

Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations Program GUIDELINES ROUND 12 2019-2020

About the Program



The Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations Program is part of the Northern Territory (NT) Government's \$26 million [Resourcing the Territory](#) initiative and is aimed at increasing exploration in greenfield areas of the NT. It provides for co-funding of approved drilling and geophysical acquisition projects where the outcomes are expected to improve geological knowledge and mineralisation targeting within a region, particularly at depth.

Co-funding amounts available



Up to half of the eligible Direct Project Costs can be claimed with amounts capped at **\$125,000** for diamond drilling and **\$100,000** for RC drilling or geophysical acquisition. A maximum of **\$200,000** may be claimed by related applicants across multiple, non-adjacent projects in any one year. In addition, a project that engages NT Enterprises for service or supply can claim half of those costs up to a maximum of **\$10,000** under the Territory Supplier Incentive. Note that all amounts specified throughout are inclusive of GST.

Applying for co-funding



Comprehensive project proposals with all supporting documentation must be submitted for assessment by the NT Government. An applicant will not be eligible for funding in the current round if they failed to complete a co-funded project from the previous round.

Applicants of successful project proposals enter into a **Funding Agreement** with the NT Government that will specify the conditions and value of the co-funding.

Submitting a project proposal



For each project, applicants must complete a [Proposal Cover Sheet](#) and a detailed Project Application that includes supporting documentation regarding business information, financial capacity statements, public liability insurance and workers compensation certificates. For drilling projects, the current authorised Mining Management Plan (MMP) or evidence of the status of a MMP awaiting authorisation must be included. In order to be considered, the project proposal must follow the format outlined in the [Project Application Template](#). Applications are to be emailed to collaborations.dpir@nt.gov.au.

Assessment of proposals



Assessment focusses on the technical merits of the project and its capacity to broaden geological knowledge and promote innovative exploration techniques, particularly in greenfield areas. The project application will be evaluated against the project specific Assessment Criteria; it must deliver high quality, non-proprietary, publishable information verified by competent geoscientists who have a track record of providing quality technical reports to the Territory. The applicant will need to demonstrate that they have the technical and financial capacity to complete the project in the required timeframe.

Specific assessment criteria



Any project involving significant ground disturbance must be on granted tenure that is held in good standing by the applicant or a party demonstrably related to the applicant. A current [MMP Authorisation](#) relevant to the project must be in place well before the proposed timing of the project.

- Diamond drilling projects will be assessed against the [Diamond Drilling Assessment Criteria](#) and will only be considered for areas where there is no previous diamond drilling or where the proposed drilling is to a much greater depth than any existing drilling. Non-diamond pre-collars must be justified and will only be funded where more than half the drilling meterage of a hole is planned as diamond coring. Projects involving shallow holes into known mineralisation, resource definition drilling, or development drilling will not be eligible.
- Reverse-circulation drilling projects will be assessed against the [RC Drilling Assessment Criteria](#) and will only be considered for areas where it is demonstrated that no other drilling has been conducted and the project can be considered entirely greenfield in nature. Projects that include holes in existing mineral fields, known mineralisation or in areas previously tested by or near to drilling will not be eligible.
- Geophysical acquisition projects will be assessed against the [Geophysics Assessment Criteria](#) and must be over the applicant's or a related party's granted tenure or otherwise where it meets the criteria for preliminary exploration as defined by the [Mineral Titles Act 2010](#). Preference will be given to projects that are regional in nature, eg. cover contiguous areas larger than 500 km². Prospect-scale acquisitions or those involving single traverses will be considered if they involve testing an innovative new technology or an approach to improving knowledge of a clear geological problem that has applications at a regional scale for better mineralisation targeting, especially in greenfield areas. Regional acquisition projects are only eligible for co-funding for those with data collection at a minimum of one km-spacing for grid-based surveys or 100 m line-spacing for traverse-based surveys. Any data collected at intervals less than these minimal spacings would be entirely at the applicant's expense.

Claimable Costs



A list of eligible Direct Project Costs and Territory Supplier Incentive costs are included in the Project Application Template. Essentially, they cover activities or items specifically required for the satisfactory completion and delivery of the proposed project to industry accepted standards. They do not include costs related to administration, project management, land access, cultural heritage, environmental, personnel and rehabilitation. These costs, and all their associated costs, remain the responsibility of the applicant.

For the purpose of claims made under the Territory Supplier Initiative, an NT Enterprise is a business that is registered with the Industry Capability Network

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Northern Territory¹ and does all of the following: operates in the NT, has a significant permanent physical presence in the NT, and predominantly employs NT residents.

Estimates of Direct Program Costs in the application should be as accurate as possible to ensure an appropriate **Funding Amount** is allocated for the project.

[Claimable costs](#) for funding of up to half of the actual costs must be supported by supplier invoices and documentation in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

The funding sequence



Funding applications open **Wednesday 6 March 2019** and close **5:00pm Monday 15 April 2019 (Australian Central Standard Time)**. Applications received outside of these dates will not be considered and the NT Government is not obliged to accept any such application.

In early May, the Panel² will rank all valid applications by scoring them against the Assessment Criteria specific to the project type (diamond drilling, RC drilling, geophysics).

By late May, applicants are notified of the assessment outcome and details of the successful projects are made public.



By June, the successful applicants will have negotiated and entered into a pro-forma Funding Agreement with the NT Government. The agreement binds the payment of up to the agreed Funding Amount with the successful completion of the proposed project, supply of all specified deliverables and lodging of co-funding claims within specific timeframes. It also contains conditions regarding media releases and termination rights.

More details on the following parts of the process can be found in the pro-forma Funding Agreement available upon request.



Co-funded projects can only commence after the public announcement and in line with the proposed start date.

Fieldwork must be completed and the NTGS notified prior to 1 December 2019 for the Funding Agreement to remain valid unless an extension has been agreed to by the Executive Director, NTGS.



Within one month of fieldwork completion, two invoices, each for 50% of the lesser of the Funding Amount or the actual claimable costs, must be submitted together with all supporting documents and supplier invoices. Once verified as accurate and complete, one invoice will be paid with the remaining invoice remaining unpaid until all deliverables due under the Funding Agreement are received, verified and approved by the NTGS.



All deliverables must be submitted within three months of fieldwork completion and comply with the [reporting, data](#), and [drill core submission](#) in [Guideline 7 Reporting on Mineral Titles](#) to meet funding obligations.



The Funding Agreement terminates on 30 June 2020. All reports and data become **Open File** six months after completion of field work.

¹ In the case of an individual who cannot register with the ICNNT, the onus is on the applicant to provide sufficient evidence that the individual meets all other criteria and granting of the Incentive will be at the discretion of the Executive Director, NTGS

² The Panel includes from the NTGS the Executive Director, Director of Regional Geoscience, Manager of Geophysics and Remote Sensing, Manager of Regional Geoscience as well as a representative from the Department of the Chief Minister.

Further information

Applicants are encouraged to seek further information regarding the Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations program, their application and the assessment process from the contact details provided below.

Collaborations Officer

Northern Territory Geological Survey
 Department of Primary Industry and Resources
 GPO Box 4550, Darwin NT 0801

Email: collaborations.dpir@nt.gov.au

Phone: 08 8999 5424

Web: www.minerals.nt.gov.au/collaborations

Dates to remember

Date	Event
Wednesday 6 March 2019	Call for applications
5pm ACST, Monday 15 April 2019	Close of applications
May 2019	Assessment panel meet
June 2019	Funding Agreements negotiated and signed with successful applicants
Sunday 1 December 2019	All fieldwork must be complete
Tuesday 30 June 2020	Funding Agreement ends

