



Three potential Regional Research Institutes shortlisted

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Regional Research Institutes are to be new institutes developed in areas outside of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch that help build research and development intensity and lift innovation in key industries.

The three shortlisted proposals are:

- New Zealand Institute of Viticulture and Oenology, Marlborough, led by New Zealand Winegrowers – research to support the growth and continuing success of New Zealand wine industry.
- Centre for Space Science Technology, Central Otago, led by Bodeker Scientific – research allowing the use of space-based measurements and unique to New Zealand satellite imagery to develop solutions tailored to regions and key sectors, for example, in water resource management and regional planning.
- Earth+Vantage, Southland, led by Venture Southland – research using real time satellite and ground-based data to lift primary industry productivity across New Zealand, in areas such as precision farming, forestry and marine management.

A total of 24 proposals, from 16 different locations, were received for consideration. The three shortlisted proposals represent those considered at this stage to have presented the best plans for delivering the strongest growth in business R&D and innovation in the regions.

Applicants will work through the process of business case development with MBIE officials over the coming months. MBIE will determine the preferred options that deliver the greatest value from the potential institutes and Cabinet will make its final decision on establishing new institutes toward the end of the year.

The privately-led Regional Research Institutes were announced as part of Budget 2015, with funding for up to \$25 million over three years to support the initiative. Proposals were invited from groups of businesses, researchers and private investors in November 2015. For more information, visit the [Regional Research Institutes section](#).