



## Additional FAQs following ARENA's information sessions

### Applicants

#### **Can partners be international?**

Yes. Only the Applicant is required to be an eligible Australian research institution or an Australian entity incorporated under the *Corporation Act 2001* (Cth).

#### **Can the same Applicant submit more than one EOI?**

Yes. There is no limit to the number of EOIs submitted, although only high merit applications will proceed to the next stage.

#### **If a business partners with a university, will this have any impact on the merit of the application?**

Overall merit is determined by the responses to the merit criteria, which takes into consideration a range of factors broader than simply the Applicant and its partners.

#### **How can capability be demonstrated in applications from consortiums?**

Capability must be addressed in the response to merit criterion A and may include statements on the capability of multiple entities and key personnel. One entity must be nominated as the Applicant.

#### **Can a special purpose vehicle be set up for application to the Round?**

Yes, however the Applicant must meet the eligibility criteria at the time of application to the EOI stage, including obtaining an Australian Company Number (ACN), if not an eligible Australian research institute, by the time of application.

#### **If a partner pulls out after EOI submission, can they be replaced?**

Yes, however this may impact the merit of the Project depending on the relevance of the new partner to the specific Project e.g. capability and capacity that the partner brings.

#### **Are you aware of Australian research institutes that are looking for an industry partner?**

ARENA will not be 'match-making' or facilitating introductions between research institutions and industry partners for this Round. ARENA may refer you to relevant industries bodies or associations if relevant.



## Activities

### **Are Projects that include early-stage research eligible?**

Applicants must justify their Project commences at at least TRL2. Previous work may be included as part of the application and the Project may include multiple TRLs, however ARENA funding can only be requested for those aspects which lie between TRLs 2-6.

### **Are Projects at later TRLs automatically higher merit than those at earlier stages?**

No. Each Project is assessed on its own merits against the merit criteria, taking into consideration overall value for money, given the TRL.

### **Can a Project include hydrogen carriers for a domestic market?**

Yes, the concept is eligible however in order to be of high merit the Project should demonstrate impact on the export supply chain (see merit criterion B).

### **Does the location of the Project impact on the assessment?**

No, the focus of the Round is research and development and technology development. Location may however support the Project's pathway to commercialisation, which may in turn contribute to the merit of a Project.

### **Does the Round objective include the export of renewable technology?**

No, the objective refers to the export of renewable energy. Projects may indirectly result in the export of Australian-developed technology and expertise, however this is not a focus of the Exporting Renewables Investment Priority.

### **Is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions part of the merit criteria?**

No. ARENA's purpose only relates to the uptake of renewable energy, however reductions of emissions may be used to support your application, for example as part of consideration of the pathway to commercialisation.

### **Can I apply for funds for part of a larger Project?**

Yes, however the application must clearly articulate the discrete portion that is being applied for with some description of the broader Project for context.

### **If a technology is eventually used overseas, will this affect the application?**

No. The R&D program objective is to develop technology and expertise in Australia, however commercialisation may result in entry to the global market.

### **Can a Project cover multiple supply chains or should individual applications be submitted?**

A single Project may cover multiple supply chains, the decision on whether or not to submit combined or individual applications rests with the Applicant.



**Can a Project involve the conversion of hydrogen to a carrier that cannot be used as an energy source?**

Yes, this type of Project is eligible however it may not be high merited if it cannot demonstrate impact on the development of a potential renewable energy supply chain (merit criterion B).

**Can the TRL of the Project move during the proposed Activity?**

Yes, the objective of Projects should be to move technology along the TRL scale towards technology maturity and commercial readiness. Projects must be at TRL 2-6 at the time of application, but may move beyond TRL 6 during the course of the Activity.

**Is a patented invention eligible for funding?**

Yes, as long as the Applicant has access to or holds the patent, the technology is within the eligible TRL range and the application meets all other eligibility criteria.

**Can a Project use a waste CO<sub>2</sub> stream as a chemical feedstock?**

The Applicant must demonstrate that the waste stream is substantially from a renewable source or process.

**Funds cannot be requested for commercial hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, but what about changes to hydrogen fuel cells?**

Yes, research and development that improves efficiencies or reduces costs of existing technology is eligible.

**Is there a target price point for hydrogen that will make the Project attractive?**

No. It is expected that Projects at later TRLs would be better able to estimate a price point, and it may be included to support demonstration of the pathway to commercialisation, however any figures such as price point should be justified in order to be assessed as credible.

**Can TRL be given as a range?**

No. ARENANet only allows for selection of a single TRL. You may however use text in the application to discuss if the Project sits at a TRL range, and should demonstrate that the Project will progress the technology along the TRL development scale.

**Can a Project cover the entire export supply chain?**

Yes, so long as it meets all of the eligibility criteria. Feasibility studies and business models are not eligible for this round and may be more suited to the Advancing Renewables Program.

**What is the typical length of an ARENA grant?**

The length depends entirely on the Project, however we cannot accept applications for Projects that extend past 31 January 2022. Typically R&D Project applications are for 3-4 years.

## Assessment process

**What can the one-page attachment at the EOI stage include?**



The attachment can be whatever the Applicant feels best supports their application, however this is typically a diagram or graphic that assists in the explanation of the Project. There is a strict one-page limit, attachments that go over this will only have the first page included in the merit assessment process.

**If my Project is more suitable for the Advancing Renewables Program, will submission to this Round automatically enter my application to this Program as well?**

No. This R&D Round and the Advancing Renewables Program are separate and each needs to be applied to separately.

**How will ARENA manage suggestions for collaborations?**

EOIs will be assessed individually, however, as outlined in the Guidelines, if appropriate, ARENA may propose that Applicants cooperate on Projects. Recommendations for collaboration will only be made for applications that have succeeded at the EOI stage on their own merit, and are not compulsory.

**Can I get visibility over other applications or Projects in order to assess whether other, related components of a supply chain are being developed?**

No. Applications are confidential to ARENA.

**Will ARENA provide a list of attendees to the information sessions?**

No.

**Can ARENA recommend that Projects be made shorter or longer in duration, scope or budget?**

Yes. ARENA may recommend changes to the scope of the Activity in the application, if this is seen as beneficial to the Project or to meet limit of the total funding allocation of the Round. This would likely be done for successful applications only and in consultation with the Applicant.

**Can ARENA funding be used to access results from research overseas and then applied here?**

The Project must be undertaken in Australia, however it may be based on previous results that were obtained overseas. The Project must meet the eligibility criteria in terms of the definition of R&D.

A 10% cap on overseas expenditure applies to the ARENA funded portion of the Project.

## Finances

**Can in-kind support and co-contributions come from international sources?**

Yes.

**Which part of the Project finances does the 10% overseas expenditure limit apply to?**

The 10% limit on overseas expenditure applies to the requested ARENA grant only, and does not apply to any in-kind or co-contributions. Purchase of equipment is exempt from this cap, and ARENA may consider raising this allowance in exceptional circumstances.



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Renewable  
Energy Agency**

**ARENA**

**Are cash contributions mandatory?**

No, however cash contributions from Applicants are regarded as higher merit than in-kind contributions from Applicants.

**Can the application include funds for PhD students?**

Yes, however the requested funds must relate to work undertaken in the specific Project applied for.

**Can co-contributions be sourced from other government funding schemes?**

Yes, however if government funds are the only source of matched funding then this would be considered when assessing the merit of the Project.

**Are letters of support required at the EOI stage?**

No, however they will be required at the Full Application stage.