

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

LOWER CARBON GRANTS PROGRAM – GORGON FUND AND GREENTECH HUB OPERATOR GREENTECH HUB

Opens: 5 December 2023

Closes: 5.00pm Friday 23 February 2024

On 5 December 2023, the Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy announced, that Expressions of Interest (EOI) to undertake the role of GreenTech Hub (GTH) Operator had opened and encouraged interested parties to respond.

A suitably qualified and experienced Operator organisation is now sought to undertake the implementation and management of the GTH and its service delivery over four years, under direction from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) via a formal Funding Agreement.

Background

The State, through JTSI, will establish the Lower Carbon Grants Program – Gorgon Fund (LCGP-GF) to facilitate financial contributions towards projects that will benefit Western Australians into the future, and will offer high public value through contributing to one or more of the following outcomes:

- significant potential reduction in Western Australia's greenhouse gas emissions below projected or baseline emissions through uptake of innovative technologies; or
- testing, demonstration or deployment of technologies likely to support commercialisation and broader adoption of lower carbon projects.

In alignment with the LCGP-GF, the State Government will also establish the GTH to inspire, mobilise, connect and catalyse green entrepreneurship and commercialisation support, through turnkey programs and green tech ideas, incubation and acceleration.

The Gorgon Joint Venture is the founding financial contributor of the LCGP-GF and the GTH. The Chevron-operated Gorgon Project is a joint venture between the Australian subsidiaries of Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, Osaka Gas, Tokyo Gas, and JERA.

The LCGP-GF and GTH will operate separately but with complementary goals, to assist the development of new technologies that will contribute to the State's climate action aims. JTSI will manage the LCGP-GF, while an independent operating organisation will be chosen to manage the GTH, under direction from JTSI.

Considerations

For this EOI the terms 'green tech' and 'green technology' include technologies whose production processes or supply chains are environmentally friendly. The term applies to technologies that produce clean energy, utilise alternative fuels, and minimise negative impacts on the environment. Green technologies reduce carbon emissions, and conserve natural resources. Examples include, but are not limited to, solar power, electric vehicles, sustainable agriculture, and carbon capture.

While the GTH is funded at \$4M over four years there is an existing allocation of some of those funds to the Fraunhofer Institute and an expectation for the GTH to deliver multiple 'challenges' at approximately \$250,000 per challenge, as well as other activities. The challenges, developed in collaboration with innovators, state government agencies and businesses, will

look to resolve problems and answer questions related to green tech and decarbonisation. The GTH will manage the processes of developing the challenges, securing applicants and other sponsors, and outcomes for each challenge.

The GTH:

- will drive green entrepreneurship and innovation in green technology and bring together researchers, industry and government to accelerate new technologies to decarbonise WA
- build state-wide capability and capacity in green technologies and services through growth in skills and knowledge, and by creating jobs and developing new industries
- support and grow local emerging and established green technology businesses and services in local, national and global markets and will attract investment that supports the research, development and commercialisation of these businesses

The GTH will focus on:

- creating added economic value through supporting and accelerating the research, development and commercialisation of green technologies and services in WA
- underpinning development and commercialisation of new green technologies for longer-term advantage
- fostering collaboration, partnerships and projects between industry, researchers and government that drive decarbonisation in WA
- supporting and growing emerging and established green technology businesses whose success relies on innovations at the intersection of new technology and new business processes in both a local and global market
- attracting investment to WA that supports the research, development and commercialisation of green technologies and services
- supporting the growth of skills, knowledge and workforce in green technologies and services in WA
- specific tasks including securing, via an EOI process, additional partners to join the GTH and actively support its growth and financial viability and sustainability

The State Government has been co-funding Innovation Hubs since 2017 (a fourth was launched in 2023), these include:

The WA Data Science Innovation Hub (WADSIH): <https://wadsih.org.au/>

The CyberWest hub: <https://www.cyberwest.au/>

The WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub:
<https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/walifesciencesinnovationhub>

The Creative Tech Village: <https://creativetechvillage.com/>

The GTH will operate in a similar fashion with similar objectives to these other hubs but at a larger scale and with greater funding which is separately provided through the JTSI-Chevron Funding Agreement.

The Operator organisation will be required to recruit and manage GTH staff, with the first being a Director who will:

- provide strategic leadership, stakeholder engagement and management, as well as foster state-wide collaboration
- accelerate R&D, commercialisation and deployment of technologies and services for achieving the State Government's commitment to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and to ensure the GTH's activities are aligned with the State's policy on climate resilience, and the Western Australian Innovation Strategy
- facilitate initiatives that can demonstrate a viable pathway to long-term and/or cost-effective green tech solutions
- support collaborative approaches to decarbonisation by working with researchers, industry and government
- manage the GTH team, and be responsible for the plans, activities, reports and outcomes of the GTH

Responses are invited from:

- Established and prospective proponent organisations with a proven track record in relevant service delivery in the green technology or related sectors
- Entities associated with or engaged in the commercialisation of lower carbon projects
- Green technology providers, holders of relevant intellectual property and/or developers who have a proven track record in relevant service delivery
- Organisations that currently successfully run, and/or have successfully run, innovation hubs (or similar entities) in Western Australia, or in other jurisdictions nationally or internationally.

Note: Proponent organisations must:

- be registered or be eligible to register for an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- legal and solvent entity, or partnered with a legal and solvent entity, with a proven trading history for the past 3 financial years as accepted in their domicile (as a minimum)

Respondents should describe the following in their EOI:

- Key information about their organisation and capability, particularly as it relates to supporting green tech, decarbonisation, and the objectives of the GTH.
- The framework or model, including management, technical and financial capability, to be used to ensure timely and appropriate service delivery through the GTH.
- Experience, proven capability and capacity to run an innovation hub.
- Understanding of the mission to drive the WA economy towards net zero emissions by 2050, and how innovators and innovation will/can assist.
- An outline of the personnel proposed to deliver the GTH's work, and/or how they will be recruited. Note: In addition to the Director, the Operator organisation will engage 1 – 2 full time employees to support the delivery of GTH activities, services and challenges.

Evaluation

The selection process, undertaken by a panel, will focus on factors such as expertise, experience, capabilities, the model proposed and strategic alignment with State goals. If required, additional information will be requested.

Developing Expressions of Interest

At the Western Australian Energy Transition Summit on 17 November 2023 the Hon Roger Cook, Premier of Western Australia, announced that the challenge is to decarbonise WA to confront climate change and that in doing so there will be opportunities to create new industries and leverage WA's natural advantages to become a global force in renewable energy.

In developing Expressions of Interest respondents should ensure they include how their interests and proposals are aligned with the Western Australian Government's objectives for the State Government's commitment to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions for WA by 2050, and to improving the State's resilience to the effects of climate change.

These issues, and those mentioned above, will be answered in the EOI.

The GTH's activities are to be aligned with the State's policies on climate, see additional resources including:

[Western Australian Climate Change Policy](#)

[Climate Action](#)

[Climate Change Legislation](#)

[Taking Action on Climate Change](#) – Western Australian State Budget 2023-24

[Climate Change and Sustainability](#)

[Diversify WA](#)

[Future State – Accelerating Diversify WA](#)

[Western Australia's Environmental, Social and Governance \(ESG\) Industry Information Pack](#)

Activity	Timeframe
Process opens for EOI	5 December 2023
EOI submitted, in PDF format, to	innovation@jtsi.wa.gov.au
EOI submission deadline	Closes 5.00pm Friday 23 February 2024 NOTE - Allow sufficient time to lodge the EOI as late submissions will not be considered
EOI panel assessment period	March 2024
Applicants informed of EOI outcome	April 2024

For more information, please contact innovation@jtsi.wa.gov.au