

Partner: The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), New Zealand

Notice: MBIE supports the second Call for Proposals of the ERA-CAPS (Coordinating Action in Plant Science) network and encourages New Zealand's plant molecular sciences community and the related private sector to apply for funding for collaborative research with researchers in Europe, UK, USA and elsewhere. Depending on all conditions of eligibility and peer review being met, the budget available from MBIE for this call will be up to NZ\$1.8million GST excluded.

Eligibility and national funding: Applications to this call will be for Collaborative Research Projects as defined in the Call Document. MBIE funding will be available only for supporting the New Zealand part of any successful transnational collaboration through research project grants. The maximum amount of New Zealand funding available is \$600,000 (GST excluded) per annum for three years.

Participation of New Zealand companies is encouraged. New Zealand researchers from industry may also be eligible to receive funding. However, the New Zealand part of the proposal must be led by an organisation whose primary purpose is research as opposed to commercial activity.

Research themes, eligibility, and application and evaluation of research proposals will follow the procedure defined in the ERA-CAPS Call Notice with annexes.

Prior to submission of the proposal for evaluation by ERA-CAPS, a brief summary of the New Zealand part of the proposal and the amount of funding requested must be provided to MBIE. Therefore, applicants should contact the National Call Coordinator (NCC) before starting to prepare proposals to discuss the pre-submission requirements.

Following a positive funding decision by ERA-CAPS New Zealand applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application to MBIE for approval and contracting.

New Zealand priorities

The research must align with the Themes of Research of the ERA-CAPS Call. The New Zealand part of the proposal must align to the following New Zealand priorities:

International relationships priorities:

- leverage international research, science and technology relationships through increased participation by New Zealand in the global science arena;
- connect New Zealand science and technology researchers with their international colleagues;
- facilitate research programmes of mutual priority; and
- achieve world-class results, especially in innovative technology.

The decision and notification process

Following notification of a positive funding decision by ERA-CAPS, the New Zealand applicants will be asked by MBIE to submit a formal national application for approval and contracting. Final approval of the funding will be made by MBIE.

MBIE may decide to either: Approve your application, Decline your application, Approve your application with conditions that may need to be met before or during the contract, Approve your application, but for an adjusted amount of funding.

When a decision about your application has been made, we will advise the contact person listed in your application by email. MBIE may also contact this person to discuss the decision.

Following notification MBIE will publish its decisions and may announce these with a press release. The details that MBIE or the Minister of Science and Innovation may make public are: the name of your company, the short title and public summary of your project, the amount of funding awarded, the duration of your project.

Allowable expenses:

Consumables, manpower and other research expenses: Expenses for research activities must be limited to those required to support the collaboration. Allowable expenses for personnel include stipends for MSc or PhD students, or stipends or salaries for researchers. Reasonable facilities, equipment and overhead expenses may be included (please email investments@msi.govt.nz if you need clarification of expenses allowed).

Support for Exchange visits: In principle, travel expenses including flights, accommodation, visa, travel insurance, ground transport, per diem and meal expenses are permitted and should be based on the rules of the institution with which the research leader is affiliated. New Zealand applicants cannot apply for expenses for researchers from the non-New Zealand part of the proposal.

Expenses for holding symposiums, seminars and meetings: Expenses related to organising symposiums and similar events are covered under the project (for example, consumables, printing and binding expenses, transportation and telecommunications fees, meeting fees (excluding expenses for alcoholic beverages) and honoraria). Daily allowance and accommodation expenses specifically related to the project are accepted.

Expenses not covered

The following expenses are not covered:

- Acquisition of real estate or constructing buildings;
- Procurement of major equipment;
- Dealing with accidents or disasters during the co-operative research period;
- Expenses unrelated to the co-operative research project;
- Accident and illness insurance (this is the responsibility of the applicants).

Reporting requirements: The research leader must submit annual reports that outline the status of the research project and whether the project is following the financial plan.

The research leader must submit a final report at the completion of the project. The report must include a financial report, a description of the outcomes and the added value achieved.

All reports should follow MBIE's standard reporting procedures.

Exclusion of liability: Neither MBIE, nor any Board members, officers, employees, advisers or other representatives will be liable (in contract or tort, including negligence, or otherwise) for any direct or indirect damage, loss or cost (including legal costs) incurred or suffered by any proposer or other person in connection with this Call process.

National Call Co-ordination (NCC):

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