Apply now for Industry 4.0 R&D project funding

Be one of Australia’s most innovative manufacturing companies and transform your business through collaborative and co-funded R&D projects with Australian universities and/or CSIRO.

Final funding rounds open

Secure your Industry 4.0 R&D project while funding is available.

Why IMCRC

The Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC) offers Australian manufacturers access to R&D expertise and matched cash funding up to $3m per company for industry-led research undertaken with Australian universities and/or CSIRO in advanced and digital manufacturing (Industry 4.0).

The largest Industry 4.0 R&D project funding currently available helps manufacturers develop new products, processes and innovative business models.

Why IMCRC

Additive manufacturing
Additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, helps businesses develop new products, shorten time to market, reduce waste and lower product cost.

Automation and robotics
Assistive robots work collaboratively with humans and each other, improving sensing, awareness and decision-making capabilities and allowing autonomy and self-learning.

Advanced materials
Advanced materials are new or modified materials engineered to provide superior performance, including strength, weight and formability.

Sensors and data analytics
Sensors and data analytics have multiple applications for business, including predictive maintenance, logistical tracking for operational efficiencies, and quality control.

Augmented and virtual reality
The use of augmented and virtual reality helps businesses to test and optimize designs and machine settings, enable remote collaboration, and worker training.

Industry 4.0 R&D projects

Working with start-ups, small, medium, large and multinational companies across a range of sectors including Manufacturing, Medical Technologies and Pharmaceutical, Building and Construction, Mining and Defence, we already support more than 20 innovative R&D projects that are delivering real benefits for Australian manufacturing.

Typically, our projects involve the following technologies:

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IMCRC at a glance

- 20+ research projects already approved
- 11 university partners plus CSIRO
- $100m+ total project research investment in Australian manufacturing to date

"Working with people from universities - in their DNA, they’re explorers. They’re testing and pushing boundaries, going down avenues and asking questions we wouldn’t consider as a business."

Matthew Tobin, Managing Director, UAP

"The value from collaborating with IMCRC has been the diversity of thought processes that have come through the various teams. Such a diverse group of staff would be difficult to replicate in your own R&D team without an infinite budget."

Alex de Andrade, Global Manager Sales, Equipment and Technology, Mineral Technologies

Read more about IMCRC projects underway: www.imcrc.org/projects
Who is eligible

IMCRC funding is specifically designed to help manufacturing companies that are willing and have capacity to invest in a multi-year, collaborative R&D project, with a minimum industry cash co-investment of $150,000 per annum.

You may be eligible, if:

• you intend to invest in a manufacturing R&D project of at least 18 months in duration with an IMCRC partner Australian research organisation
• you understand that the matched cash investment from IMCRC can only be used to fund external research and cannot be used to fund your internal company costs
• you intend to invest in R&D that utilises or creates new manufacturing technologies with commercial outcome
• you already have a manufacturing proof of concept and you plan to develop this through to readiness to invest in pilot line production/early stage commercialisation (i.e. scale-up)
• you are willing to involve other Australian manufacturing SMEs as collaborators during the project (e.g. partners, suppliers, providers, customers) to enable wider benefits.

How IMCRC projects work

IMCRC co-funds manufacturing R&D projects by matching on a dollar for dollar basis your company’s cash investment for research undertaken with IMCRC partner universities and/or CSIRO.

We work with you and your research partner(s) to:

- help you access world-leading manufacturing and Industry 4.0 R&D capability and infrastructure
- create an ecosystem for industry and researchers to work successfully together
- provide legal agreement frameworks as well as project management and reporting structures with clear timeframes and deliverables
- ensure IP ownership is agreed between project participants (note that IMCRC takes no equity share in IP)
- develop a commercialisation plan to assist project partners take the R&D project outputs to market.

“How the IMCRC helped us to structure the project, evaluate the market and the impact of our project and married us up with the right university partner.”

Mario Dimovski, Founder and Chief Creator Tradiebot Industries

How IMCRC funding works

As an example: to remain competitive and relevant, a manufacturing company seeks to invest in R&D and work with an Australian university and/or CSIRO.

IMCRC connects the company with an appropriate R&D research partner. The project has a $2m cash budget over a three year period. The company invests $1m cash, which is matched by $1m cash from IMCRC, who pays the total $2m cash investment to the university in line with project milestones. In kind contributions are valued and required but not matched by IMCRC.

In this example, the total project investment over three years would typically exceed $5m (cash plus in kind), providing significant return on the company’s cash investment. The company pays its cash contribution monthly to IMCRC.

**Example project cash investment: $2m over 3 years**

| University quarter expenses | $167k |
| Industry cash contribution | $28k invoiced monthly |
| IMCRC cash contribution     | $83k paid quarterly |

Read more about IMCRC partner universities
www.imcrc.org/about

Stay informed with IMCRC news
www.imcrc.org/contact

How to apply

Contact us today or complete a short Expression of Interest form to determine whether IMCRC project funding is the right strategy for your business.

IMCRC funding application forms
www.imcrc.org/apply-now