

Questions and Answers - Friday 27 June 2008

Question: What is the nature of the grants to implement change; will they be the same as those set out in the manufacturing centres?

Answer: The nature of grants to implement change will depend on the findings of the Business Review, it may be that the issues that face the creative industries are different than that facing manufacturing firms. For example creative firms may have issues relating to copyright and intellectual property. The funding allocated is up to \$20k.

Question: Will the partner organisation be precluded from providing tailored advisory services to SMEs that have received a grant?

Answer: It is up to the firm who it chooses to implement changes identified through the Business Review process. The firm is encouraged to seek at least two quotes to ensure it obtains a competitive price and value for money.

Question: Who will be the decision-making entity for those grants? What role will the CIIC play in the decision-making process or application process?

Answer: The core services offered through the CIIC will be eligibility based. Applications will be assessed by public servants who will work at the Centre. All grants will need to be approved by the Delegate in Canberra.

Question: Staffing budget. Aside from the nominated CIIC director and the 2 staff persons coming from the Department, is there a budget available to cover the cost of additional personnel?

Answer: There will not be additional budget available for Departmental support staff, or additional personnel. All expenses should be covered by the allocated funding under complementary services. This does not include the budget which has been set aside for the employment of Business Advisers as set out in the background paper. The Department will be responsible for the employment of Business Advisers.

Question: Can proposals request a budget to cover more than one location?

Answer: It is up to the proponent on how many locations are proposed. It is expected that the Centre (or centres) will have national coverage through the Enterprise Connect network as stipulated in the background paper. There is no additional budget. The budget details are outlined in the background paper

Question: Can the money allocated under 'grants to firms to implement change' be used for capital purchases?

Answer: The money allocated as 'grants to firms to implement change' can not be used for capital purchases - for example new machinery, software upgrades. It is to be used solely to implement changes as identified in the Business Review.

Questions and Answers – Wednesday 25 June 2008

Question: When would it be expected that the Creative Industries Innovation Centre begin operations?

Answer: There is currently no official launch date of the Centre. A rough estimate is the Centre will be operational in the last quarter of this calendar year.

Question: Must the proposed entity be already registered?

Answer: The proposed entity does not have to be currently registered. It may be a proposed one which can be registered if successful. Note this is on the condition, that if successful, the entity will need to be registered immediately.

The organisation that is submitting the proposal must have an ABN as outlined under eligibility in the background paper.

Question: Is there a limit to how many staff can be employed in addition to the two Departmental staff assigned to the Centre?

Answer: There is no limit to the number of staff that can be employed in addition to the two Departmental staff.

Question: Can additional support staff be on contract and on call depending on the nature of assistance provided?

Answer: The employment arrangements / terms of employment of the additional staff will be the responsibility of the partner organisation and Centre Director. I would expect the Centre Director would have some input in the employment arrangements, whether that be contract or on call.

Question: Is the proponent limited to a corporate entity or can other forms of business registration be acceptable?

Answer: The call for proposals is not limited to corporate entities; other forms of business registration are acceptable.

Questions and Answers – Friday 20 June 2008

Question: What will the model for the Remote Enterprise Centre be?

Answer: The Remote Enterprise Centre will not be subject to a call for proposals or an expression of interest process. The model of the Centre will be the same, however the Government will operate it with no partner organisation involvement.

Question: What is the proposed process after the call for proposals?

Answer: There will be no RFT stage. Following the close of proposals the Department will assess the proposals against the selection criteria highlighted in the background paper. Once the assessments are made the Department may enter into negotiations with one (or more) of the applicants.

Once a formal decision has been reached the successful organisation(s) will be announced.

Questions and Answers - Monday 16 June 2008

Question: Can a proposal be submitted in partnership with a university?

Answer: The Department welcomes joint proposals. This includes from private and public sector organisations including higher education institutions.

Question: Does the Department have a preferred physical location of the proposed CIIC Director and Departmental staff?

Answer: The Department does not have a preferred physical location of the Centre Director and Departmental Staff. It is expected that the Director and staff be based at the CIIC headquarter.

Question: How many Departmental staff are anticipated to be employed?

Answer: There will be two Departmental staff employed plus the Centre Director.

Question: Is there one stage of the application process?

Answer: There is only one stage in the application process, which is the proposal form.

Question: Is there a word limit for answering questions/sections in the proposal form?

Answer: There is no word limit for the questions in the proposal form, however we would prefer that answers in each section be kept to one page.