

Subject: **Australian Global Connections Fund Now Open** [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Dear All,

The Australian Government has announced this week grant funding to help Australian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and researchers work with international partners to develop innovative products and services. The second round of the priming grants component of the Global Connections Fund (GCF) opened today.

The \$4.9 million **Global Connections Fund** is part of the Global Innovation Strategy of the Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda, and supports global SME-to-researcher collaborations. The priming grants of \$7,000 enable Australian SMEs and researchers to meet and collaborate with international partners to progress their ideas.

The GCF is comprised of two types of grants: priming grants and bridging grants. In 2016 the Government awarded more than \$1.1 million in grants under the two components. Under round one of the priming grants, 74 Australian SMEs and researchers received assistance to develop products and services for Australian and international markets.

Bridging grants of up to \$50,000 are designed as seed funding capital to enable viable projects to grow in scope and scale, and to test commercialisation and proof-of-concept activities. There were 14 projects awarded in the first round of bridging grants. The second round opens later this year.

More information is available at <http://www.globalconnectionsfund.org.au/>

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the GCF. Please reach out and we can set up a time to chat in person in DC or over the phone.

Kind regards,

Anthony Murfett  
Minister Counsellor (Industry, Science and Education)  
Embassy of Australia | Washington, DC  
[Anthony.Murfett@industry.gov.au](mailto:Anthony.Murfett@industry.gov.au)