

MCN Research Grant Participation Policy

PQMS1-MCN-POL-0042-V8

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.

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 discounts on prepaid access to supplement and strengthen research proposals that make direct use of its infrastructure.

3. JUSTIFICATION

The MCN was founded, in principle, to consolidate the micro and nanofabrication needs of its joint venture (JV) partners —and Australian researchers as a whole— 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 for research grants in the form of:**

- Letters of support for proposals with activity that is within the scope of MCN capabilities and infrastructure
- Assistance/advice regarding formation of research collaborations and partnerships
- Instrument usage discounts for bulk prepaid access as outlined in Table 1

Where possible/practicable, MCN should be listed within the proposal as an in-kind participant within the grant itself. Also, MCN and ANFF-VIC must be acknowledged in all publications deriving from the research activities using the following text in the acknowledgements section of the pub:

"This work was performed in part at the Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication (MCN) in the Victorian Node of the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF)."

Lastly, if a grant relates to equipment/infrastructure — please see applicable policy [PQMS1-MCN-POL-0039-V](#) and [PQMS1-MCN-POL-0040-V](#)

*Table 1. MCN in-kind discounts for purchase of bulk pre-paid access. See [ANFF-VIC Access and Pricing Policy](#) for conditions and exclusions.** Equivalent account value is a maximum which assumes a*

complete spend down of pre-paid funds on instrument access only; discount does not extend to MCN staff assistance or consumables.

PRE-PAID PURCHASE	DISCOUNT	EQUIVALENT VALUE WITH DISCOUNT**	IN-KIND BENEFIT
\$2,000	5%	\$2,105	\$105
\$5,000	10%	\$5,556	\$556
\$10,000	15%	\$11,765	\$1,765
\$25,000 +	20%	\$31,250+	\$6,250 +

5. DOCUMENT HISTORY AND CONTROL INFORMATION

DOCUMENT HISTORY			PQMS1-MCN-POL-0040-V1
Version no.	Date of Issue	Reviewed by: name	Amendments
1	09/01/2018	Sean Langelier	Created to PQMS format
2	23/01/2018	Sean Langelier	Modified section 4 regarding in-kind requirements
3	26/03/2018	Sean Langelier	Removed JV only stipulation
4	09/01/2019	Sean Langelier	Adjustment of in-kind supplement per ANFF discussion; minor wording adjustments in policy text.
5	09/05/2019	Bernie Orelup	Created for GRC
6	03/08/2022	Bernie Orelup	Minor corrections
7	30/06/2025	John Zhu	Date of Review updated
8	11/09/2026	John Zhu	Discount Level Changed