

Program Overview

Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network Overview

The NSW Government is offering up to \$5.2 million to establish and run the Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network (the 'Network').

The objective of the Network is to establish a world-leading, mature, and collaborative bushfire and natural hazards technology sector in NSW that creates new businesses and high-quality jobs. The Network will actively foster the commercial development and adoption of technologies and services in NSW to better prepare for future bushfires and natural hazards, protect first responders and communities, and provide economic benefit to NSW.

The Network will cover all phases of bushfire and natural hazards management: preparation, preparedness, response, and recovery and will leverage the skills, expertise, and networks in existing NSW innovation networks, such as the NSW Smart Sensing Network (NSSN), the NSW Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research Centre, or the Australian Government's Natural Hazards Research Australia to maximise its impact.

The values of the Network are to:

- Actively facilitate and encourage participants to connect for mutual gain and overcome geographical, cultural, and social barriers.
- Be sustainable by fostering a collegial pay-it-forward culture where participants are willing to help others, and "pay forward" any positive benefits they receive to create a continuous cycle of connection for mutual gain.

The Network will have four key functions:

1. Build trusted relationships between stakeholders for mutual gain
2. Build capability and commercial pathways to scale for NSW businesses and researchers
3. Provide market demand and intelligence services to NSW businesses and researchers
4. Increase awareness and impact of NSW bushfire/natural hazards businesses and build global connections

For further information about the Network, including eligibility and selection criteria, please refer to the *Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network Guidelines for Applicants*.

This application form must be:

- completed in full and within the word limit
- signed by the project lead or representative of the lead organisation, and
- submitted electronically through SmartyGrants.

Information session

The OCSE will host an online information session at **10:00 AEDST on Thursday 16 February 2023** for interested organisations and consortia. Details on the information session will be available on the OCSE Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network website. Applicants can also invite prospective proposal partners to the information session.

The information session will provide an opportunity for applicants to ask questions regarding the Network requirements. Questions may be submitted in advance (via email to bushfiremission@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au) or asked during the information session. Please note that all questions and answers will be shared with all organisations who attend the information session.

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Closing date

The closing date for applications is **5PM (AEDST), Monday 13 March 2023**.

Functions of the Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network

The Network will have four key functions:

1. Build trusted relationships between stakeholders for mutual gain
2. Build capability and commercial pathways to scale for NSW businesses and researchers
3. Provide market demand and intelligence services to NSW businesses and researchers
4. Increase awareness and impact of NSW bushfire/natural hazards businesses and build global connections.

Function 1: Build trusted relationships between stakeholders for mutual gain

NSW bushfire technology businesses find it difficult to engage with researchers and end-user fire-response agencies and have provided feedback that they find connections more valuable than grant money. Similarly, researchers find it difficult to find the right people to ensure their research is relevant and meets the needs of fire-response agencies. While fire-response agencies would like to be able to work with businesses and researchers early in the development phase to help refine and improve technologies before procuring, their operational needs come first, and they lack both the time and opportunity to engage with researchers.

To increase impact, the Network will actively encourage and facilitate connections between researchers, businesses, end-user agencies and existing bushfire/natural hazards related associations, organisations, research centres and R&D networks to leverage existing expertise and activities. It will build a culture of trust, continuous improvement, openness to sharing information and ideas, and a willingness to collaborate and learn by doing.

The Network will be (and can be perceived as) a neutral broker of commercial relationships between all stakeholders.

Function 2: Build capability and commercial pathways to scale

To support and accelerate the development and commercialisation of technologies to address the impacts of bushfires/natural hazards in NSW, the Network will actively upskill and build business and researcher capabilities to deliver globally competitive, world-class technology companies.

It will actively facilitate introductions to help businesses or researchers efficiently and effectively build foundational business and commercial skills, determine market opportunities, and pathways to commercialisation by connecting them to real-world experts that have the right experience, skills, and capabilities to tap into and learn from at key stages of their product development. This function also includes connections to venture capital, helping businesses identify potential partners to deliver integrated solutions, and support taking new products to market.

The Network will link businesses and researchers to programs that support their work, and provide up-to-date information on all relevant programs, advice on suitability and practical support to help them apply. This will include actively funnelling early-stage businesses to the BCF and field-ready technology to the BTPP under the Bushfire Response R&D Mission. In addition to this, the Network will also support companies to access relevant test facilities in NSW, Australia and internationally and help facilitate and support pilots and testing of field-ready technologies with end-user agencies.

Function 3: Provide market demand and intelligence services

Businesses currently struggle to connect to end-user agencies to understand their needs. Researchers provided feedback that they also want to better understand the challenges faced by end-user agencies to direct their research.

The Network will actively foster a sense of 'co-creation' and shared ownership that fosters an agile and responsive ecosystem that is receptive to change. It will assess demand from the local/global end-use 'customer' and provide this information about what the market needs and values to NSW businesses and researchers.

The Network will also offer a strategic and functional market intelligence capability to provide information on technology development trends, competitor assessments and specific present and future business conditions to inform NSW technology businesses on emerging trends in the bushfire/natural hazards space and to help them to respond.

The Network will not provide incubation- or startups-type services but will be complementary to these services.

Function 4: Increase awareness and impact of NSW bushfire/natural hazards technology businesses and build global connections

Increasing awareness of NSW bushfire/natural hazards technology businesses

The bushfire/natural hazards technology sector is currently emerging, and connections and relationships are ad hoc and not well developed. End-user agencies are keen to better understand what technologies are available but currently have no efficient or convenient way to do this.

To increase awareness, and impact, the Network will host or facilitate well-curated events, showcases, demonstrations with end-user agencies, conferences, and meetings in NSW, Australia and internationally to increase awareness, connections, and the impact of NSW bushfire/natural hazards technology businesses. This will include connecting to existing networks and activities to increase awareness of NSW bushfire/natural hazards technology businesses.

Going global

NSW technology businesses provided feedback that they have limited international connections or support to navigate international markets in the bushfire and natural hazards space. Scaling for export is quite different to scaling for the national market and there is a lack of support to help facilitate this.

To address this, the Network will actively connect to international stakeholders, networks, and groups to help identify export opportunities for NSW businesses and facilitate introductions. The Network will also provide expertise to help businesses develop their export plans. NSW Government's International Trade and Investment team will be an important stakeholder and can help facilitate these connections, where required and/or relevant.

To increase exposure of NSW bushfire/natural hazards technology businesses globally, the Network will actively promote NSW businesses to international stakeholders, networks, and groups. Types of activities could include connecting or showcasing NSW businesses into relevant international markets or providing funding for promising businesses to attend international conferences or events.

Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network Operating Model

Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network Application Form

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Host organisation

The Network will be delivered by a host organisation, which is an organisation with a presence in NSW, or a consortium of organisations, with an organisational presence in NSW.

The host will be responsible for establishing the Network, appointing the Director to lead the operations, and providing administrative and strategic support in accordance with a funding agreement between the NSW Government and the host organisation (or lead organisation in the case of a consortium).

The host will be expected to support the success of the Network by:

- Attracting high quality staff to the Network.
- Minimising administrative burdens on the Network so it can focus on delivering its key functions.
- Leveraging the host's relationships with businesses, industry associations, research institutions and other participants in the bushfire/natural hazards ecosystem in NSW, Australia and internationally to support the Network to build similar links across the ecosystem.
- Being (and being perceived as) a neutral broker of commercial relationships between all stakeholders.
- Building creative collaborations and unconventional partnerships to maximise impact.

Operating model

Organisations or consortia that submit a proposal to host the Network are welcome to propose operating models, provided they cover the Requirements outlined in this document.

The Director will be critical to its success. Their role is commercial, and relationship-focused as they will primarily be dealing with local and international bushfire/natural hazards technology businesses and researchers from start-up to mature businesses and engaging with, and representing, the ecosystem. The Director must:

- Have experience and networks in the bushfire/natural hazards sector in NSW, Australia and internationally.
- Have the skills and experience to lead the establishment and operation of an organisation like the Network.
- Have the skills and experience to build trusted relationships between stakeholders in NSW as well as in Australia and overseas.
- Be (and be perceived as) a neutral broker of commercial relationships between all stakeholders.
- Have the reputation and influence to represent the NSW and Australian bushfire/natural hazards sector.

Location

It is not required that the Network has a permanent physical location, instead, a blend of virtual and physical space in NSW is sufficient, with some in-person time to develop relationships, and demonstrate technology.

Engagement

The Network's key stakeholders include:

- NSW businesses involved in bushfire and natural hazards related technologies
- NSW researchers and research organisations involved in bushfire and natural hazards research
- Bushfire/natural hazards related networks, industry associations or groups in NSW, Australia and internationally

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- Australian and international businesses, and organisations involved in technology and research in the bushfire and natural hazards space
- End users of bushfire/natural hazards technologies and fire and natural hazards response agencies in NSW, Australia and internationally
- Federal government organisations involved in bushfire and natural hazards research, management, and operations.

The Network will be expected to engage with stakeholders through meetings, private and public workshops, events, and conferences. The Network is expected to have productive working relationships with international stakeholders, undertaking necessary international meetings and travel to establish, manage and leverage those relationships, where possible.

Related initiatives

The Network will be encouraged to engage with any other relevant NSW, Australian, and international bushfire and natural hazards sector initiatives, to seek further funding and pursue opportunities to offer additional services and sector support.

Background

The Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network is one of four components of the [NSW's Bushfire Response Research & Development \(R&D\) Mission](#). It provides the overarching coordination of the Mission, forging connections and helping to coordinate and strengthen NSW's research and industry strengths in bushfire and natural hazards technology to drive adoption of technology, accelerate solutions, and deliver better economic benefits in NSW.

The Mission provides \$28 million over four years to accelerate the development, commercialisation and adoption of bushfire technologies and services and includes:

- The Bushfire Commercialisation Fund providing financial support for early-stage NSW businesses (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 - 7) to help them scale and attract private investment.
- The Bushfire Technology Pilots Program to support NSW businesses pilot their field-ready technologies and services with NSW fire-response agencies to improve bushfire management and operations (TRL 7-9).
- The Bushfire STEM in Schools Program to inspire and enable a new generation of technologists through education and skills training for school children focused on technologies of immediate relevance to bushfire response.

This application is for the development of a Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network (the Network) to help coordinate, strengthen and deliver better social, environmental and economic benefits to NSW.

Given the recent flood events, the Network will be established to support the commercial development of technologies and services for bushfires and natural hazards - recognising that many technologies used for bushfires have broader application to other natural hazards, such as flooding.

Eligibility

* indicates a required field

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Are you (select one of the following): *

- a commercial organisation based in NSW (e.g., A registered business address in NSW, Office location(s) in NSW or Employees based in NSW)
- a consortium of organisations, led by an organisation based in NSW

If your organisation is not currently based in NSW, do you agree to form an NSW entity with which DEIT can enter into a legally binding funding agreement

- Yes
- No (not eligible)

Do you have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and are an Australian-registered company? *

Applicant Details

* indicates a required field

Applicant Contact Details

Name *

- Individual
- Organisation

Organisation Name

Title First Name Last Name

Position

ABN

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	

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Main business location

Must be an ABN.

Address

Address

Email

Must be an email address.

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Project Partner/s organisation name/s and contact details (If applying as a consortium)

Name of consortium (where applicable)

Name

Individual Organisation

Organisation Name

Title First Name Last Name

Name

Individual Organisation

Organisation Name

Title First Name Last Name

Name

Individual Organisation

Organisation Name

Title First Name Last Name

Name

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Individual Organisation

Organisation Name

Title First Name Last Name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Name

Individual Organisation

Organisation Name

Title First Name Last Name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Name

Individual Organisation

Organisation Name

Title First Name Last Name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Assessment Questions

* indicates a required field

Proposal to achieve the Network's objectives and deliver its functions

Applicants should demonstrate that they:

- Can be (and can be perceived as) a neutral broker of commercial relationships between all stakeholders.
- Will be able to lead the establishment of the Network and deliver on its objectives to position NSW as a leader in bushfire/natural hazards technology.
- Will be able to support the Network to deliver each of its functions.

Question 1 will be assessed against the assessment criterion 1: **How will the proposal establish the Network to achieve its objectives and values, and deliver its functions? (20% weighting)**

QUESTION 1: Describe how your proposal will establish the Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network to deliver its objectives, values, and functions to better prepare for future bushfires/natural hazards, protect first responders and communities, and provide economic benefit to NSW? (Maximum 4 pages) *

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Word count:

Note proposals that include co-funding and/or leverage opportunities with other associated organisations or networks will be assessed more favourably.

Option to attach file/s

Attach a file:

Connections

Applicants should demonstrate that they:

- Have meaningful relationships with companies, industry associations, research institutions and/or other participants in the bushfire/natural hazards technology sector in NSW, Australia and internationally.
- Can leverage these relationships to support the bushfire/natural hazards technology sector to build relationships and partnerships across the sector in NSW, Australia and internationally.
- Have secured the support of key bushfire/natural hazards stakeholders for their proposal (including specifically identifying those stakeholders and the nature of their support).

Question 2 will be assessed against the assessment criterion 2: ***To what degree does the organisation or consortium have high quality links to the bushfire/natural hazards technology sector to support activities that establish NSW as a major world centre of bushfire/natural hazards research, and technology development and commercialisation? (20% weighting)***

QUESTION 2. Describe the links your organisation or consortium has to the bushfire/natural hazards sector in Australia and globally and how will you leverage these to deliver a world-leading, connected, and collaborative bushfire/natural hazards technology sector in NSW? (Maximum 3 pages) *

Word count:

Option to attach file/s

Attach a file:

Project Team

Applicants should demonstrate that the team will:

- Have experience and networks in the bushfire/natural hazards technology sector in NSW, Australia and internationally.
- Have a track record in delivering projects or similar work/collaborations that delivered respectful, supportive connections for mutual gain.
- Have the skills and experience to lead the establishment and operation of the Network.
- Have commercial skills and experience in companies and brokering commercial arrangements between stakeholders in NSW and overseas.
- Be (and be perceived as) a neutral broker of commercial relationships between all stakeholders.
- Have the reputation and influence to represent the NSW and Australian bushfire/natural hazards technology sector and successfully engage with stakeholders.

Question 3 will be assessed against the assessment criterion 3: ***To what extent does the proposed team have the necessary capabilities to lead the delivery of the Network's objectives, values, and functions? (15% weighting)***

QUESTION 3: Describe the capabilities of your team and how they are well suited to lead the delivery of the Network and each of its functions. (Maximum 3 pages)

Word count:

Option to attach file/s

Attach a file:

Operating Model

Applicants should provide a diagram of the proposed operating model for the Network and describe in detail how it will:

- Support the delivery of the Network's objectives, and functions efficiently and effectively.
- Measure success and outcomes of the Network through measurable KPIs based on the objectives to demonstrate continuous improvement through regular monitoring and evaluation.
- Leverage its experience, relationships, influence, and reputation to maximise the impact of the Network.
- Identify risks and their mitigants and/or controls to ensure successful implementation.
- Ensure feedback and advice from stakeholders is incorporated into setting the strategic direction of the Network.

Question 4 will be assessed against the assessment criterion 4: ***How does the proposed operating model support the Network to meet its objectives, and deliver its functions? (15% weighting)***

QUESTION 4. Describe the proposed operating model for the Network and how it will be responsive to change. (Maximum 5 pages) *

Word count:

Option to attach file/s

Attach a file:

Project Plan & Strategy

Applicants should demonstrate how they will:

- Ensure the activities of the Network are coordinated and connected with existing research centres, R&D networks and aligned organisations to utilise research infrastructure and testing facilities that accelerates technology development and commercialisation.
- Ensure the Network's activities support technology companies in the bushfire/natural hazards space to grow and thrive.
- Identify all the existing research centres, R&D networks, aligned organisations, research infrastructure, and testing facilities in the bushfire/natural hazards technology sector in NSW, Australia and globally.
- Manage any short-and long-term risks for the Network.

Question 5 will be assessed against the assessment criterion 5: ***How does the project plan and strategy set out an effective approach to growing the impact and influence of the Network? (15% weighting)***

QUESTION 5. Describe the strategic approach to ensure the Network prioritises the opportunities that present the greatest improvements to bushfire/natural hazards preparation, preparedness, response and recovery, maximising investment, and impact. This includes outlining the critical actions in the first six months, twelve months, and 2 years for the Network. (Maximum 3 pages) *

Word count:

Option to attach file/s

Attach a file:

Financial Model

The financial model should demonstrate how the applicant has accounted for the financial sustainability of the Network post the grant period. Applicants should demonstrate that the Network will:

- have sufficient financial resources to effectively deliver its objectives, and functions.
- be financially resilient over the funding period.
- be a valuable use of public funds.
- maximise the impact of its core funding (for example, potentially leveraging any secondary funding sources from other organisations and/or the Federal Government or consider a membership model).

Question 6 will be assessed against the assessment criterion 6: ***In what way does the financial model maximise the sustainability, resilience, and impact of the Network in delivering each of its functions? (15% weighting)***

QUESTION 6. Provide a budget, long-term strategy to be self-sufficient financially, and describe your proposed financial model for the Network? (Maximum 3 pages)

*

Attach a file:

Total Amount Requested *

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Feedback

Suggestions or observations that will enhance the outcomes for the Network

Do you have any observations or suggestions that you believe would enhance the vision, objectives, or key outcomes for the Network or any other comments to support your application?

This question is not mandatory and will not be assessed against the assessment criterion.

Declaration

Please check the below boxes to confirm the declaration.

I declare that the information provided in this application form is true and correct.

- Yes
- No

I understand that the information provided in my application will remain confidential and used by the NSW Government only for the purposes of assessing the application, evaluating the performance of a grant awarded under the Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network and evaluating the performance of the Network.

- Yes
- No

I consent to my application being shared with third parties (such as the Expert Panel or a commercial/financial advisor) who will be involved in the assessment of my application.

- Yes
- No

If my application is successful, I consent to the NSW Government disclosing my organisation's name and a basic summary of my proposed solution when announcing the awarding of the grant.

- Yes
- No

I understand that the NSW Government may disclose confidential information provided in my application if required by law.

- Yes
- No

I understand that my application will be assessed in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Bushfire & Natural Hazards Technology Network Guidelines for Applicants.

- Yes
- No

I declare that I have obtained the consent of all persons (including my nominated referees) whose Personal Information (as defined by the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)) has been included in this application to provide that information to the NSW Government.

- Yes
- No

Project Lead Name

Project Lead Title

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Name of organisation

Organisation Name

Date of Declaration

Must be a date.