1. Short-form editorial (150-200 words)

(Heading) Can you solve some of our biggest challenges?

(Subheading) The Australian Government is offering up to $36 million in grant funding through the Critical Technologies Challenge Program.

(Body)

The Australian Government’s Critical Technologies Challenge Program (CTCP) is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s quantum industry.

Through the CTCP, you can apply for up to $5.5 million in funding to test and develop solutions that accelerate the adoption of quantum technologies in Australia.

Applicants can apply to solve one of four innovation-based challenges of national significance using quantum technology. The challenges are:

* Challenge 1: Optimise the performance, sustainability, and security of energy networks
* Challenge 2: Improve medical imaging and medical sensors to support diagnosis, treatment of disease and monitoring activities inside the human body
* Challenge 3: Enhance communication with autonomous systems in varying environments
* Challenge 4: Optimise and reduce the impact of resource exploration, extraction, and mineral processing.

Applicants must form collaborative consortia to apply. Each consortium will need at least one Australian industry-based partner and one Australian research organisation. International partners can join consortia but cannot be the lead applicant.

The CTCP Contacts Directory can be used to connect potential applicants: [industry.gov.au/CTCPdirectory](https://consult.industry.gov.au/critical-technologies-challenge-program-contacts-directory).

This program is a key step towards delivering Action 1.1 of the [*National Quantum Strategy*](https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-quantum-strategy) which outlines Australia’s plan to grow the quantum industry.

For further details, including the full application guidelines and eligibility requirements, visit [business.gov.au/ctcp](https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/critical-technologies-challenge-program).

1. Long-form editorial (500-600 words)

(Heading) $36 million in grant funding available to develop quantum technology

(Subheading) Quantum technologies have led to advancements in the fields of medicine, mining, cybersecurity, and logistics. Now, the Australian Government is seeking fresh ideas that use quantum to solve some of the nation’s most significant challenges.

(Body)

The Australian Government has launched the Critical Technologies Challenge Program and applications are now open.

The program is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s quantum industry to conceptualise and develop quantum technology solutions.

In an environment where access to private capital for early-stage projects can be difficult, the program will provide successful applications with up to $5.5 million across two funding stages, taking projects from concepts to working prototypes.

This grant funding initiative will run from 2024 through to 2027, split across two rounds.

The Critical Technologies Challenge Program is a key step towards delivering of Action 1.1 of the Australian Government’s [*National Quantum Strategy*](https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-quantum-strategy) which aims to reinforce Australia as a global leader in the quantum industry.

**What are the challenges?**

Applicants will apply to solve one of four innovation-based challenges of national significance using quantum technology.

The challenges are:

* Challenge 1: Optimise the performance, sustainability, and security of energy networks
* Challenge 2: Improve medical imaging and medical sensors to support diagnosis, treatment of disease and monitoring activities inside the human body
* Challenge 3: Enhance communication with autonomous systems in varying environments
* Challenge 4: Optimise and reduce the impact of resource exploration, extraction, and mineral processing.

**Up to $36 million in funding is available**

The Critical Technologies Challenge Program is split into two funding rounds. Within each round, there are two stages: the first stage focuses on feasibility studies, while the second is the technology demonstrator stage.

During the feasibility stage, successful applicants will receive a grant of up to $500,000 to propose a quantum technology solution, or component, in a detailed feasibility project that will test the technical viability of that solution.

Participants who successfully complete stage 1 may be invited to apply for a stage 2 grant of up to $5 million to demonstrate their project and produce working prototypes.

(INSERT IMAGE)

**Joining a consortium**

A key focus of the CTCP is finding quantum solutions that can be fast-tracked for commercialisation, both in Australia and abroad.

As a result, applicants must form collaborative consortia to apply. Consortia should draw on knowledge and expertise across various sectors.

Consortia must include an Australian lead applicant and at least two project participants (inclusive of the lead applicant). At a minimum, consortia must include a research organisation and an industry partner.

Consortia may comprise:

* Academics (research organisations)
* Businesses
* Industry
* Start-ups
* Other interested entities and technology users
* End users of the quantum solution
* International partners (note that international partners cannot be the lead applicant).

By prioritising collaboration between researchers and industry, the government hopes to create pipelines for investment in market-ready quantum technologies.

Consortia can apply for multiple challenges by submitting a separate application for each, however grant funding can only be received for one challenge.

**How to get involved**

There has never been a better time to get involved in the quantum sector.

Quantum technology is a high priority for governments, investors, and forward-thinking businesses, who understand how transformative these technologies are.

You could hold the next quantum solution that transforms society and leaves a legacy for generations to come.

We encourage you to reach out to your Australian and international networks to start collaborating and brainstorming ideas. You can also list your details on the CTCP Contacts Directory to connect with other potential applicants. Find the directory at [industry.gov.au/CTCPdirectory](https://consult.industry.gov.au/critical-technologies-challenge-program-contacts-directory).

For further details, including the application guidelines and eligibility requirements, visit [business.gov.au/ctcp](https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/critical-technologies-challenge-program).