

Hon Steven Joyce

Minister of Science and
Innovation

Hon Te Ururoa Flavell

Minister for Māori
Development



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Media Statement

Applications open for Māori Digital Technology Fund

Science and Innovation Minister Steven Joyce and Māori Development Minister Te Ururoa Flavell today announced that applications opens today for the Māori Digital Technology Development Fund which will support access to Māori language and culture through digital technology initiatives.

“We see technology and innovation as central to New Zealand’s economic, environmental, social and cultural wellbeing. This fund will enable Māori to better engage with technology by improving and promoting pathways to enter the digital technology sector,” Mr Joyce says.

Funding of \$30 million was set aside in Budget 2014 for the Māori ICT Development Fund; and last year an expert advisory group was appointed to provide advice about how the fund will work including its objectives and the design of an operational framework.

The name of the fund was changed to the Māori Digital Technology Development Fund to make the fund more forward looking and inclusive.

The funding priorities are:

- improving digital skills and pathways for Māori in digital technologies
- growing digital technologies businesses
- enhancing new Māori language and culture initiatives through digital technologies.

“The Fund will support the development of the skills necessary to participate the sector. The long-term objective is to create high value jobs and opportunities that advance Māori in digital technologies,” Mr Joyce says.

“It will also support access to the Māori language and culture through ICT, by developing delivery mechanisms for Māori language content and supporting content production,” Mr Flavell says.

“Applications which demonstrate collaboration across government, iwi, business and community organisations through utilisation of other funding pools or other contributions will be looked on favourably and are encouraged,” Mr Flavell says.

The Fund will use a two-stage contestable application process.

- Stage 1 – Idea generation and development
- Stage 2 – Assessment of full proposals

Stage 2 is by invite only, with applicants needing to have passed stage 1 first.

Crown agencies are not able to apply for funding, however local and regional councils can.

The Fund will be a joint programme between Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE), with Te Puni Kōkiri as the lead agency.

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