



# MEI Seed Funding Guidelines 2016

## Overview

Climate change, diminishing resources, and rising energy demand are among the key challenges of our time. To help meet these challenges and advance research towards securing a sustainable and affordable energy supply into the future, the Melbourne Energy Institute (MEI) is seeking applications from the University's research community for innovative interdisciplinary research projects.

The three main research areas of the Institute are Energy Geophysics, Energy Systems and Energy, Environment and Resource Economics. The themes include research on large-scale energy systems, both from a generation and consumption point of view, covering the technical, economic, regulatory and social aspects of this challenging area. Transport, residential, commercial and industrial sectors are all of interest to the MEI.

## Call for seed funding

The MEI will support a number of emerging projects that are:

- Interdisciplinary in their nature (preferably involving two or more faculties)
- Unlikely to be funded through traditional (i.e. ARC) means
- Have a strong pathway to securing external funding to extend the research
- Have the potential to make significant changes to the Australian energy sector

Examples of potential research themes (non-exhaustive):

- Disruptive business models incorporating novel technologies
- Tariff reform and enabling technologies
- Market incentives for integration of storage technologies into the energy system
- Social acceptance of new technologies/market settings/tariffs
- Social justice and equity issues around energy access
- Transport solutions that impact energy consumption

## Funding rules

1. Funding is available in the range \$10-30K. Requests for larger sums may be considered in special circumstances, for example if there is a significant contribution from an industry partner.
2. Spending of the funds is up to the research team, but funds are typically spent on research assistant time. Funds cannot be used to pay salaries of existing continuing and fixed-term employees, and cannot be transferred outside the University. Funds can be used to purchase hardware with the approval of the MEI.



3. Typically, projects of this scale are expected to last up to 6 months, and it is expected that the funds will be expended within that timeframe. If a project requires an extension a 'funding extension request form' must be completed. The 'final report form' must be submitted upon completion of the project. Outputs of the project (e.g. publications/patents) or outcomes (e.g. policy, service, method changes, recognition, awards) planned or arising from the research should be documented in the 'final report form'.
4. The project should involve workshops, networking or similar activities that have the aim of facilitating new, externally oriented collaborative partnerships constituent with the MEI agenda.
5. Project leaders are expected to communicate outcomes through community engagement such as articles on *The Conversation* or *Pursuit* and other mainstream media outlets (i.e. radio, newspapers).

### Application Process

Please submit the 'project application form' outlining the project according to the below sections:

- Title and participants
- Project overview, goals and deliverables (max. 500 words).
- Case for why this project is interdisciplinary and unlikely to receive alternate funding (max. 500 words)
- Pathway to external funding for continuation and expansion of the research (max. 300 words)
- Overview of research team's capacity to deliver the project (max 500 words) plus a 1 page CV per researcher.
- Budget and justification for spending (max. 300 words)

It is strongly advisable to discuss your application with staff at the MEI prior to submission to help refine your project.

The deadline for submissions is June 10. Please submit your application to [rogerd@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rogerd@unimelb.edu.au).

Projects that are successful are expected to communicate their findings through reports, public presentations or other publically available media.

For more information please contact Roger Dargaville ([rogerd@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rogerd@unimelb.edu.au), 8344 3514)