|  |
| --- |
| Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) |
| Energy Market Ready Grants (EMRG) ProgramLast updated: 27/03/2023 |

## Purpose, Application Process and Timelines

### What is the purpose of the Energy Market Ready Grants (EMRG) Program?

The EMRG Pilot Program enables promising start ups to develop and refine their digital energy solutions that benefit consumers, support Victoria’s energy transition, and utilise Victoria’s rich energy data resources.

This pilot initiative will improve understanding of the innovation journey and barriers faced by start-ups at the early to market entry stage. The outcomes of the pilot will be evaluated to determine the types of funding support mechanisms that are most effective in helping Victorian start-ups develop innovative energy-related products and services for the end consumer market.

### Who can apply for funding?

Eligible organisations must:

* have a current ABN
* hold IP or the rights to commercialise
* be one of the following entities: sole traders, private sector starts ups or not-for-profit organisations

Please refer to the application guidelines for more information on eligibility criteria for EMRG.

### When do applications close?

Applications close at 5pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST), Tuesday 11th April 2023.

No hard-copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

### When will successful applicants be notified?

Successful applicants are expected to be notified of assessment outcomes in May/June 2023.

### Will there be an opportunity to ask questions about the grant prior to applications closing?

Yes. Applicants can submit questions to emerging.energy@delwp.vic.gov.au no later than 5pm, 7 calendar days before the application period closes.

Any information provided by DEECA in response to questions raised by potential applicants may be included on this webpage.

### How do I submit the optional video pitch as part of the application?

Due to file upload limits of 10mb, short video pitches must be submitted via the online application portal by providing an accessible link to the video (such as Vimeo or YouTube). Alternatively, short video pitches can be emailed to grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au and must quote the application number in the email.

### Will there be additional rounds of funding as part of the EMRG program?

As the EMRG program is a pilot initiative, no future rounds are currently planned.

## Funding

### When will funding be available?

### Successful applicants will receive funding subject to the terms and conditions, and upon execution, of the Funding Agreement. How will the funding be provided?

Funding will be provided before project activities to allow start**-**ups to finance the project. Supporting documentation is required to be submitted to DEECA to show evidence of expenditure.

### Are grant funds taxable?

It is the responsibility of applicants to understand their tax obligations, including GST. GST is not payable to organisations that are not registered for GST with the Australian Tax Office.

### Are there any co-contribution or financial eligibility criteria for the proposed project?

Yes. Applicants are required to show evidence of at least one of the following funding eligibility criteria:

* received prior funding from an external source, such as grant funding, crowd funding, incubator or accelerator program, or previous investors.
* demonstrate co-investment can be secured for the project.
* demonstrate an ongoing funding stream.

Funding for wages and professional services are classed as eligible expenditure under the program, but cannot be paid retrospectively (e.g. to recover costs incurred in developing the product or applying for the grant). Therefore, all project costs and funding should be provided as part of the application submission.

### Does the financial eligibility need to be confirmed at the time the application is submitted?

Yes. Financial eligibility needs to be confirmed at the time of application submission. If the financial eligibility has not been secured, a Letter of Intent may be attached to the submission.

Should your application be successful in receiving funding under this program, it may be included as a condition precedent to the Funding Agreement.

### Can other non-state government funding be used as part of the co-investment financial option?

Yes. Funding (previous funding, co-investment, or ongoing funding streams) from other non-state government sources can be utilised as part of the financial eligibility. Applicants must provide details of the funding secured or provide evidence of a plan to ensure a funding contribution towards the project. Provision for this detail is included in the project budget question of the application form.

## Contact Information

### Who should I contact for questions or feedback about the program?

For any questions or feedback about the program, please contact emerging.energy@delwp.vic.gov.au.

As the EMRG program is a pilot initiative, engagement and feedback from applicants is strongly encouraged throughout program delivery.

### Who should I contact for assistance in submitting the online application?

If you require assistance submitting your application online, email grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au.

# New FAQs

New FAQs or information provided by DEECA in response to questions raised by potential applicants may be included under this section on this webpage.

### Do you have to be a Victorian start-up to apply for the program?

No. However start-ups will need to have a current ABN and demonstrate that 80% of expenditure will occur in Victoria. More information on eligibility can be found in the application guidelines.

### Will you accept multiple applications from the same start-up or an application which, if funded, will develop several products during the 6 month period?

It is recommended that one application is submitted per applicant. The project may have multiple eligible activities that are completed in the 6-month period for the digital energy solution proposed, based on the funding amount requested ($25,000 or $50,000 limit).