincts to attract national and global technology industries and investment, and drive collaboration between universities, research organisations, start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs to commercialise R&D.
- 4 Target strategic support for NSW universities** – collaborate on research that drives future NSW strategic growth industries and research-led industry attraction, and better leverage Commonwealth Government research funding.
- 5 Establish an R&D matchmaking platform** – better connect research ‘sellers’ and ‘buyers’, and link researchers to research infrastructure and expertise.

Supporting Actions

In addition to the Priority Actions, the Action Plan has 16 Supporting Actions grouped around four areas: government action, attraction, translation and collaboration. Together, they will contribute to the development of a NSW R&D Roadmap and help with the scaling-up of already successful NSW Government commercialisation programs.

Background

The Action Plan was led by the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, and guided by the Advisory Council, chaired by David Gonski AC. In developing the Action Plan, a comprehensive public consultation process was undertaken with submissions received from businesses, research organisations, government agencies, investors and universities, and over 60 stakeholder consultations. In addition, a series of workshops, forums and roundtables were held with stakeholders. The ideas that emerged from these consultations helped shape the Action Plan.



The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP
Parliamentary Secretary
to the Premier



David Gonski AC
Chair, Accelerating R&D
in NSW Advisory Council