



# Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations Program GUIDELINES

Round 17  
2024–2025



*Photo courtesy of Vista Gold Australia Pty Ltd.*

**Northern Territory Geological Survey**  
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

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# 1. About the program

The Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations (GDC) program is a competitive grants program funded under the Northern Territory (NT) Government's [Resourcing the Territory](#) program and administered by the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS).

The objective of the GDC program is to advance exploration activity, address geoscientific knowledge gaps and support the discovery and development of resources in the Territory. Round 17 introduces expanded criteria for Innovative targeting category and provides new co-funding opportunities for advancing critical minerals.

The NT Government will allocate up to \$3 million in round 17 to share between eligible, selected programs. The program provides co-funding up to 50 per cent of direct project costs capped at specific funding amounts for specific projects outlined below:

## Greenfields drilling

- \$200 000 for a single, deep diamond hole program
- \$150 000 for multi-hole diamond drilling program
- \$100 000 for non-diamond drilling program (RC, aircore, sonic, RAB).

## Brownfields diamond drilling

- \$150 000 for diamond drilling programs testing new concepts below or adjacent to a known deposit.

## Regional-scale geophysics

- \$100 000 for Regional-scale geophysical acquisition resulting in a significant improvement in the resolution and quality of existing data (contiguous survey area greater than 350km<sup>2</sup> or 25 km traverse length)
- \$150 000 for reflection seismic surveys.

## Innovative targeting

- \$100 000 for camp- or prospect-scale acquisition of new geophysics or geochemistry for target generation where technique and/or approach is Innovative (see definition).
- \$100 000 for re-processing of reflection seismic to assist in visualising sub-surface geology and undercover targeting.

## Advancing critical minerals

Newly defined activities being trialed for round 17 to advance exploration and development of the Territory's critical minerals include:

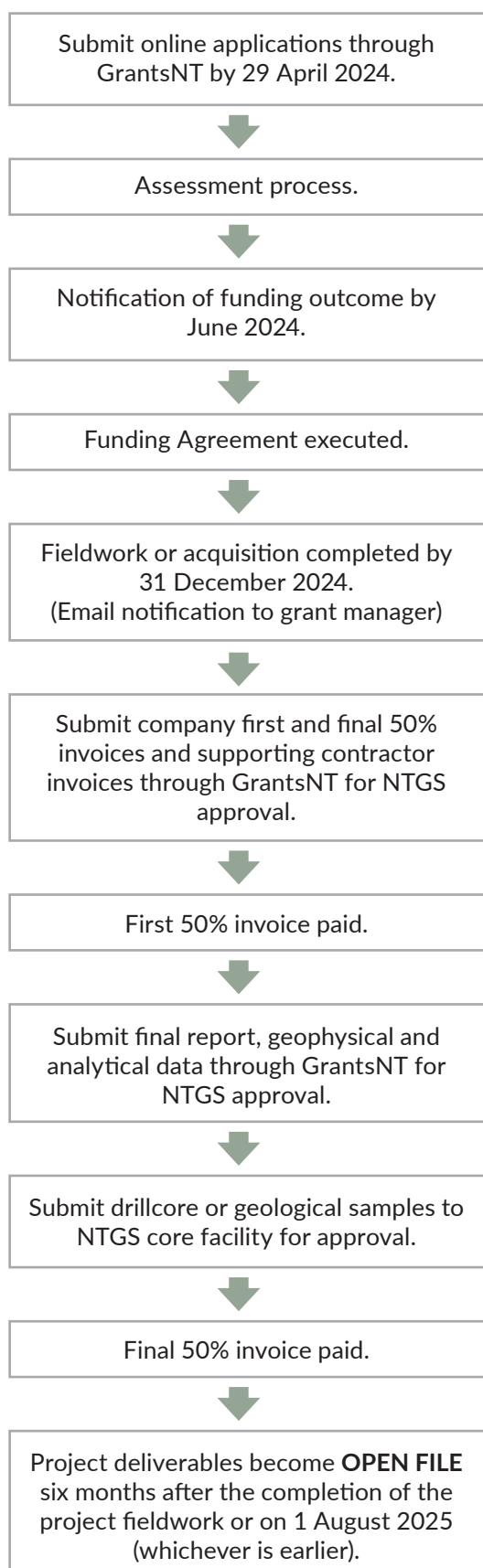
- \$50 000 for re-analysis of existing sample sets and/or mine waste to include previously untested critical minerals.
- \$50 000 for early-stage metallurgical test work and/or ore characterisation to assess potential recoverability of critical minerals from mineralised material.

In addition, any project that engages NT Enterprises for service or supply can claim half of those costs up to a maximum of \$10 000 for their co-funded program under the [Territory Supplier Incentive](#) (TSI) scheme.

Applications for round 17 open **26 February 2024** and close on **29 April 2024**.

Read these guidelines for all the details on eligibility, claimable costs, assessment criteria, how to apply and the funding sequence. For queries contact [collaborations.DITT@nt.gov.au](mailto:collaborations.DITT@nt.gov.au).

## 2. Funding sequence



## 3. Important dates

Date	Event
Monday 26 February 2024	Applications open for round 17 through <a href="#">GrantsNT</a>
5pm ACST Monday 29 April 2024	Applications close for round 17
May 2024	Assessment process
June 2024	Applicants notified of funding outcome.
July 2024	Funding Agreements negotiated and signed with successful applicants
1 August 2024	All Funding Agreements must be fully executed
31 December 2024	All fieldwork or acquisition must be complete
1 August 2025	All project deliverables become <b>OPEN FILE</b> six months after the completion of the project fieldwork or on <b>1 August 2025</b> (whichever is earlier)



## 4. Defined terms

**“Area of Interest”** means the area and surrounds of the proposed activity.

**“Brownfields”** means exploration in the vicinity of an operating or historic mine or a deposit with an existing Identified Resource.

**“Demonstrably Related Party”** means a company; its subsidiaries; joint venture partners, or earn-in arrangement partners.

**“Funding Agreement”** means the agreement of conditions of funding grant between parties.

**“Greenfields”** means exploration activity in unexplored or underexplored areas, away from known deposits, mines, or production wells.

**“Identified Resource”** means a JORC-compliant or equivalent mineral resource of Inferred status or higher (comparable to definition from [Australia’s National Classification System for Identified Mineral Resources](#)) or a Contingent Resource as defined by [Society of Petroleum Engineers](#)).

**“Innovative”** means a technique and/or approach that has been untested in the Project Area.

**“Preliminary Exploration”** means non-ground disturbing activities undertaken on non-granted tenure in accordance with the *Mineral Titles Act 2010*.

**“Project Area”** means areas of contiguous or semi-contiguous tenure held by a company in a geological province or basin targeting the same commodity.

**“RC”** means reverse-circulation drilling.

**“Regional-scale”** means geophysical survey covering a contiguous area of approximately 350 km<sup>2</sup> or more, or a traverse length of approximately 25 km or more.

**“Risk to the Territory”** means a non-weighted criteria applied to proposals transferring risk to the Territory. Risks considered include, but are not limited to, risk of completion, status of authorisations, land access, quotes in place, contractors in place, previous performance and company position.

**“Tenement”** means mineral lease, exploration lease, petroleum title or geothermal title held in the NT.



## 5. Co-funding projects and eligibility criteria

Project category	Aim	Activity	Specific project eligibility	Maximum co-funding amounts inclusive of GST	Assessment criteria and proposal template
Greenfields drilling programs	Increase density of geoscientific data to improve geological knowledge and de-risk underexplored areas of the NT.	Single deep diamond hole in underexplored areas.	\$200 000	Programs must be located away from known deposits. There must be no previous diamond drilling in the Area of Interest, or the proposed drilling must be significantly deeper than any existing drilling. Non-diamond pre-collars must account for less than half of the proposed drill metres.	<a href="#">Appendix 1: Greenfields drilling assessment criteria</a> and <a href="#">greenfield drilling proposal template</a>
		Multi-hole diamond drilling programs in underexplored areas.	\$150 000		
		Non-diamond drilling programs in underexplored areas.	\$100 000	Reverse-circulation (RC) programs must demonstrate there is <b>no</b> previous drilling of any method in the Area of Interest, OR any previous drilling in the area was shallow RAB or aircore drilling that did not effectively test the target or bedrock.	
				Aircore, RAB or sonic programs must demonstrate there is <b>no</b> previous drilling of any method in the Area of Interest (e.g. first pass drilling).	
Brownfields diamond drilling	Support resource development in areas of known resource endowment.	Diamond drilling of untested conceptual targets below or adjacent to a known deposit.	\$150 000	Drilling must be significantly deeper than existing drilling and/or target has not been adequately tested by drilling. Targets must be outside of an existing Identified Resource. Non-diamond pre-collars must account for less than half of the proposed drill metres.  Projects will be <b>not</b> eligible when: drilling shallow holes into known mineralisation; undertaking resource definition or development drilling; or utilising only RC, RAB or aircore drilling.	<a href="#">Appendix 2: Brownfields drilling assessment criteria</a> and <a href="#">Brownfields diamond drilling proposal template</a>
Regional-scale geophysics	Improve the quality and resolution of large regional geophysical datasets.	Geophysical acquisition resulting in a significant improvement in the resolution and quality of existing data.	\$100 000	Airborne surveys and ground gravity surveys must cover a contiguous area greater than 350 km <sup>2</sup> , OR passive seismic or MT traverses must be greater than 25 km length.	<a href="#">Appendix 3: Regional-scale geophysics assessment criteria</a> and <a href="#">Regional-scale geophysics proposal template</a>
			\$150 000	Reflection seismic surveys	

Project category	Aim	Activity	Specific project eligibility	Maximum co-funding amounts inclusive of GST	Assessment criteria and proposal template
Innovative targeting	Promote innovation and diversification in exploration targeting.	Camp- or prospect-scale acquisition of geophysics or geochemistry for target generation.	\$100 000	Programs must demonstrate the proposed technique and / or approach has not been tested in the Project Area. Multiple complementary datasets (geophysical/geochemical) to improve targeting will be viewed favourably.	<a href="#">Appendix 4: Innovative targeting assessment criteria</a> and <a href="#">Innovative targeting proposal template</a>
		Reflection seismic re-processing to assist in visualising sub-surface geology and undercover targeting.		Programs must demonstrate that no seismic re-processing has been undertaken or previous seismic re-processing was not adequate or to modern standards.	
Advancing critical minerals	Support the assessment of critical minerals endowment or recoverability using new or existing sample sets.	Re-analysis of existing sample sets and/or mine waste for untested critical minerals.	\$50 000	Programs must demonstrate that there is insufficient existing analysis to determine whether the critical mineral/s of interest may be present in economically significant quantities in the identified prospect/deposit or mine waste.	<a href="#">Appendix 5: Advancing critical minerals assessment criteria</a> and <a href="#">Advancing critical minerals proposal template</a>
		Early-stage metallurgical test work and/or ore characterisation to assess potential recoverability of critical minerals from mineralised material.		Programs must demonstrate the mineralisation or ore deposit to be tested contains potentially economic accumulations of critical minerals and has had no substantial early stage metallurgical or ore characterisation test work undertaken.	





## 5.1 Essential requirements

In conjunction with the project specific eligibility criteria the following essential requirements must be met to be considered for assessment:

- application form and proposal must be submitted online through the [GrantsNT](#) portal. **Applications received by email will not be considered for funding**
- applicant is a legal entity that can enter a legally binding [Funding Agreement](#) with the NT government, has an Australian Business Number and is registered for GST
- any project involving significant ground disturbance must be on granted Tenement/s held by the applicant or a Demonstrably Related Party. The [MMP Authorisation](#) or [EMP Authorisation](#) relevant to the project must be supplied. If the MMP or EMP has been submitted but not yet authorized, evidence and status of submission must be provided. Status and projected timelines for any outstanding consultation with stakeholders and cultural site clearances must be included in your proposal
- any airborne geophysical acquisition or non-ground disturbing activity must be over the applicant's or Demonstrably Related Party's granted Tenement/s, or otherwise where it meets the criteria for [Preliminary Exploration](#) as defined by the [Mineral Titles Act 2010](#). Applications for Preliminary Exploration must be underway before applying for co-funding
- applicant has proven financial and technical capacity to complete project
- applicant has public liability insurance and workers compensation in place
- applicant has record of compliance against existing [Tenement](#) exploration expenditure and reporting obligations, unless new Tenement holders
- project types (e.g. Greenfields drilling, Brownfields diamond drilling, regional-scale geophysics and Innovative targeting) cannot be combined under a single application. Applicants must fill in separate online applications for each project type
- there is no limit to the number of applications submitted by any one applicant. However, only one application of each category of funding per Project Area will be funded per round. For example, a Greenfields drilling project and a Regional-scale geophysics project may be co-funded over the same Project Area, while two Greenfields drilling projects in the same Project Area targeting the same commodity will not. The lower scoring application will be excluded from the final rankings in the assessment process. Exceptions may be when two drilling projects in the same Project Area are demonstrably targeting different commodities
- a maximum of \$300 000 of funding inclusive of GST is available per year per proponent or their subsidiaries
- projects cannot be retrospective and can only commence when the successful applicants have been publicly announced and the Funding Agreement is fully executed
- applications from applicants who have been awarded funding in the previous GDC round but did not complete the intended project, will not generally be eligible for funding for that project in the subsequent year. An applicant may make a case to re-submit an application for consideration, where it is demonstrated the circumstances affecting the previous project were outside of the applicant's control (seasonal weather will not be considered a factor). The case should also outline how the circumstances will be mitigated in the upcoming round.



## 5.2 Claimable costs

Co-funding is available for up to half of the direct program costs. Direct program costs include activities or items specifically required for the satisfactory completion and delivery of the proposed project to industry accepted standards.

**Claimable** direct program costs include:

- per metre drill costs (including work time)
- consumables (e.g. casing, plugs, drilling fluids)
- core orientation costs and consumables
- core trays, markers, blocks
- hire/use downhole camera
- downhole survey
- wireline logging
- directional surveys done as part of drilling contract
- mobilisation / demobilisation, inter-hole moves, stand by rates (capped at combined cost of \$10 000 for Greenfields drilling and \$5000 for Brownfields drilling)
- per line km / per station / cost of geophysical acquisition
- aircraft / seismic mobilisation / demobilisation / stand by (capped at combined cost of \$10 000 for regional scale acquisition and \$5000 for Innovative targeting).

The list of claimable direct program costs is included in the [Appendix 6](#).

Estimates of direct program costs should be as accurate as possible to ensure an appropriate funding amount is awarded for the project.

Claims for funding will comprise up to half of the actual direct program costs (capped at the awarded funding amount) and must be supported by supplier invoices.

**Non claimable** costs must be borne by the applicant and include costs related to:

- administration
- interpretation (except under Innovative targeting or advancing critical minerals category)

- analytical costs (except under Innovative targeting or advancing critical minerals category)
- project management
- land access
- cultural heritage clearance
- environmental assessments or surveys
- fuel for transport or travel
- repairs / equipment
- transportation / travel for personnel
- company personnel salaries or other personnel costs
- camp costs
- rehabilitation.

## 5.3 Territory Supplier Incentive scheme

The **Territory Supplier Incentive** (TSI) offers **up to \$10 000** inclusive of GST per project of additional funding to engage NT enterprises, which must be spent on local service and supply directly supporting the co-funded program.

This can include up to 50 per cent of the cost of:

- \$20 000 worth of additional drilling on the proposed program, if the drilling contractor undertaking the project is an NT enterprise
- cost of geochemical analysis (both preparation and analysis) using a laboratory meeting the criteria of an NT enterprise
- drilling of water bores to support drilling, and/or water haulage by an NT enterprise
- earthworks, track construction and/or equipment hire from an NT enterprise.

For the purpose of the TSI, an NT Enterprise is a business that is registered with the [Industry Capability Network Northern Territory](#)<sup>1</sup>; AND operates in the NT; AND has a significant permanent physical presence in the NT; AND predominantly employs NT residents. The list of claimable TSI costs are included in [Appendix 7](#).

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<sup>1</sup> In the case of an individual who cannot register with the ICNNT, the onus is on the applicant to provide sufficient evidence that the individual meets all other criteria

## 6. Application process

### 6.1 Applying online

Before applying online, please read these guidelines in full.

Funding applications open through [GrantsNT](#) on **Monday 26 February 2024** and close **5:00pm Monday 29 April 2024 (Australian Central Standard Time)**.

The NT Government is not obliged to accept any late applications. Applications received by email will not be considered for funding.

Please see GrantsNT for step by step guide to applying online. GrantsNT provides useful user [help guides](#). Contact [collaborations.DITT@nt.gov.au](mailto:collaborations.DITT@nt.gov.au) for assistance during the application process.

### 6.2 Project proposal

Prior to submitting the application, applicants have been deemed to have examined all documentation made available by the NT Government for the purpose of the GDC program, considered all relevant risks, contingencies and other circumstances having an effect on its proposal and have undertaken sufficient due diligence and enquiries.

Applicants must make, in writing, to the NT Government, a full, frank and prompt disclosure of any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest that exist at the time of submission of its Proposal and which may arise after the time of submission of its proposal.

Applicants must upload a project proposal using the project category proposal template under [Exploration grants 'guidelines and templates'](#) with their online application.

The project category templates include:

- [Greenfields drilling proposal template](#)
- [Brownfields diamond drilling proposal template](#)
- [Regional-scale geophysics proposal template](#)
- [Innovative targeting proposal template OR](#)
- [Advancing critical minerals proposal template](#).

If you require assistance determining which project category proposal template best suits your project, email [collaborations.DITT@nt.gov.au](mailto:collaborations.DITT@nt.gov.au) or phone 08 8999 5424 prior to applying online.

The project proposal will include a project proposal cover sheet, abstract, location, summary of the regional geology, previous exploration, exploration concept, details of the proposed program with maps and plans, estimated costs (budget), timeframes and corporate position. The project proposal template allocates the value of assessment points for each section.

Submission of compulsory documentation through GrantsNT includes:

- GIS format files of proposed drilling locations or geophysical survey boundaries (MapInfo Tab, ESRI shape files)
- business information/financial capacity statements
- current authorised Mining Management Plan (MMP), or Environmental Management Plan (EMP), or evidence of the status awaiting authorisation must be included for any ground-disturbing activities
- public liability insurance and workers' compensation certificates.

Applicants are required to undertake independent enquiries in connection with the development of their project proposal. The NT Government makes no representations regarding the accuracy, suitability or completeness of the information and documents provided.

Information disclosed to applicants is provided in good faith and the NT Government will not be liable for any omission or inaccuracy of that information.

Applications submitted will be retained by the NT Government. Applications will be treated as confidential information and may be disclosed to the NT Government, its Ministers or any of their representative officers, employees, advisors, contractors from whom the NT Government may seek advice

in connection with the GDC program and application assessment.

Applicants must inform the NT Government promptly in writing of any material changes or circumstances that impact the submitted proposal

## 6.3 Assessment process

Assessment criteria focusses on the technical merits of the project and its capacity to broaden geological knowledge or support resource development in the NT.

The NT Government may undertake probity checks of each applicant and the submitted proposal.

In May, the assessment panel will individually score all eligible applications against one of five specific assessment criteria:

- [Appendix 1: Greenfields drilling assessment criteria](#)
- [Appendix 2: Brownfields diamond drilling assessment criteria](#)
- [Appendix 3: Regional-scale geophysics assessment criteria](#)
- [Appendix 4: Innovative targeting assessment criteria](#)
- [Appendix 5: Advancing critical minerals criteria.](#)

The assessment panel then meet to rank the proposals. During the assessment panel meeting, proposals may be subject to non-weighted criteria to support the final funding recommendations.

### 6.3.1 Non-weighted criteria

All proposals are subject to a 'Risk to the Territory' factor. The risks considered may include but are not limited to the risk of completion, status of authorisations, land access, quotes in place, contractors in place, previous performance, and company position.

When there are more proposals of merit than can be supported within the allocated funding, consideration may be given to proposals with

the potential to have the greatest impact on the Territory's future economy.

The assessment panel includes NTGS Senior Executive Director, Director Regional Geoscience, Manager Geophysics and Remote Sensing, and representative(s) within Regional Geoscience, as well as an independent, senior representative from the NT Government. An external probity advisory oversees the process. The assessment panel register any real or perceived conflict of interest in accordance with NT Government policy prior to assessing proposals.

Please note NTGS reserves the right to:

- partially fund a proposal. If partial funding is recommended by the Assessment Panel, the Applicant will be advised confidentially
- amend the program at any time prior to the closing date provided that prospective Applicants are notified
- extend the proposal submission closing date
- clarify any aspect of a proposal with the applicant after the specified closing date
- extend the assessment period of the round
- end the GDC program at any time without liability, whether before or after the receipt of applications
- all decisions made by the Panel will be final with no right of appeal
- feedback on unsuccessful applications is available on request.

## 6.4 Notification

By late May / early June 2024, notification of all successful and unsuccessful applicants will occur via email through GrantsNT.

At the time of announcement, details of successful projects will be publicly released on the *Resourcing the Territory* website. Information released is limited to company name, project title, relevant Tenement and proposed exploration technique. All other information from the proposals are kept commercial in confidence.

Successful applicants will receive:

- a Letter of Offer
- a Funding Agreement outlining the purpose of the grant and the conditions under which the grant is provided
- [vendor creation/amendment form](#).

IMPORTANT: Signed Funding Agreements must be returned by **1 August 2024** as stipulated in the Letter of Offer or NTGS may withdraw the offer of funding.

## 6.5 Market announcements

Market announcements relating to the co-funded program should acknowledge NT Government.

“This work was undertaken with the support of the Northern Territory Government’s Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations program, under the *Resourcing the Territory* program.”

## 6.6 Feedback

Some applications meet the published assessment criteria but are unsuccessful. The program typically receives more applications of merit than can be supported within the allocated funding. Feedback on unsuccessful applications is available to all applicants on request.

## 6.7 Tips for success

Here are some tips for high scoring proposals:

- the program is supported by sound geological understanding of the conceptual model or target being proposed
- the program is clearly illustrated spatially and in relation to existing drilling, targets and known mineralisation where relevant (e.g. high quality, easy to read maps and cross sections)
- where required, the program has its mining management plan (MMP) or environmental management plan (EMP) authorised or the status of submission is accurate and clearly articulated
- the budget is substantiated with supporting contractor quotes
- contractors are confirmed and in place, or where contractors are not in place, realistic timeframes are provided
- GIS is provided for proposed drill locations or survey locations or project outlines.

NOTE: Where contractor quotes are not supplied, average industry costs may be used by the assessment panel to revise budgets.



## 7. Successful applicants

### 7.1 Funding Agreement

By June 2024, the successful applicants will enter into a pro-forma Funding Agreement with the NT Government. The agreement binds the payment of up to the agreed funding amount inclusive of GST with the successful completion of the proposed project, lodging of invoices and supply of all project deliverables within specific timeframes. It also contains conditions regarding media releases and termination rights. More details can be found in the pro-forma Funding Agreement available upon request.

Co-funded projects can only commence after the public announcement of successful applicants and a Funding Agreement has been fully executed.

Variations to any aspect of the proposal must be pursued proactively and not retrospectively and must be submitted by email for consideration.

### 7.2 Fieldwork

Upon commencement and completion of fieldwork, the **actual commencement and completion date** for fieldwork must be emailed to [collaborations.ditt@nt.gov.au](mailto:collaborations.ditt@nt.gov.au).

All fieldwork must be completed prior to **31 December 2024** for the Funding Agreement to remain valid.

Under exceptional circumstances, a variation to the program or an extension to commencement or completion dates can requested by email for consideration.

### 7.3 Invoicing

Within one month of fieldwork completion, successful applicants should **submit two invoices** (first and final), each for up to a maximum 50 per cent of the awarded funding amount in the Funding Agreement inclusive of GST through GrantsNT. The two invoices should be from the successful applicant addressed to NTGS. All details will be outlined in the Funding Agreement.

If the actual direct program costs are less than the estimated direct program costs, invoices must reflect half of the actual direct costs. If the actual direct program costs exceed those estimated in the application, these additional costs will be borne by the applicant.

The two invoices from the successful applicant to NTGS, and all supporting contractor / supplier invoices must be submitted through GrantsNT (using your account - Organisation profile) for NTGS approval. The claimable costs template can be submitted to help substantiate claims if useful and can be downloaded through [Exploration grants 'guidelines and templates'](#).

Once claimable costs are verified and match the invoices, the first invoice will be paid. The final invoice will be paid upon submission and NTGS approval of all project deliverables as outlined under the Funding Agreement.

New recipients of co-funding must fill in and return the NT Government vendor creation form to process payments through NT Government systems. This form is available for download through [Exploration grants 'guidelines and templates'](#).

Successful applicants should ensure bank account details align between GrantsNT Organisation Profile vendor creation form and invoices provided for payments.

### 7.4 Project deliverables

Within three months of fieldwork or acquisition completion, successful applicants must submit the final report and all associated data through GrantsNT and, for drilling programs, deliver drill core and/or drill samples to the nearest NTGS Core Facility, and in accordance with the [geological sample submission procedure](#).

For programs with an approved variation to commence and/or complete after 31 December 2024, NTGS may require submission dates less than three months from completion.

### 7.4.1 Report and data

All final reporting templates and documents are available through [Exploration grants 'guidelines and templates'](#).

All project deliverables must comply with the reporting and data in [Guideline 7 – Reporting on Mineral Titles](#) and [Guidelines for NT Onshore Petroleum Reporting and Data Submission](#) to meet funding obligations.

NTGS will review the submission, request amendments if required, and approve the submission.

**IMPORTANT:** All analyses listed in the Proposal must be submitted in the Final report and data submission. Pending assays will not be accepted.

**ANNUAL REPORTING:** Ensure the GDC work program is clearly outlined in the Annual report for the year the work took place. Include the GDC Company Report number.

If data is too large to upload using GrantsNT, please contact [collaborations.ditt@nt.gov.au](mailto:collaborations.ditt@nt.gov.au) to supply the data by alternative methods.

### 7.4.2 Drill core and sample submission

Drill core and/or drill samples must be delivered to the nearest NTGS Core Facility, and in accordance with the [geological sample submission procedure](#). The [geological sample submission form](#) must be filled electronically for each drillhole and submitted to the Core Facilities manager and [collaborations.ditt@nt.gov.au](mailto:collaborations.ditt@nt.gov.au).

For diamond drilling projects, half of all diamond drill core (split lengthways) for the entire length of the cored hole must be submitted as per Funding Agreement. Submit half core in the correct sized trays for the size of the core, marked up and delivered in accordance with geological sample submission procedure. The half core submitted is owned by NTGS and must not be sampled. Any analytical sampling, including petrography, must be sampled from the applicants' half of the core.

For non-diamond drilling projects, a clearly labeled chip tray for each metre down the

hole and 250g samples for each metre down the hole must be offered as per the Funding Agreement. On submission, fill out all details in the 'cuttings intervals' in the [geological sample submission form](#).

The NTGS Core Facility will only accept core submissions that comply with the requirements outlined. Non-compliant submissions may be returned to the applicant at their cost.

NOTE: NTGS reserve the right to choose a selection of representative core and/or samples from a program for retention in the NTGS Core Facility. NTGS may request preliminary geochemical data and core and/or chip photography to evaluate which holes will be submitted for retention from the program. This process will be discussed on a case-by-case basis directly with the applicant prior to the core and sample submission.

## 7.5 Project completion

The final invoice will be paid upon submission and NTGS approval of all project deliverables and drill core and sample submission outlined under the Funding Agreement.

## 7.6 Project publicly available

All reports and data become **OPEN FILE** six months after the completion of project fieldwork or on 1 August 2025 (whichever is earlier).

## 7.7 Contact details

### **Collaborations grant manager**

Northern Territory Geological Survey  
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade  
GPO Box 4550, Darwin NT 0801

**Email:** [collaborations.DITT@nt.gov.au](mailto:collaborations.DITT@nt.gov.au)

**Phone:** 08 8999 5424

**Web:** <https://resourcingtheterritory.nt.gov.au/about/exploration-grants>

### **GrantsNT**

**Web:** <https://grantsnt.nt.gov.au>

### **Core Facility Manager, Darwin**

Northern Territory Geological Survey  
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade  
38 Farrell Crescent, Winnellie NT 0820

**Email:** [core.facility@nt.gov.au](mailto:core.facility@nt.gov.au)

**Phone:** 08 8984 3036

### **Core Facility Manager, Alice Springs**

Northern Territory Geological Survey  
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade  
16 Power Street, Alice Springs NT 0871

**Email:** [core.facility@nt.gov.au](mailto:core.facility@nt.gov.au)

**Phone:** 08 8951 8652



## 8. Handy links

[GrantsNT](#)

[Geological sample submission procedure](#)

[Geological sample submission form](#)

[Guideline 7 – Reporting on Mineral Titles](#)

[Guidelines for NT Onshore Petroleum Reporting and Data Submission](#)

[Resourcing the Territory | Home page](#)

[Resourcing the Territory | Exploration grants](#)

[MMP Authorisation](#)

[EMP Authorisation](#)

[Mineral Titles Act 2010](#)

[Petroleum Act 2023](#)

[Industry Capability Network Northern Territory](#)



# APPENDIX 1: Greenfields drilling assessment criteria

Assessment is against the Project Application and will only occur for those applications that meet the funding criteria.

Criteria	Assessor's score 0-10	Weighting %	Weighted score
<b>Regional context</b>		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
<b>Exploration concept</b>		20	
Tests soundly based geological or exploration model		10	
Potential to advance exploration activity in underexplored areas		10	
<b>Proposed program</b>		50	
Diamond drilling is distant from previous diamond drilling at similar depth; OR RC drilling is distant from any previous drilling, or previous drilling did not effectively test target and/or bedrock; OR Other non-diamond drilling technique (e.g. aircore, RAB, sonic) is distant from any previous drilling (e.g. first pass drilling of an area)		20	
Delivers basic geological information (e.g. age, stratigraphic relationships, structural settings, untested geochemical or geophysical anomalies, resolves depth to geophysical target or basement, assesses potential for new commodity in Area of Interest)		15	
Suitability of additional analyses (e.g. multi element geochemical analysis, downhole logging suite, downhole EM, petrophysics, petrography, isotopic analysis, QA/QC). Proposed drilling specifications (e.g. core size or method)		10	
Sufficient supporting evidence for exploration target generation (including geological maps, and images of geophysical targets and/or cross-sections where relevant)		5	
<b>Estimated costs and timeframes</b>		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status relevant authorisations (e.g. MMP/EMP, land access, certificates and clearances)		5	
<b>Corporate capacity and performance</b>		10	
Financial and technical capacity of the applicant to undertake the proposed program		5	
Company has no outstanding expenditure/reporting commitments; past performance in co-funding programs		5	
<b>Total</b>		100	

## APPENDIX 2: Brownfields diamond drilling assessment criteria

Assessment is against the Project Application and will only occur for those applications that meet the funding criteria.

Criteria	Assessor's score 0-10	Weighting %	Weighted score
<b>Regional context</b>		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
<b>Exploration concept</b>		20	
Tests soundly based conceptual target below or adjacent to known deposits but outside of an <a href="#">Identified Resource</a>		10	
Potential to increase exploration activity and/or resource development in the area		10	
<b>Proposed program</b>		50	
Drill target must be significantly deeper than existing drilling and/or target has not been adequately tested by drilling		20	
Contributes to enhanced geological understanding and characterisation of target commodity(s), mineral system, deposit and/or geological setting (e.g. age, mineralisation style, structural and stratigraphic relationships or resolve depth to geophysical target)		15	
Suitability of additional analyses (e.g. multi-element geochemical analysis, downhole EM, petrography, petrophysics, isotopic analysis, QA/QC). Proposed drill specifications (e.g. core size)		10	
Sufficient supporting evidence for target generation and relationship between proposed program, Identified Resource and existing drilling. (including geological maps, images of geophysical targets and cross-sections)		5	
<b>Estimated costs and timeframes</b>		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status relevant authorisations (e.g. MMP/EMP, land access, certificates and clearances)		5	
<b>Corporate capacity and performance</b>		10	
Financial and technical capacity of the applicant to undertake the proposed program		5	
Company has no outstanding expenditure/reporting commitments; past performance in co-funding programs		5	
<b>Total</b>		100	

## APPENDIX 3: Regional-scale geophysics assessment criteria

Assessment is against the Project Application and will only occur for those applications that meet the funding criteria.

Criteria	Assessor's score 0-10	Weighting %	Weighted score
<b>Regional context</b>		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
<b>Exploration concept</b>		20	
Designed to generate targets for a soundly based exploration model		10	
Potential to advance exploration activity in underexplored areas		10	
<b>Proposed program</b>		50	
Program is of <a href="#">Regional-scale</a> and will improve the resolution / quality of existing regional scale data in the area; OR Program is undertaking reflection seismic		20	
Contribution to basic understanding of regional geology (e.g. major structures, nature of basement, geophysical anomalies)		15	
Suitability of proposed geophysical technique to test exploration concept or understand geological framework		10	
Specifications of the survey design to test the exploration concept or understand geological framework (e.g. line spacing, line kilometres, area covered, grid spacing, line direction)		5	
<b>Estimated costs and timeframes</b>		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status relevant authorisations (e.g. land access, certificates, clearances, MMP / EMP)		5	
<b>Corporate capacity and performance</b>		10	
Financial and technical capacity of the applicant to undertake the proposed program		5	
Company has no outstanding expenditure/reporting commitments; past performance in co-funding programs		5	
<b>Total</b>		100	

## APPENDIX 4: Innovative targeting assessment criteria

Assessment is against the Project Application and will only occur for those applications that meet the funding criteria.

Criteria	Assessor's score 0-10	Weighting %	Weighted score
<b>Regional context</b>		<b>5</b>	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
<b>Exploration concept</b>		<b>20</b>	
Designed to generate targets for a soundly based economic deposit model or testing a soundly based geological concept		10	
Potential to increase exploration activity and/or resource development in the area		10	
<b>Proposed program</b>		<b>50</b>	
Demonstrates evidence that technique and/or approach has not been tested in the Project Area; OR Demonstrates that no seismic re-processing has been undertaken or previous seismic re-processing was not adequate or to modern standards		20	
Suitability of proposed technique/s and specifications of program design to support exploration concept (e.g. geophysical survey parameters, geochemical survey parameters, re-processing parameters)		10	
Delivers new insights for targeting techniques for the commodity/s in the Project Area, with broader regional implications		10	
Delivers enhanced understanding of camp- or prospect-scale geology (e.g. refined geophysical anomalies, geochemical anomalies, major structures, nature of basement)		5	
Sufficient supporting evidence for program design (including geological maps, geophysical images and/or cross-sections)		5	
<b>Estimated costs and timeframes</b>		<b>15</b>	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status relevant authorisations (e.g. land access, certificates, clearances, MMP / EMP)		5	
<b>Corporate capacity and performance</b>		<b>10</b>	
Financial and technical capacity of the applicant to undertake the proposed program		5	
Company has no outstanding expenditure/reporting commitments; past performance in co-funding programs		5	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	



## APPENDIX 5: Advancing critical minerals assessment criteria

Assessment is against the Project Application and will only occur for those applications that meet the funding criteria.

Criteria	Assessor's score 0-10	Weighting %	Weighted score
<b>Regional context</b>		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
<b>Exploration concept</b>		20	
Testing soundly based economic deposit model or geological concept		10	
Potential to advance critical minerals exploration activity and/or development in the Project Area, with possible broader regional implications		10	
<b>Proposed program</b>		50	
Demonstrates there is insufficient existing analysis to determine whether the critical mineral/s of interest may be present in economically significant quantities in the identified prospect/ deposit or mine waste; OR Demonstrates the mineralisation or ore deposit to be tested contains potentially economic accumulations of critical minerals and has had no substantial early stage metallurgical or ore characterisation test work undertaken		20	
Suitability of proposed program specifications, analyses and/or technique/s (e.g. multi-element geochemical analysis for untested critical minerals re-analyses, metallurgical or ore characterisation test work)		15	
Delivers enhanced understanding of potential critical minerals endowment and/or recoverability		10	
Sufficient supporting evidence for program design (including geological maps, geophysical images and/or cross-sections, existing resource or multi-element geochemical analysis to support next stage of test work)		5	
<b>Estimated costs and timeframes</b>		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status relevant authorisations (e.g. land access, certificates, clearances, MMP / EMP)		5	
<b>Corporate capacity and performance</b>		10	
Financial and technical capacity of the applicant to undertake the proposed program		5	
Company has no outstanding expenditure/reporting commitments; past performance in co-funding programs		5	
<b>Total</b>		100	

# APPENDIX 6: Breakdown of claimable direct program costs

## Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations

Cost	Eligibility
per metre cost of drilling (includes work time)	✓
mobilisation, demobilisation, inter-hole moves, stand by rates (up to combined \$10 000 for Greenfields drilling and \$5000 for Brownfields drilling projects)	✓
casing	✓
plugs	✓
drilling fluids	✓
core orientation costs and consumables	✓
core trays, markers	✓
per line km / per station cost of geophysical acquisition	✓
aircraft / seismic mobilisation, demobilisation / standby (capped at combined cost of \$10 000 for regional scale acquisition and \$5000 for Innovative targeting)	✓
hire or use of downhole camera	✓
downhole surveys	✓
wireline logging	✓
directional surveys done as part of drilling contract	✓
landholder liaison, other site clearance issues	X
geochemical assays (unless under <a href="#">Innovative targeting</a> or <a href="#">advancing critical minerals categories</a> )	X
analysis of core including petrology/petrography (unless under <a href="#">Innovative targeting</a> or <a href="#">advancing critical minerals categories</a> )	X
rack construction and site preparation	X
insurance	X
collar surveys	X
hauling water for drilling if not included in meterage rate	X
drilling waterbore to provide water for drilling	X
camp costs	X
catering	X
any material lost or abandoned in hole, intentionally or otherwise	X
core cutting/sampling costs	X
freight of core and samples	X
SEM	X
isotope studies	X
PIMA	X
PPE and other WHS costs	X
training	X
travel	X
diesel / fuel for travel or other non-direct costs	X
repairs / equipment (capital costs)	X
rehabilitation / abandonment	X
costs of report preparation	X
directional surveys by specialist contractor	X

# APPENDIX 7: Territory Supplier Incentive for NT enterprises

## Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations

Cost	Eligibility
per metre cost of drilling, mobilisation/demob/inter-hole moves, standby	✓
drilling waterbore to provide water for drilling	✓
hauling water for drilling if not included in meterage rate	✓
earth works for track, site, pad preparation	✓
equipment hire by NT supplier	✓
geochemical analyses (preparation and analysis) undertaken in a laboratory in the NT	✓

The **Territory Supplier Incentive (TSI)** offers up to **\$10 000** inclusive of GST per project of additional funding to engage NT enterprises, which must be spent on local service and supply.

This can include up to 50 per cent of the cost of:

- \$20 000 worth of additional drilling on the proposed program, if the drilling contractor undertaking the project is an NT enterprise
- cost of geochemical analysis (both preparation and analysis) using a laboratory meeting the criteria of an NT enterprise
- drilling of water bores to support drilling, and/or water haulage by an NT enterprise
- earthworks, track construction and/or equipment hire from an NT enterprise.

For the purpose of the TSI, an NT Enterprise is a business that is registered with the Industry Capability Network Northern Territory<sup>2</sup> and does all of the following: operates in the NT, has a significant permanent physical presence in the NT, and predominantly employs NT residents.

<sup>2</sup> In the case of an individual who cannot register with the ICNNT, the onus is on the applicant to provide sufficient evidence that the individual meets all other criteria