

MCN Research Grant Participation Policy
PQMS1-MCN-POL-0042-V1

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to outline the potential modes of participation with respect to MCN in-kind contributions to academic research grants. The policy is applicable to ANFF-VIC joint-venture members only.

2. BACKGROUND

ANFF is funded through the Federal program, National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). This program’s central mission is to provide operational support for national collaborative infrastructure platforms which facilitate Australian research and development. A condition of NCRIS support is that funds are utilised exclusively for operational support. MCN, which is the central facility of the Victorian node of ANFF (ANFF-Vic), is thus not permitted to leverage NCRIS funds for the purposes of: new capital expenditure, making direct cash contributions toward research activity, or subsidising its own independent research. However, where there is sufficient alignment with respect to capability, MCN can offer in-kind support in the form of access to supplement and strengthen research proposals which intent to make direct use of its NCRIS supported infrastructure.

3. JUSTIFICATION

The MCN was founded, in principle, to consolidate the micro and nanofabrication needs of its joint venture (JV) partners within a single open-access facility. Its continued success and growth depends upon: (1) ensuring that infrastructure remain accessible, well maintained/supported and (2) ensuring that the capabilities and the activity surrounding them remains cutting edge. The latter is facilitated by maintaining close relationships with Australian academic researchers and working with them to align on, among other things, the direction of future research and the emergence of new technologies. Practically speaking, this requires creating engagement pathways which incentivise this interaction and provide direct value to research activity within the Centre.

4. MCN IN-KIND GRANT CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to help drive continued utilisation of the MCN facility and ensure that its capabilities remain an accurate reflection of the present needs of Australian researchers, the **MCN will provide in-kind support on eligible research grants** subject to the following conditions:

- If the grant is for research — the proposed research activities must be feasible and within the scope of current MCN capabilities and infrastructure
- If the grant is for equipment/infrastructure — see applicable policy PQMS1-MCN-POL-0039-V and PQMS1-MCN-POL-0040-V

- the lead organisation on the grant must be a current ANFF-VIC JV partner¹
- MCN is listed as an in-kind participant in the grant itself
- MCN and ANFF-VIC are acknowledged in all publications deriving from the research activities

In-kind support will be given in the form of free access which will be added to pre-paid project funds deposited to support the research activity. The amount of the in-kind supplement is determined by the size of the pre-paid account, and is as defined shown below.

PRE-PAID PURCHASE	IN-KIND SUPPLEMENT*	TOTAL
\$2,000	35%	\$2,700
\$5,000	40%	\$7,000
\$10,000	45%	\$14,500
\$25,000 +	50%	\$37,500 +

**in-kind supplements are inclusive of existing JV pre-paid benefits as outlined in the [ANFF-Victoria Access and Pricing Policy](#).*

DOCUMENT History AND CONTROL INFORMATION

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¹ Monash University (*operator*), CSIRO, Melbourne University, RMIT, Swinburne University of Technology, Deakin University, La Trobe University