

## FAQs FACET 2026 Grant

### 1. What is a cash contribution?

A *cash contribution* is money provided **directly and exclusively** for the project (in € or AUD). These funds must be traceable and paid in cash.

#### Examples of cash contributions

- Salary paid directly by an institution or industry partner (e.g., postdoc salary, PhD stipend, engineering staff).
- Contractual payments to partners or service providers (e.g., modelling, prototyping, lab testing).
- Purchase of project-specific equipment (hardware, sensors, software licences).
- Travel costs paid in cash (airfares, accommodation, per-diem).
- IP or licensing fees for proprietary tools or datasets.
- Direct industry cash investment or R&D budget contributions.
- Subcontracting costs (e.g., engineering design, techno-economic studies).
- Contributions to PhD or Postdoc scholarships (full or partial).
- Cash fees to access research platforms (e.g., supercomputers, pilot lines).

### 2. What is an in-kind contribution?

An *in-kind contribution* is a **non-monetary resource** - goods, services, materials, facilities, or staff time - provided by an individual, business, or organisation that supports the project.

#### Examples of in-kind contributions

##### Human resources & expertise

- Time from senior researchers, engineers, supervisors (valued at hourly rates).
- Project management, reporting, administrative support.
- Technical personnel (lab technicians, data engineers, safety officers).

##### Use of infrastructure & equipment

- Access to laboratories, fabrication/pilot facilities, microscopy suites.
- Use of specialised equipment (reactors, test benches, simulators).
- Computational resources (e.g., internal compute cluster time).
- Clean room or fabrication equipment access.

##### Data, software & tools

- Access to proprietary datasets.
- Use of existing institutional software licences.
- Internal models, simulation tools, or digital twins.

##### Consumables & materials

- Raw materials, chemicals, components, prototypes.
- Lab consumables not reimbursed elsewhere.

### **Networking & ecosystem support**

- Organisation of workshops with internal staff.
- Access to advisory boards, industry working groups, expert panels.
- Partner-led stakeholder engagement.

### **3. How are in-kind contributions calculated?**

In-kind values must reflect the **most likely actual cost**, based on:

- Current market rates.
- Preferred or internal provider rates.
- Rentals/charges applicable in the **financial year of the application**.
- Standard rates for labour, facilities, equipment, and databases.

The administering organisation must **document all calculations**, and FACET may request an **audit**.

### **4. What are eligible expenses?**

The following costs are **eligible** for project funding by FACET:

- Salaries (including on-costs) for research personnel such as research assistants.
- Technical support staff essential to the project.
- Project-specific equipment and consumables.
- Essential research travel (e.g., fieldwork, collaboration meetings).
- Hosting/catering for research events; participant reimbursement.
- Access to national/international research facilities, archives, datasets.
- Specialist third-party services (e.g., survey design, specialist software...).
- Printing of project materials and communications.
- Reasonable extra costs supporting carers or participants needing assistance.
- Eligible expenses are limited to the delivery of the FACET activity.

### **5. What are ineligible expenses?**

The following **cannot** be funded by FACET:

- Bench fees or general laboratory access fees.
- Capital works, major construction, or infrastructure costs.
- Costs not directly related to research (e.g., professional memberships, professional development, patent fees, relocation, entertainment, insurance).
- General equipment (computers, phones, tablets, photocopiers).
- Travel for conferences, trade exhibitions, for non-project purposes.
- External consulting unrelated to research delivery.
- International student fees, scholarships, HDR stipends.
- Major equipment or capital expenditure.
- Teaching relief.
- Commercialisation activities.
- General organisational overheads (electricity, rent, corporate admin).
- All grant management-related costs including preparing the grant application.
- Retrospective costs.
- Purchase of land.

- Expenses which do not deliver the FACET activity are not eligible.

#### **6. What is the minimum partner requirement for a project proposal?**

- Each project must include **at least one French partner and one Australian partner**, regardless of the type of organisation involved, i.e. whether the entity is an academic institution, a company, or another type of organisation.

#### **7. How are subsidiaries classified for eligibility purposes?**

- The jurisdiction of the headquarters of the subsidiary will define the nationality of the company. For example, a French company registered in France operating through an Australian subsidiary is classified as a French partner, or vice versa.

#### **8. Can I submit a project including partners from a third country?**

- FACET is a bilateral initiative designed to accelerate energy transition projects between France and Australia within a broader Indo-Pacific development strategy. As such FACET welcomes participation of external partners in projects and encourages their inclusion, as the energy transition is a global challenge.
- However, FACET funds can only be allocated to French or Australian entities.

#### **9. How will the “Bilateral Partnership” criterion be assessed?**

- This criterion assesses the quality and added value of the bilateral collaboration. Evaluators will consider how the partnership strengthens the French–Australian ecosystem, including complementarity of expertise, balance of roles, knowledge transfer, new contact introductions and the long-term sustainability of collaboration beyond the project’s duration.

#### **10. How will the “Project Relevance” criterion be assessed?**

- This criterion examines how well the project addresses the objectives of the call and responds to identified technological, industrial, or societal needs. Evaluators will assess the clarity of the problem addressed, the relevance of the proposed solution, and the alignment with strategic priorities of both countries.

#### **11. How will the “Indo-Pacific Engagement” criterion be assessed?**

- This criterion evaluates the project’s contribution to engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. Consideration will be given to how the project strengthens presence, cooperation, or impact in the Indo-Pacific, including potential regional partnerships, market access, or alignment with broader Indo-Pacific strategies.

#### **12. How will the “Industry Focus” criterion be assessed?**

- This criterion assesses the project’s connection to industry needs and its potential for real-world application. Evaluators will examine the level of industry involvement,

relevance to priority sectors, pathways to commercialization, and the project's potential to generate economic and industrial impact.

### **13. How will the “Funding” criterion be assessed?**

- This criterion evaluates the financial robustness and scalability of the project. Evaluators will consider whether the consortium demonstrates the capacity to grow beyond the initial grant, including access to additional funding sources, a credible business or investment strategy, and the ability to sustain and scale outcomes after public funding ends.