



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Funded by

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology



Grant Opportunity Guidelines

AUSTRALIA-AUSTRIA JOINT CALL 2024: INDUSTRIAL DECARBONISATION TRANSNATIONAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Opening date: 17 April 2024

**Closing date and time for
submissions:**

Transnational submission:

[18:00 Australian Eastern Standard Time] on [16 July 2024]

[10:00 Central European Summer Time] on [16 July 2024]

National submission AUSTRALIA:

[17:00 Australian Eastern Standard Time] on [18 July 2024]

National submission AUSTRIA:

[12:00 Central European Summer Time] on [18 July 2024]

Please take account of time zone differences when submitting
your application.

Administering entity:	Austria: Program Sponsor: Climate and Energy Fund (KLI.EN) Call Management: Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) Australia: Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Transnational call management:	Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Date guidelines released:	8 April 2024 – Update 17 April 2024
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

CONTENTS

Contents	3
1. Introduction.....	4
2. About the Australia-Austria Joint Call 2024: Industrial Decarbonisation	5
2.1. Objectives	6
2.2. Thematic Scope	7
2.3. Eligible activities	7
3. Eligibility criteria and guidelines for applicants.....	8
3.1. Requirements to the Transnational consortium.....	8
3.2. Transnational eligibility criteria.....	8
4. Proposal submission process	9
4.1. Transnational Submission	10
4.2. National application by Australian project partners	10
4.3. National application by Austrian project partners	10
4.4. Time schedule	11
5. Evaluation.....	12
6. Grant selection process	14

1. INTRODUCTION

These transnational submission guidelines contain general information for applicants from both countries within the Joint Call 2024 of the Australia-Austria Industrial Decarbonisation Demonstration Partnership.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the Joint Call
- how to apply for the Joint Call, including
 - how to apply into the transnational and national portals
 - the eligibility and assessment criteria
 - how we consider and assess grant applications
 - how we notify applicants and enter into grant agreements with grantees
 - how we monitor and evaluate grantees' performance
 - responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant opportunity.

For Australian applications, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) is responsible for administering this grant opportunity on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

For Austrian applications, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is responsible for administering this call on behalf of the Climate and Energy Fund (KLI.EN), which is funded by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK).

FFG is responsible for the transnational call management and will cooperate with DISR during the submission of transnational project proposals, in the evaluation and in the implementation phase.

The Transnational [Proposal Application Form](#) (mandatory) as well as country-specific information, requirements and application forms are available at business.gov.au and at [AUS-AUT Joint Call2024](#).

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

2. ABOUT THE AUSTRALIA-AUSTRIA JOINT CALL 2024: INDUSTRIAL DECARBONISATION

The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund (KLI.EN), on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), intend to support collaborative demonstration or pilot/test projects between Australia and Austria that strengthen connections between Australian and Austrian industry and support the development of decarbonisation technologies for hard-to-abate energy-intensive industries.

The Joint Call is part of the Australian and Austrian government's investment in international collaboration and delivers on their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. It supports Australia's ambitions to become a renewable energy superpower and build new renewable industries to support domestic and global decarbonisation efforts. Furthermore, this initiative supports the Austrian federal government's goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2040 and at the same time strengthens Austria's global position as a pioneer in industrial decarbonisation and the domestic export industry.

The Joint Call focuses on physical demonstration or pilot/test facilities or projects that are directly related to such a facility and have a TRL of 5 to 8.

Table 1: Budget – Deadlines – Contacts – Submission

Key data	Details
Available call budget Australia	AUD\$ 12 Million for Australian applicants
Available call budget Austria	EUR 7 Million for Austrian applicants
Submission deadline transnational:	16 July 2024 18:00 Australian Eastern Standard Time 10:00 Central European Summer Time
Submission deadline national:	18 July 2024 17:00 Australian Eastern Standard Time 12:00 Central European Summer Time
Language:	English
Contact:	Contact Australia: AAIndustrialDecarbonisation@industry.gov.au, 13 28 46, https://business.gov.au/AAIDDP Contact Austria: Thomas Steffl, +43577555066, thomas.steffl@ffg.at
Online information:	Australia Austria
FAQs:	Available on portal websites
Submission platform transnational:	https://ecall.ffg.at/Cockpit/Home?fid=56517914

Submission platforms national:	Australia Austria
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The Joint Call will support progress towards the goals of Mission Innovation Net-Zero Industries. Co-led by Australia and Austria, the Mission aims by 2030 to foster worldwide development and demonstration of cost-competitive solutions for the efficient decarbonisation of hard-to-abate energy-intensive industries.

2.1. OBJECTIVES

The *Australia-Austria Joint Call 2024: Industrial Decarbonisation* will help demonstrate the commercial viability of industrial decarbonisation solutions and promote their wider acceptance in industry.

A substantial contribution to the following objectives is a basic prerequisite for the positive assessment of funding applications:

- advance the development and deployment of innovative technologies, processes or solutions to decarbonise hard-to-abate energy-intensive industries;
- incentivise action by industry by reducing the financial and technical risks of industrial decarbonisation pilot and demonstration projects;
- foster greater collaboration between industry in Australia and Austria;
- leverage private and non-Commonwealth funding towards clean energy technologies and projects in Australia;
- supports the technology internationalisation and innovation cooperation of Austrian businesses;
- build industry expertise and share knowledge and information from the joint call, in line with the aims of Mission Innovation Net Zero Industries.

The intended outcomes of the joint call are:

- advancement of decarbonisation efforts domestically and globally to support the transition to net zero emissions, in line with the Paris Agreement;
- improvement in the commercial viability of technologies that support the development of Australia's and Austria's clean energy industries, particularly those that are key enablers of export and economic opportunities;
- strengthened connections between Australian and Austrian innovators, researchers and businesses with international partners and opportunities;
- to attraction of greater investment in accelerating the development of clean energy technologies in Australia and Austria by key trading partners and the private sector and support the creation of new economic opportunities in Australia and Austria;
- increased in employment, skills and capabilities of domestic and international emerging clean energy industries.

Consistent with these intended outcomes, the joint call will encourage priority technologies as identified through Mission Innovation Net Zero Industries.

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#)

(CGRGs)¹ and according to the [Guideline of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technology, Development and Innovation to Meet Social Challenges \(FFG-Challenge-Guideline 2024-2026\)](#).

2.2. THEMATIC SCOPE

The submitted projects must relate on the research and development of innovative technologies, processes or solutions such as²:

- fuel switching through **alternative fuels and feedstocks** (i.e., use of biomass, bioenergy)
- fuel switching through **use of clean hydrogen** (i.e., direct reduction of iron using hydrogen)
- **electrification** of production and processes (i.e., direct reduction of iron using electricity, adaptation of electric arc furnaces, electrification of sintering and calcination processes)
- **digitalisation & flexibilisation** (i.e., process control and automation, digital twins and simulation, temperature upgrade of excess heat, smart management of variable energy resources such as PV and wind power, hybridisation of different sources, excess heat to power or cold, flexibility in power generation/utilisation including bottleneck management and redispatch)
- **carbon capture & utilisation or storage** (i.e., direct capture and separation, adsorption/absorption of CO₂ process and combustion emissions and its storage, capture, purification, and valorisation of CO₂ into chemicals, polymers synthetic/alternative fuels and raw materials, use of CO₂ exhaust gases in other processes)
- **alternative materials and more efficient processes** (i.e., improved thermal efficiency, waste heat recovery, regenerative burners, process efficiency, alternative binding materials in cements and alternatives to carbon-based feedstocks).

Eligible sectors of this joint call cover ironmaking and steelmaking, chemicals manufacturing, the production of lime and cement, alumina and aluminium production and (Austria only) ceramics. Cross-sectoral projects between Australia and Austria are strongly encouraged.

Only projects with technologies, processes, or solutions with **Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) of between five and eight** will be considered eligible for funding.

2.3. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

For country-specific information on eligible activities and costs see national guidelines.

¹[Grant opportunity guidelines](#)

²[Roadmap towards Net-Zero Industries, September 2022:](#)

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

This Call includes both a set of transnational requirements common for all Applicants (i.e. transnational eligibility criteria) as well as national requirements (see national guidelines for [Australia](#) and [Austria](#)).

All funded partners in this Call will be funded by their national Funding Agencies in accordance with their respective national eligibility criteria. Applicants have to pay careful attention to the relevant national funding rules indicated in the national guidelines and contact the relevant national contact person with any queries to avoid any issues related to national eligibility.

In the event of a positive funding decision the responsible agencies reserve the right to publish the name of the funding applicants, the funding rate, the funding amount and the title of the project and a brief description.

3.1. REQUIREMENTS TO THE TRANSNATIONAL CONSORTIUM

The project consortium must consist of at least two independent legal entities applying for funding from national funding organisations. Of these two entities, one must be based in Austria and one in Australia (minimum requirement: branch office). All partner organisations must be eligible for funding on their respective national level.

Projects must be company-led and should be undertaken in collaboration with a research organisation or university where possible.

The **Main Applicant of the transnational consortium (hereinafter Main Applicant)** is the organisation responsible for coordinating and managing the transnational project (i.e. project coordinator). It will be the contact point with the Call Management on behalf of the whole consortium and is responsible for the administrative management of the complete project. The Main Applicant is responsible for overseeing the project activities and ensuring that the work programme is on track.

The Main Applicant must be either an industrial company from the energy-intensive sector or a technology provider.

The Main Applicant must ensure that a legally valid international consortium agreement is in place before the start of the project. It regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners in English. The minimum requirements are:

- Names of all project partners
- Description of project aims including brief work plans with effort estimated in person-months (Transnational [Proposal](#) Application declared as annex is normally sufficient)
- Identifying and naming of any 3rd party contractors required in the project (if applicable)
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (background and arising)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- If research organisations from either country are involved the publishing rights of each party must be regulated.

For the **requirements to the national partner/consortium** please refer to the **national Annexes**.

3.2. TRANSNATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following transnational eligibility criteria must be fulfilled to be allowed to submit the [proposal](#) in the submission system:

- The proposal must be written in **English** and submitted on the transnational [submission platform](#) before the deadline, using the mandatory [proposal](#).
- The project consortium must consist of at least **two independent legal entities** applying for funding from national funding organisations. Of these two entities, one must be based in **Austria** and one in **Australia** (minimum requirement: branch office).
- Projects must be **company-led** (Details see Chapter 3.1)
- To be eligible transnational project must have at least EUR 360,000 in eligible expenditure.
- The total Australian or Austrian project costs may not exceed 60 per cent of the total project costs.
- The latest **project start is 1 April 2025**.
- The minimum project runtime is **12 months** and the maximum project runtime is **36 months**. Projects must be **completed by 31 March 2028**.
- The proposals must include a work package called “**Reporting and Knowledge Community**” in the work plan and should specifically address involvement in the MI Net-Zero Industries network (Knowledge Management & Communities of Practices).
- We can only accept applications where project activities are undertaken in both Australia and Austria. Project activities undertaken outside Australia and Austria are not eligible under this joint call.

The consortium requirement above is a minimum requirement. Legal entities, including from non-associated third countries, that participate with their own means (self-financed, not receiving financial support) may also be included.




4. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS

A complete application includes the following three submissions. Submissions may be completed in any order, but the transnational submission (closing date: 16 July 2024) and the respective national submissions (closing date: 18 July 2024) must all be submitted prior to the closing dates.

The information given in the national applications must be consistent with the information in the transnational proposal. The transnational proposal must be uploaded together with the respective national applications.

Please use the same acronym and project title in the transnational and national applications.

Figure: Components of a complete submission

-  **Transnational submission**
Application by Austrian or Australian lead partner
-  **National submission – Austria**
Application by Austrian lead partner
-  **National submission – Australia**
Application by Australian lead partner

4.1. TRANSNATIONAL SUBMISSION

The transnational application must be electronically submitted via the [submission platform](#) (see also detailed [eCall tutorial](#)) by the deadline for the transnational submission (16 July 2024) as instructed below:

- Title of the call: “**AUSTRALIA-AUSTRIA JOINT CALL 2024: Industrial Decarbonisation – TRANSNATIONAL SUBMISSION**”
- The organisations participating in the call as project leaders of each country must [register](#) on the eCall platform.
- The (Austrian or Australian) consortium leader (**Main applicant**) [starts a new application](#) and [invites the Australian or Austrian partner](#) to participate in the application.
- General information on the project (duration, abstract, contact person, general cost structure) will be provided via online forms.
- Total country costs must be entered in the eCall in EUR. Costs in AUD must be converted to EUR using the fixed exchange rate (1 EUR = 1,65 AUD, 1 AUD = 0,61; If the exchange rate changes significantly, it will be adjusted)
- A **spreadsheet** detailing the transnational cost structure for **each** country listing costs for each national project partner of the project has to be **uploaded** with the online application. A [template](#) will be provided and includes the fixed exchange rate to convert AUD to EUR.
- The transnational [proposal template](#) must be completed and uploaded with the online application.

4.2. NATIONAL APPLICATION BY AUSTRALIAN PROJECT PARTNERS

Australian partners must submit the application by date and on time (18 July 2024, 17:00 Australian Eastern Standard Time) electronically via <https://business.gov.au/AAIDDP>. The requirements for the national application are specified in the Australian National Annex, available at <https://business.gov.au/AAIDDP>.

- Title: “**Australia-Austria Industrial Decarbonisation Demonstration Partnerships Program – AUSTRALIAN APPLICANTS ONLY**”
- The Australian lead organisation starts a new application.
- Australian applicants must provide all information as specified in the [Australian grant opportunity guidelines](#), including all project and budget attachments.

Australian applicants can apply for a minimum grant amount of AUD\$ 150,000 and a maximum grant amount of AUD\$ 3.5 million.

Australian applicants can submit more than one application however if they are successful, only one project per lead applicant will be funded.

4.3. NATIONAL APPLICATION BY AUSTRIAN PROJECT PARTNERS

Austrian participants must submit the application by date and on time (18 July 2024, 12:00 Central European Summer Time) electronically via [eCall](#) of FFG. The requirements for the national application are specified in the [Austrian National Annex](#).

- Title of the call: “**AUSTRALIA-AUSTRIA CALL 2024: Industrial Decarbonisation – AUSTRIAN APPLICANTS ONLY**”

Austrian applicants can apply for a minimum grant amount of EUR 100,000 and a maximum grant amount of EUR 2 million.

4.4. TIME SCHEDULE

Deadline for transnational submission	16 July 2024 Australia: 18:00:00 AEST Austria 10:00:00 CEST
Deadline for national application by Australian project partners	18 July 2024 17:00:00 AEST
Deadline for national application by Austrian project partners	18 July 2024 12:00:00 CEST
Meeting of Expert Panel to assess full-proposals	September 2024
Funding recommendation by the Call Steering Committee	October 2024
National funding decisions and announcement of results to Main Applicants	October 2024

5. EVALUATION

Transnational applications are evaluated as below. Program management organisations have aligned criteria as closely as possible and according to specific country requirements.

Table: Evaluation criteria

Main Criteria	Sub-criteria
<p>1. Excellence (0-5 points; threshold: 3 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity and pertinence of the objectives (the project’s objectives are clearly stated, coherent, and relevant) • Appropriateness of conceptual approach (the project’s concept and approach must be in line with the project’s aims and objectives) • Innovativeness of the approach compared to existing solutions (the project must have a novel approach, application and/or methodology, must significantly contribute to knowledge development and/or to the application and implementation of scientific and technological breakthroughs to decarbonize energy-intensive hard-to-abate industries) • Added value of transnational co-operation (the proposal must demonstrate how the dimension of transnational co-operation contributes to achieve more than otherwise possible: taking up, combining and integrating existing knowledge from different countries, cross-border exchange of knowledge and experiences, and cross-border application of [aptly modified] solutions) • Feasibility of aims and objectives of project (the project’s aims and objectives must be correlated with the planned outcome and impact of the project; the envisaged results must be realistically achievable within the project’s budget and time allocation) • Feasibility and suitability of project design and methods (the project’s design and methods, including tools and technologies [where applicable], must be correlated with the planned outcome and impact of the project; the envisaged design and methods must be convincingly conceivable and executable within the project’s budget and time allocation) • Handling of development risks (the project’s development risks must be clearly identified and appropriate preventive/remedial actions must be foreseen)
<p>2. Impact (0-5 points; threshold: 3 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit to aims and topics of the program • Integration of gender and diversity perspectives in the project plan and goals when applicable (gender- and diversity-specific topics are analysed adequately [where applicable] and integrated in the methodological approach of the project) • Engagement of research users worldwide to utilize and contribute to information and knowledge-sharing (e.g. communities, cities, policy makers, regulators, NGOs, or industry) and the extent to which the project is likely to be of value to end users (the project brings specified added value to a variety of specifically identified target groups in a transdisciplinary and transnational setting) • Suitability of proposed arrangements for disseminating and communicating outcomes of the project (the project’s communication and dissemination structure is in line with a transdisciplinary and transnational approach tackling the academic and non-academic target groups such as cities, civil society, NGOs and companies) • Scalability and replicability of the solution (the planned project outputs and outcomes are likely to be scalable and replicable in other environments than the project’s own one) • Market potential of the project, capacity to respond to a demand or a need (the project enhances innovation capacity and integration of new

Main Criteria	Sub-criteria
	knowledge meeting the needs of communities, cities, policy makers, regulators, NGOs, and the international market by a challenge-driven approach)
3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (0-5 points; threshold: 3 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money (the project planning is plausible and efficient in relation to the requested budget) • Appropriateness of costing (the expenditures allocated to the various stages of the implementation of the project are adequate to the effective achievement of its goals and ambitions) • Feasibility and appropriateness of timescale (the timescale is adequate to effectively achieve the project's goals and ambitions) • Suitability of expertise, balance of substantial contributions of members to project consortium (the composition of the contributions and expertise of the consortium members is appropriate to the project's goals and ambitions) • Composition of consortium compared to the topic's needs, transnational relevance and complementarities (the project partners encompass the diversity in skills, experience, knowledge and transnational relevance needed to achieving the project's goals and ambitions) • Interdisciplinary, cross-sectorial collaboration, and co-creation (the project's implementation approach fosters interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration and co-creation) • Adequateness of the work package structure and work plan (the structure and description of work packages is transparent and adequate according to the scope of work) • Appropriateness of governance/management arrangements for project (the project's management system and procedures, including quality management, are adequate to the project's goals) • Risk assessment, regulatory and ethics issues properly addressed (when necessary; the project's procedures regarding risk management and the management of regulatory and ethics issues are adequate to the project's goals) • Other key expertise of consortium members (the key personnel shows the necessary experience and formal/informal qualifications to implement the project)

Table: Scoring

Excellent	5
Excellent to very good	4.5
Very good	4
Very good to good	3.5
Good	3 (Threshold)
Average	2.5
Average to weak	2
Weak	1.5
Weak to unacceptable	1
Unacceptable	<1

6. GRANT SELECTION PROCESS

This joint call will take the form of a competitive procedure.

Eligibility check

The national program management organisations will check the fulfilment of national criteria (see national annexes) of partners applying for funding.

The transnational call management will perform the eligibility check based on the criteria defined in section 5. If eligibility is confirmed, the application will be evaluated by international experts.

Evaluation procedure

The international evaluators will evaluate the proposals according to the evaluation criteria in section 5 and report scores and give provide brief evaluation summaries via FFG's evaluation platform. The evaluators will then meet in an online expert panel meeting and will come to consensus on the scores of each proposal. The result is a list of all submitted proposals ranked according to their final scores, which is the funding recommendation provided to the program sponsors, DCCEEW (Australia) and KLIEN (Austria). Based on this list, the best ranked projects will be funded within the available budget considering the joint call goals and warranting the best use of the allocated budget.

All project leaders will receive information on the funding decision including the evaluators' written feedback through the transnational call management via the e-mail address provided in eCall.

Funding contracts will be issued by the national funding agencies.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

All project applications submitted will only be forwarded to the persons responsible for the management of this Australia-Austria Joint Call 2024: Industrial Decarbonisation. All persons involved are bound by strict confidentiality rules.

The international evaluators will get access to the submitted documents for the evaluation of the proposals. Such evaluators act as processors on behalf of the transnational call management FFG and are required to take technical and organisational measures to ensure data security and data confidentiality.

For detailed information, please refer to the national guidelines for [Australia](#) and [Austria](#).