



Department of
**Energy and Economic
Diversification**

Innovation Booster Grant (IBG) 2026 Information Session

Acknowledgement of Country

The Government of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.



Introduction

- The Western Australian Government has invested \$40 million into the *New Industries and Innovation Fund* (NIIF) over four years (2025-29).
- IBG is funded through the NIIF.
- The NIIF is the primary tool for the State to deliver against the *WA Innovation Strategy: the place to innovate*.
- The NIIF is a key enabler of the State's economic development framework *Diversify WA*.
- The objective of the IBG is to target early-stage founders, innovation-driven SMEs, and startups in WA to improve capability and commercialise innovative projects, ideally in one of the State's priority sectors as outlined in *Diversify WA*.

Objectives and outcomes

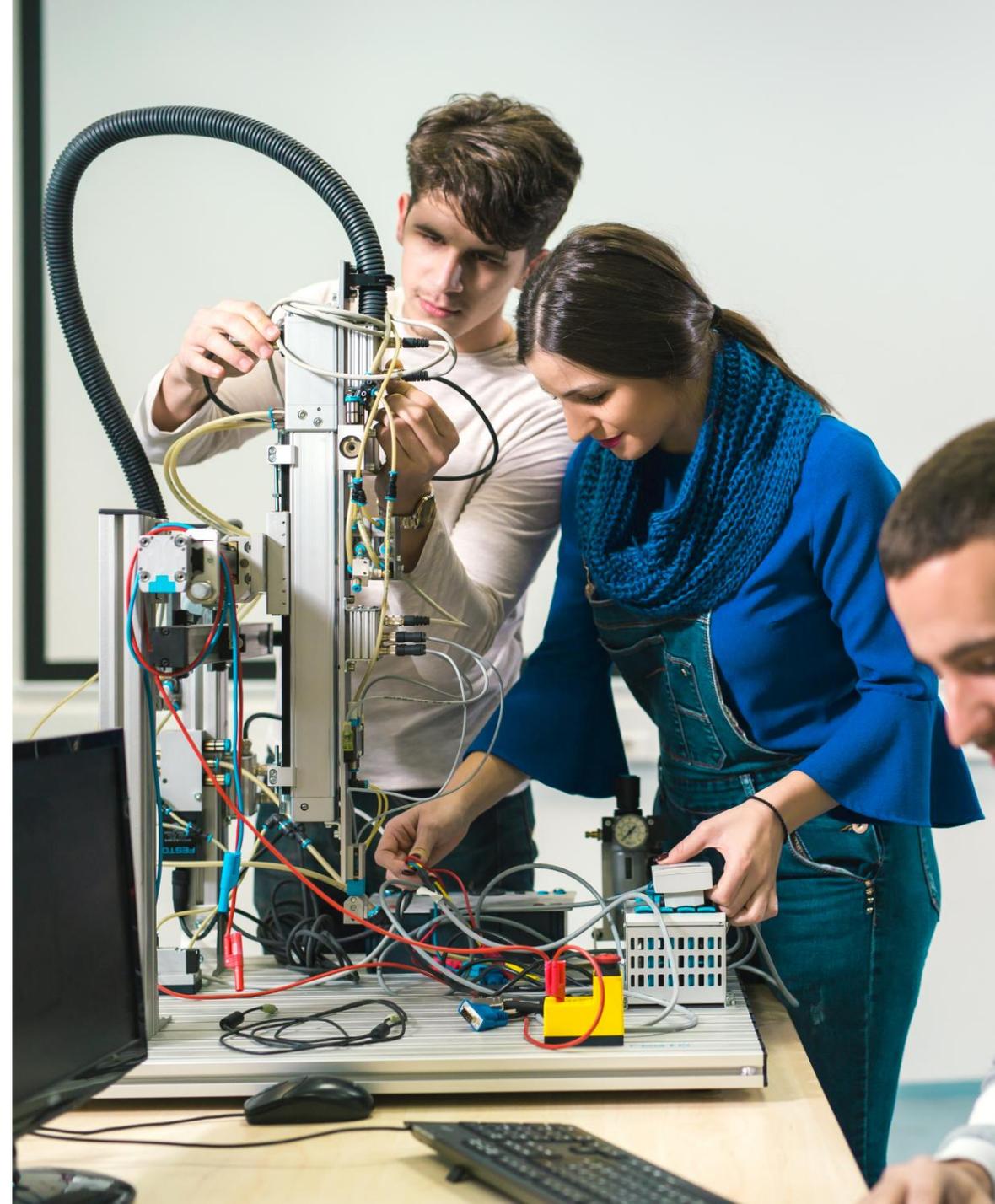
- Reduce barriers for startups and innovative SMEs to execute ideas
- Access to capital to engage support services and experts
- Enable businesses to address a technical problem, progressing their innovation towards commercialisation
- Develop new to market products that are commercially ready
- Number of commercially ready innovations in WA increases
- WA becomes a location of choice for product testing and development



Who are we looking for

Startups or innovation-driven SMEs

- Specialise in a product or service with strong potential for rapid growth
- Drive innovation through a business model that is often disruptive to the traditional industry norms
- Use technology to provide low cost, repeatable products or services as a competitive advantage in a sizeable market
- Growth focused, typically aiming for a long-term exit strategy
- Includes sole traders, private sector firms, partnerships and non-profit entities.



Past recipients

WaveX



WaveX is an innovative renewable energy business developing a new generation of wave energy technology that targets deep water, and is scalable, durable and commercial.

Materia Health



Materia Health is a medical device company dedicated to preserving, protecting, and transporting donor organs and tissues - giving transplant recipients the best chance of survival.

Prelect Devices



Prelect Devices is developing the Vedette®, a continuous monitoring system to detect and prevent infiltration and extravasation injury in NICU patients caused by IV line leakage.

Hermes and Soteria



Overwatch, by Hermes and Soteria, is the world's first proactive monitoring solution; utilising proprietary patent-pending probes to directly measure and monitor the sub-surface.

Grant testimonials

“This funding has been particularly useful for our product development, especially at this critical stage of testing and upgrading the system to be ready for an investor launch.”

– Y-Trace (2024 recipient)

“The Innovation Booster Grant program has been instrumental in enabling us to take our concept from idea to operational deployment”

– Australian Space Super Corridor (2024 recipient)

“We’re genuinely grateful for the support provided through the Innovation Booster Grant. It played a key role in accelerating our early-stage development and opening new collaborative opportunities.”

– QL Space (2024-25 recipient)

Applicant Eligibility *

- ✓ Business is registered in WA, has a current ABN and/or ACN and will be based in WA for the next 3 years
- ✓ Startup or SME with between 1 and 20 employees
- ✓ Business is solvent and will meet due diligence checks
- ✓ Not previously raised significant capital of \$5m or more.
- ✓ Innovative project being developed in WA with a budget less than \$100,000
- ✓ Your project is pre-revenue (your business can have previous revenue, but the project cannot have previous revenue)
- ✓ Not previously received, or are not likely to receive, other WA Government funding for the same project (including IBG)
- ✓ Business can co-contribute matched funding
- ✓ Funds will be used to engage external support service(s)
- ✓ Grant funding is used for a future project to be completed within 12 months and not on business-as-usual operational expenses
- ✓ Application to be submitted via Good Grants platform before the application closing date of Monday 30 March, 4.00pm (AWST)

* Fully defined Applicant Eligibility criteria available in IBG Guidelines

Tier	Applicant	Recipient matched funding requirement
1	Applicants headquartered in regional WA	15%
2	First Nations founded businesses *	15%
3	Female founded businesses	15%
4	All remaining applicants	20%

Funding Availability

- Maximum of \$50,000 per grant is available.
- Matched funds must be cash that is held by your business at the time of application.
- In-kind contributions are not recognised.
- Tier 2 recipients have access to a First Nations grant writing service.

Eligible Expenditure



1. Research and Development

- a. compliance testing
- b. product testing and validation
- c. laboratory verification
- d. certification



3. Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property

- a. protection of intellectual property
- b. legal advice
- c. licensing



2. Product Development

- a. engineering design work
- b. building a Minimum Viable Product (MVP)



4. Commercialisation Support Services

- a. innovation management and consulting
- b. commercialisation strategies
- c. commercialisation feasibility studies
- d. financial support

Evaluation Criteria

- 300 words for each criteria
- Each criterion assessed out of 10
- Maximum score 50

	Evaluation Criteria
1. Innovation	<p>Provide an overview of your business and your innovation considering;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the unique innovation embedded in your project;• what is new about your innovative project/initiative;• what you have managed to accomplish to date;• what 'customer problem' your innovation is designed to solve and how it does this; and• how you have protected (or are going to protect) the intellectual property within your project.
2. Need for Funding	<p>Describe the need for the Grant giving consideration to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the Grant will directly help address your financial need in advancing your innovative project/initiative;• why you cannot fund this project yourself (difficulties and gaps in funding); and• what the Grant funds will be spent on and how this will enable you to advance your innovation.

3. Competitive advantage

Explain what competitive advantage your innovation has in a sizeable market by identifying the;

- cost benefits of your innovation;
- distinct product features;
- delivery; and
- any other unique features.

4. Capacity, Capability and Resources

Demonstrate how you will deliver the project by identifying how;

- your team, and your selected support service(s) have the relevant skills, experience and capacity to advance your project;
- collaborating with the support service(s) will meet this need, why you have selected them, and how you intend to work together; and
- how other resources (e.g. mentors, advisors, others) may contribute towards the project and its success.

5. Impact and Alignment to Government priorities

Explain why your proposed project and associated plan is feasible, persuasive and back-able by demonstrating;

- that your application aligns with at least one of the priority sectors in the State's economic diversification strategy, *Diversify WA*;
- the impact your project will have on new job creation in Western Australia; and
- the potential and real impacts that grant funding for your innovation will have on delivering tangible benefits for industry and customers, such as income growth, new markets, technological transfer, collaboration, future capital raising, and any other measurable benefits

Diversify WA



Energy



**Tourism and
events**



**Creative
industries**



**International
education**



Defence industries



Mining and METS



Space industries



**Health and medical
life sciences**



Primary industries



Important dates

Item	Key Date
Application close	Monday 30 March 2026, 4.00pm (AWST)
Outcome notification	June 2026



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Questions

Please put your questions in the chat and we will respond to as many as possible.

Additional questions can be submitted via email to ibg@deed.wa.gov.au

