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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australian Catholic University</th>
<th>University of Newcastle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles Sturt University</td>
<td>University of New South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>University of Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie University</td>
<td>University of Technology Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Cross University</td>
<td>University of Wollongong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of New England</td>
<td>Western Sydney University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest ranked applicant</th>
<th>$250,000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second-highest ranked applicant</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-highest ranked applicant</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest ranked applicant in each Innovation District that is not one of the statewide overall recipients</td>
<td>$120,000 ($10,000 for each of the 12 Innovation Districts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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.

Contacts
Contact your local innovation district partner leading challenge activities:

Australian Catholic University
Anthony Bayss
anthony.bayss@acu.edu.au 02 9701 4756

Charles Sturt University
Siobhain Howard
sihoward@csu.edu.au 02 6933 4004

CSIRO
Katie Green
katie.green@csiro.au 02 9413 7522

Macquarie University
Paul Hogan
paul.hogan@mq.edu.au 02 9850 1324

Southern Cross University
Michael Sydes
michael.sydes@scu.edu.au 02 6626 9569

University of New England
Lou Conway
mconway@une.edu.au 02 6773 3919

University of Newcastle
Siobhan Curran
siobhan.curran@newcastle.edu.au 02 4921 6951

University of New South Wales
Danielle Neale
danielle.neale@unsw.edu.au 0481 451 636

University of Sydney
Katie Richmond
katie.richmond@sydney.edu.au 02 9114 1153

University of Technology Sydney
Alex Thomson
algaebiotech.hub@uts.edu.au 02 9514 5167

University of Wollongong
Zahra Shahbazian zahras@uow.edu.au or Julia Frith jfrith@uow.edu.au 0438 358 243

Western Sydney University
Don Wright
don.wright@westernsydney.edu.au 02 9678 7200

For more information:
• visit business.nsw.gov.au
• contact global.nsw.gov.au/contact-us.