

NSW Physical Sciences Fund (PSF) Terms of Reference – Expert Panel

The goal of the Physical Sciences Fund (PSF) is to support the translation and commercialisation of physical sciences research into economic, societal and prosperity outcomes for NSW. The PSF will provide funding to progress research undertaken in NSW along a pathway to commercialisation. The PSF is particularly focused on potential commercial applications of NSW research across branches of physical science and engineering including physics, chemistry, sensors and materials.

The PSF will provide funding support through a competitive process to individuals, companies, research institutes and universities. It will also seek to support applications where there is a potential use by NSW Government agencies.

The new technology and products supported by the PSF will be subject to a robust and transparent assessment process led by an Expert Panel.

The PSF will:

- Aim to translate NSW research into prosperity outcomes.
- Identify, encourage and support groups or individuals who show strong potential for successful commercialisation of world class research.
- Build on existing government programs and be complimentary to initiatives such as the successful NSW Medical Devices Fund (MDF) and the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund.
- Especially encourage applicants from Commonwealth programs already supported by the NSW Office of Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) including: ARC Centres of Excellence, and the National Collaborative Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)
- Encourage partnerships and collaboration between companies, researchers and research hubs, public sector agencies, investors and key industry bodies.

Reporting and accountability

The Expert Panel reports to the NSW Minister for Trade & Industry through the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer.

Membership

Membership to the Expert Panel will be by appointment by the Minister for Trade & Industry. It will include individuals who are distinguished experts and who collectively have skills, experience and expertise in science and research, commercialisation, financial management and consumer advocacy. The number of members will be at the discretion of the Minister. The Minister will appoint the Chair of the Expert Panel. If further expertise is required to assist with the assessment of an application, it will be sourced by the panel on a case-by-case basis. This will include advice from relevant research and finance experts, and the NSW Department of Industry.

Tenure

Appointment of Expert Panel members and Chair will be up to 3 years with the option to extend for a further period of up to 3 years, at the discretion of Minister for Trade and Industry, with appointments not exceeding 6 years in total.

Code of conduct

All members will abide by and display behaviour consistent with NSW Department of Industry Code of Conduct.

Conflicts of interest

Members must declare conflict of interest matters in regard to applications. Management of conflict of interest will be undertaken by the Chair and the Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer (Secretariat).

Confidentiality

All members will treat meeting proceedings, discussions and recommendations and all documents tendered as commercial-in-confidence.

Employment checks

Appointment is conditional on a satisfactory outcome of a National Criminal Record check and a NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet Lobby Register check (Employment Screening Policy PD2008_029).

Remuneration

The Expert Panel will be remunerated sitting fees in accordance with the Department of Premier's and Cabinet Guidelines for NSW Boards and Committee members: Appointments and Remuneration (category C21): Chair currently approximately \$350 full day or \$175 half day and Member \$220 full day or \$110 half day .

Secretariat

The Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer will provide all the administrative support for the Physical Sciences Fund processes and the Expert Panel.