

CIGRE Innovation and Education Fund 2026

Applications

Supplementary Information from CIGRE Australia

Funding proposals from Australia will be submitted by CIGRE Australia.

A proposal is defined as a documented project or program with clear objectives, a specified timeline and demonstrable alignment with CIGRE's mission and the purpose of the CIGRE Fund. The proposals cannot be commercial in nature, for example the development of technology principally for the generation of revenue or new commercial products.

All proposals must be auditable to ensure accountability.

Funding may be awarded to support projects and programs in the following categories:

- **Innovation – Research and Development**
 - Projects and programs in electrical power systems and the energy transition
- **Graduate scholarships**
 - Aligned with electrical power systems
- **Education**
 - Proposals intended to provide resources for Projects and/or Programs focused on educational initiatives within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields.
- **Humanitarian**
 - Proposals in the field of electrical power systems and the energy transition, including initiatives designed to enable sustainable electricity access for underserved communities.
- **Other**
 - Proposals that align with CIGRE's mission to advance innovation, knowledge sharing and education in the field of electrical power systems and the energy transition.

Proposals can support multiple categories e.g. an educational purpose that supports the energy transition in underserved communities.

This is the first round of funding from the newly established Fund. The amount allocated for projects in the 2026 process is €400,000 (or approximately A\$670,000). There is no specific number of projects that will be awarded. The maximum award is €100,000 (or about \$160,000). There is no minimum amount according to the Fund's rules. CIGRE Australia suggests an amount of around \$10,000 or higher to warrant the application being made.

There is no process to allocate funds to specific countries or regions in any one annual award round. There is an objective of the Fund for awards to be fairly allocated globally over time. This is expected to ensure grants will be made to the Asia-Pacific region over a number of years, but not necessarily Australia.

A representative of CIGRE Australia is represented on the CIGRE Fund Executive Committee which recommends the projects to the CIGRE Fund Board of Directors for approval. It is anticipated that representative will be recused from the deliberation of the merits of any proposals made through CIGRE Australia.

Applicants are required to provide:

- a comprehensive description of the proposal
- clearly defined objectives
- a detailed timeline
- a description of anticipated outcomes
- mechanisms for monitoring progress
- reporting procedures
- any contributions in the form of matching funds.

Additional information:

Proposals can be for one year, or multi-year. CIGRE Australia considers that multi-year funding may be less attractive due to the impact on the quantum of awards available in future years. This impact would need to be offset by a compelling proposal and demonstration of why multi-year funding was desirable.

If you are considering an application, it is recommended contacting CIGRE Australia CEO Peter McIntyre for an initial discussion at pmcintyre@cigreaustralia.org.au. Feedback

with be provided on the proposal process, the alignment of the proposal against the Fund objectives and the information requirements for the submission.

To enable all proposals to be reviewed and submitted by CIGRE Australia on time the following process dates have been established:

- Draft proposal to CIGRE in the required form for review and feedback 12 June 2026
- CIGRE Australia comments provided by 19 June 2026
- Updated proposal and all supporting information provided to CIGRE Australia by 24 June
- CIGRE Australia lodges proposals by 30 June 2026

Successful applicants will be advised by the end of August 2026. They will then be required to enter into a funding agreement with CIGRE. The recipient will be required to sign an agreement with the CIGRE Fund before receiving any Funds and will bear sole responsibility and liability for all obligations arising therefrom. Funding is provided directly from CIGRE and not via CIGRE Australia. The role of CIGRE Australia in relation to awarded projects is that of oversight and monitoring only.

In the event that a grant is awarded, the CIGRE Fund reserves the right to terminate the funding, in whole or in part, at its sole discretion and without cause. Multi-year grants are subject to annual review for continuation.

In the event that a grant is awarded, the recipient agrees that information regarding the funded project, including its title and a summary of objectives and outcomes, may be publicly disclosed on the CIGRE website.