



COAL MINING ABATEMENT TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT PACKAGE

The Coal Mining Abatement Technology Support Package is an element of the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Plan. Together with the Coal Sector Jobs Package it aims to maintain jobs and the future viability of coal mining as the coal industry transitions to carbon pricing.

The Challenge

Methane emissions released during coal mining are a major safety hazard. They are also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. In order to meet future greenhouse gas constraints whilst maintaining the important national and regional contribution of the industry, innovative technologies and processes are needed to safely reduce these emissions. A major technological challenge is to develop processes that can be safely incorporated into the ventilation system of underground mines to treat the large but very dilute volumes of methane in ventilation air.

What is the Coal Mining Abatement Technology Support Package?

The Coal Mining Abatement Technology Support Package (CMATSP) is a technology development program aimed at maintaining the future viability and international competitiveness of the Australian coal mining industry under Australia's carbon pricing scheme. It will achieve this through three key program elements, namely:

1. supporting industry efforts to develop technologies and processes that provide future solutions to safely reduce fugitive methane emissions;
2. addressing mine occupational health and safety issues associated with the development and deployment of abatement technologies; and
3. supporting smaller and medium sized participants to develop greenhouse gas abatement strategies.

The program is administered by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism on behalf of the Minister for Resources and Energy.

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been established to provide advice on the development and implementation of this program. The TAC includes Commonwealth and state government policy and mine safety regulatory officers, industry experts and researchers. One of the first tasks of the TAC was to work with the Department to develop the Research Plan. The Research Plan identifies research and technological priorities to be supported under the program.

What does the Coal Mining Abatement Technology Support Package offer?

The Australian Government is providing \$70 million over five years. Matching funding from other sources will support a total program of around \$140 million. The program commences on 1 July 2012 and continues through to 30 June 2017.

Funding for the first two elements of the program will support merit based grants and the engagement of contractors on a commercial basis. Grant funding will support discrete research projects, multi-year research programs and demonstration projects.

The scale of CMATSP grants will be around \$50,000 to \$300,000 for discrete research projects, \$500,000 to \$3 million for multi-year research programs and up to \$10 million for demonstration projects.

Further consultation with small and medium sized coal industry participants will be undertaken to fully develop the third element of the program. Smaller participants will be invited to participate in a roundtable meeting in early 2013 to identify their specific requirements in developing greenhouse gas abatement plans and how these can be supported under the CMATSP.

How will grant funding decision be made?

The program will run annual funding rounds. A two stage process will be used to select projects. Applicants will lodge expressions of interest under the first pre-qualification type phase. Applicants of suitable projects will be invited to lodge full funding applications under the second phase.

Project selection process including project selection criteria are outlined in the Program Administrative Guidelines. Projects will also need to meet research priorities outlined in the Research Plan.

The Department will seek the advice of the TAC in considering applications. The two stage selection process allows feedback to be provided to applicants to strengthen their projects. The Department will make recommendations to the Minister on projects to be supported. Applicants of projects approved by the Minister will be required to enter into funding agreements with the Department.

What is the grants application process?

Applicants are required to lodge an Expression of Interest application using the CMATSP grant application form. The Program Administrative Guidelines and the Research Plan provide full details of the conditions for submitting an application and how to apply.

The application form and these documents are available at www.ret.gov.au/energy/clean - from here follow the links to the Coal Sector Assistance Package and then CMATSP.

Alternatively contact the Coal Sector Programs team by emailing coalsectorprograms@ret.gov.au.

Applications for the first funding round opened on Monday 2 July and will close at 2 pm Canberra time on Friday 28 September 2012..