



## Human Performance Research network (HPRnet)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How will the two stage application and selection process be managed?

First stage applications will be accepted through the web form at the link provided on the Defence Innovation website and will be assessed against the selection criteria outlined in the Call for Applications.

- All submissions will be handled in confidence and unsuccessful submitters will be provided with appropriate constructive feedback if requested.
- Successful first stage applicants will be advised, and asked to submit a second stage application providing more detailed plans and budget.
- Submissions will be assessed and down selected by an expert panel from DST Group and Defence. Further discussions will then be conducted with the most competitive submitters.

#### How will the application data be managed?

- Information provided by applicants in their application will be disclosed to the HPRnet evaluation panel for the purposes of project selection. The panel will include representatives from within the Australian Government as well as Government representatives from partner nations, participating under non-disclosure agreements. The application data may be shared within the Australian Government for the purposes of future investment decisions.

#### Should we arrange DST collaborative partners before submitting our proposal?

- No. Proposals that include prearranged collaborative agreements with researchers within DST have the potential to bias the evaluation process and will not be considered. Proposals will be selected on merit based on the criteria set out in the information sheet.

#### Is the \$500K exclusive of GST?

- Yes, ex GST. The actual amount offered for proposals is up to \$500k plus GST.

## Can I apply as a sole investigator?

- You could apply as a sole investigator. However, DST would view an application from a sole investigator with caution. This is because it could be conceived there is risk with successful study completion when only a single investigator is named. Further a key tenant of HPRnet is to be “Connected”. This means we want academics to connect both within as well as across universities. Cross-university discussion and alignment of study proposals will be viewed positively where a systematic case is made.
- If the proposal is of particular merit, it may be possible for us to connect you within and across the community to maximise outcomes for Defence.

## Is it possible to submit a joint proposal with an international research collaborator?

A key tenant of HPRnet is “Connected”. Hence we encourage collaborative proposals. However, it is not possible to fund international universities or Partners. NGTF and HPRnet funding of Projects necessitates that the money is expensed in Australia, and that would exclude for example subcontracting to a party outside of Australia. That does not preclude a proposal with the other University as Partner/s who may be bringing their own funding to achieve their part in a collaboration. Cross-university discussion and alignment of study proposals will be viewed positively where a systematic case is made.

If the proposal is of particular merit, it may be in Defence’s interests to connect that initiative using HPRnet and other collaborative research mechanisms.

## What is meant by Academic Chair?

DST Group is looking to build a true network spanning our human performance interests. It is our belief that the establishment and sustainment of such a network requires 0.1 FTE from a senior academic (ideally Senior Lecturer or above that has an established track record of research) who is accountable to participate in the HPRnet Panel and fulfil the following roles:

- Oversee each institution’s research.
- Manage the relationship with Defence and participate in regular formal meetings convened by the Engagement Manager.
- Build partnerships to improve and extend the HPRnet future program.
- Advice to the Program Leader on emerging opportunities for future HP research within Defence.
- Assist in the conduct of the annual HPRnet Symposium.
- Contribute to a quarterly newsletter.

## What is meant by co-funding?

DST Group is looking for a partner to co-invest in developing a focussed capability that delivers into Defence. Competitive submissions will reflect investment in this endeavour through for example any or all of the following:

- In-kind academic support
- Facilities access
- Scholarships and students to work in the area

Note that funding for chairs (0.1 FTE) may be taken from the research project budget or provided in-kind as part of the university's mutual investment.

## Collaboration with other universities/industry partners

DST Group encourages the proposal of any model that will enhance outcomes. At present the DSP does not cater for multi-party agreements (this will be remedied in the DSP review currently taking place) and as such there would be a requirement for a DSP signed prime with contractors/partners underneath.

## Who can contribute?

A main goal is the development of Australian capability. Therefore, applications are accepted, subject to security considerations, from any research organisation with an Australian presence. Organisations are free to submit any number of applications. Collaboration is encouraged, provided a lead organisation is identified to manage project delivery.

## How will project participants be engaged in the program?

Successful applications will receive project funding for an agreed term for agreed deliverables and milestones. Funding will be paid as milestones are achieved, up to the total agreed funding.

Academic awardees will enter into a research or collaborative arrangement as outlined in the Defence Science Partnerships (DSP) deed. Universities which are not currently party to the DSP deed are welcome to sign up.

Industry awardees will sign an agreement in line with the Defence Innovation Hub Intellectual Property Strategy.



## How will the project be managed?

DST will lead the research and manage the projects with participants in a collaborative framework.

The program management group is made up of representatives from within Defence and meets monthly to review the status and progress of each project.

A technical lead from DST will be assigned to each project who will work with their respective Partner representative to manage the delivery and reporting as specified in the agreement.

## Who owns the intellectual property created?

Any contributed background Intellectual Property (IP) associated with each isolated component of the research will be retained by the respective participants. In the case where background IP is embedded in the foreground IP (i.e. where Defence requires use of background IP to exploit the foreground IP), Defence may require a licence from participants for Commonwealth purposes.

Defence does not seek to own IP derived from the research. Defence may, however, require a non-commercial licence as a minimum requirement for Commonwealth purposes.

## Will the work be classified and are security clearances required?

Classification of work and the need for security clearance will be addressed on an individual project basis. Work may be structured or phased so that part of it can be conducted at an unclassified level. However, it is expected that the majority of the research conducted in human performance will be unclassified. Participants must be able to obtain a security clearance.

## Can the project work be published?

A main goal is the development of a world-leading innovation capability, therefore peer review and publication is desirable.

The project would need to consider the publication of work conducted under the project on a case-by-case basis with appropriate editing and approval by DST.

## How can I get more information?

Any questions regarding the application process or the Human Performance Research network should be directed to [hprnet@dst.defence.gov.au](mailto:hprnet@dst.defence.gov.au).