

2024 KCA Australasian Research Commercialisation Awards Nomination Guidelines

About KCA

Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia (KCA) is the non-profit, peak body leading best practice in industry engagement, technology transfer and entrepreneurship for public sector research organisations since 1978. KCA is a founding member of the global Alliance of Technology Transfer Professionals.

Our sector is changing rapidly and profoundly. To help our members rise to this challenge, KCA provides influential advocacy, accredited training, world-leading resources and outstanding opportunities for recognition and networking.

About the Awards

In recognition of the outstanding efforts of our member organisations we have put in place awards to recognise exemplary outcomes.

The award criteria focus on the extent of the contribution made by the relevant research commercialisation office to delivering high-impact and innovative outcomes for their respective organisation. The judging criteria are weighted to favour the extent of the contribution over the size of any particular project. In this way, smaller commercialisation teams have the opportunity to be recognised for impactful outcomes in equal standing with larger research commercialisation offices.

KCA is seeking to leverage the importance of the impact that comes from our members with the 2024 KCA Australasian Research Commercialisation Awards and demonstrate the importance of the commercialisation profession to the ecosystem.

Past winners have progressed to significant outcomes, and KCA are pleased to showcase some of the successes as case studies presented in the [SCOPR report](#) and in presentations to be made at the [2024 KCA Conference](#).

Eligibility

- The transaction, outcomes or substantial benefit subject to the nominated project must have occurred within the last 18 months
- Nominations must be submitted by a KCA member organisation
- Incomplete and/or late nominations will not be accepted.
- Previously submitted proposals must demonstrate significant advancement and added value from the time of the previous submission.

Award Categories

There are five award categories to be recognised this year and we encourage all members to consider submitting projects.

Best Industry-Research Collaboration

For a significant and successful industry-research collaboration comprising any/all facets of research commercialisation, contract research, consulting services, training programs, infrastructure programs, community programs, and other collaborative research engagement activities spanning at least 18 months.

Best Knowledge Exchange Initiative

For a significant and successful knowledge exchange initiative spanning at least 18 months. This broad-based category could include knowledge transformation networks, industry clusters, internal commercial ventures, place-based innovation initiatives such as innovation precincts, incubators or student startup or accelerator programs. There must be evidence of enduring value delivered through the initiative beyond the nominating institution.

Best Licensing Deal

For a significant and successful licensing deal. There must be evidence that the IP and knowledge transfer provided as part of the deal is being actively used by the licensee and provides a significant advantage or benefit.

Best Spin-out

For a significant and successful spin-out. There must be evidence that the IP and knowledge transfer provided as part of the spin-out is actively used by the new venture and provides a significant advantage or benefit.

Research Commercialisation Professional of the Year

For the continued practice, support, growth, and advocacy of the profession. There must be evidence of a significant contribution by the nominated individual to the advancement of the profession, and demonstration of the nominee's contribution to economic, social and/or environmental benefit.

Nomination Process

Nominations for all awards can be made via the online form at surveymonkey.com/r/2024_KCA_Awards_Nomination_Form.

For further information please see techtransfer.org.au/kca-awards.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 5:00 PM AEST FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2024.

Nomination Form for:

- Best Industry-Research Collaboration
- Best Knowledge Exchange Initiative
- Best Licensing Deal
- Best Spin-out

Description

100 words describing the project, identify the industry sector, research areas, activity objectives and the role of the TTO people (concise summary) - Approved by your institution for media use.

Award criteria & weighting

Each award category will be assessed against the following award criteria. The criteria must be clearly addressed in the nomination with evidence to support all claims.	Industry-Research Collaboration	Knowledge Exchange Initiative	Licensing Deal	Spin-out
Criteria	Weighting			
Initiation: the level to which the organisation initiated the activity.	20%	20%	20%	20%
Identification: how the novel aspects for the activity were identified and the role of the organisation in determining or supporting this.	10%	10%	10%	10%
Financial: the financial result and how the financial results of the activity had positive impacts for the stakeholders.	10%	10%	20%	20%
Outcomes: the non-financial benefits of the activity to the stakeholders and the broader community (local, national, and international) are created.	20%	20%	20%	20%
Relationship: the degree to which the organisation developed and/or supported relationships between the activity stakeholders.	20%	20%	10%	10%
Marketing: the level and type of marketing provided by the organisation and the importance to the financial results and outcomes of the activity.	10%	10%	10%	10%
Support: the overall level of support provided by the organisation for the activity and its stakeholder.	10%	10%	10%	10%

Definitions

- **Organisation** refers to the nominated member organisation’s commercialisation/tech transfer/industry engagement staff or office.
- **Institution** refers to the nominated member enterprise (e.g. university/MRI/PFRO/RRDC/Crown Research Institute).
- **Activity** refers to the nominated activity, project, or deal.
- **Stakeholders** refer to researchers, other nominated organisation staff, industry partners, customers, government, or NGOs.

The criteria focus on the performance of the nominated organisation with respect to its activity and activity metrics. There is a wide variation in the scale of KCA organisations and the types of activities performed within their respective institutions. The criteria normalise the performance and metrics to avoid advantage due to scale.

Nomination Form for:

Research Commercialisation Professional of the Year

Description

100-word bio outlining the nominee's relevant skills, experience and contributions to the innovation ecosystem - Approved by your institution for media use.

Award criteria weighting

Criteria	Weighting
Advancement of the Profession - A significant contribution by the nominated individual to the advancement of the Commercialisation profession.	25%
Commercialisation Performance - Demonstration of the nominee’s commercialisation performance (e.g. licencing deals, venture creation, commercial/contract research growth etc).	50%
Positive Impact - Demonstration of the nominee’s contribution to impact e.g. economic, social and/or environmental benefits.	25%

Judging process

- Overseen by KCA Director Quin Chang, a panel of judges experienced in knowledge/tech transfer will select the finalists and winners according to the judging criteria.
- A maximum of three finalists in each category will be selected.
- Finalists and Award winners will be named as the KCA member organisation, not individuals (with the exception of the Research Commercialisation Professional of the Year).
- Decisions made by the judges shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Judges will declare any conflicts of interest, which will be managed appropriately.

Key dates

Nominations open	23 July 2024
Nomination deadline	6 September 2024
Finalists announced	3 October 2024
Awards to be announced and presented at the Annual Conference Dinner	16 October 2024

Confidentiality and Privacy

Confidentiality of information exchanges will be strictly observed.

KCA will protect the confidentiality and security of personal and information disclosed in supporting documents in accordance with the [Privacy Act](#).

Contact us

For any questions about the KCA Awards, please email awards@techtransfer.org.au.