Department of
Energy and Economic Diversification

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Frequently Asked Questions

Expressions of Interest

Operator for a State-Funded Innovation Hub

- WA Digital Futures Innovation Hub

This document will be updated with new relevant questions until the EOI's closing at 1700 (AWST) 5 Nov 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

Will Expressions of Interest (EOI) be considered if received by the Department after the closing 1700 (AWST) 5 Nov 2026	No Please ensure you allow sufficient time to lodge all EOI documents before the deadline.
Can my organisation lodge a submission to operate the WA Digital Futures Innovation Hub?	Yes. Submissions are expected to address all requirements for the WA Digital Futures Innovation Hub.
Is the hub to be located in Western Australia?	Yes, the hub will be located in Western Australia. State-funded hub budgets will be spent in WA (unless otherwise agreed with DEED), and the hub's focus will be on growing WA businesses and opportunities.
Could the Department seek more information from EOI applicants after the closing date?	Yes, after the EOI's closing date all submissions will be reviewed and if required, applicants could be contacted if further clarification is required. If shortlisted, EOI applicants may be invited to submit more information for consideration.
How are the EOIs processed?	Step 1 Submitting an EOI enables the Department to evaluate proposals and potentially shortlist eligible applications that demonstrate strong alignment with the State's requirements. Step 2 May involve meeting with shortlisted applicants to further discuss their EOI submissions before final assessment. Step 3 The Panel assesses and ranks each eligible submission and recommends successful applicant/s to operate the nominated hubs to the Minister for Science and Innovation. Step 4 Awarding of the project is subject to signing of a Funding Agreement between the State, through DEED, and the applicant.
How can I be involved with the WA Digital Futures Innovation Hub if I am not the Operator?	Whether you are involved in the EOI process or not, engagement with, contribution to and/or participation from all sectors in the WA Digital Futures Innovation Hub and its activities (once operational) is encouraged.
Are there any conditions pertaining to the hub's Operator partnering with other organisations for the delivery of its EOI proposal?	Applicants may nominate partners to support the submission of EOI proposals. Key considerations include: • If the application is successful DEED would ultimately have to approve potential partners • The applicant submitting the EOI becomes the Primary Applicant and lead Partner • If the EOI is shortlisted then DEED will require a signed detailed contractual arrangement, or

	Memorandum of Understanding, between the Primary Applicant and the project Partner(s) before proceeding further • The successful Primary Applicant will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the State, through DEED, and will be responsible for delivering on Funding Agreement obligations, milestones and outcomes.
Will the hub Operator be required to leverage additional funding to increase the hub's impact and outcomes?	DEED's expectation is that the hub Operator would provide/seek to secure additional cash/in-kind contributions and expand partnerships and contributions to ensure sustainability, optimise impact and deliver positive outcomes for the State.
Who will assess the EOIs?	EOIs will be assessed on their merits by a panel or panels comprised of senior public servants and a diverse group of industry representatives who will be responsible for recommending the preferred operators to the Minister for Science and Innovation.
Can DEED provide any additional information regarding assessment criteria?	DEED is seeking a collaborative innovative value-for-money model that ensures the State achieves or exceeds the EOI's cited aims, goals and benefits. The criteria mentioned in the EOI will underpin the consistency of decision-making while not being so prescriptive as to exclude potential novel operating models.
Is there a desire for a physical space for the innovation hub, similar to the existing State - funded innovation hubs?	While there is interest in establishing a physical office, it is not necessarily intended to replicate the existing WA State-funded innovation hubs and may or may not include co-location opportunities for other companies. The Hub's physical presence could range from dedicated desk space within a larger host organisation, sufficient for meetings and collaboration, through to a fully fitted out office provided in-kind by a partnering organisation.
Is there a preferred template for the EOI?	No
Is a financial budget/forecast expected to support the EOI submission?	While not mandatory, providing a financial budget or forecast would assist the panel in assessing the merits of an EOI. The panel may also request additional information as part of the assessment process.
Is the State Government's funding limited to the identified specific annual payments over three years, or is there scope for additional hub funding for additional services?	State funding, provided through the New Industries and Innovation Fund, for the WA Digital Futures Innovation Hub is limited to agreed annual payments over three years, totalling $1.5 million. However, the operator may provide and/or seek additional funding, beyond the State's contribution, by securing additional cash or in-kind contributions from their organisation, partners,

	other contributors, fees-for-service or other approved models of income generation.
Can applicants meet DEED to discuss the EOI?	To ensure a fair and transparent process, DEED will not meet with EOI applicants before the application process closes, but DEED may correspond or meet with applicants after the closing date if more information is required as part of the shortlisting process.
Will all applicants receive the same information?	Individual queries received prior to the close time/date, and submitted to the email address below, will be shared via this FAQ page to ensure all applicants receive the same information.
What contractual arrangements will the hub Operator be expected to enter into?	The successful Primary Applicant will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the State Government, through DEED, for the three-year term of the arrangement.
Can cash and/or in-kind co-investment contributions be proposed in the EOI?	Yes, as with the existing State-funded innovation hubs, which are partnerships with existing entities, co-investment is encouraged to optimise outcomes for the sector and for the State.

Further queries can be sent to innovation@deed.wa.gov.au and responses, as applicable, will be published here up until the close of the EOI at 1700 (AWST) 5 Nov 2026