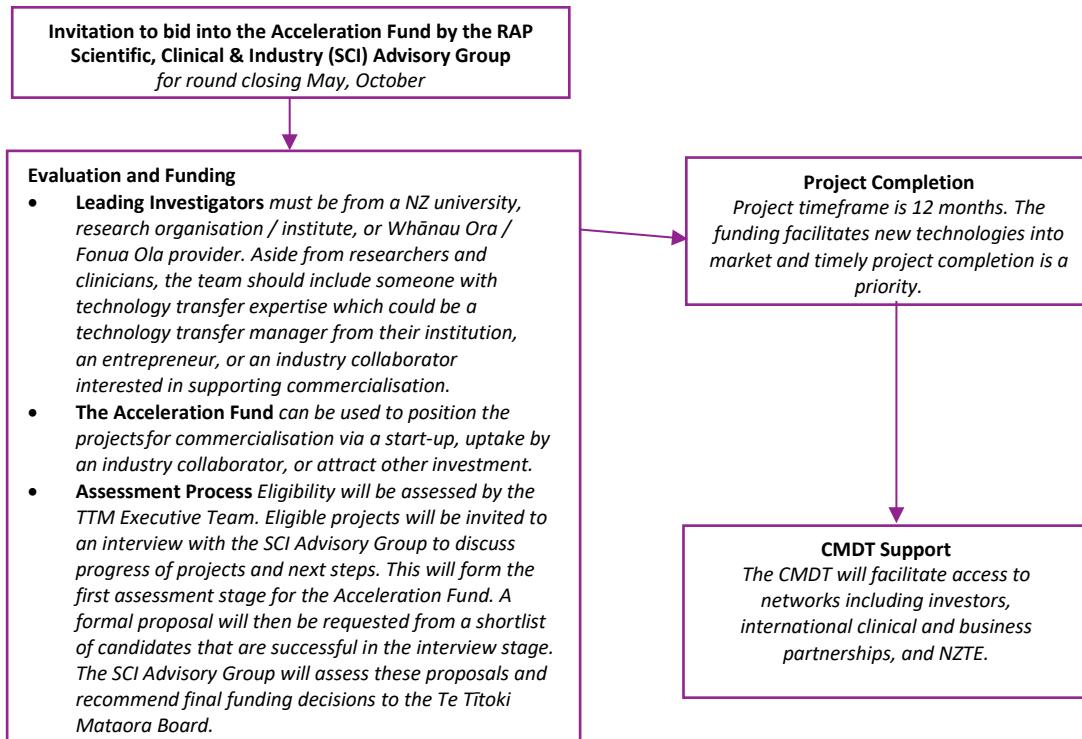


RAP Stage III – Acceleration Fund



1. Overview of Funding

This fund is the final stage of the Research Acceleration Programme (RAP) awards of Te Titoki Mataora | MedTech Translator (TTM).

The RAP Stage III Acceleration Fund is to support RAP Stage II Concept Seeding projects (or a similar stage from other funding sources) that have been successfully completed and show promise in either clinical or commercial application. This fund helps accelerate the concepts to turn into sustainable opportunities with a healthcare impact or for economic growth.

Project teams interested in Stage III Acceleration funding should approach the TTM Executive Team. Successfully completed Stage II Concept Seeding projects will also be approached by the TTM Executive Team. Potential projects will be initially assessed for eligibility for the Acceleration Fund by the TTM Executive Team based on the funding criteria. Those that are eligible will be invited to an interview with the Scientific, Clinical and Industry (SCI) Advisory Group for an update of their Concept Seeding project and discuss ideas to progress the work for clinical or commercial uptake. The SCI Advisory Group will then invite a shortlist of candidates to submit a formal proposal. This will also be assessed by the SCI Advisory Group who will make recommendations to the TTM Board for further funding through the Acceleration mechanism as appropriate.

Projects of **\$100K - \$120K (excluding GST)** will be sought to progress specific activities agreed with the project team. Projects are to be completed within 12 months of the start date. Funding should be used within New Zealand unless in exceptional circumstances.

Projects will be contracted with the Project Team Leader's institution. The project start date is flexible but must be within 3 months of contracting.

Funded projects will be tracked and assessed against milestones and outcomes by the TTM Executive Team over its duration.

Reporting will be required at the completion of the project.

2. Capability Building Modules

Alongside the RAP, TTM also offers modules for capability development through its upskilling programme, which project teams can access for specific support. We strongly suggest applicants take a look at the opportunities offered through this upskilling programme by [clicking on this link](#). These are:

- **Mātauranga Māori:** supports relationship building with Māori communities and organisations, and capability building for Māori researchers and students.
- **Pacific Engagement:** connections to Pacific organisations and community, capability building of Pacific researchers and students, and workshops and programmes to understand Pacific health and wellbeing requirements.
- **Future Leaders:** connections to early- and mid-career researcher networks and activities.
- **Clinical Translation:** connections to clinicians interested in translational research and innovation, workshops on clinical trial design, and clinical validation of technology.
- **Commercial Translation:** access to seminars on technology translation and commercialisation, workshops to understand regulatory requirements, investor perspectives, market validation, and specialist advice to guide early-stage commercialisation strategies.

3. Project Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, projects must:

- Have a Project Team Leader from a NZ university, research organisation / institute, or Whānau Ora / Fonua Ola provider.
- Have arisen from RAP Stage II Concept Seeding Fund or other funding sources at a similar stage.
- Have proven concept feasibility.
- Have IP that can be protected or know-how generated which supports a concept that has clear clinical interest and a potential route to become commercially sustainable.
- Have an outlined regulatory strategy to support a translational pathway.
- Address access of the technology to Māori and/or Pacific collaborators or community.
- Have established clinical and/or industry collaborations to support technology translation or identified collaborators who are willing to support technology for uptake, including user groups or people with lived experience.
- Unlike the RAP Stage I and Stage II funds, the Acceleration project can be applied for by just one institution as the commitment to commercialise a technology may not necessarily be shared by all collaborators from the Concept Seeding project. However, an explanation is required to understand the position (e.g. IP, interest in being involved at a later date) of any earlier collaborators.

4. Scoring criteria

Criteria	Score Weighting
1. Project from RAP Stage II Concept Seeding Fund or similar	Pass/fail
2. Concept feasibility completed	Pass/fail
3. Novelty and robustness of science - IP and know-how generated	Pass/fail
4. Pathway to clinical uptake and engagement (including ethics/consent, if needed)	Pass/fail
5. Pathway to commercial uptake and engagement with the market	Pass/fail
6. Project plan, team roles, and timeline	Pass/fail
7. Te Tiriti Partnership and Māori Capability Outcomes and Pacific Partnership and Capability Outcomes (combined)	Pass/fail
8. Budget details	Pass/fail

5. Other Considerations

- Contracting will be with the Project Team Leader's institution, with that institution receiving and distributing any awarded funding.
- An investigator may be named Project Team Leader on one Acceleration proposal only per RfP.
- The Project Team should include a representative from the Project Team Leader's Technology Transfer Office, and/or someone who is an advisor with experience in medtech commercialisation, to help support the commercialisation effort.
- Teams may be invited to apply for funding after their interview with the SCI Advisory Group. A written proposal is required addressing the main criteria for funding outlined above.
- An identified industry collaborator can be part of the project but will not be funded by the Acceleration Fund unless it is providing a specific service to the research team. The industry collaborator's interest, role, and contribution to the project should be clear from the outset, including if it is the commercialisation collaborator. Any IP developed through this project will belong to the Project Team Leader's institution, and industry collaborators must negotiate access.
- A structured team and project plan showing the responsibilities of each member should be included, along with clear project timelines.

6. Invitation to submit and expectations from project teams

Project teams interested in Acceleration funding should approach the TTM Executive Team to discuss eligibility. Projects should be ready for accelerating towards clinical or commercial translation.

Proposals should address the eligibility criteria in Section 3.

Travel can be included as part of the project if the requirement is clearly explained and justified. Travel should support interaction with clinical and/or industry collaborators if they are in different cities, or to investigate prospective commercial or clinical collaborators.

Acceleration funding can be used to position the projects for commercial uptake by an industry collaborator or through a start-up, or to attract other investment.

Milestones will be agreed with the SCI Advisory Team and progress will be monitored. Project teams will be invited to discuss their progress with the TTM Executive Team or SCI Advisory Group during the funding term.

Project teams will be required to present to the KIWINet or Return On Science PSAF panels at completion of their

projects in preparation for further support post-RAP.

7. Evaluation and Funding

Project teams will be interviewed by the SCI Advisory Group as part of the proposal evaluation process. If invited to submit a full proposal, these will be evaluated by the SCI Advisory Group who will make final funding recommendations to the TTM Board.

Conflicts of interest arising will be handled appropriately and, if required, resolved by the RAP Co-Leads.

8. Project Completion

Projects are expected to be completed by the contracted end date. Projects can be discontinued earlier if they are not meeting milestones. Acceleration Funding is meant to facilitate new technologies into the market and in most cases there is a finite window for new innovations, hence completing these projects in a timely manner is a priority.

Upon completion, project teams must provide the following:

1. A one-page report outlining status the outcomes of the Acceleration Project, highlighting achievements and next steps to take the project forward.
2. A short summary (300-500 words) with photos/images demonstrating the technology for Te Tītoki Mataora MedTech Research Translator social media posting or a lead for a feature in the MedTech Bites newsletter and/or Medtech-iQ Aotearoa website.
3. A presentation to the SCI Advisory Group. Industry and clinical collaborators will be invited to these meetings. Teams are expected to present to the KIWINet or Return on Science PSAF panels to support preparation for the next tranche of project funding.

This information will be used for annual reporting and communications to showcase Te Tītoki Mataora MedTech Research Translator. The progress of the technology will be tracked over the life of the initiative.

Should a spinout company result from a funded project, progress of the company will be tracked to show the outcomes of RAP funding.

A selection of projects may be invited to showcase their technology to the sector during the annual NZ HealthTech Week or during pop-up TIKI Tours to the Ministry of Health and Te Whatu Ora Hospitals.

The funding source (Te Tītoki Mataora | MedTech Research Translator) should be acknowledged in presentations and any media or formal communications. Logos and wording will be provided.

9. Translate to CMDT

The CMDT will support project teams, including beyond the RAP funding, with their industry partnerships where appropriate and facilitate entry into other networks which will help commercialisation. This can include access to investors, international clinical and business partnerships, HealthTech Activator, and NZTE.