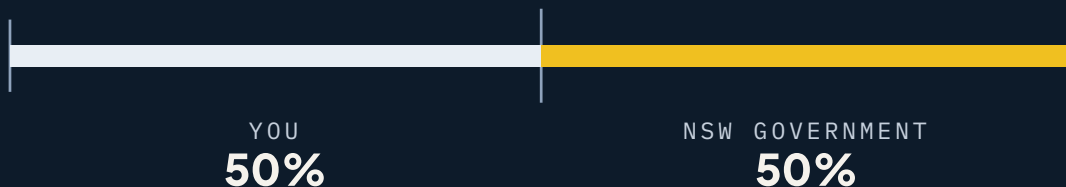




Funded Feasibility

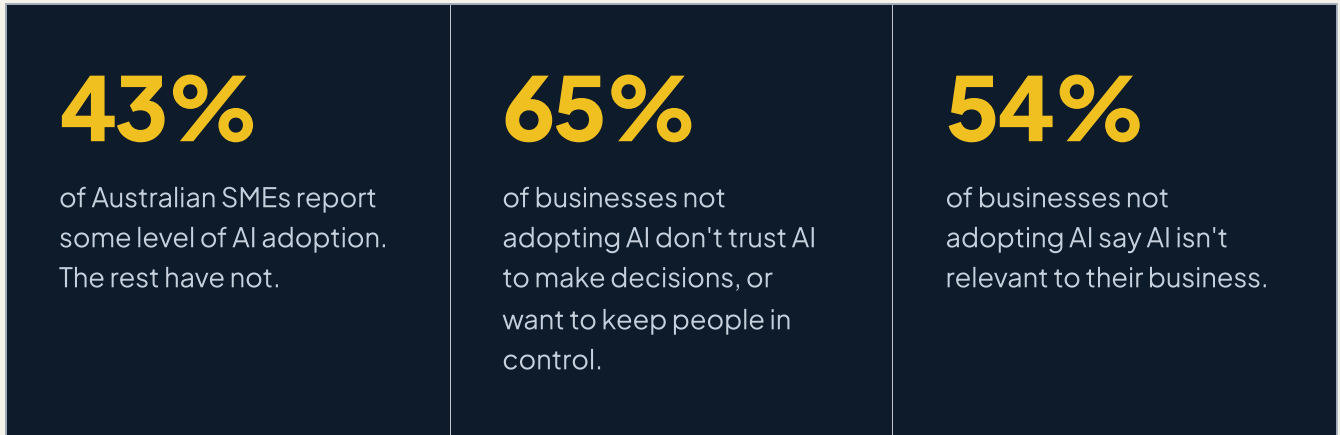
Testing whether a technology is worth adopting, before you commit the capital. A prospectus for NSW manufacturers.



On a \$30,000 project, you pay \$15,000.
Grants run \$10,000 to \$50,000 ex GST.

The problem was never the technology

The NSW Government will pay half the cost of properly testing whether a new technology is worth adopting in your business, before you commit capital to it.



- Across all thirteen AI applications the National AI Centre tracks, the most common answer is the same one every time: aware of it, not likely to adopt. Not unaware. Aware, had a look, decided no.
- None of that is ignorance, and none of it is unreasonable. It's what a decade of being oversold produces.
- Being right to doubt it isn't the same as knowing. Nobody has put the numbers next to yours, or tested it against the way your plant actually runs, on your equipment, at your volumes. A demo can't do that, because a demo is built to work. Only a proper assessment can.
- That's the gap this fund exists to close. It's an evidence problem, not an AI problem.

Figures: National AI Centre AI Adoption Tracker, surveyed by Fifth Quadrant. December 2025 to February 2026 quarter, published May 2026. Minimum 400 Australian SME owners and decision-makers per monthly wave, weighted by industry, state and employee size to the national distribution of businesses. National figures across Australian small and medium businesses, not a manufacturing-specific sample. ai.gov.au

What it is

The Innovative Manufacturing Adoption Fund (IMAF), Stage 1: Discovery and Feasibility, is a NSW Government grant programme with \$1 million in total funding.

GRANT SIZE	\$10,000 to \$50,000 ex GST
MATCHED AT	50% of your eligible project cost
TOTAL POOL	\$1 million
CLOSES	6 October 2026, 5pm
ASSESSMENT	As applications are received, first come first served. The round can close early if the pool is exhausted
DELIVERY	Follows approval. Timing is confirmed in your funding agreement

Is this you

- ✓ NSW headquartered, with a manufacturing facility in NSW
- ✓ \$1 million or more turnover in each of the last two financial years
- ✓ Operating in, or supplying, a target sector: construction and building products, clean energy products, transport and rolling stock, defence and aerospace, health and medtech, digital technologies and advanced electronics, mining equipment and services, agriculture, food and beverage
- ✓ Able to fund half the project cost yourself
- ✓ Active ABN, Australian corporation
- ✓ Between 10 and 100 full-time equivalent employees

The two that catch people out are the turnover test and the lower end of the employee band. Both are worth checking before you spend a week on an application.

What it funds

Feasibility studies, business case development, pilot projects, prototyping, process testing, and assessment of new equipment, software or systems, investigating one of the fund's target technologies:

Additive manufacturing

Electronics and mechatronics manufacturing

Robotics and automation

Advanced quality and inspection systems

Precision machining

Advanced materials and processing

Digital manufacturing and Industry 4.0 capabilities

What it doesn't fund

Internally-produced business cases, equipment purchases, training, or capital works.

What you end up with

An evidence-based report assessing technical feasibility and commercial viability, with a recommended adoption pathway. If the answer is no, you've saved yourself the capital and half the cost of finding that out.

THE STRUCTURAL DETAIL WORTH UNDERSTANDING

At least **75% of the project budget** must go to an external consultant or manufacturing service provider. Internal wages are capped at 25%, and a business case you've written in-house is explicitly ineligible. That's not a technicality you can engineer around. The fund is built on the assumption that you're bringing in outside expertise, and your application has to name who that is and set out what they'll do.

That report is also your business case for Stage 2, which opens in early 2027 with grants of up to \$5 million. Do the feasibility work now and you're not starting from zero next year. You're applying with evidence.

What this could look like

Five examples of what testing properly looks like in a manufacturing operation.

01

DIGITAL MANUFACTURING / INDUSTRY 4.0

Predictive maintenance and equipment diagnostics

What would it be worth to know a machine's about to fail, before it does? The study would test whether sensor data and AI-based diagnostics can genuinely predict failure ahead of your current maintenance approach, using your own equipment history as the benchmark, not a vendor's case study.

02

ADVANCED QUALITY AND INSPECTION SYSTEMS

Automated quality and inspection systems

Manual inspection catches most defects. It's the ones it misses that cost you, in rework, returns, and reputation. Worth testing whether automated or AI-assisted inspection closes that gap, and putting a real number on what the gap is actually costing today.

03

ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION

Robotics and automation for repetitive tasks

There's probably one task in your operations nobody wants, and it's costing you every time someone calls in sick or walks. A feasibility study puts a real number on whether automating it stacks up, cost, retraining, and payback, not the number a vendor quotes you.

04

DIGITAL MANUFACTURING / INDUSTRY 4.0

Shop-floor visibility and digital production tracking

If someone asked you right now where job 47 is, could you answer without walking the floor? Digital job and materials tracking is worth testing properly, benchmarked against how you actually track things today, not how the software demo makes it look.

05

ADVANCED MATERIALS AND PROCESSING

New material or process feasibility

Switching material or process is a one-way bet if you get it wrong. A proper feasibility study benchmarks the alternative against what you use now on cost, quality and supply reliability, before you commit an entire production run to finding out the hard way.

What working with Integrated AI looks like

We work with manufacturers and heavy industry in NSW on exactly this question: whether a specific technology is worth adopting, backed by a proper assessment rather than a hunch or a vendor pitch. It's the same work behind our Fractional CAIO and strategic advisory engagements, applied to your IMAF Stage 1 project. We act as the external provider the grant requires, and deliver:

- A capability gap assessment against the target technology
- A recommended adoption pathway, sized and staged
- A feasibility and commercial viability report
- A document built to double as your Stage 2 business case

What we're not

We don't write applications and we don't lodge them. You submit yours in your own name, on your own timing, and we're the external provider named in it. If you want someone to do the technical assessment properly, that's the conversation. If you want someone to fill in a form, it isn't.

One honest note on capacity

We'll take a call with any eligible business. The delivery work that follows a successful application is limited by our capacity this round, and we'd rather say that now than find out together in November.



NEXT STEPS

Start with a 30 minute call. We'll work out whether your project fits the fund, and if it does we'll scope it properly and come back within 2 business days with the proposal you attach to your application, costed and written to the fund's requirements.

Marnie Davey

Director · Integrated AI

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calendar.app.google/sbZ2Byg8TXPtC6Jx8

Notices and disclaimers

The information here is drawn from the NSW Government's published IMAF Stage 1 guidelines and is current as at September 2026. Programme terms can change. The guidelines at nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/innovative-manufacturing-adoption-fund-stage-1 are the authority, and we'd encourage you to read them.

IMAF is administered by the NSW Government. Eligibility, assessment and funding decisions rest with them alone. Integrated AI has no role in those decisions and no influence over them.

Engaging us as your external provider does not guarantee that your application will be approved, or that funding will still be available when you apply. The pool is finite and assessed as applications arrive.

You lodge your own application and you are responsible for its content and accuracy, including the financial and employment information it relies on.

Nothing in this document is legal, financial or tax advice. Third-party figures are attributed where they appear, and we present them in good faith as published.

Full guidelines and eligibility criteria are published by the NSW Government at nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/innovative-manufacturing-adoption-fund-stage-1