



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Science and Technology

## **Call for Expressions of Interest**

### **Modelling Complex Warfighting Strategic Research Investment Operations Research Multi-Party Collaborative Projects**

#### ***Frequently Asked Questions***

##### *Who can submit Expressions of Interest?*

Expressions of Interest are sought from individuals and teams from the Australian university sector.

Respondents must be able to enter into the relevant funding contracts, for universities this means that only those which have signed up to the *Defence Science Partnering Deed 2.0* (DSP 2.0) can submit Expressions of Interest.

##### *What is the DSP 2.0?*

This is the follow-on Deed to the Defence Science Partnering Deed that has been signed up to by 33 Australian universities.

##### *When will DSP 2.0 become active?*

1 November 2019. DST will delay execution of MCW SRI agreements until such time that the DSP 2.0 is available.

##### *What are Multi-Party Collaborative Project Agreements?*

This will be a new schedule agreement in DSP 2.0 that will enable universities to work as equal partners on a collaborative project.

##### *What is ORnet?*

DST plans to establish an Operations Research Network (ORnet) to grow and strengthen the Australian Operations Research (OR) community's ability to support Defence decision making, with a particular focus on Australian Defence Force design and employment. As well as expanding the Australian OR and analysis capability, ORnet will provide coordinated pathways by which Defence can establish enduring research relationships with DST, academia and industry addressing challenging OR problems of national importance.

##### *Are there any limits on the number of submissions I can make?*

No. Organisations and lead investigators can submit as many future work topics as they want.

*Is there a format for EOI submissions?*

No, there is no set format. Expressions of Interest should be no more than 2 pages – approximately one page each for your profile (including experience and available facilities) and the technical aspects of the proposed topic.

*Will all topic areas be funded?*

No. The best proposals will be funded irrespective of the topic area, therefore funding for all topics is not guaranteed.

*Will Multi-Party Collaborative Project Agreements only be used?*

The Commonwealth reserves the right to implement bi-lateral research agreements in exceptional circumstances. This is particularly relevant for the Defence OR topics. Here Defence Groups and Services may choose to fund suitable research proposals directly.

*How much money is available for each project?*

Individual project proposals can indicate work up to \$100k. However the intention is to aggregate multiple proposals into multi-party agreements with a maximum total value of \$200k.

*What is the length of selected projects?*

12 months. Projects are expected to be completed by 31<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

*What options exist for follow on projects?*

DST will work with successful partners to explore options for follow on research.

*How many projects are you expecting to fund?*

Depending on the quality and funding required, DST expects to fund 3-5 Multi-Party Collaborative Projects under this Expression of Interest. The total number of proposals that will be funded will in part be determined by the level of interest generated in Defence by the responses to the Defence OR topics.

*What terms and conditions are governing the agreement from this EOI?*

All terms and conditions will be governed by DSP 2.0. For further information on this please email [PartnerWithDSTGroup@dst.defence.gov.au](mailto:PartnerWithDSTGroup@dst.defence.gov.au)

*Will there be any co-investment (in-kind) required for the projects?*

Yes. It is expected that partnering universities will make an in-kind contribution to the collaborative research. However this will be explored in detail as part of the Phase 2 negotiations. DST will be looking for value for money as it develops the multi-party collaborative research program.

*Who will own the intellectual property from the projects?*

IP will be owned by the university developing it. As required under the DSP 2.0, the university will license the Commonwealth to use any foreground IP for the research project and for Commonwealth purposes.

*Does this call involve classified research?*

The MCW SRI call to academia is specifically for unclassified research conducted in partnership with Defence. The selection panel may identify project proposals that are better suited for consideration through other DST programs, including where classified collaborative research might be possible. If this is the case then the MCW SRI Governance Team will direct the project proposal to the relevant DST POC.

*Will I be able to publish results from the research?*

Publication is possible but it must be approved by DST Group first.

*Will there be further calls?*

While we don't have one planned, it is anticipated that we will have another call for proposals in Financial Year 2020-21. This will be conducted through ORnet.

*What assistance is available for preparing the proposal?*

For advice on project suitability please contact Deanne Bateman (Deanne.bateman@dst.defence.gov.au) in the first instance. For advice on the application process please contact Lisa Paddick ([lisa.paddick@defenceinnovationpartnership.com](mailto:lisa.paddick@defenceinnovationpartnership.com)) at the Defence Innovation Partnership.

*What criteria are being used to assess proposals?*

The following criteria are to be used to assess proposals:

1. Sound, relevant scientific expertise.
2. Innovative approach.
3. Co-contribution by academic partners<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Co-contribution are non-financial and could include time allocations by senior academics and PhD students.