



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Science and Technology

Request for Information
for the
Proposed Defence Cooperative Research Centre
In
Trusted Autonomous Systems

DST Group is seeking Requests for Information from researchers wishing to make research and technology contributions to the proposed Defence CRC for Trusted Autonomous Systems (DCRC-TAS).

Please complete the following sections of the Expression of Interest form and then email it to TAScrc@dsto.defence.gov.au

These submissions are being requested in order for DST Group to gauge the levels of interest and expertise relevant to the DCRC-TAS that was recently presented as part of an information roadshow.

Note: These submissions are not an application.

Request for Information

1 GENERAL

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 As the sole purpose of this Request For Information (RFI) is to obtain information in connection with Research and Development into Trusted Autonomous Systems (TAS) for a proposed Defence Cooperative Research Centre (DCRC-TAS), it is not a procurement and does not form part of any Commonwealth procurement process.
- 1.1.2 There is no obligation to respond to this RFI and any response that is provided is submitted on a voluntary basis in accordance with the terms of this RFI.
- 1.1.3 Defence will not use this RFI (and responses received) to formally shortlist respondents for any purpose in connection with the proposed DCRC-TAS.
- 1.1.4 Respondents should nevertheless be aware that Defence may use responses to this RFI for planning purposes, including to assist Defence identify and refine options for future Research and Development into Trusted Autonomous Systems and to inform the planning and preparation of any follow-on initiatives in this space.

2 RESPONSE PREPARATION

2.1 Response Preparation

- 2.1.1 Respondents are requested to ensure that the information provided is accurate, complete and current.
- 2.1.2 In responding to this RFI the respondent acknowledges that:
- the Commonwealth may approach other researchers (including researchers that have not responded to this RFI) to provide information relevant to Research and Development into Trusted Autonomous Systems, including information the same or similar to that requested by this RFI;
 - the Commonwealth may conduct other academia and industry engagement activities and future solicitation processes in relation to the Research and Development into Trusted Autonomous Systems, which the respondent may or may not be invited to participate; and
 - providing a response to this RFI does not of itself entitle, qualify or disqualify the respondent to be invited to participate in any future industry engagement activity or process.

2.2 Contact Officer for Request for Information Inquiries

- 2.2.1 The Contact Officer for this RFI is:
Jason Scholz
jason.scholz@dsto.defence.gov.au
- 2.2.2 Respondents should direct any questions regarding this RFI in writing only to the Contact Officer.
- 2.2.3 Any question submitted by any respondent is submitted on the basis that the Commonwealth may circulate the respondent's questions and the Commonwealth's answers to all other respondents without disclosing the source of the questions or revealing Confidential Information or the substance of the proposed response.

3 RESPONSE LODGEMENT

3.1 Lodgement of Responses

- 3.1.1 Responses (including any supporting documentation such as brochures, handbooks and sample drawings, if applicable) are to be lodged on or before 12.00 pm local time on **Monday 12 December 2016** (the 'Response Closing Time') at:
tasrcr@dsto.defence.gov.au

- 3.1.2 Responses lodged after the Response Closing Time may or may not be considered by the Commonwealth.

4 MATTERS CONCERNING RESPONSES

4.1 Ownership and Use of Response Documents

- 4.1.1 All response documents submitted in response to this RFI become the property of the Commonwealth. Respondents submitting documents do so on the basis that the Commonwealth may use, retain and copy the information contained in those documents for purposes related to Research and Development into Trusted Autonomous Systems, including to assist Defence identify, refine and prepare any future research and development activity.
- 4.1.2 Subject to clause 4.1.3, the Commonwealth may disclose all or part of the response documents to a third party for the purposes described in clause 4.1.1.
- 4.1.3 Respondents are not to include confidential information in their response without the prior written agreement of the Contact Officer. If the Commonwealth agrees to the inclusion of confidential information belonging to a respondent, this information is to be clearly and precisely identified as confidential in the response. Subject to the respondent's demonstrated compliance with this clause 4.1.3, the Commonwealth may agree to treat this information on different terms to those outlined in clause 4.1.2, including by obtaining an appropriate confidentiality undertaking from the third party prior to disclosure to that party.
- 4.1.4 Nothing in this clause 4.1 affects the ownership of the Intellectual Property in the information contained in a response.

5 ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSES

5.1 Response Assessment

- 5.1.1 Responses to this RFI will not be competitively evaluated. Consistent with the terms of this RFI, responses will be reviewed and considered by the Commonwealth as an information source for the purposes described in this RFI.
- 5.1.2 The Commonwealth may at any time seek additional information on, or clarification of, a response from a respondent.

5.2 Feedback on Responses

- 5.2.1 The Commonwealth may, but is under no obligation to, provide feedback on responses to this RFI on a case by case basis. Respondents should contact the Contact Officer in clause 3 if they wish to request feedback on their RFI response.

Please complete Questions 1-5 and return as per clause 3 of the conditions of RFI

1. Title of proposal or proposed contribution

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2. Name of lead or point of contact and institution details

Name

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Email address

Phone number

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Mailing address

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3. A brief description of proposed research or technology contribution(s). This should highlight a select few areas where the institution has competitive or leading strengths. The response should not detail all areas covered by the DCRC-TAS scope. We will follow up if additional information is required.

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4. An explanation of how these research or technology contribution(s) will contribute to the Defence requirements and research program outlined in the proposed DCRC-TAS vision and objectives. Be specific and brief, we will follow up if additional information is required.

5. A few lines on each key researcher likely to be involved from the institution – experience, relevant track record, likely availability (%FTE).