



MEDIA RELEASE

Gateway into rail manufacturing innovation

Rail Manufacturing CRC (RMCRC) is pleased to announce funding for new **RMCRC Innovation Gateway Projects** that will attract manufacturing businesses into the rail supply chain and at the same time, boost innovation in the rail industry.

“Our new program **RMCRC Innovation Gateway (RIG) Projects** offers businesses either currently working in the rail manufacturing industry supply chain, or businesses *with the potential* to work in the rail manufacturing industry, the opportunity to enter into a partnership with a research organisation to work on a commercial project to benefit the rail industry,” RMCRC CEO Stuart Thomson said.

“We have identified some critical rail technology priorities and RMCRC is reaching out to manufacturing businesses, *particularly in the auto components industry*, who may wish to work with us and secure a gateway into rail manufacturing for their business.

“With the current exciting renaissance in light rail and a number of passenger rail projects underway across Australia, we have a strong pipeline of rail projects. Added to that are other iconic rail projects like the Inland Rail and High-speed rail that are getting closer every day. I believe we are in fact on the cusp of a new ‘golden’ age for rail.

“The Australian rail industry has a significant task ahead to embrace the innovation challenge that can deliver the economic growth, export and job creation potential of rail as a viable industry into the future.

“RMCRC believe that by extending our engagement with manufacturing businesses that may not currently be part of the rail supply chain, we can generate a new pool of research projects that will boost innovation in the sector.

RMCRC is calling for Project Proposals that address one of the rail technology priorities from within RMCRC’s Research Programs that have been identified by RMCRC as being of strategic importance to the rail manufacturing sector. (see attached list)

RMCRC is seeking to identify projects which will attract a matched contribution by RMCRC in the range of \$200,000 to \$500,000. Project proposals must be submitted on the Project Proposal Form available from [RMCRC](http://www.rmccrc.com.au) and submitted to RMCRC by cob 15 April 2016.

RMCRC Innovation Gateway Projects will be funded from the industry partner’s cash contributions plus RMCRC funds, with RMCRC funds forming 50% of the Project Budget.

Rail Manufacturing CRC (RMCRC) supports the rail sector by developing new technologies and knowledge to enhance Australia's rail manufacturing capacity and competitiveness. Formed in 2014, RMCRC's members include innovative rail manufacturing multinationals, innovative SMEs and key research providers.

"While RMCRC are making progress in addressing some of the innovation challenges identified by the rail industry, in some critical areas of strategic importance to rail, we have recognised that engagement with the broader manufacturing sector (that is, not just existing rail businesses) would be beneficial to achieving our goals.

[RMCRC Innovation Gateway Project](#) Guidelines, Fact Sheet and Application Form are available on the RMCRC website (www.rmcr.com.au) or by request to: gateway@rmcr.com.au.

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RMCRC's Research Programs and Rail Technology Priorities

RIG Project Proposals must consider rail manufacturing industry needs and have a direct application and benefit to rail manufacturing.

RMCRC is seeking RIG Project Proposals that address a specific rail technology priority within one of RMCRC's three Strategic Research Programs.

RMCRC Program 1: Power and Propulsion

RMCRC is seeking RIG Project Proposals which address one of the following rail technology priorities from within Strategic Research Program 1:

- lithium battery development for rail applications;
- novel electric traction motor development; and
- advanced braking systems.

RMCRC Program 2: Materials and Manufacturing

RMCRC is seeking RIG Project Proposals which address one of the following rail technology priorities Strategic Research Program 2:

- alloy and process development for rolling stock;
- robotics and automated production processes;
- light-weighting of rail componentry; and
- rolling stock maintenance cost reduction.

RMCRC Program 3: Design, Modelling and Simulation

RMCRC is seeking RIG Project Proposals which address one of the following rail technology priorities Strategic Research Program 3:

- automated online health monitoring & condition monitoring systems for rail componentry;
- data analysis and algorithm analysis for real-time rail applications; and
- computerised modelling tools for rolling stock fabrication.

Rail Manufacturing Industry needs

When developing proposals and addressing the rail technology priorities listed above, applicants should also consider how the project will address one or more of the following overarching needs of the Australian rail industry:

- increasing productivity;
- increasing efficiencies;
- reducing manufacturing costs;
- reducing waste;
- maintaining or increasing access to markets;
- commercial opportunity;
- improving sustainability (economic and/or environmental); and
- overall benefit to the rail industry in Australia.