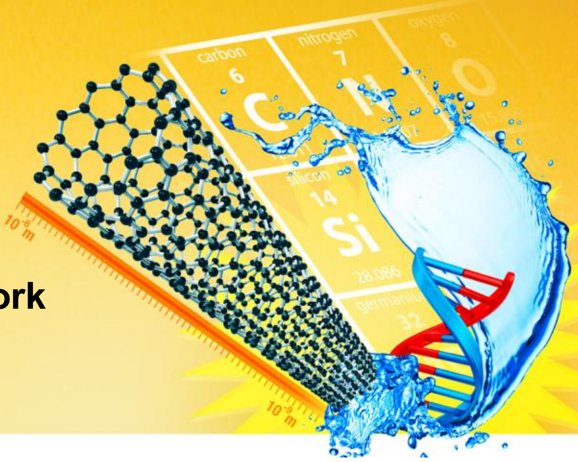
Flinders University
Centre for NanoScale
Science & Technology



NanoConnect

A new way for Industry and Universities to work together

NanoConnect is a collaborative research program at the CNST with support from the Department of State Development. The objective is to provide a simple, low-risk mechanism for companies to access University research resources such as advanced analytical equipment and technical ‘know-how’ that they would not otherwise have access to. NanoConnect is targeting companies who may not have the knowledge on how nanotechnology can positively impact their business and products.

What is Nanotechnology?

Nanotechnology is an emerging area of capability working across chemistry, physics, biology and materials science to manipulate matter at the molecular scale. Nanotechnology enables the development of new materials, devices, or other structures with unique properties. This advance in nano-scale science and technology has taken place because of the development of microscopes and other equipment capable of seeing and characterising nano-sized materials, allowing their application to a variety of industries.

Who is it for?

NanoConnect is targeting companies in a variety of industries where nanotechnology may be applied to improve materials, coatings or processes, but either due to a lack of in-house knowledge or resources, has not yet been employed by the company.

Although nanotechnology may be applied to develop new “High-Tech” products, it may also be applied to current products using existing processes and equipment in order to improve performance and/or cost. Application areas can include Batteries, Bio-sensors, Chemical Sensors, Clean Technologies, Electronics, Fabrics, Pharmaceuticals, Plastic Components, Protective Coatings, Renewable Energy, Solar Cells, Sporting Goods, and Water Purification.

www.flinders.edu.au/nano_research

What does it offer?

NanoConnect offers companies access to University researchers and facilities for approved projects.

The program consists of 2 stages:-

Stage 1. Scoping Project

A two to three week scoping project is undertaken to assess the technical feasibility of the project. This consists of a desktop review of the available literature and is provided at no cost.

If the project is found to be technically feasible and eligible, the company may decide to proceed to Stage 2, although there is no obligation to do so.

Stage 2. “Proof of Concept” Project

A two month laboratory based ’Proof of Concept’ (PoC) project will then be undertaken. The PoC projects allow companies to make informed decisions on the commercial potential of the concept, at which point they are free to pursue the idea independently or in further collaboration with University researchers.

To ensure collaboration and relevance of the research, therefore maximising the benefit to the company, participants are expected to contribute a small fee and also be involved in regular project discussions and activities during Stage 2 as part of their “in-kind” contribution to the project.

Participants in **NanoConnect** may proceed further to access the SA Government’s Innovation Voucher Program, BioSA’s commercialisation grants, or other relevant Commonwealth programs, subject to meeting relevant eligibility requirements

What does it cost?

The Stage 1 Scoping Project is free of charge. Stage 2 projects require a contribution of $5000 cash and $10,000 of in-kind project support to ensure the relevance and commercial value of the project.

In-kind support is the use of company facilities such as manufacturing equipment, specialist testing equipment etc. and involvement of company staff whose skills and guidance are required for the project. Naturally the nature of this in-kind support is project and company dependent.

How do I apply?

Applications should be made using the application form which may be downloaded from the **Nano-Connect** website, and emailed to **NanoConnect** (see website and email address below). You will be contacted by **NanoConnect** when your application is received.

Who will assess my application?

A **NanoConnect** representative will work with a company to ensure the application contains all the necessary information to allow the **NanoConnect** management team to assess the application on its merit (see evaluation criteria). The **NanoConnect** management team made up from representatives from the University and Department of State Development will then assess applications and inform the company of its decision for Stage 1 and Stage 2 projects.

Evaluation criteria

Eligible applications for Stage 1 as well as Stage 2 will be assessed against the following equally weighted, criteria:

- South Australian operation or presence required (or an interest from Department of State Development in attracting the company to SA)
- Technical challenges that may have nanotechnology solutions
- Likelihood that the company will be able to participate fully in the program and is likely to be able to implement solutions identified

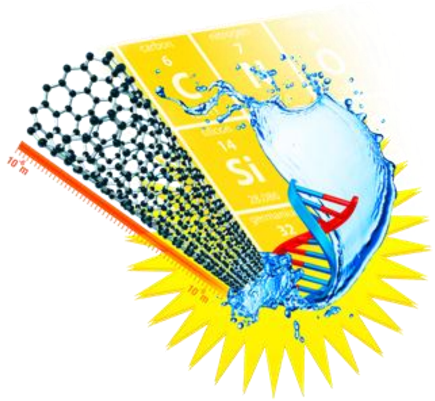
What will I be asked to do if I am successful?

Successful applicants will need to execute a **NanoConnect** engagement contract with Flinders University which will state the project goals, project scope and deliverables. It will also state what form of in-kind support the company will provide for Stage 2 and that all new Intellectual Property arising from the project will be owned by the company participating in the project.

NanoConnect is supported by

Government
of South Australia

Department of
State Development



Further Information

Please visit the **NanoConnect** website at**:**

www.flinders.edu.au/nanoconnect

Of contact us via email at:

nanoconnect@flinders.edu.au