

Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership Grant

Round 5 Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the Grant Round open?

The current Australian-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership (AICCTP) Grant Round 5 opens for applications on Thursday 20 November 2025 at 15:00 Australian Daylight Savings Time (AEDT) (UTC +11:00)/ 9:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30).

2. When will the Grant Round close?

The AICCTP Grant Round 5 will close for applications Friday 19 December 2025 at 17:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time (AEDT) (UTC +11:00)/ 11:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30)

3. Can I ask questions during the application process?

Yes, please email all questions to aicctp@dfat.gov.au by no later than Friday 28 November 2025 at 17:00 AEDT (UTC +11:00)/ 11:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30). DFAT will publish responses to the questions received on Grants Connect: www.grants.gov.au.

4. What are the priority areas of AICCTP Grant Round 5?

The priority areas of the AICCTP's 2025-26 (Round 5) grant opportunity are:

- a) **Development of international standards to support the deployment of transparent and securely designed technologies (including but not limited to artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, digital public infrastructure, biotechnologies and emerging space technologies):**
 - Brokering and supporting industry-led multi-stakeholder research collaboration between Australian and Indian researchers on **setting international standards**, to ensure technology markets are transparent and competitive, and that products/services are secure and safe by design.
 - Increasing collaboration between industry, research institutions and government to advance the **adoption** of trusted and secure technologies in the Indo-Pacific, including through **innovative use-cases** that cater to regional priorities.
 - Collaborating on **ethical models and pathways** to drive access to, and adoption of, trusted and secure technologies in the Indo-Pacific, including securing supply chains and promoting 'safety by design' practices.
- b) **Building cyber resilience and security in the Indo-Pacific**
 - Collaborating on research and pathways that support countries in the Indo-Pacific region to improve their **cyber** resilience and adopt trusted technology and ICT services, cybersecurity services, and digital public infrastructure.
 - Collaborating on **building the resilience of critical infrastructure assets**, including submarine cables, combatting cybercrime and securing supply chains.
- c) **Defending an open, free, secure and interoperable internet in international forums through governance mechanisms**

- Collaborating on research that promotes a **multi-stakeholder model of internet governance** and strengthens the capacity for all stakeholders, including industry, civil society, academia, and the technical community, to develop and engage on internet governance mechanisms.

5. When will I be able to commence my grant activity?

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity around February 2026, after entering into a funding agreement with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and within 30 days of receiving grant payments.

6. What is the maximum amount of funding I can receive in this grant round?

The maximum grant amount is \$200,000 (GST exclusive).

7. What is the minimum amount of funding I can receive in the grant round?

The minimum grant amount is \$100,000 (GST exclusive).

8. How long can projects funded under this grant round run for?

Grant projects can run for a maximum of two years from the date the grant has been awarded. Funding agreements with successful grant recipients will be put in place around February 2026.

9. Can I receive funding from multiple grant programs for my project?

No. While you can apply to any Commonwealth grant program, if your applications for the same project are successful, you must choose either a grant under the AICCTP or the other Commonwealth grant.

10. Who can apply for grants under the AICCTP Grant Round 5?

Australian and Indian institutions are eligible to apply.

You must also be one of the following entity types:

- a company incorporated in Australia or India
- a company incorporated by guarantee
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- an incorporated association
- a partnership
- a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation;
- a business and/or industry undertaking collaborative research
- a think tank or research organisation
- an Indian or Australian government-owned research entity.

Indian institutions must partner with at least one Australian institution to apply for the grant, as the Australian institution will be responsible for receiving and distributing monies under the grant (in line with the financial regulations of Australia (Reserve Bank of Australia) and India (Foreign Contribution

Regulation Act). If there are multiple Australian institutions involved, only one can be identified as the lead institution for the purposes of administering the grant monies.

We welcome research collaborations with third countries as part of the Australia-India research partnerships.

Are joint applications with multiple organisations allowed?

Australian and Indian organisations may join to form a consortium for the purposes of delivering a grant activity or project. However, an Australian organisation must be appointed the 'lead organisation' and will be the sole recipient of grant payments from the Australian Government. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Australian Government. The lead organisation will be responsible for distribution of payments to any partners within the consortium. The application must identify all members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each partner.

Each letter of support must include:

- details of the partner organisation
- an overview of how the partner organisation will work with the lead organisation and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the grant activity or project
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner organisation will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities of the partner organisation and the resources they will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the grant agreement.

11. Can I apply for AICCTP funding under Round Five if I have previously received funding for a project in previous rounds?

Grant recipients of previous rounds of AICCTP grants are eligible to apply for Round 5. An existing AICCTP grant does not prevent an organisation from applying for AICCTP Grant Round 5.

12. Will late applications be accepted?

No. You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. Late applications will not be accepted.