

ORLAB Information Note 1

accessing government assistance

Many of the companies that are customers of ORLAB are relatively small. The cost of equipment for assessment and development of products may be prohibitive for them. Using the facilities of ORLAB is a convenient and cost-effective strategy. What many do not realise is that there are other advantages to using such a facility that is based in a university. Forming a partnership with UNSW can give access to some of the schemes. The Commonwealth and NSW Governments support industry and university collaboration through tax incentives and matching funding.

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/government-support-industry-engagement>

Some of these are relatively modest in size and may suit the customers of ORLAB. The University of New South Wales is a registered Research Service Provider.

For instance, the NSW Government's TechVouchers scheme aims to facilitate research collaborations between small-to-medium enterprises and research organisations like UNSW. TechVouchers up to a value of \$15,000 are available to companies interested in accessing research and development expertise to enhance or validate their products and services. TechVouchers can be used to fund product or process design, technical assistance, product trials and collaborative research projects. Details regarding eligibility and funding are available at the NSW Department of Trade and Investment website. <http://ww3.business.nsw.gov.au/TechVouchers/About.aspx>

Other NSW Government assistance schemes such as the Minimum Viable Product and Collaborative Solutions can be approached in conjunction with UNSW <http://www.trade.nsw.gov.au/business-and-industry-in-nsw/assistance-and-support/innovate-nsw>

All the NSW Government schemes operate on a continuing basis without specific deadlines. The TechVouchers and Minimum Viable Product schemes have a turnaround time of approximately 3 weeks and the Collaborative Solutions scheme assessment operate every 4-6 weeks.

The Commonwealth Department of Industry has announced a new scheme 'Research Connections' which replaces the former 'Researchers in Business' scheme. Up to \$50,000 funding is available from the Commonwealth, to be matched by an eligible Australian company, for a project up to 12 months duration. Company eligibility is based on turnover/expenditure – between \$1.5-100M. The company must operate in a defined sector: Advanced Manufacturing; Food and Agribusiness; Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals; Mining Equipment, Technology and Services; Oil, Gas and Energy; or Enabling technologies and services of the sectors listed above.

The University of New South Wales is a registered Research Service Provider. Companies interested in partnering with UNSW may be eligible for the Australian Government's Research & Development Tax Incentive. The Incentive provides generous support to business, particularly small and medium enterprises to conduct eligible research and development activities, through:

a 45% refundable tax offset for eligible companies with a turnover of less than \$20 million p.a. (equivalent to a 150% tax deduction)

a 40% non-refundable tax offset (equivalent to 133% tax deduction) for all other eligible companies

There is also the, much larger and longer term, prospect in the Australian Research Council Linkage Grants Scheme that would be of interest to larger companies. This scheme has two closing dates each year.

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/australian-research-council-arc-linkage-project>

In addition to the ORLAB Terms and Conditions with which customers will be familiar, there are a number of UNSW agreement templates.

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/template-agreements>

For further information, you can contact ORLAB direct 02 9385 4622 or email orlab@unsw.edu.au or contact Warwick Dawson at the Research Partnerships Unit on 02 9385 7929 or email research.partnerships@unsw.edu.au

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