

September 2020

# Innovation Districts COVID-19 R&D Challenges

Photo: University of Technology Sydney Biologics Innovation Facility



# NSW Government is seeking to support businesses to accelerate the commercialisation of research products and services that address the many disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To achieve this, NSW Treasury is working with universities and CSIRO, partners in the Boosting Business Innovation Program, to hold three rounds of challenges in innovation districts across NSW



## Innovation district partners

Australian Catholic University	University of Newcastle
Charles Sturt University	University of New South Wales
CSIRO	University of Sydney
Macquarie University	University of Technology Sydney
Southern Cross University	University of Wollongong
University of New England	Western Sydney University

These innovation district partners will identify businesses with connections in their area, either through research relationships or physical location, which have high-potential products or services that can address the challenge statement.

Each challenge will be defined by a problem statement that relates to COVID-19 and its impact on the people of NSW. The challenge statements, and the key dates for each round, will be made available on [business.nsw.gov.au](https://business.nsw.gov.au)

## Funding opportunities that are available

The total funding pool available for each Challenge round is \$500,000. Innovation district partners will nominate

the top three eligible applicants in their area to be assessed and ranked for grant funding.

Highest ranked applicant	\$250,000
Second-highest ranked applicant	\$100,000
Third-highest ranked applicant	\$30,000
Highest ranked applicant in each Innovation District that is not one of the statewide overall recipients	\$120,000 (\$10,000 for each of the 12 Innovation Districts)



## Business eligibility criteria

To be eligible, businesses must have:

- an ABN registered in NSW and is based in NSW
- fewer than 200 employees
- operated for at least 12 months, based on date of ABN registration
- at least \$75,000 in sales revenue within the last 12 months
- a product or service (which may still be in development) that directly addresses the impact of COVID-19 that it intends to market within 12 months
- ownership that is at least 75 per cent Australian and is not more than 50 per cent owned by another business.

**Further requirements and exclusions are outlined in the Guidelines available at [business.nsw.gov.au](https://business.nsw.gov.au).**

## Contacts

Contact your local innovation district partner leading challenge activities:

### Australian Catholic University

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## The total funding pool available for each Challenge round is \$500,000.

### How to apply

Apply through your innovation district partner.

Contact your innovation district partner for more information on how to apply. If your business is eligible, you may be invited to progress to stage two assessment.





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