

SME CONNECT - SIEF STEM⁺ BUSINESS

As part of the CSIRO SME Connect Centre and supported by the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF), we facilitate early-career researcher placements and projects to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) overcome technical challenges and implement new innovative solutions.

About SME CONNECT

CSIRO's national SME Connect team links local companies to the world-class expertise and facilities within the Australian research sector to help build and grow, strong Australian companies.

We've helped more than 200 Australian companies create jobs, expand their products, services and customer base, and grow internationally.

CSIRO's experienced innovation facilitators will work with you to assess your business' knowledge gap, and identify opportunities for research to assist your business, as well as connecting you with scientists and engineers who can provide that research.

Our team:

- Adopts a customer-first approach in which the needs of your business are paramount.
- Locates the best researchers, whether they work in CSIRO or another Australian Research Organisation.
- Enables your business to access research funding grants
- Facilitates the engagement process between small and medium businesses (SMEs) and research organisations from start to finish.



Precedence Health Care accelerated their business growth through a collaboration with CSIRO to develop a health app.

SIEF STEM⁺ Business Fellowship Program

The Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF) STEM⁺ Business Fellowship program provides funding support to enable Australian SMEs to undertake 2-3 year research projects with early-career researchers from Australian research organisations. SIEF has asked CSIRO SME Connect to manage the STEM⁺ Business program, drawing on our experience and depth of engagement with Australian SMEs.

What is SIEF?

The Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF) was founded in 1926 at the same time as CSIRO's predecessor organisation – the CSIR. CSIRO's recent gift to SIEF, made possible from licensing its wireless LAN intellectual property, has enabled SIEF to be rejuvenated as an endowment mechanism for science in Australia. SIEF provides grants to science and scientists for the purposes of assisting Australian industry, furthering the interests of the Australian community and contributing to the achievement of Australian national objectives.

What is STEM⁺ Business?

The SIEF STEM⁺ Business Fellowship Program, which supports the collaboration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) early-career researchers (ECRs) with Australian SMEs for two to three year projects.

The program aims to build deeper connections and collaboration between researchers and SMEs, accelerate the adoption of new ideas and technology, and help SMEs grow into larger and more profitable organisations. It will also provide practical experience in industry for ECRs, thus creating and sustaining a cohort of researchers capable of addressing national challenges.

SIEF is providing \$7.9 million over five years to support the STEM⁺ Business program. With co-investment from participating research organisations and SMEs, this program has the capacity to deliver up to \$24 million of research projects with Australian SMEs.

STEM⁺ Business Projects

CSIRO's SIEF STEM⁺ Business Manager, and other members of SME Connect team, work with businesses and research organisations to establish projects and facilitate financial assistance in the form of a STEM⁺ Business matched grant worth up to \$105,000 per annum.

The grant supports:

- The adoption and development of new ideas and technologies within Australian SMEs.
- The collaboration of early-career researchers, from Australian universities and publicly funded research organisations, with SMEs.
- The building of strong connections between research organisations and businesses.

The projects are led by an Australian SME, in collaboration with a Research Organisation, and are:

- Two to three years in duration
- Aligned to the SME's strategy
- Expected to result in commercial outcomes

Eligibility – Who can access STEM⁺ Business?

Australian SMEs which:

- Have completed, or be in the process of completing, an AusIndustry Researcher-in-Business or Research Connections / Innovation Connections Grant project, OR
- Have an annual turnover or operating expenditure between \$1.0m and \$100m in the current or two preceding financial years, AND
- Has collaborated with a research organisation on a 1-1 basis for at least 5 months, with the company contributing at least \$25k.

Research Fellows who:

- Have completed a research higher degree (PhD or Masters) in STEM subjects or a bachelor's degree in engineering with relevant research experience
- Have no more than 6 year relevant experience

Our SME Connect team will use their extensive networks to locate a researcher with the required skills to achieve the deliverables of the project.

Further Information and Contact Details

Contact us for an initial discussion and we can help determine the right option for your business.

For further information on the **SIEF STEM⁺ Business Fellowship** program, please contact

Jason Barkla, SME Business Manager
(03) 9545 8246 or jason.barkla@csiro.au

And for more information on **SME Connect** contact
Simon Hanson, Director, CSIRO SME Connect
(03) 9545 2752 or simon.hanson@csiro.au

For information on **SIEF** please visit www.sief.org.au

**SCIENCE AND
INDUSTRY
ENDOWMENT
FUND**

CONTACT US

t 1300 363 400
+61 3 9545 2176
e enquiries@csiro.au
w www.csiro.au

AT CSIRO WE SHAPE THE FUTURE

We do this by using science to solve real issues. Our research makes a difference to industry, people and the planet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CSIRO SME Connect
Jason Barkla
t +61 3 9545 8246
e jason.barkla@csiro.au
w www.csiro.au/solutions-for-SMEs