



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Science and Technology

Call for Expressions of Interest

Operations Research Collaborative Projects Through the Operations Research Network (ORnet)

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. This means that for universities, 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 37 Australian Universities.

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 the ORnet?

DST Group have established the Operations Research Network (ORnet) to grow and strengthen the Australian operations research 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 research and analysis capability, ORnet will provide coordinated pathways by which Defence can establish enduring relationships with DST, academic and industry researchers 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 relevant experience, papers 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.

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 of total value up to \$200k.

What is the length of selected projects?

Up to 10 months. Projects are expected to be completed by 30 June 2021.

What options exist for follow on projects?

DST Group technical areas will work with successful partners to explore opportunities for follow on research.

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

All terms and conditions will be governed DSP 2.0. For further information on this please email 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 at a later time. DST will be looking for value for money as it develops the individual and multi-party collaborative research programs.

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 or for Commonwealth purposes.

Does this call involve classified research?

This OR Collaborative Projects 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 Response Assessment Committee 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 during the 2020-21 financial year. This will also 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 your relevant state based network.

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 partners¹

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