

NSW launches \$20mn Farms of the Future grant program

The NSW government has opened applications for the \$20 million Farms of the Future grant program, which will make available grant funding of up to \$35,000 for farm businesses to purchase eligible connectivity and AgTech solutions.

The grant program will allow successful applicants to procure equipment from a range of suppliers, including Field Solutions Group, OneWiFi and Ceres Tag. Participants can select from a catalogue of approved equipment supplied by the vendors.

Equipment is available in six categories – devices for animals, AgTech to monitor farm assets, farm connectivity solutions, dashboards to view AgTech data, plant and pest management and AgTech for water monitoring.

Connectivity solutions available through the program include antennas, coverage boosters, relays and repeaters, gateways, wi-fi and on-farm connectivity networks. Grants for connectivity solutions are capped at \$15,000, and can include subscription costs up until the close of the program in June 2025.

To be eligible, farming companies must hold an active ABN, an annual turnover of at least \$40,000 per annum from primary production, and have completed a specific training program. Companies' operations must also be located within the government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Byron, Cabonne, Carrathool, Griffith, Leeton, Lismore, Moree Plains, Narrabri or Orange.

Applications close on 31 August, and the claim period will close on 29 February 2024.

The full list of vendors with eligible products is Allflex, Agbot, AGRIWEBB, AG-Tech360, AxisTech, Binary Tech, BioScout, Ceres Tag, CropScanAg, CROPSOL, Dab Pumps Oceania, Datamars Livestock, EnviroNode IoT Solutions, Essential Communications Services, Farm Management System, Farmbot Monitoring Solutions, Farmdeck, Farmo, FarmTasker, Field Solutions Group, Gallagher, Goanna Ag, Green Brain, HALO Systems, ICT International, INCYT, MAC Systems, MAIT, Metos ANZ, mOOvement, NB-Tec, Novecom, Observant, OneWiFi, Optiweigh, Padman Automation Solutions, Pairtree Intelligence, PLF Australia, Porosity Services, Powertec, RapidAIM, Rubicon Water/FarmConnect, Schedule-it, Smart Paddock, Sustainable Horticulture, SWAN Systems, Waterwatch, Wildeye, Yabby Sensors, and Zetifi.

Dylan Bushell-Embling

Government aims for 5G, 6G security lab to be running by late 2023

The federal government is aiming to have a planned lab that will focus on security and sovereignty of next-generation wireless technologies up and running by the end of the year, the Department of Home Affairs has confirmed to CommsDay.

“The ‘Secure G’ Connectivity Test Lab is a key part of the Department of Home Affairs’ efforts to promote secure and resilient emerging telecommunications networks,” a Home Affairs spokesperson told CommsDay.

The lab to bring together expertise from the public and private sector was first