Seeking Academic Partner for Space Technologies Symposium

Defence Science and Technology (DST) is seeking an academic partner to co-host the next symposium in its series of Emerging and Disruptive Technology Assessment Symposium (EDTAS) events. The forthcoming symposium is on space technologies to be held in the week beginning 10 December 2018 at a venue to be decided.

The EDTAS series is a technology foresighting program under the Next Generation Technologies Fund and is designed to consider an emerging science and technology topic that will likely have a major impact – transformational or disruptive – for the Defence or National Security domains in the 20+ year timeframe. The EDTAS events have been held in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia to date and new locations and academic partners are sought for each event in keeping with its status as a national program. Details of previous events can be found at - https://www.dst.defence.gov.au/events/emerging-disruptive-technology-assessment-symposium-edtas

EDTAS on Space Technologies

According to Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the global space industry is valued at $420 billion and estimated to reach $1.3 trillion by 2030. Australia’s defence and national security are increasingly dependent on space-based systems to provide strategic information and communications throughout its operations. The current reliance on allies, international partners and commercial arrangements for high-end space capabilities limits the ability to produce the sovereign, enhanced capabilities required to support the country’s future defence and national security needs.

Government, as demonstrated through the establishment of an Australian Space Agency, and commercial sectors are beginning to exploit emerging space capabilities to produce faster and more secure communications, enhanced space-based sensor technologies, and increased situational awareness through space technologies. These are being supported through lower cost access to space capabilities, and small satellite technologies that substantially lower the barriers to entry for new participants and smaller organisations. This in turn facilitates the commercialisation of space based technologies, products and services.

Defence Science and Technology (DST) is looking to bring together internationally recognised academic, industry and Defence leaders in a multi-disciplinary workshop environment for a two day EDTAS symposium to explore and shape the long-term vision for Space Technologies.
The symposium will seek to understand Australia’s strategic needs, current technology capabilities and future technology development landscape and directions. Research drivers, challenges and opportunities around the following four themes will be explored:

- Advanced space launch technologies
- Space sensors and communications technologies
- Comprehensive space domain awareness
- Technologies supporting space capabilities

The symposium will explore this expansive field from multiple perspectives in order to understand the application and implications for the national security domain. A key outcome from the symposium will be a Big Picture Assessment Report developed through the workshop contributions of all attendees.

The symposium will provide a number of opportunities including networking and partnering, an understanding of strategic and S&T challenges, as well as guidance to shape long term Defence and national security.

**How you can be involved in the EDTAS on Space Technologies**

As it has done for previous EDTAS events, DST is seeking an Australian academic partner to jointly host the Emerging and Disruptive Technology Assessment Symposium (EDTAS) on space technologies - to be held in the week starting 10 December 2018.

EDTAS, as part of the Next Generation Technologies Fund, a national innovation program focussed on exploring future game-changing technologies, typically holds its events at different locations across Australia and in partnership with different institutions.

The EDTAS academic partner must be a participant in the Defence Science Partnership Program and must have established research programs in Space Capabilities.

The EDTAS academic partner will co-host the event and act as the primary hub for broad national and international academic outreach by coordinating academic participation with internationally recognised leading researchers from institutions across Australia.

The academic partner will also be responsible for organising and sponsoring a student innovation session aimed at potential concepts and ideas. Opportunities for student involvement in the preparation of the Big Picture Assessment Report may also be available.

The academic partner is also required to:

- access high level conference facilities to cater for up to 100 participants in a cabaret-style format (essential);
- identify a thought leader at professorial level and a post-doctoral researcher to provide operational support in partnership with DST;
- indicate how this EDTAS could tie into other space-related activities conducted by the university; and
• identify appropriate nearby accommodation available for national and international guests.

For more information and to obtain an application pack for your institution, please email edtas@dst.defence.gov.au

Proposals are to be submitted by COB 10 October 2018.