



Frequently Asked Questions

The WA DecisionAg IoT Grant program

Overview

The WA DecisionAg IoT Grant program is a \$500,000 State Government initiative under the \$10 million Royalties for Regions funded project, eConnected Grainbelt WA.

The WA DecisionAg IoT grant program contains three components which seek to investigate

- effective on-farm connectivity solutions to support IoT applications and devices
- the use of IoT applications and devices to support on-farm decision making operating off the on-farm connectivity solutions
- the use of data analytic platforms to collect, aggregate and analyse the data collected on-farm

The following information is intended to be read in conjunction with the WA DecisionAg IoT Grant Program [Guidelines](#).

Eligibility

Projects must meet the following criteria to be eligible

- a) The lead applicant entity must be a Grower Group or an agricultural school (WA Colleges of Agriculture, High schools with farm annexes and Independent farm schools);
- b) Projects must be conducted on farms within the Grower Group catchment or on a school farm for agricultural school applicants;
- c) Projects must improve on-farm connectivity and demonstrate solutions for farm business connectivity across the farm that support IoT applications and devices;
- d) Projects must demonstrate connected digital agricultural technologies, in their operation and use in a farm business;
- e) Projects must demonstrate the use of a software platform to collect, display, store, aggregate and analyse data for decision making;
- f) Readiness to implement and farmer(s) willing to participate

Proposals appraised to have met all eligibility criteria will be assessed based on the Assessment criteria found in the [Guidelines](#).

Definition of Grower Group (for purpose of this grant)

A grower group must be an incorporated not for profit group with the ability to receive funds (ABN provided) that has been formed but not limited to increasing the productivity and profitability of farm businesses.

How to apply

All applications are to be submitted online via [Smarty Grants](#) .

What is the closing time and date for applications?

Applications must be submitted by 4.00pm WST on Friday 19 October 2018. It is recommended that you submit your application/s well before the closing time and date to avoid disappointment.

Can an applicant make changes to their application after it has been submitted?

If you find a mistake in your application after it has been submitted, you should contact the Department by phone on (08) 9651 0550 or by email at eConnectedgrainbelt@dpird.wa.gov.au straight away. The Department may ask you for more information, as long as it does not change the substance of your application. The Department will not accept any additional information, nor requests from applicants to correct applications after the closing time.

How do I know that my application has been received?

When you submit your application you will receive an acknowledgement email. This may take a few moments.

Maximum Fund Amount per application

Grants of up to \$45,000 are available on a matching dollar for dollar basis for approved projects that seek an on-farm trial to improve on-farm connectivity that supports IoT applications and devices, test connected digital agricultural technologies and software platforms that collect, aggregate and analyse the data.

Matching funds - Co-Contribution

A combined minimum financial contribution of fifty per cent of the total project value is required.

Cash and *in-kind* contributions are acceptable for this co-contribution from both the applicant and any third party contributors.

Ownership of assets

The state will not fund single landholder/private interest owned infrastructure assets. The State's contribution will be provided to Grower Groups or agricultural schools which is expected to be applied for the benefit of the Grower Group members or student education. Disposal of the residual value of any assets is at the discretion of the Grower Group. The infrastructure can be located at suitable site/s as agreed by the Grower Group.

Is there a limit to the number of applications that applicants can submit?

No. There is no limit to the number of applications that an applicant can submit before the closing date for applications. Applicants are asked to complete a new application form for each project that they submit.

Can I get assistance from the Department regarding my application?

The Department may be able to provide information that could assist your project development activities during the application period. The Department is available for scheduled teleconference meetings with all applicants.

Please get in touch with us early during the application period if you require assistance.

Can I apply if my Grower Group does not have a focus on the Grains Industry?

Applications that focus on the Grains Industry combined with other areas (e.g. livestock) will be considered, however it is expected that the overall proposal be *primarily* Grains Industry focussed.

What type of technologies are available for on-farm IoT connectivity?

There are a range of technologies available to create on-farm connectivity to support IoT applications and devices beyond the traditional WAN, WiFi or cellular services.

These include licence-free spectrums including Low Power Wide Area Networks (LPWAN and LoRaWAN) and licensed spectrum options including CatM1, NB-IoT, Low Earth Orbit satellite, Satellite/LoRaWan.

There are also technologies that support IoT, Voice and Video capability (Private LTE, Wireless mesh).

Considerations may need to be given towards hybrid solutions to meet your project specification requirements. Selection will depend on the needs of the business and the purpose of implementing the technology.

What type of Data Analytic platform technologies are available?

Fully integrated and open platform solutions are examples of data analytic platforms and can have single or a range of functionalities.

These platforms can provide a range of solutions from an 'off the shelf' end to end solution including the devices, communications and analytic platforms to providing an open mechanism to connect and configure depending on user needs.

Considerations may need to be given towards hybrid solutions to meet your specific project requirements. Selection will depend on the needs to the business and the purpose of implementing the technology.

When will I know the outcome of my applications?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application in writing, at the end of the selection process.

How long will it take for applications to be assessed

Application assessments will commence once applications close on 19th October. All applicants will be informed of the outcomes of their applications as soon as possible after assessment has been completed and endorsed.

When can I start my project

A recipient must not commence work on the Project before a funding agreement is executed with the Department. Projects must be ready to commence within 60-90 days of executing the grant agreement.

Key dates

Estimated grants timeline

Activity	Date
Submission period opens. Grants announced by Minister, advertised on website externally	Wednesday 29 th August 2018
Submission period closes. Internal eligibility pre-assessment undertaken	Friday 19 th October 2018 (4pm WST)

Contact for inquiries

If you have any further questions regarding the program, please contact Kari-Lee Falconer on (08) 9651 0537. All enquiries may be emailed to EconnectedGrainBelt@dpird.wa.gov.au