



Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations Program GUIDELINES

Round 18
2025–2026



Photo courtesy of Vista Gold Australia Pty Ltd

Northern Territory Geological Survey
Department of Mining and Energy

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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 18 continues to fund a range of exploration activities. The most significant change from the previous round is an increase in co-funding for regional-scale geophysics to \$150 000.

The NT Government will allocate up to \$3 million in round 18 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 all inclusive of GST:

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

- \$150 000 for [Regional-scale](#) geophysical acquisition resulting in a significant improvement in the resolution and quality of existing data (contiguous survey area greater than 350km² 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 defined term)
- \$100 000 for re-processing of reflection seismic to assist in visualising sub-surface geology and undercover targeting.

Advancing critical minerals

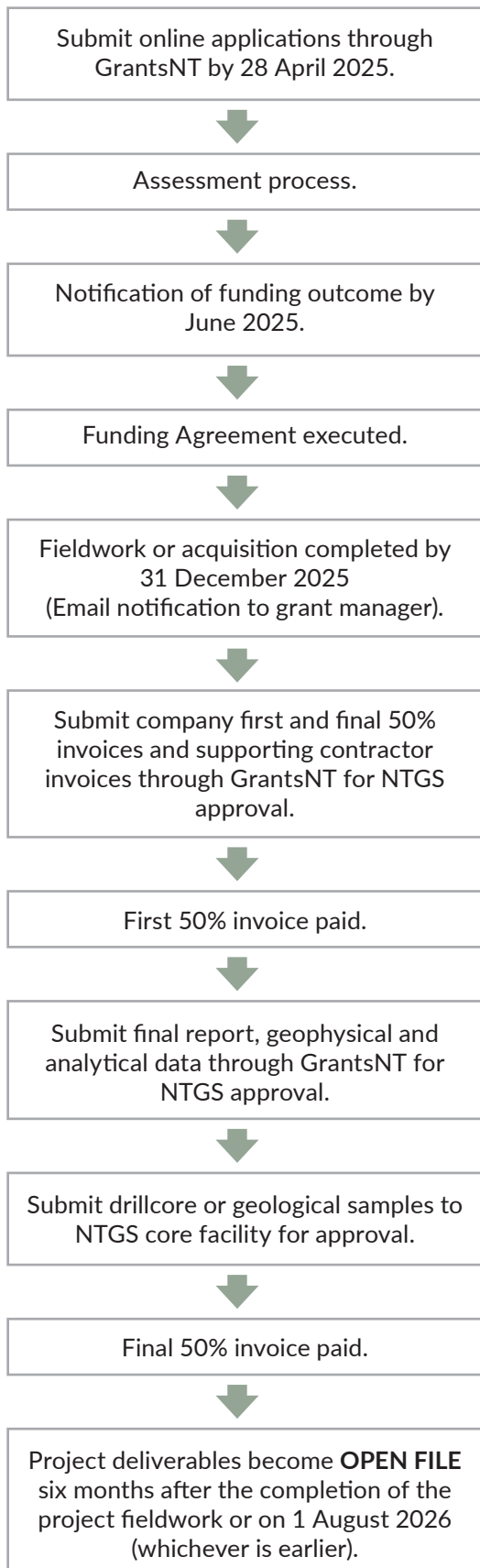
- \$50 000 for re-analysis of existing sample sets and/or mine waste to include previously untested critical minerals
- \$50 000 for early-stage metallurgical test work and/or ore characterisation to assess potential recoverability of critical minerals from mineralised material.

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 18 open **25 February 2025** and close on **28 April 2025**.

Read these guidelines for all the details on eligibility, claimable costs, assessment criteria, how to apply and the funding sequence. For queries contact collaborations.DME@nt.gov.au.

2. Funding sequence



3. Important dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 25 February 2025	Applications open for round 18 through GrantsNT
5pm ACST Monday 28 April 2025	Applications close for round 18
May 2025	Assessment process
June 2025	Applicants notified of funding outcome
July 2025	Funding Agreements negotiated and signed with successful applicants
1 August 2025	All Funding Agreements must be fully executed
31 December 2025	All fieldwork or acquisition must be complete
1 August 2026	All project deliverables become OPEN FILE six months after the completion of the project fieldwork or on 1 August 2026 (whichever is earlier)



4. Defined terms

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

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

“**Deemed Licence (DL)**” means all existing operators that hold a mining authorisation and approved mining management plan (MMP) on 1 July 2024 are automatically deemed to hold an environmental (mining) licence under the [Environment Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2023 \(Amendment Act\)](#).

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

“**Environmental (Mining) Licence E(M)L**” means the tiered, risk-based, outcomes-focused licensing regime for all mining activities in the Northern Territory in accordance with the [Environment Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2023 \(Amendment Act\)](#).

“**Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**” means the regulatory approval for petroleum activity under the [Petroleum Act 1984](#).

“**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.

“**Mining Management Plan (MMP)**” means the previous regulatory mining plan and authorisation under the [Mining Management Act 2001](#), replaced by [Environment Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2023 \(Amendment Act\)](#).

“**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 km² or more, or the complete contiguous tenement package when less than 350 m², or a traverse length of approximately 25 km or more.

“**Risk or benefit 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, past performance and company position. The “Risk or benefit to the Territory” criteria may also be applied to proposals with greater potential benefit to the Territory’s future economy.

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

5. Changes in round 18

An increase in the capped amount of co-funding for Regional-scale geophysics from \$100 000 to \$150 000.

“**Regional-scale**” means geophysical survey covering a contiguous area of approximately 350 km² or more, or the complete contiguous tenement package when less than 350 m², or a traverse length of approximately 25 km or more.

Additional information on the non-weighted “Risk and benefit to Territory” criteria.

Additional information on the partial co-funding mechanism.

Additional details for high scoring proposals in “Tips for success”:

Additional information on core submission and compliance with NTGS Radiation Management Plan.

The inclusion of evidence of the status of land access and cultural and heritage clearances, as well as the status of relevant authorisations/ approvals.

6. Co-funding projects and eligibility criteria

Project category	Aim	Activity	Maximum co-funding amounts inclusive of GST	Specific project eligibility	Assessment criteria and proposal template	
Greenfields drilling programs	Increase density of geoscientific data to improve geological knowledge and de-risk under-explored areas of the NT.	Single deep diamond hole in under-explored 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. Programs that propose deep drilling in areas of data paucity, and the inclusion of comprehensive geochemical and downhole analysis will be viewed favourably.	Appendix 1: Greenfields drilling assessment criteria and Greenfield drilling proposal template	
		Multi-hole diamond drilling programs in under-explored areas.	\$150 000			
		Non-diamond drilling programs in under-explored areas.	\$100 000			Reverse-circulation (RC) programs must demonstrate there is no 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. Programs that propose deep drilling in areas of data paucity, comprehensive geochemical and downhole analysis will be viewed favourably.
						Aircore, RAB or sonic programs must demonstrate there is no previous drilling of any method in the Area of Interest (eg first pass drilling). Programs that propose deep drilling in areas of data paucity, and comprehensive geochemical and downhole analysis will be viewed favourably.
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 not eligible when: drilling shallow holes into known mineralisation; undertaking resource definition or development drilling; or utilising only RC, RAB or aircore drilling. Programs proposing comprehensive geochemical and downhole analysis will be viewed favourably.	Appendix 2: Brownfields drilling assessment criteria and Brownfields diamond drilling proposal template	

Project category	Aim	Activity	Maximum co-funding amounts inclusive of GST	Specific project eligibility	Assessment criteria and proposal template
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.	\$150 000	Airborne surveys and ground gravity surveys must cover a contiguous area greater than 350 km ² , (or over a complete contiguous tenement package when less than 350 m ²), OR passive seismic or MT traverses must be greater than 25 km length. Reflection seismic surveys can be any length. Programs proposing large-scale acquisition will be viewed favourably.	Appendix 3: Regional-scale geophysics assessment criteria and Regional-scale geophysics 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. Programs proposing multiple complementary datasets (geophysical/geochemical) to improve targeting will be viewed favourably.	Appendix 4: Innovative targeting assessment criteria and Innovative targeting proposal template
		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. Programs proposing comprehensive geochemical analysis will be viewed favourably.	Appendix 5: Advancing critical minerals assessment criteria and Advancing critical minerals proposal template
		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. Programs proposing comprehensive geochemical analysis will be viewed favourably.	

6.1 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 [E\(M\)L Authorisation or DL Authorisation](#) or [EMP Authorisation](#) relevant to the project must be supplied. If the E(M)L or EMP has been submitted but not yet authorised, 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 (eg 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.

6.2 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 (eg 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 [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.

6.3 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](#); 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 is included in [Appendix 7](#).

¹ 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

7. Application process

7.1 Applying online

Before applying online, please read these guidelines in full.

Funding applications open through [GrantsNT](#) on **Tuesday 25 February 2025** and close **5:00pm Monday 28 April 2025 (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.DME@nt.gov.au for assistance during the application process.

7.2 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 influencing 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.DME@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). Please name files with Project and Company.
- business information/financial capacity statements.
- current authorised E(M)L, DL or EMP, or evidence of the submission of an application or amendment must be included for any ground-disturbing activities. Accurate information on land access negotiations and cultural and heritage clearance status.
- 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

7.3 Assessment process

7.3.1 Weighted criteria

Assessment criteria focus 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 for each applicant and the submitted proposal.

In May 2025, 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 meets to rank the proposals. During the assessment panel meeting, proposals may be subject to non-weighted criteria to support the final funding recommendations.

7.3.2 Non-weighted criteria

Secondary to the weighted criteria, proposals may be subject to a 'Risk and benefit 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.

The "Risk or benefit to the Territory" criteria may also be applied to proposals with greater potential benefit to 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 or Engagement and Advice, and an independent, senior representative from the NT Government. An external probity advisory oversees the process. The assessment panel registers any real or perceived conflict of interest in accordance with NT Government policy prior to assessing proposals.

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.

7.3.3 Partial co-funding

For multi-hole drilling programs, partial co-funding may be offered to drilling that best meets the eligibility criteria. This most commonly occurs when drilling is closely spaced, multiple holes are testing one target, or where part of the drilling program meets the criteria (away from existing drilling of similar depth), and part of the program does not (close to existing drilling of similar depth). The panel has the right to recommend co-funding for hole/s which best meet the criteria.

7.4 Notification

By late May / early June 2025, 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 is 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 2025** as stipulated in the Letter of Offer or NTGS may withdraw the offer of funding.

7.5 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.”

7.6 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.



7.7 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
- drill programs propose comprehensive geochemical analysis, and suitable additional data (eg downhole geophysics or wireline logging)
- the program is clearly illustrated spatially and in relation to existing drilling, targets, and known mineralisation where relevant (eg high quality, easy to read maps and cross sections)
- the program is resolving a geological problem, improving the understanding of regional stratigraphic frameworks, or testing a novel concept or technique
- where required, the program has its Environmental (Mining) Licence, Deemed Licence or Environmental Management Plan authorised. When not authorised, the status of the submission is accurately and clearly reported in the application
- where required, the status of land access, cultural, and heritage clearances are accurately and clearly reported in the application
- financial statements demonstrating the applicant's capacity to complete the project are provided
- 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 named with project and company is provided for proposed drill locations, survey boundaries or project outlines
- previous co-funding recipients have complied with past Funding Agreement obligations in a timely manner.

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



8. Successful applicants

8.1 Funding agreement

By June 2025, 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.

IMPORTANT: 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.

8.2 Fieldwork

Upon commencement and completion of fieldwork, the **actual commencement and completion date** for fieldwork must be emailed to collaborations.dme@nt.gov.au.

All fieldwork must be completed prior to **31 December 2025** 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.

8.3 Invoicing

All details for submitting and verifying invoices are outlined in the Funding Agreement and 'Advice for successful applicants'.

Within one month of fieldwork completion, successful applicants should **submit two tax invoices to NTGS** (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. All supporting contractor invoices must also be submitted.

If the actual direct program costs are less than the awarded funding amount, invoices must reflect half of the actual direct costs. If the actual direct program costs exceed the awarded funding amount, these additional costs will be borne by the applicant.

If the recipient requires help to determine actual direct costs, email all supporting contractor invoices and receipts (drilling and geophysics, TSI costs) to the Collaborations grant manager. Once verified, invoices can be submitted via GrantsNT.

Once the actual direct costs 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.

IMPORTANT: New recipients of co-funding must fill in and return the NT Government vendor creation form to process payments through NT Government systems.

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

8.4 Project deliverables

Within three months of fieldwork or acquisition completion, successful applicants must submit the Final report and all associated data through GrantsNT. For drilling programs, successful recipients 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 2025, NTGS may require submission dates less than three months from completion.

8.4.1 Report and data

The final reporting template is available through [Exploration grants 'guidelines and templates'](#) and included in the Funding Agreement schedules.

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

Submit the Final report and all associated data through GrantsNT using the reporting requirement 'performance report'.

If data is too large to upload using GrantsNT, please contact collaborations.DME@nt.gov.au to supply the data by alternative methods.

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. 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.

8.4.2 Drill core and sample submission

Notify core.facility@nt.gov.au prior to delivery of drill core or drill samples. 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.facility@nt.gov.au and collaborations.dme@nt.gov.au.

All templates and forms are available through Exploration grants 'guidelines and templates' and included in Funding Agreement schedules.

In accordance with the Funding Agreement, half of all diamond drill core (split lengthways) for the entire length of the cored hole must be submitted 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 (thin sections), 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 250 g samples for each metre down the hole must be offered. On submission, fill out all details in the 'cuttings intervals' section of the [geological sample submission form](#).

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. This is usually more relevant to brownfields diamond drilling and greenfields reverse circulation drilling programs.

IMPORTANT: 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. Compliance with NTGS procedures may be considered under 'Past performance' for future co-funding applications.

8.4.3 Radioactive material

For drilling programs targeting uranium, NTGS uses the standard unit for radiation exposure as Sievert (Sv), in line with the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). The relevant section from the NTGS Radiation Management Plan states that NTGS cannot accept any samples that measure above 500 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$. For readings that consistently reach above 100 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, NTGS may seek additional information prior to accepting the submission.

To comply with NTGS Radiation Management Plan and prior to transporting samples to the Core Facility, please email collaborations.dme@nt.gov.au the scintillometer data in $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ taken down the length of the core to ensure samples being accepted into the Core Facility do not exceed 500 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$. If there are any readings exceeding 500 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ on submission, the recipient will be responsible for transporting the core or samples offsite immediately at their expense.

8.5 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.

8.6 Project publicly available

All reports and data become **OPEN FILE** six months after the completion of project fieldwork or on 1 August 2026 (whichever is earlier).

9. Contact details

Collaborations Grant Manager

Northern Territory Geological Survey
Department of Mining and Energy
GPO Box 4550, Darwin NT 0801

Email: collaborations.DME@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 Mining and Energy
38 Farrell Crescent, Winnellie NT 0820

Email: core.facility@nt.gov.au

Phone: 08 8984 3036

Core Facility Manager, Alice Springs

Northern Territory Geological Survey
Department of Mining and Energy
16 Power Street, Alice Springs NT 0871

Email: core.facility@nt.gov.au

Phone: 08 8951 8652

10. 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
Regional context		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
Exploration concept		20	
Tests soundly based geological or exploration model		10	
Potential to advance exploration activity in underexplored areas		10	
Proposed program		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 (eg aircore, RAB, sonic) is distant from any previous drilling (eg first pass drilling of an area)		20	
Delivers basic geological information (eg 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 (eg multi element geochemical analysis, downhole logging suite, downhole EM, wireline logging, petrophysics, petrography, isotopic analysis, QA/QC). Proposed drilling specifications (eg 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	
Estimated costs and timeframes		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status relevant authorisations (E(M)L, DL, EMP), land access, heritage and cultural clearances and certificates		5	
Corporate capacity and performance		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	
Total		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
Regional context		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
Exploration concept		20	
Tests soundly based conceptual target below or adjacent to known deposits but outside of an Identified Resource		10	
Potential to increase exploration activity and/or resource development in the area		10	
Proposed program		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 (eg age, mineralisation style, structural and stratigraphic relationships or resolve depth to geophysical target)		15	
Suitability of additional analyses (eg multi-element geochemical analysis, downhole EM, wireline logging, petrography, petrophysics, isotopic analysis, QA/QC). Proposed drill specifications (eg 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	
Estimated costs and timeframes		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status relevant authorisations (E(M)L, DL, EMP), land access, heritage and cultural clearances and/or certificates		5	
Corporate capacity and performance		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	
Total		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
Regional context		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
Exploration concept		20	
Designed to generate targets for a soundly based exploration model		10	
Potential to advance exploration activity in underexplored areas		10	
Proposed program		50	
Program is of Regional-scale 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 (eg 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 (eg line spacing, line kilometres, area covered, grid spacing, line direction)		5	
Estimated costs and timeframes		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status of relevant authorisations (E(M)L, DL, EMP), land access, heritage and cultural clearances and/or certificates, where relevant		5	
Corporate capacity and performance		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	
Total		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
Regional context		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
Exploration concept		20	
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	
Proposed program		50	
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 (eg 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 (eg 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	
Estimated costs and timeframes		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status of relevant authorisations (E(M)L, DL, EMP), land access, heritage and cultural clearances and/or certificates, where relevant		5	
Corporate capacity and performance		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	
Total		100	

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
Regional context		5	
Demonstrates knowledge of geology and past exploration in area of application		5	
Exploration concept		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	
Proposed program		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		15	
Suitability of proposed program specifications, analyses and/or technique/s (eg 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		15	
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	
Estimated costs and timeframes		15	
Adequate budget estimate of proposed program		5	
Timing of proposed program including contractor availability		5	
Status of relevant authorisations (E(M)L, DL, EMP), land access, heritage and cultural clearances and/or certificates, where relevant		5	
Corporate capacity and performance		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	
Total		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 Innovative targeting or Advancing critical minerals categories)	X
analysis of core including petrology/petrography (unless under Innovative targeting or Advancing critical minerals categories)	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 Territory² and does all of the following: operates in the NT, has a significant permanent physical presence in the NT, and predominantly employs NT residents.

²In 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