CAS & ACNS Industry Voucher Scheme

Purpose

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The Industry Access and Translation Voucher Scheme, funded by NCRIS, provides matched funding for Australian businesses to access national research infrastructure at ANSTO's Centre for Accelerator Science (CAS) and Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering (ACNS).

The Australian Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) supports both centres, enabling researchers and industry to access world-leading capabilities that help answer some of today's most significant scientific and industrial questions.

The scheme aims to:

- Support first-time and early-stage industry users.
- Accelerate industry innovation, translation, technology development and commercialisation.
- Lower barriers to specialised scientific testing and analysis.
- Increase industry use of national research infrastructure.
- Support sovereign capability in priority industry sectors.

Capabilities available

CAS capabilities include radiocarbon dating, cosmogenic isotope exposure dating, trace analysis of actinides and elements, PM2.5 aerosol analysis, total fluorine concentration, radiation testing and damage, radiobiology, associated sample preparation and scientific advice

ACNS capabilities include neutron scattering measurements and neutron imaging. Related scientific support services may also qualify.

Condition of use of funding

Voucher recipients agree to develop a joint case study with ANSTO, acknowledge ANSTO and NCRIS in publications, presentations and reports, and allow ANSTO to feature the project in capability promotion.

Funding limit

$10,000 ex-GST, per applicant.

Matched funding

Voucher - up to 50% of total commercial project value.

Applicant - at least 50% in cash.

Final funding levels depend on available program funding.

Facilities and Capabilities

Centre for Accelerator Science (CAS)

Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering

NCRIS
National Research Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

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Process

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Step 1. Enquiry

Industry user contacts CAS or ACNS facility. ANSTO scientist assigned to discuss project needs and required capabilities, assess feasibility (including technical, security, and compliance requirements), and voucher eligibility.

Step 2. Quotation

ANSTO prepares the scope of work and estimated delivery timeframe. A commercial service agreement is prepared and shared with the applicant together with the Voucher Guidelines and Voucher Application Form.

Step 3. Submission

The applicant submits a completed Voucher Scheme application with supporting information if required.

Step 4. Review

The application is reviewed against eligibility and assessment criteria, completeness and available budget.

The CAS and ACNS directors provide final approval notification with new service agreement issued, inclusive of Voucher discount and Voucher scheme terms.

Step 5. Project delivery

Project is executed as per the scope of work. The applicant is invoiced when ANSTO delivers services and reporting.

Step 6. Completion and Impact Tracking

The project closes when:

- Deliverables have been issued, such as a case study, publication or web story.
- At 6, 12 and 18 months, ANSTO may request updates on commercial outcomes, follow-on funding, investment raised, jobs created, new products launched, intellectual property generated.

Technical outcomes

New products

Process improvements

Validation activities

Performance benchmarking

Higher technology readiness level (TRL)

Commercial outcomes

Revenue growth

Cost reduction

Investment attraction

Market expansion

Export opportunities

Job creation



ACNS – Kowari neutron beamline.

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Eligibility

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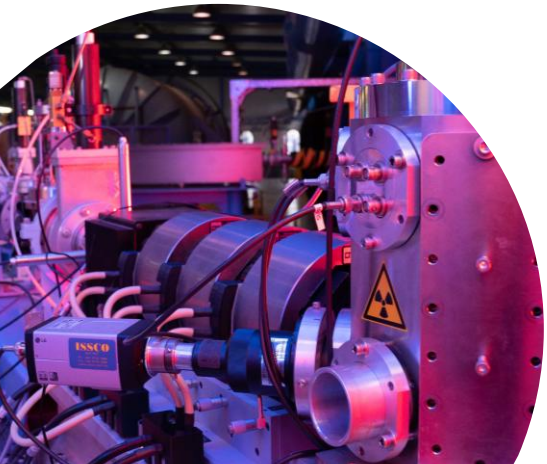
Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Be a first-time user
- ✓ Be an Australian registered entity.
- ✓ Hold a valid Australian Business Number (ABN).
- ✓ Be able to pay their contribution to project costs.
- ✓ Demonstrate indicative commercial, industrial or translational impact
- ✓ Agree for company name and high-level overview of project to be used for case study and promotional content

Application

The applicant must:

- Provide a project brief, describing:
  - Motivation: technical or commercial challenge you are trying to solve and why it's important
  - Plan: samples involved and measurements and/or analyses and/or services required, requested turnaround time, process or controls needed
- List the specific CAS or ACNS capabilities requested
- Provide the organisation profile (company size, turnover, ownership, sector)
- Provide expected outcomes or indicative impact of project



CAS - ANTARES accelerator beamline.

Priority applicants

Startups and university spin-outs.

SMEs and commercial entities that meet the general eligibility criteria for the R&D Tax Incentive.

Companies developing sovereign Australian capability.

Organisations operating in national priority areas

Priority Areas

Critical Technologies

Healthy Thriving Communities

Secure Resilient Nation

Transition to Net Zero

Protecting Restoring Australia's Environment

Elevating Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders knowledge