



Terms of Reference

Opportunities Fund Open Call 2020-2025

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Open Call for Proposals under the Opportunities Fund

The Antarctic Science Platform (“ASP”) is establishing an open call for research funding under the ‘Opportunities Fund’ Scheme.

About the Antarctic Science Platform

The purpose of the Antarctic Science Platform is to conduct excellent science to understand Antarctica’s impact on the global earth system, and how this might change in a +2°C (Paris Agreement) world. For more information about the Platform – visit <https://www.antarcticscienceplatform.org.nz/>.

The Platform is structured into four long-term science projects:

Programme 1: The Antarctic ice-ocean-atmosphere system in a warming world

- Project 1: Antarctic Ice Dynamics
- Project 2: Southern Ocean Mechanics

Programme 2: Ross Sea region ecosystem dynamics in a warming world

- Project 3: Projecting Ross Sea Region Ecosystem Changes in a Warming World
- Project 4: Sea Ice and Carbon Cycle Feedbacks

Objective of the Opportunities Fund

The Opportunities Fund seeks to support science projects that can take advantage of an unexpected, high priority opportunity that is not supported by other means, and leverages an important capability, or a substantial international effort or contributes a unique and critical New Zealand perspective. The proposed project must support excellent science that is closely aligned with the ASP mandate and will have an important and relevant impact.

This fund has a total value of \$1,000,000 and will fund up to \$100,000 per application (all values exclude GST).

Rules

- Proposals can be submitted at any time. The applicants must discuss their intent with the ASP Director and/or Programme Leaders before submitting the proposal.
- The proposal must be submitted by a New Zealand-based research organisation.
- The New Zealand PI must be employed by the New Zealand-based research organisation they are applying from.
- The grant will run for a maximum of 24 months, with a start date to be agreed.
- The proposed project must not already be supported by other means. Where this grant will provide co-funding to complement a previous or existing research activity, this distinction must be made clear in the application.
- Applicants must be prepared to support Antarctic Science Platform outreach activities.



Logistics Support

It is anticipated that proposals to the Opportunities Fund usually will not require any logistical support from Antarctica New Zealand. However, if the proposed project requires logistical support, the applicant must discuss this with Antarctica New Zealand's Chief Scientific Advisor and the Antarctic Science Platform Director, prior to proposal submission. A Logistics Support Request must also be submitted to Antarctica New Zealand concurrent with the funding proposal. This provides Antarctica New Zealand with enough information to fully assess the feasibility of support; it does not guarantee that logistics support will be provided. In cases where Antarctica New Zealand deems that it is not feasible to support the logistics requested, the proposal will be declined. This may include such instances where the logistics support requested is disproportional to the requested science funding, and could happen either at the initial discussion phase, or following the review of the Logistics Support Request.

Application Process & Timeline

This is an open call for applications. Applications must be submitted using the application form provided.

Applications will be submitted by email to scienceplatform@antarcticanz.govt.nz. Paper copies are not required.

Applications will be assessed by international peer-review and the ASP Leadership Team. International peer review may include members of the ASP Independent Science Panel. The ASP Leadership Team will make recommendations to the ASP Steering Group. The final investment decision will be made by the ASP Steering Group.

The ASP may decide not to invest at any point during the application process.

Submission

Applications are to be submitted to scienceplatform@antarcticanz.govt.nz.

Please submit the completed application form, including accompanying documents, in a single pdf file (not exceeding 7MB file size).

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Approval of successful applications may take up to 3 months from proposal submission.

High level feedback on unsuccessful proposals will be provided upon request.



Accompanying Documents

Include the following support materials in your application:

- One Curriculum Vitae (CV), using the NZ RS&T CV template provided (for the PI/applicant only).
- Letters of Support
- Additional evidence as appropriate. This might include a Memorandum of Understanding for contributions to an international consortium.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the information provided in the application form and the accompanying documents.

The selection will consider a range of assessment criteria to allow consideration of a relevant and diverse proposal portfolio.

Assessment criteria for this fund include:

- Alignment with ASP - the proposed research area is within the scope of the ASP mandate and will benefit New Zealand's Antarctic science;
- Potential impact of proposed project - proposed project has a clear objective and will advance New Zealand's Antarctic knowledge and scientific leadership;
- Track record of applicant(s) – the applicant / team has a strong track record of research delivery;

In addition, the assessment will consider the following criteria, if relevant to the proposal:

- Potential of the Opportunity – is the opportunity of high national and / or international relevance, or provides a unique and important New Zealand perspective, or will leverage substantial capability, or will provide or resource high priority and relevant science efforts?
- Could the opportunity be supported through other, existing funding mechanisms?
- Is the opportunity addressing an urgent and/or important science gap within the ASP research aspirations?



Successful Grants

Conditions of Contract

In making its investment decisions, the Antarctic Science Platform may also:

- set pre-contract conditions which must be met before the investment is contracted;
- negotiate appropriate and agreed milestones and deliverables;
- assess the appropriateness of the budget submitted with the application.

If an application is successful, a contract will be entered into between Antarctica New Zealand (as the host of the Antarctic Science Platform) and the PI's institution. Such contracts will be subject to the existing ASP Master Agreement Terms and Conditions.

Reporting

The Antarctic Science Platform will require reports be submitted on the agreed activity funded by the grant. A final report will be required aligned with the Platform's internal reporting deadlines of 28 February, 30 June or 30 September annually.

Contacts

For questions about the application process, please contact the Antarctic Science Platform Manager scienceplatform@antarcticanz.govt.nz