RDTI General Approval application template

RDTI customer engagement team

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# How to use this template

This template contains the actual questions from the RDTI General Approval\* application form on the myIR portal, along with notes from Callaghan Innovation about the type and amount of information sought for key questions.

We’ve put together the template to help you prepare a **draft** General Approval application. After you’ve completed your draft, we invite you to share it with us – we will be happy to review it and offer any feedback that we consider useful.

Once you’re happy with your application, you can cut and paste information from the draft into the relevant sections of the application on the myIR portal.

Please do not submit or upload this draft application directly to Inland Revenue. RDTI applications must be made on the application on the myIR portal.

*\* Most businesses access the RDTI via a General Approval application. There is a different application process if you want to become an RDTI Significant Performer – a business that intends to spend more than $2 million on eligible R&D in one income year. To find out more about applying to become a Significant Performer, contact the RDTI Customer Engagement Team at* *RDTIHelp@callaghaninnovation.govt.nz*

## The basis of a successful application

To be approved, your application must demonstrate that your R&D project meets the key RDTI activity eligibility criteria, i.e. it:

* seeks to resolve scientific or technological uncertainty
* follows a systematic approach
* seeks to create new knowledge, or new or improved processes, services or goods.

The application asks you to list core R&D activities as well as any supporting activities:

* Core R&D activities evaluate possible solutions to your scientific or technological uncertainty
* Supporting activities are not Core R&D activities, but support a Core R&D activity as their main or only purpose, and are required for and integral to the Core R&D activity (generally where there are Core R&D activities, you will also have Supporting activities).

A General Approval application must list at least one Core R&D activity – however, you may list several Core R&D activities on the same application as part of an overarching R&D project. Although it’s not compulsory to list Supporting activities, we encourage you to do so as you are able to claim expenditure on these.

Please note that the online application on myIR enables you to record as many Core R&D and Supporting activities as you like on your application. This template only has capacity for one Core R&D activity and two Supporting activities, so if you have multiple activities please copy the relevant section/s of this template, until you have as many as you need.

If you do more than one R&D project in the same financial year, you can submit multiple General Approval applications.

## You can upload supporting documents

Please note that you can support your application by uploading documents, including diagrams, in a wide range of formats.

## How your application will be assessed

The application you submit to Inland Revenue will be assessed by an independent team of assessors based at Callaghan Innovation.

The team comprises specialised scientists, engineers and technologists, so it’s important to keep this audience in mind when writing your application, i.e. we encourage you to provide a high level of technical detail, where appropriate, in your application.

The assessors may contact you if they need further information or wish to clarify anything. In some cases, this may include a site visit.

Once they’ve completed their assessment, the assessors will make a recommendation to Inland Revenue, who are responsible for deciding if your application is approved.

## Information you will need on hand when you complete this draft application

To complete this draft application, you will need the following information on hand:

* details of your R&D project/s
* details of the Core R&D and Supporting activities you’re conducting as part of your project
* Australia New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) codes (information to help you locate the appropriate code is provided in this template)
* your estimated spend on eligible R&D activities.

Note that each party in a joint venture or partnership needs to apply for General Approval, using the same project name and activity descriptions in their application.

## Getting help to prepare your application

If you haven’t submitted a General Approval application before, we encourage you to contact us directly before you start to prepare your application.

Callaghan Innovation has specialist advisors who can meet with you to explain any aspect of the RDTI, and talk you through the application process. We can support you to understand how R&D is defined according to the relevant legislation (the Income Tax Act 2007 and the Tax Administration Act 1994) and how this may apply to your business and industry. We'll discuss the key activity eligibility criteria, the concept of Core R&D and Supporting activities and the type of information that may be needed when explaining these activities.

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| ***Note:*** *Any discussion with a Customer Engagement Specialist will not be binding. The final decision on your application will be based on the recommendation of an independent assessor at Callaghan Innovation, following due consideration of eligibility criteria set out in legislation.* |

# General Approval Application Form

## RDTI Customer

### Project Details

|  |
| --- |
| ***Note:*** *A “project” is generally a group of related Core R&D and Supporting activities. If your R&D does not fall under the concept of a project, you could create a project for each Core R&D activity you are requesting approval for.* *Your General Approval Application can be approved for a period of up to three income years. If your project is longer than this, you can put in another General Approval in the future for that phase of the work.* |

#### Project Identifier

|  |
| --- |
| *Name your project:*  |
| *[110 characters max]* |

*Describe the overall objective of your project:*

|  |
| --- |
| *[There is a limit in the myIR portal for this section of 1000 characters. Other sections have a limit of 20000 characters]* |

### Project Spending

|  |
| --- |
| ***Note:*** *At the application stage, you are asked to give an estimate of your spending, then you specify your exact spending when you submit your Supplementary Return. Your estimate will not affect the outcome of your application. However, if there’s a significant difference between your estimate and actual spending, you may be asked to confirm that any additional activities and expenditure are eligible. It’s recommended you contact Inland Revenue before submitting your Supplementary Return if your actual spending looks like it will exceed your estimate by a significant amount.* |

*What is your estimated spend on eligible R&D activities for this project [i.e. for the timeframe of this General Approval?]*

|  |
| --- |
| $ |

|  |
| --- |
| *Have you received any government funding for your R&D? [If “yes” provide details about the source of the funding and which projects it was used for]* |
| Yes | No |

### Project Length

|  |
| --- |
| *Enter the start date of the project (even if it hasn’t begun yet):* |
|  |

*Enter the anticipated end date of the project:*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### ANZSRC Codes

*ANZSRC applies to your research activity. This is not your BIC code.*

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| --- |
| ***Note:*** *On the online application, you need to include the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) code most relevant to your area of research.**ANZSRC is a statistical classification used for R&D measurement and analysis. It is for statistical purposes only and will not be used during the appraisal process.**Please note that the link on the online application to help locate relevant ANZSRC codes is currently not working. To help you complete this part of the application, please choose from the full list of ANZSRC codes* [*here*](https://assets.website-files.com/5dc2340e9dcd8ef5f8a12e62/614bb5ec6b5b5f560582eeae_ANZSRC%20codes%20PDF.pdf)*.* |
|  |
| *Enter code here* |

### Project Owner Details

This should be the best contact for any technical questions during the assessment stage.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *First name:* |  |
| *Last name:* |  |
| *Role:* |  |
| *Contact phone country:* |  |
| *Contact phone type:* |  |
| *Phone:* |  |
| *Email:* |  |

## Core R&D Activities

Answer this set of questions for each activity

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| --- |
| ***Note:*** *Core R&D activities evaluate possible solutions to your scientific or technological uncertainty. Approval may be granted for up to three years.* *Usually an R&D project contains both Core R&D activities and Supporting activities, however, there is no set expectation about this.**Remember to describe your Core R&D activities from a technological or scientific perspective. We request that you don’t provide a business case or address factors such as the prospect of commercial success associated with your project, as these are not relevant to the RDTI.* |

### Core R&D Activity (Copy section if more Core R&D activities are required)

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| --- |
| *Name:* |
|  |

*Activity starts this tax year: [Show what income year the activity begins in, e.g. 31 March 2023 for FY23]*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

*Activity ends this tax year: [Show what income year the activity ends in]*

|  |
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|  |

*Describe your Core R&D activity: [Suggested maximum length - 150 words]*

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|  |

Describe the **scientific or technological uncertainty** that your Core R&D activity had a material purpose of resolving:

|  |
| --- |
| ***Note:*** *It may be helpful if you think of scientific or technological uncertainty as the problem or challenge (of a scientific/technological nature) that you are trying to overcome.**When answering this question, your goal should be to explain:** *the specific scientific or technological uncertainty that you face, i.e. what exactly is the challenge and why is it challenging?*
* *whether knowledge to resolve the uncertainty already exists, and if so, whether you’re able to access it in any way*
* *whether a competent professional in the field has considered the uncertainty and concluded that it can’t be resolved without undergoing a systematic course of investigation, or if such a professional would come to that conclusion if they looked into the uncertainty – this person doesn’t have to be a world expert (although they may be) but could be a suitably qualified and experienced person on your own staff*
* *how the Core R&D activity you’re undertaking will help resolve the uncertainty.*

*Please ensure your answers are specific and you provide appropriate examples and evidence where needed. You can include hyperlinks and diagrams in your answers.* |

*Draft your answer here: [Suggested maximum length - 500 words]*

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Describe the **systematic approach** you took to conducting the Core R&D activity

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| --- |
| ***Note:*** *A systematic approach is a planned and structured way to attempt to resolve your scientific or technological uncertainty. It should be focussed on solving the problem, and not on completing the project.**As part of this answer, you should explain:** *if and how you have planned your work*
* *the various milestones or phases involved.*

*Note that a systematic approach can allow for a flexible R&D methodology that responds to results and makes appropriate changes.* *Please ensure your answers are specific and you provide appropriate examples and evidence where needed. You can include hyperlinks and diagrams in your answers.* |

*Draft your answer here: [Suggested maximum length - 250 words]*

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Describe how your Core R&D activity intends to create either:

* New knowledge
* New or improved processes, services or goods

|  |
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| ***Note:*** *This question is about identifying what is new about the proposed solution to your scientific/technological uncertainty, i.e. what new knowledge or resources does it aim to bring about?**When answering it, it may help if you think ”How do I know that the solution is new?”**Note that it is not a requirement that your R&D actually succeeds in achieving its purpose or is commercially viable. Unsuccessful R&D can still qualify for the RDTI.**Please ensure your answers are specific and you provide appropriate examples and evidence where needed. You can include hyperlinks and diagrams in your answers.* |

*Draft your answer here: [Suggested maximum length - 200 words]*

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## Supporting Activities

Answer this set of questions for each Supporting activity.

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| --- |
| *Do you have any Supporting activities for this project?* |
| Yes | No |

### Supporting Activity (1)

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| --- |
| ***Note:*** *The definition of a Supporting activity is one that is performed in support of the Core R&D activities in your application, but doesn’t meet the criteria of Core R&D in and of itself.**You can add multiple Supporting activities.**To be eligible, a Supporting activity must:** *support the Core R&D activity as its only or main purpose, and*
* *be required for, and integral to, the Core R&D activity.*

*Note that Supporting activities can be performed before, during or after a Core R&D activity. However, if you perform a Supporting activity before you start a Core R&D activity, and don't end up doing the Core R&D activity, you can't claim the credit for your Supporting activity.*  |

*Name your Supporting activity here: [You must have a unique name for each Supporting Activity]*

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|  |

*Activity starts this tax year: [Show what income year the activity begins in]*

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|  |

*Activity ends this tax year: [Show what income year the activity ends in]*

|  |
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|  |

Describe your Supporting activity:

|  |
| --- |
|  *[Draft your answer here: Suggested maximum length - 250 words]* |
|  |

Describe how this satisfies the Supporting activity definition (above):

 *[Draft your answer here: Suggested maximum length - 250 words]*

|  |
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### Supporting Activity (2) (Copy section if more Supporting activities are required)

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| --- |
| *Name your Supporting activity here: [You must have a unique name for each Supporting Activity]* |
|  |

*Activity starts this tax year: [Show what income year the activity begins in]*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

*Activity ends this tax year: [Show what income year the activity ends in]*

|  |
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|  |

Describe your Supporting activity:

*[Draft your answer here: Suggested maximum length - 250 words]*

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|  |

Describe how this satisfies the Supporting activity definition (above):

*Draft your answer here: [Suggested maximum length - 250 words]*

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| ***Congratulations,*** *you’ve completed the main parts of your draft application. Note that the online application asks you some further questions not included on this template, such as whether you’re involved in a joint venture or partnership.* *Remember, our team of Customer Engagement Specialists can review your draft application before you submit it. We recommend you take advantage of this free service, especially if you’re applying for the first time. And don’t forget that you can support your application by uploading other documents, such as diagrams, in a wide range of formats.* |