

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates  
2 March 2017

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**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Global Connections Fund

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** AI-130

- (1) How many priming grants will be offered under the Global Connections Fund?
- (2) How many bridging grants will be offered under the Global Connections Fund?
- (3) Have any grants been announced?
- (4) How many rounds are planned?
- (5) What is the funding profile for this program?
- (6) Why was the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) chosen to administer this grant?
- (7) How were they chosen?
- (8) What are the governance arrangements for the management of this program by ATSE?
  - a. Is it by a funding agreement or some other mechanism?
  - b. Is there a fee for the management of the program payable to ATSE?

**ANSWER**

(1&2) The government anticipates awarding up to 40 Priming Grants and 15 Bridging Grants per year, depending on the quality of applications received.

(3) 74 Priming Grants under round 1 were announced in July 2016 and 14 Bridging Grants were announced under round 1 in December 2016.

(4) It is expected that there will be at least one round each of Priming Grants and Bridging Grants per year, over the four years.

(5) The program funding comprises \$4.944 million over four years:

Financial Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	<b>Total</b>
Admin appropriation (\$m)	1.236	1.236	1.236	1.236	<b>4.944</b>

(6&7) ATSE was directly sourced on the basis of:

- its networks and established relationships with counterpart organisations in the Global Innovation Strategy's priority economies;
- its ability to undertake activities within agreed timeframes and budget;
- its contributions to the science and research agenda;
- promotion of Australia's international science engagement; and
- its prior performance in delivering similar activities.

(8a) The Commonwealth and ATSE have a funding agreement.

(8b) Yes.