

TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS

PROJECT GUIDELINES

Applicants should follow these instructions carefully in preparing their application.

1. APRIL

An independent, participant-based entity, APRIL (Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited; ABN 25 113 703 174) seeks to enhance the Australian pork industry by investing in research and development, education and training, and commercialisation activities focused on priorities and deliverables that ensure the sustainability of Australian pork production, and to generate optimal returns for its stakeholders.

2. APRIL TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT RESEARCH GRANTS

APRIL is seeking applications that clearly address the challenges of, and provide solutions for, each Transformational Project (see 7., below). Applications in other areas will not be considered.

APRIL will seek to leverage its funds by strategically investing in a Transformational Project. APRIL wishes to be an active co-funder of these projects and is seeking collaborations with other partners to co-invest with to address these key industry priorities.

There is no lower or upper limit on the monetary value, nor the timeframe, of a Transformational Project grant. However, APRIL does have limited funds to invest in a project, and therefore there is a significant expectation that the size, scope and monetary value of an application is sufficient to suitably address the numerous challenges that each Transformational Project presents.

APRIL does not fund any indirect cost recovery of projects costs.

Please note, final approval and funding of a Transformational Project may be subject to changes in the budget. This is at the sole discretion of APRIL.

3. ELIGIBILITY

APRIL Transformational Project grants are competitive, hence open to any individual(s) from any organisation(s) and are open to all Australian universities.

APRIL is eligible to be an Industry Partner for various funding schemes, e.g., CRC-P, ARC Linkage. There is a requirement, that for example, an ARC linkage grant is led by an APRIL participant university and involve two or more APRIL participants.

4. APRIL REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for funding, an application **MUST**:



- Demonstrate direct relevance to the brief concerning the Transformational Project.
- Demonstrate clear pathways to solutions for the Transformational Project.
- Demonstrate partnerships with relevant end-users.
- Demonstrate that the research team (consortium) has the relevant expertise and is multidisciplinary in nature.
- APRIL-funded projects will still require a cash contribution, calculated as a percentage of the total project and facility funding cash cost (refer to APRIL Cash Contribution Calculator).
- Total project cash contributions, including Facility Funding, will be calculated according to:
 - The number of project parties (e.g., if there is a total of three project parties, then the contributions are apportioned as 1/3, 1/3 and 1/3);
 - The level of participation (as per a fully executed Participant Agreement).
- If a Participant is also an Ordinary Member, then the most favourable rights and benefits prevail.
- Applications that can display a higher external cash contribution may be viewed more favourably.
- A cash contribution calculator for project proposals is available from the APRIL website.
- Provide a translation plan which describes how the research will be translated to practice.

Collaboration with one or more APRIL Members and (or) Participants is actively encouraged.

What will NOT be considered for funding:

- An application that does not conform to the brief concerning the Transformational Project.
- An application that does not suitably address the selection criteria.
- An application that does not meet the minimum external cash contribution.
- An incomplete application.
- A late application.

5. SUBMISSION

An application must be submitted using the Transformational Project application form by, via email to c.rikardbell@april.org.au

6. APPLICATION PROCESS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

An application for a Transformational project is expected to demonstrate the following characteristics:

- A strong, robust and scientifically sound plan to address the challenges each Transformational Project presents (and that could span numerous years).
- Preferably, a multidisciplinary (consortium) approach with the requisite expertise to undertake the project objectives.
- Evidence of partnerships that will inform the research and facilitate research into practice.
- Evidence of significant co-funding (leverage) for overall support of the project.
- Evidence of tertiary training activities (where appropriate).
- A translation plan to demonstrate the intent and capacity for the research outcomes.

All Transformational Project funding applications to APRIL will be assessed and rated by the APRIL R&D Advisory Committee (RDAC) which is chaired by the Chief Scientist to the Australian pork industry. The RDAC has the collective expertise and experience to effectively evaluate applications against all selection criteria for this scheme.

Assessment criteria:

1. The quality of the science being proposed.
2. Soundness and logic of rationale and methodologies.
3. The relevance of partnerships, and appropriateness of the collaboration and engagement strategies.
4. Track record, multi-disciplinary composition and capability of research team. Performance and outputs from previously held research grants may be taken into consideration, where appropriate.
5. Appropriateness of the budget, and overall value for money in regard to the contribution of this research to the strategic directions and purposes of APRIL.
6. Ease of adoption of the project outcomes and their potential impact on the Australasian pork industry and APRIL Stakeholders.
7. Involvement of APRIL Members and (or) Participants in the application.

Once applications are received, APRIL reserves the right to ask applicants to revise a proposal or ask applicants to explore collaborations with other proposals.

APRIL Board approval

The APRIL R&D Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the APRIL Board regarding funding. The decision of the APRIL Board is final.

7. TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT PRIORITIES

The following information is intended to guide potential applicants on APRIL's three Transformational Projects. This information is for guidance only, and addressing one of these areas does not guarantee funding.

1. Pig Care and Wellbeing.

Expected outcomes:

Providing novel tools or approaches to support continuous improvement and assessment of pig care and wellbeing and demonstrate the welfare credentials of Australian pork.

Key Research Areas:

- Generation of a suit of suitable biomarkers indicating positive welfare attributes at end of life.
- Enrichment and management strategies to prevent tail biting.
- Objective assessment of pig care and wellbeing

2. Pig Processing:

Expected outcomes:

Ensuring a sustainable processing sector for the future.

Key Research Areas:

- Maintaining CO₂ as the primary stunning gas in Australia.
- Avoiding foreign object contamination in carcasses

3. Data and Information



Expected outcomes:

Exploiting the benefits of technologies with existing and future information for more efficient and profitable pig production, processing, and understanding of market trends.

Key Research Areas:

- Automatic capture and use of data (eg. smart sensors, digital technologies, AI) for more efficient and cost-effective building and pig management, eg. slaughter weight.
- Use of AI technologies* to reduce piglet mortality/enhance piglet and sow welfare at farrowing and during lactation, with different farrowing systems.

8. RESEARCHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Research providers, successfully being awarded projects, will be responsible for:

- Assembling expertise identified in the proposal from within or between organisations to deliver the research outcomes identified in the proposal.
- Securing access to required research facilities (laboratories, equipment, base-funded facilities, other facilities, on-farm demonstration sites etc.) and the necessary approvals for the conduct of the research.
- Delivering the research outcomes within agreed budget and timeframe.
- Analysing and reporting all data generated in formal reports to APRIL using standard templates.
- Identifying potential IP and commercialisation opportunities likely to arise from the project.
- Disseminating key findings from the research in a variety of formats, subject to approval by APRIL.

If awarded, it will be a contractual requirement that all grants accord to the reporting requirements as per the APRIL Research Deed and (or) Project Details.