



THE AUSTRALIAN SPACE SCIENCE PROGRAM

18 October 2010

KEY POINTS

- The Space Policy Unit (the Unit) was established in July 2009 and provides advice to the government on civil space matters. It is the central point of contact and coordination of all civil space activities including fostering linkages with international space organisations. The Unit is also responsible for administering the Australian Space Research Program (ASRP).
- The ASRP, which is part of the Super Science – Space and Astronomy initiative announced in Powering Ideas – An Innovation Agenda for the 21st Century, will provide \$40 million over four years through competitive grants to support space research, innovation and skills development in areas of national significance or excellence. A total of eight grants were awarded under the first two rounds of the program. Applications for Round 3 of the program closed on 26 August 2010, with four successful applications expected to be announced in late November 2010. Round 4 is expected to open for applications in early 2011.
- The Unit has commenced work on the development of a national space policy.
- The Unit liaises with Government agencies on space matters, and is working towards greater coordination of Government activities in space-related areas. This includes coordinating the Australian Government Space Forum – a whole-of-government forum that serves as a focal point for the exchange of information; and undertaking an analysis of space activities undertaken by all agencies across the Commonwealth Government.
- The Unit is working to develop international relationships. Key activities in this area include the negotiation of a new US-Australia space tracking agreement by 2012 and negotiation and development of a new space tracking agreement with the European Space Agency. The Unit is also arranging the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum to be held in Melbourne November 2010.
- The unit has launched the new Australian Space Portal www.space.gov.au to improve visibility of the Australian Government's space related activities.

- The Space Industry Innovation Council was announced on 19 November 2009 as part of the Government's response to the Senate's inquiry into the current state of Australia's space science and industry sector. Dr Ros Dubs is the Chair of the Council and four meetings have been held to date.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Australian Space Research Program

The Australian Space Research Program supports projects and coordinates relevant Australian public and private research and development organisations, linking them with industry and international space agencies/organisations, where appropriate.

The program provides competitive grants in two streams:

- Space Education and Development grants of between \$200,000 and \$1 million will support student space projects and education activities, including possible international educational opportunities and the establishment of national space education programs and centres of expertise.
- Space Science and Innovation Project grants of between \$1 million and \$5 million will support eligible consortia for collaborative space research and development projects that link to strategic national priorities and niche capability. Eligible consortia will comprise a university or research institution and at least one industry partner. International collaboration will be encouraged.

Four grants were awarded under Round 1. The grants have a combined value of \$10,944.416 (excluding GST).

Project Title	Applicant	Consortium Members	Funding (GST Excl)
Pathways to space: Empowering the internet generation	The University of New South Wales	The University of Sydney The Powerhouse Museum Cisco Systems Australia Pty Ltd	\$987,574
Scramjet-based access-to-space systems	The University of Queensland	AIMTEK Pty Ltd Australian Youth Aerospace Forum BAE Systems Australia Centro Italiano Ricerche Aerospaziali (CIRA) Defence Science and Technology Organisation Deutsche Zentrum fuer Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR) Japanese Aerospace Exploration	\$5,000,000

		Agency (JAXA) Teakle Composites Pty Ltd University of Adelaide University of Minnesota University of New South Wales University of Southern Queensland	
Antarctic Broadband – Definition and Capability Development	Aerospace Research Pty Ltd	Australian National University EM Solutions Pty Ltd Environmental Systems & Services Pty Ltd JosephMark Pty Ltd The Tauri Group LLC University of Toronto	\$2,109,682
Platform Technologies for Space, Atmosphere and Climate	RMIT University	Bureau of Meteorology Curtin University of Technology EOS Space Systems Pty Ltd GPSat Systems Australia Pty Ltd National Central University, Taiwan (Center of Space and Remote Sensing Research) University of New South Wales	\$2,847,160

Four grants were awarded under Round 2. The grants have a combined value of \$13,853,597 (excluding GST). Contract negotiations are currently underway, with agreements expected to be finalised by the end of November 2010.

Project Title	Applicant	Consortium Members	Funding (GST Excl)
Southern Hemisphere Summer Space Program	University of South Australia	International Space University	\$475,658
GRACE Follow-on Mission	Australian National University	CSIRO EOS Space Systems Pty Ltd Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Californian Institute of Technology Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute) National Measurement Institute	\$4,673,001
Automated Laser Tracking of Space Debris	EOS Space Systems Pty Ltd	Australian National University Defence Science and Technology Organisation Near Space Systems Inc.	\$4,040,355

SAR Formation Flying	University of New South Wales	BAE Systems Australia Curtin University of Technology Delft University of Technology General Dynamics Astrium Limited	\$4,664,583

Space Industry Innovation Council

On 19 November 2009 the Government tabled its response to the inquiry of the Senate Standing Committee on Economics into the current state of Australia's space science and industry sector. The response commits to establishing a Space Industry Innovation Council (Space IIC), which was announced at the same time as the response. The Space IIC is governed by the Industry Innovation Councils Framework developed by the Department.

The Space IIC examines Australia's current civil space activities, risks and strategic priorities with a focus on Earth observation, satellite communications and navigation. Members provide strategic advice to the Government on innovation priorities, champion innovation in the space industry, and build connections with other initiatives, including the Enterprise Connect network. The Space IIC also considers relevant implications for space science and industry arising from the Defence White Paper and the National Security Science and Innovation Strategy.

The Chair and Members of Space IIC were appointed for their leadership, knowledge and expertise and come from business and professional organisations, science and research agencies, universities, and government.