



Government
of South Australia
Department of the
Premier and Cabinet

**REGIONE PUGLIA – SOUTH AUSTRALIA
RESEARCH COLLABORATION AWARDS
2011**

Fund Objectives and Guidelines for Applicants

August 2011
Economic and International Coordination Division
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Regione Puglia - South Australia

RESEARCH COLLABORATION AWARDS 2011

The Governments of South Australia and Regione Puglia have agreed to jointly present the **2011 Regione Puglia - South Australia Awards for Research Collaboration**. The Awards will recognize excellence in research cooperation between South Australia and Regione Puglia and foster further research activity.

The **Regione Puglia - South Australia Awards for Research Collaboration** are offered under the Letter of Intent between the Governments of South Australia and Regione Puglia, signed in Adelaide on 15 February 2008, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of South Australia and Regione Puglia, signed in Bari on 11 May 2007.

The intention of the Awards is to promote relations between research institutes and universities from the two regions, with a view to achieving the following objectives:

- Intensifying collaboration and agreements between research centres and universities based in Puglia and South Australia to strengthen professional development and specialisation in the fields of research and technological innovation specified in 'Eligibility';
- Promoting increased participation in relevant programs and initiatives of the European Union, ARC and other international organisations aimed at furthering research and development and innovation in key industry sectors;
- Fostering improved conditions for exchanges between South Australia and Puglia of young researchers, post-graduate students and teaching staff;
- Intensifying technical-scientific collaboration in the key industry sectors in both regions, aimed at development of specific strategies and programs to enhance business competitiveness;
- Promoting stronger links between research and business communities, with specific regard to:
 - o improving the application of research outcomes and transfer of technologies in key business sectors,
 - o fostering the creation of scientific, technical and business partnerships for the future development of joint research programs and initiatives.

1. Eligibility, Funding, Application and Evaluation Processes and Merit Criteria

Eligibility

Applications for the Regione Puglia – South Australia Research Collaboration Awards are open to researchers in research organisations and universities based in South Australia, who are willing to undertake appropriate* research activities with researchers in Puglia institutions. The South Australian Government will make one call for applications for these Awards in 2011. Funds will be provided for approved projects for up to 17 months.

* The areas identified for research collaboration are: biotechnology, energy, integrated logistics, nanotechnology, mechatronics, agriculture, conservation, water, information technology and tourism.

Funding

The SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet has allocated \$700,000 towards a maximum number of 10 projects. Funds awarded to successful applicants will have to be used to implement a cooperative activity between Regione Puglia and South Australia.

Applicants can apply to receive up to 65% of their project costs from the SA-Apulia award funding. Applicants will be required to independently source the balance of funds required for their proposed project.

The SA-Apulia awarded funds will be provided in two instalments: 90% on signing of a grant agreement, and the remaining 10% once the SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet receives a satisfactory final report, no later than 1 May 2013.

Applicants will be required to indicate all direct sources of project funds and resources, and the respective contributions to be provided (cash and/or in-kind). If a proponent hopes to secure part funding through other sources, but the outcome of the relevant application is still unknown, details of the unsecured funding should be provided in the application (ie amount sought, organisation/ program name, expected timing of announcement, etc).

Application Process

Proponents are invited to submit an application by providing a **maximum of five pages** comprising a 4-page pro forma plus 1 page to describe the project and make a case for government support. A letter of support from the Apulia Research Centre to be involved in the proposed joint project must also be attached to the application.

- The pro forma Application Form must include a short description of the project and the name of the host organisation for the project, the nominated lead person involved in the project and acting as the project representative and prescribed information on funding requirements.
- The Project Case (a maximum of one page) in support of the project should include a summary of previous bilateral cooperative activities and a statement describing how the project would address the award objectives and each of the merit criteria, including how it would generate strategic benefit for South Australia and Apulia.

Competitive applications will present a compelling case for State Government investment, demonstrating:

- capacity to achieve the stated outcomes
- significant collaboration in development of the proposal and in achievement of the specified outcomes
- how the project would contribute to the alliance between Regione Puglia and South Australia and their respective national and international profiles
- potential to deliver economic, social and/or environmental benefits to the State and generate strategic and sustainable value for South Australia.

Merit Criteria

1. Track record relative to opportunities
2. Credibility of the plan
3. Ambition of the plan
4. Likelihood of high quality output
5. Multidisciplinary initiative within the specified areas of research identified under 'Eligibility'
6. Potential for broad impact/outcomes
7. Potential to leverage further funding
8. Potential to stimulate further research collaboration both in the field and at the institutional level
9. Evidence of current or previous successful collaboration between institutions in Regione Puglia and South Australia.

Evaluation Process

Applications will be referred to an evaluation panel, chaired by South Australia's Chief Scientist. If a member of the evaluation panel has a direct conflict of interest in relation to a proposal, he/she will be required to declare it and to abstain from participating in ranking the relevant proposal(s).

The evaluation panel for the Research Collaboration Awards will make a detailed assessment of each proposal and will rank the submitted proposals according to their assessed ability to contribute to the objectives of the program and compliance with the Merit Criteria. These are based on the priorities of South Australia's Strategic Plan (www.sasp.gov.au) and the collaboration agreements between the Governments of Regione Puglia and South Australia.

The panel will also assess the overall case for the project and applicants' capacity to deliver the proposed outcomes and benefits. To assist in its assessment, the panel may also choose to interview the project leader (as nominated in the application).

If the panel forms the view that a proposal has significant potential to deliver benefits to the State, but is inadequate in some particular respect(s), it may invite the nominated project leader to submit a revised proposal, for consideration along with other proposals considered to be worthy of funding.

If no applications from the round are deemed to have satisfactorily met the stated objectives and merit criteria, the South Australian Government reserves the right to make no awards under this initiative.

2. Contracting and Audit

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a comprehensive grant agreement with the South Australian Government and may be subject to technical and financial audit.

3. Reporting and Monitoring

In the case for the project, applicants must indicate appropriate milestones and key performance indicators (KPIs) to be achieved over the life of the project (~12-17 months). These KPIs will provide the basis for the performance measures to be incorporated in the grant agreement for successful projects.

The final Award payment will be triggered by receipt by the grant administrators in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet of a satisfactory performance report (in accordance with requirements specified in the grant agreement), which will highlight achievement of agreed milestones and KPIs.

4. Indicative Timelines

| Step | Action | Date Due |
|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Call for applications | August 2011 |
| 2 | Lodgement of applications | 25 October 2011 |
| 3 | Assessment of applications by panel | 8 November 2011 |
| 4 | Negotiate funding / project terms with applicants (if necessary) | 17 November 2011 |
| 3 | Completion of assessment by panel | 22 November 2011 |
| 4 | Recommendations and/or advice to Deputy Chief Executive SAAR and Premier | 29 November 2011 |
| 5 | Awards publicly announced | Early December 2011 |
| 6 | All contracts negotiated and signed off | February 2012 |
| 7 | Finalisation of projects and provision of final report | By 1 May 2013 |

5. Contact Details

All applications must be forwarded to:

European Desk
Office of International Coordination
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Via Australia Post to:

GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001

NOTE: Allow a minimum of 3 days for delivery

Do not send submissions to this address via Priority Paid mail

Or delivered direct to:

Level 17 Education Building
31 Flinders Street
Adelaide

Or via email to:

DPCEuropeanDesk@dpcc.sa.gov.au

Enquiries regarding the Awards must only be directed to:

European Desk
Office of International Coordination
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: 08 8226 8721
Facsimile: 08 8207 2320
Email: DPCEuropeanDesk@dpcc.sa.gov.au

The Guidelines for Applicants and the Application Form are available at:

Website: www.premcab.sa.gov.au