

UNSW participation in Round 12 CRC bids.

Round 12, 2009

The Commonwealth Government has called for CRC applications. The guidelines can be found at <https://www.crc.gov.au/Information/default.aspx> and the timetable is as follows:

26th May – Minister’s announcement of round

Early-mid June – application templates and additional information due to be released

17th June – Sydney information session (details at

https://www.crc.gov.au/Information/ShowInformation.aspx?Doc=selection_rounds&key=bulletin-board-selection-rounds&Heading=#12thInfoSessions)

14th August 2009 – **applications close** (full applications required, not just expressions of interest as in previous years)

September – announcement of bids selected for interview expected

November/December – interviews held in Canberra

December – Minister announces successful applications

January- June 2010 – final contract negotiations between Commonwealth and participants

July 1st 2010 – funding commences (our expectation – date not formally announced as at date of writing, 12/6/09).

The next round

The Commonwealth intends these bids to be annual in future. Timing of the 2010 round has not yet been announced but there have been informal indications of a mid-year closing date, possibly July.

UNSW’s position

- UNSW is currently a member of 12 CRCs and will participate actively in round 12. Background on CRC participation can be found at <http://www.policy.unsw.edu.au/procedure/centres.pdf> (refer section 8). Academic staff should note in particular that participation usually requires assignment of IP to the CRC.
- Intending UNSW participants in bids should liaise as early as possible with Dr Leigh Schwartzkoff in the Research Strategy Office (9385 9736; l.schwartzkoff@unsw.edu.au).
- We will only join CRC bids which align closely with our existing or emerging areas of research strength, and which involve UNSW playing a significant role in the CRC (critical mass of researchers, infrastructure support in place, clear alignment with Faculty / University research strategic plans). Securing UNSW support will require a strong case which demonstrates capacity to undertake the research and projected outputs that will further enhance UNSW’s research performance.
- In cases where UNSW involvement is minimal, or involves only a small research group, our preference is to support these CRCs by providing contract research on a project-by-project basis. This avoids the considerable effort and responsibilities involved in becoming a full partner in the CRC. Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis, and participant versus contractor roles should be discussed with Leigh Schwartzkoff early in the planning process.
- UNSW’s contribution as a participant in new CRC bids (including rebids) will be in-kind – there will be no cash contributions to bids. The DVC (Research) Office will consider all requests to provide support to UNSW Faculties / Schools involved in successful CRCs: proposals for support should be flagged early to Leigh Schwartzkoff. However

support will only be provided to assist the Faculty / School in providing their in-kind contribution (personnel, resources, facilities). Neither central nor Faculty / School cash will be passed through to the CRC. Note that the Commonwealth's guidelines specify that cash and in-kind contributions of participants will be ranked equally when the bid is assessed for matching Commonwealth funding.

- CRC bids must be signed by the DVC (Research) on behalf of the University prior to submission. The Research Strategy Office will ensure that the proposed governance and financial arrangements for the CRC are acceptable and the University will not sign off on bids where those arrangements are unsatisfactory or where insufficient time is available for assessment.