

COVER SHEET

3.3. Matai Lab Project PGF Application	For: Approve
Background & context:	Recommendation:
<p>Applicant Organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matai Lab Medical Imaging <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Coast/ Tairawhiti <p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matai Lab is seeking to establish a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) research lab in Gisborne, to undertake research focussed on advancing the understanding of the brain, heart and body – with a particular focus on biomarkers associated with traumatic brain injury (TBI). <p>Funding Sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total project value: \$Commercial Information PGF Funding: \$Commercial Information Commercial: \$Commercial Information Commercial Information: \$Commercial Information <p>Background:</p> <p>Matai Lab is seeking \$Commercial Information in Commercial Information payments across Commercial Information years.</p> <p>The facility will co-locate at the Gisborne hospital and has the backing of Tairawhiti District Health Board (a full list of supporters is outlined below).</p> <p>The PDU has worked with the applicant, the Ministry of Health and MBIE Science to gain further insight.</p> <p>Matai Lab is seeking to undertake research, with a specific focus on the fast emerging field of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). This work is particularly topical in sports but is increasingly gaining traction as an opportunity to provide better outcomes and solutions to sectors as wide as</p>	<p>We recommend that the IAP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Matai Lab's PGF application seeking \$Commercial Information of a \$Commercial Information project Note The PDU has spoken to MBIE Science and MoH to gain background information and research relating to the application Note Commercial Information Note This application has strong regional and national support Note The PGF has been established to NOT support several sectors including large scale health projects (hospitals) Support the recommendation to Approve \$Commercial Information from the PGF fund towards Matai Lab subject to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiation with the applicant on a loan/ grant/ split The applicant providing evidence that it has secured image-processing software capable of undertaking the required imaging analysis Confirmation of all co-funding Key person insurance being in place for Commercial Information.

mental health, crime and unemployment. Commercial In
Commercial Information

Matai Lab has been asked why it cannot use the hospital's existing MRI? The primary function of Matai Lab is research and the hospital's unit does not have the necessary resolution.

Matai Lab has been asked if being located in Gisborne will limit their ability to effectively and efficiently undertake their research. They have noted that a strong amount of their work is Cloud-based, making location less of an issue than it would have been five or ten years ago.

The applicant has been asked if the lab should be based near a university if it is research based. Matai Lab has noted they will be working closely with Auckland University, and others, but that this work is again heavily conducted via the internet/Cloud. They also note that visiting specialists spoken to have expressed an interest in coming to Gisborne as it is **not** a major metropolitan area.

Commercial Information
The PDU has spoken to MBIE Science. They were impressed with the application and noted that a reason for it not being progressed past the final five was that the project relied heavily on one key person. As such, key person issues were evident. The PDU has brought up this point with the applicant. Matai Lab noted that additional specialists are available to continue the lab's work, however, this must be noted as a possible risk.

The project has support from:

- Commercial Information
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PROBATIONALLY RELEASED

PGF criteria that this proposal supports:		
PGF Criteria	Assessment Commentary	Rating (1✓ to 5✓)
Link with fund and government outcomes		
Creates permanent jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will employ up to <small>Comme</small> FTEs in a surge region. It must be noted though, that a number of these positions will be filled by experts brought in to fill positions within the organisation that cannot be filled by the local work force 	✓✓✓
Delivers benefit to the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although this project will certainly bring benefits to the region via employment and economic stimulus, this project will also provide beneficial outcomes to New Zealand via better understanding of brain trauma and its effects on crime, unemployment and mental health 	✓✓✓✓
Increased utilisation and returns of Maori asset base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant notes that Maori are overrepresented in possible undiagnosed brain trauma and that this could be better understood and addressed via Matai Lab's research 	✓✓✓
Enhanced sustainability of natural assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
Mitigation of climate change effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
Additionality		
Adding value by building on what is already there	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project is a new venture. While it will be continuing the body of research in this area, the facility itself will be new 	✓
Acts as a catalyst for productivity potential in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project could have a positive effect on the regional economy. New jobs will be created although it must be noted that a number of these will require external candidates moving to the region. Their spend, however, will positively impact the economy. 	✓✓✓✓
Connected to regional stakeholders and frameworks		
Alignment with regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project is not a specific regional 	✓✓✓

priorities	priority but has gained strong regional support (outlined above)	
Support from local governance groups (inc. Councils, Iwi/Hapu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant has provided strong evidence of support from regional groups and Maori 	✓✓✓✓
Governance, risk management and project execution		
Robust project management and governance systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant has provided a number of attachments that provide strong management and governance structures that will be adopted through the development and operation of Matai Lab 	✓✓✓✓
Risk management approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant has provided a high level risk/ mitigation register. This focuses on research elements. A workplace register will have to be developed by the applicant, or, purchased. 	✓
Future ownership / operational management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ownership of Matai Lab is currently structured with one shareholder, Bronwen Holdsworth, and three directors, Bronwen Holdsworth, Samantha Holdsworth and John Pittar. Ongoing management of Matai lab will be under the leadership of Commercial Information. The applicant notes the ongoing governance structure will be a charitable Trust with a board of Trustees. 	✓✓✓✓

The purpose of this briefing is to consider recommending PGF funds to Matai Lab

Risks Issues:

The applicant has noted three risks:

- Possible slippage in deliverables related to the nature of R&D at times leading to delays
- Technical issues relating to establishing biomarkers
- The establishment of imaging technology

These risks are reasonable and the applicant notes mitigations.

Additional risks exist.

- This is a start-up and as such risk exists for any such venture
- The PDU and MBIE Science have noted that key person issues exist. The venture is heavily reliant on **Commercial Information**. A possible mitigation could be the witnessing of key person insurance.
- An operational, including health and safety, risk mitigation register will have to be developed or purchased.
- MBIE Science has noted that similar work is currently being undertaken in Auckland.
- The applicant notes that a Trust structure will be established. This has not yet been completed.

Eligibility points of note:

- *Due diligence*:- Full due diligence has been completed.
- *Conflict(s) of interest*:- Based on the information provided no conflict of interest is evident.
- *Illegal Activity*:- Based on the application information provided and feedback from other agencies there is no indication that the applicant or project has been involved in, or associated with illegal activity.
- *Alignment with Regional development plans*:- The application is not a regional priority but has strong support from regional and national bodies.
- *Commercial funding availability*:- Given the nature of the project which is to undertake R&D, and provide specialised services, access to commercial funding is not considered an easily accessed option.

Consultation undertaken or implications:

Legal	N/A	HR	N/A	Finance	N/A	MBIE policy	N/A	Other	MBIE science, MoH,
Supporting proposal:									
Yes									
Appendices:									
Yes - Application									
Sponsor(s):									
N/A									
Manager/Author of paper:									
ELH Investment Team									