

## Mātai Lab

### Project overview

<b>Name of the project</b>	Mātai Lab
<b>Region</b>	Tairāwhiti
<b>Applicant</b>	Mātai Lab
<b>Total project value</b>	\$ Commercial Information
<b>Amount of funding sought from the PGF</b>	Tranche 1: \$ Commercial Information Tranche 2: \$ Commercial Information
<b>Financial instrument recommended</b>	Grant. Funding to be matched Commercial Info by the Commercial Information with the PGF funding Commercial per cent.
<b>PDU recommendation</b>	Approve

193. Mātai Lab is seeking \$6 million in PGF funding 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 focus on biomarkers associated with traumatic brain injury (TBI).
194. Māori are overrepresented in TBI stats. Continued research and a better understanding of possible treatments would therefore benefit affected persons. This work is particularly topical in sports but is increasingly gaining traction as an opportunity to provide better outcomes in sectors as wide as mental health, crime and unemployment. The work is headed a research field leader Samantha Holdsworth.
195. The facility will co-locate at the Gisborne hospital and has the backing of the Tairāwhiti District Health Board.
196. Mātai Lab has been asked if being in Gisborne will limit their ability to effectively and efficiently undertake their research. They have noted that most of their work is Cloud-based, making location less of an issue than it would have been five or ten years ago. Mātai 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.
197. The project has significant support from New Zealand and international research and medical organisations, including Stanford University.



Local support

198. The project has support from:

- Activate Tairāwhiti
• ACC
• Eastland Community Trust
• Hauora Tairawhiti
• Ngāti Porou Hauroa
• Te Hauora Turanganui a Kiwa
• Office of the Mayor Gisborne District Council
• Poverty Bay Rugby Football Union
• New Zealand Cricket
• Sport Gisborne
• Waikato District Health Board
• HeartMath Institute.

Management and governance

199. A strong level of management and governance has been evidenced in the Mātai Lab application. The Mātai Lab team have showed strong management structures through this process, accentuated by the fact Matai Lab is not yet operational. The PDU has worked closely with the applicant to better understand the project and outline what co-funding level would be sought.

Costs and funding sources

200. \$ [redacted] from the PGF would be granted against validation of the current \$ [redacted] of commitments that Matai Lab states it has in hand, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Header: Tranche #1 - Now. Rows include Commercial Information, TOTAL.

201. The subsequent allotment from PGF - up to \$ [redacted] - would be matched on a [redacted] basis at the end of 2019 as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Header: Tranche #2 - By Dec 31, 2019. Rows include Commercial Information, TOTAL.



## PDU assessment of the project

202. This section provides an overview of PDU's assessment against the PGF assessment criteria.

### Assessment against PGF criteria

Criteria	Rating 1 – 5	Comment
<b>Sustainable regional economic development</b>	✓✓✓	<p>The applicant has provided a financial forecast supporting eight years of operation. There is strong support for this project and contract opportunities have been provided to the PDU that indicate a sustainable and growth model for Matai Lab.</p> <p>Mātai Lab has gained the support of agencies including ACC who have noted alignment with work streams and goals.</p>
<b>Productivity and innovation</b>	✓✓✓✓	<p>The developing field of bio-markers in relation to TBI will have strong benefits for a wide range of persons facing adverse outcomes. The additional research opportunities, and possible commercial projects outlined to the PDU further speak to innovation in the space of MRI.</p>
<b>Increased employment, training or work readiness for the sectors workforce</b>	✓✓✓	<p>The project will employ up to <small>Comment</small> FTEs in a surge region. It must be noted 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.</p>
<b>NZ's ability to meet climate change commitments</b>	N/A	
<b>Māori aspirations for utilising land and other resources and achieving cultural objectives</b>	✓✓✓	<p>The project notes that Māori are overrepresented in TBI stats. Continued research and a better understanding of possible treatments would therefore benefit affected persons.</p>



Criteria	Rating 1 – 5	Comment
<b>Additionality</b>	✓	This project is to be established but will build on the significant work and research Dr Holdsworth has undertaken and published.
<b>Connections and alignment with regional priorities</b>	✓✓✓✓	Strong alignment with significant stakeholder support.
<b>Environmental sustainability and/or productivity of natural assets</b>	N/A	

## Risk assessment

203. As a start-up, this project contains more risk than an existing entity might. That said, the head, Samantha Holdsworth is a recognised leader in the field. The detail provided, and support witnessed for this project provides confidence in relation to delivery.

204. The following risks have been identified:

Type of risk (describe)	Mitigation
Commercial Information	Commercial Information
The applicant notes that a trust structure will be established. This has not yet been completed.	Funding will be approved subject to seeing documentation of the Trusts' establishment.

## Recommendations and next steps

205. The PDU recommends that you approve from \$ <sup>Commercial Information</sup> (tranche 1) in the 2018 financial year, and up to another \$ <sup>Commercial Information</sup> in the 2019 financial year if Mātai Lab can meet their <sup>Commercial Info</sup> ratio. This would be subject to:

- The applicant providing evidence that it has secured image-processing software capable of undertaking the required imaging analysis



PROVINCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
UNIT

- Confirmation of all co-funding
- Commercial Information

PROACTIVELY RELEASED