

Funding Services

WaikatoLink can help in providing University of Waikato researchers with access to the following commercial funding sources.

Jumpstart Funding

Jumpstart is a funding initiative run by WaikatoLink and KiwiNet. It aims to support technical development on projects that are seen to have commercial potential, but where technical risks are too high to attract PreSeed investment. Jumpstart is run every few years to inject resource into projects that can be progressed quickly with backing from WaikatoLink – the funding can help in employing a student developer and purchasing some materials and consumables. The expected outcomes of Jumpstart are to de-risk early-stage projects and reach proof-of-principle.

PreSeed Accelerator Fund (PSAF)

The PreSeed Accelerator Fund (PSAF) is Government funding that aims to progress publically funded research into commercial opportunities. PSAF supports proof-of-concept and commercial development to aid research projects in reaching an investor-ready stage. WaikatoLink submits applications to the KiwiNet Investment Committee to seek PSAF funding. If successful, the funding granted is matched by WaikatoLink. To be eligible for PSAF funding, your project should meet the following criteria:

- The project must result from publically funded research.
- The project must demonstrate commercial potential and contribute economic benefits to New Zealand.
- Development must be limited to creating a first working prototype or reaching proof-of-concept, as opposed to supporting on-going product development.

Capability Funding

Capability Funding is government funding that can be leveraged to help companies realise results from R&D investments. The funding can be used to seek expert advice or engage Master's or PhD students to work on technical and commercial R&D projects. Applications for Capability funding are made by the company directly to the Ministry of Science and Innovation, rather than through the University. WaikatoLink can contribute to this process by assisting in identifying and establishing industry connections.

Angel Investment

Investor-ready technologies or university start-up companies may be eligible for angel investment. Angels will typically invest in technologies with high growth potential. Their investment is intended to support business growth and deliver a return on investment. WaikatoLink can help you develop a business plan for your venture, which can then be submitted to an angel network.