INDUSTRY PRIORITY 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 INDUSTRY PRIORITY PROJECT RESEARCH GRANTS

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

APRIL will seek to leverage its limited funds by strategically investing in an Industry Priority 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 an Industry Priority Project grant. However, APRIL does have limited funds to invest in a project, therefore there is an expectation that the size, scope and monetary value of an application is sufficient to suitably address the challenges that each Industry Priority Project presents.

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

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

3. ELIGIBILITY

APRIL Industry Priority 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 Industry Priority Project.
- Demonstrate clear pathways to solutions for the Industry Priority Project.
- Demonstrate partnerships with relevant end-users.
- Demonstrate that the research team has the relevant expertise to complete the project.
- 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.
- 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 Industry Priority 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

The Expression of Interest (EOI) submission is via the Pig Connect portal. A successful EOI will be invited to submit a full application.

A full application must be submitted using the Industry Priority Project application form by, via email to c.rikardbell@april.org.au

6. APPLICATION PROCESS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

An application for an Industry Priority Project is expected to demonstrate the following characteristics:

- A strong, robust and scientifically sound plan to address the challenges each Industry Priority Project presents.
- Evidence of co-funding (leverage) for overall support of the project.
- Evidence of partnerships that will inform the research and facilitate research into practice.
- Evidence of tertiary training activities (where appropriate).
- A translation plan to demonstrate the intent and capacity for the research outcomes.

All Industry Priority Project funding applications to APRIL will be assessed and rated by the APRIL R&D Advisory Committee, which 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. INDUSTRY PRIORITY PROJECT PRIORITIES

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

1. **Pig Care and Wellbeing**

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

   - Objective assessment of pig care and wellbeing.

   - Generation of a suite of suitable biomarkers indicating positive welfare attributes at end of life.

   - Enrichment and management strategies to prevent tail biting.

   - Feed additives/nutritional strategies for positive welfare attributes.

2. **Pig Health, Biosecurity and Antimicrobial Stewardship**

   Expected outcome: Delivering novel technologies and approaches to mitigate risks and production impacts of infectious diseases, enhance emergency animal disease preparedness, and reduce antimicrobial use.

   - Limiting the use of in feed antibiotics and enhancing the effectiveness and efficacy of water medication (in accord with the Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (ASTAG)).

   - New vaccines/new vaccine technologies/delivery technologies to tackle key diseases.

   - Alternative vaccine delivery technologies to reduce needle use.

3. Pig Processing

Expected outcome: Ensuring a sustainable processing sector for the future.

- Maintaining CO_2 as the primary stunning gas in Australia.

- Avoiding foreign object contamination in carcasses.

4. Feeding and Nutrition

Expected outcome: Making positive contributions to lowering the overall cost of production.

- Rapid identification of poor-quality manufactured feed.

- Improved management of feed bin/silo allocation of feeds and management.

- Greater understanding of heat increment with respect to nutrient requirements.

5. Data and Information

Expected outcome: Exploiting the benefits of technologies with existing and future information for more efficient and profitable pig production and processing.

- Automatic capture and use of information (e.g., smart sensors, digital technologies, artificial intelligence for more efficient and cost-effective pig management, e.g., accurate estimation of slaughter weight.

- Use of artificial intelligence technologies for welfare assessment at critical production points including farrowing and lactation with different farrowing systems.

- Use of artificial intelligence technologies for welfare assessment at critical production points including processing.

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.