



Products to Projects 2019 Contestable Funding Round Summary

The 2019 Products to Projects contestable funding round consisted of three stages: (1) written Expressions of Interest (EOIs), (2) full applications and interviews, and (3) contract negotiations. Applicants were bidding to a contestable funding pool of ~\$5m.

Sixty-two eligible EOIs were received at Stage 1. These were assessed by a panel against four high-level criteria: (i) benefits, (ii) achievability, (iii) value for money and (iv) regional development.

The panel consisted of two PF2050 Limited staff members, two PF2050 Limited Board members, one DOC representative, one OSPRI representative, and one private production engineer specialist. Panel members from outside PF2050 Ltd were required to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements.

EOIs were first individually assessed by each panel member. Conflicts of interest were recorded, and panellists did not score those applications with which they had a conflict. Scores were combined to initially rank the applications (adjusted for number of contributing panellists).

The panel then met to discuss the ranked list and identify the set of applications to be progressed to Stage 2. Panellists did not contribute to the discussion of applications with which they had conflicts.

Seventeen applications were progressed from Stage 1 to Stage 2, with full applications requested. More project detail was requested at Stage 2, particularly on product procurement, manufacture, and commercialisation.

The same panel re-assessed the combined EOI and full application documents, with applicants invited to interview where there were outstanding questions, and panel deliberation on final application rankings.

Eleven of the Stage 2 applications were invited to contract negotiation, which included agreement on milestones and deliverables, discussion of terms and conditions, and due diligence checks. Ten of the eleven progressed to contracting; negotiation was halted on the eleventh, with the next ranked application progressed in its place.

Overall, from the 62 eligible EOIs received, 12 contracts were negotiated for the available funding. Contracts initiated between October 2019 – November 2020, for funded periods of 1 – 3 years.