



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Science and Technology

Research Network for Undersea Decision Superiority

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Membership FAQs

Who are the members of the Network?

- There are 17 Network members. A list of members are available on the [website](#).

My university is not a member of the Network. Can I still submit an expression of interest (EOI) for a research proposal?

- The lead investigator for a proposal must be employed by a Member university. Academics from non-member universities may wish to collaborate on an EOI with an academic from a Member university.

Can my university join the Network now so I can submit an EOI in the second project call?

- The inaugural Network membership was finalised in 2019. The RN-UDS Advisory Board will assess any new requests for membership and new members must execute a deed of accession to the Network Agreement. There is no guarantee any request for membership will be granted during the second call for project EOIs.

What are the important dates for the second call for EOIs for projects?

- The second call for EOIs for research proposals opened on 3 February 2020 and will close on 6 March 2020. It is expected those invited to submit a full proposal will be notified in April 2020.

Research Project FAQs

I'm a senior academic with a demonstrated track record – can I still submit an EOI in the second funding round?

- For the Network's second call for EOIs, lead investigators must be early-to-mid career researchers (EMCRs) (defined as up to 10 years post-doctorate). More experienced researchers are encouraged to collaborate with their EMCR colleagues.

I'm a PhD student graduating soon and I have an idea for a project. Can I submit an EOI as a lead investigator?

- Lead investigators must be employed in a research position by a Network Member. There must be organisational support for an ongoing research appointment for the length of the proposed project.

Research Project FAQs

How will the Project expression of interest (EOI) and selection process be managed?

- First stage applications will be assessed against the selection criteria outlined in the RN-UDS's 2020 Research Project Funding Guidelines.
 - All submissions will be handled in confidence and unsuccessful submitters will be notified.
 - Successful first stage applicants will be advised, and asked to submit a second stage application providing more detailed plans and budget.
 - Detailed submissions will be assessed and down selected by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), and approved by the Advisory Board. Further discussions will then be conducted with the most competitive submitters.

How will the application data be managed?

- Information provided in EOIs and project proposals will be disclosed to the Network Director, Network Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and Advisory Board for the purposes of project selection. All Advisory Board and RAC members will be obliged to treat application data in confidence. Potential conflicts of interest by members of the Advisory Board and RAC will be managed to ensure fairness. The application data may be shared within the Australian Government for the purposes of future investment decisions.

Research Project FAQs

**Do I need a Defence Sponsor like the Human Performance Research Network (HPR-Net) process?
Should we arrange DST collaborative partners before submitting an EOI?**

- Defence sponsors are not required. Applicants are encouraged to take a multi-disciplinary approach, including collaboration with Defence where appropriate. This is discussed further in the 2020 Research Project Guidelines and Selection Criteria.

What is meant by co-contributions to a Project?

- Competitive research project 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.

Research Project FAQs

How is collaboration in a project viewed?

- Applicants are encouraged to take a multi or inter-disciplinary approach including collaboration with Defence where appropriate. This is discussed further in the 2020 Research Project Guidelines and Selection Criteria. Collaborators can be drawn from Network Members or any other Australian university which has executed the Defence Science Partnering Deed, as well as Defence.

Can I involve industry partners?

- Should a project require an industry partner this should be clearly stated in the expression of interest. Matters arising from industry involvement will be discussed with applicants on a case by case basis.

Can I collaborate with an Australian-based researcher who is not employed by a Defence Science Partnering Deed university?

- No. Projects will be managed under the Defence Science Partnering Deed (DSPD).

Research Project FAQs

Will my project be funded to the full amount requested?

- The intention is to fully fund selected projects. Further information will be available to shortlisted applicants to help in the preparation of full proposals.

An EOI or proposal may be rejected because the Network determines that it is not germane to the Strategic Investment Plan, the suggested work has been done before or the EOI or proposal is non-compliant. In these cases the application will not be subject to further process.

Will I get feedback on my expression of interest?

- Appropriate constructive feedback will be provided, if requested.

How will projects be managed and funded?

- Projects will be contracted through appropriate research agreements under the Defence Science Partnering Deed (DSPD) and will be subject to the terms and conditions therein.

Successful applicants will receive project funding for an agreed term for agreed deliverables and milestones, as per the research agreement. Payments will be made as milestones are achieved, up to the total agreed funding.

The Network will assist with monitoring and liaison with DST to ensure successful completion of projects.

Research Project FAQs

Who owns the intellectual property created?

- Projects will be contracted through appropriate research agreements under the Defence Science Partnering Deed (DSPD) and will be subject to the terms and conditions therein

The owner will retain any contributed background Intellectual Property (IP) associated with the research. 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.

Under the DSPD, the research organisation will grant a world-wide, non-exclusive, royalty free and perpetual licence to the Commonwealth to use any Foreground IP for the purposes of the research project and for Commonwealth purposes.

Will the work be classified and are security clearances required?

- All EOIs, proposals and the resulting research outcomes must be unclassified.

Research Project FAQs

I have submitted an application to the HPR-Net / another Defence research network. Can I submit an EOI to RN-UDS too?

- Yes. Applicants should note that the objectives of RN-UDS and other Defence networks are different but complementary. Different selection criteria are applied and applicants must demonstrate alignment to the RN-UDS Strategic Investment Plan. Expressions of interest to RN-UDS are required to demonstrate how they contribute to building capability and capacity to conduct research in Australian universities.

I received funding for a project from the HPR-Net. Can I receive funding from RN-UDS?

- Yes. See above.

Research Project FAQs

Can I collaborate with international researchers?

- The aim of the RN-UDS is to build research capability and capacity in Australia. We appreciate there may be circumstances in which an international researcher may be able to contribute to a project in order to achieve the Network aims. However, a blanket positive decision cannot be made as each case would need to be considered on its merits. If your project can not proceed or would be substantially stronger with an international collaborator you are encouraged to submit an EOI but please ensure that the role and credentials of your international collaborator are clearly specified. You should also note the aims of the Network, the criteria for assessment and that funds made available under the RN-UDS will not be paid to overseas researchers.

I would like to work with an international student on my project. Can I do so?

- No. All students must be Australian citizens.

Research Project FAQs

I don't understand what building capability and capacity means in the context of my research proposal. How do I address this?

- The Network is calling for both capability and capacity building activities. Capability includes both the ability (skills, experience, know-how) to conduct the research and sufficient capacity (time, resources, equipment) to do so.

Building research capability and capacity may be addressed through many activities. Some examples may be training and retaining honours students, PhD students or post-doctoral researchers, investing in infrastructure, providing ongoing employment, building research excellence in a team, developing a multi-disciplinary or inter-disciplinary team or encouraging scholarship.

Research Project FAQs

Can an organisation or researcher submit multiple applications?

- Multiple applications are welcome. However, all applications will be assessed against the selection criteria and there is no guarantee of receiving funding.

An EOI or proposal may be rejected because the Network determines that it is not germane to the Strategic Investment Plan, the suggested work has been done before or the EOI or proposal is non-compliant. In these cases the application will not be subject to further process.

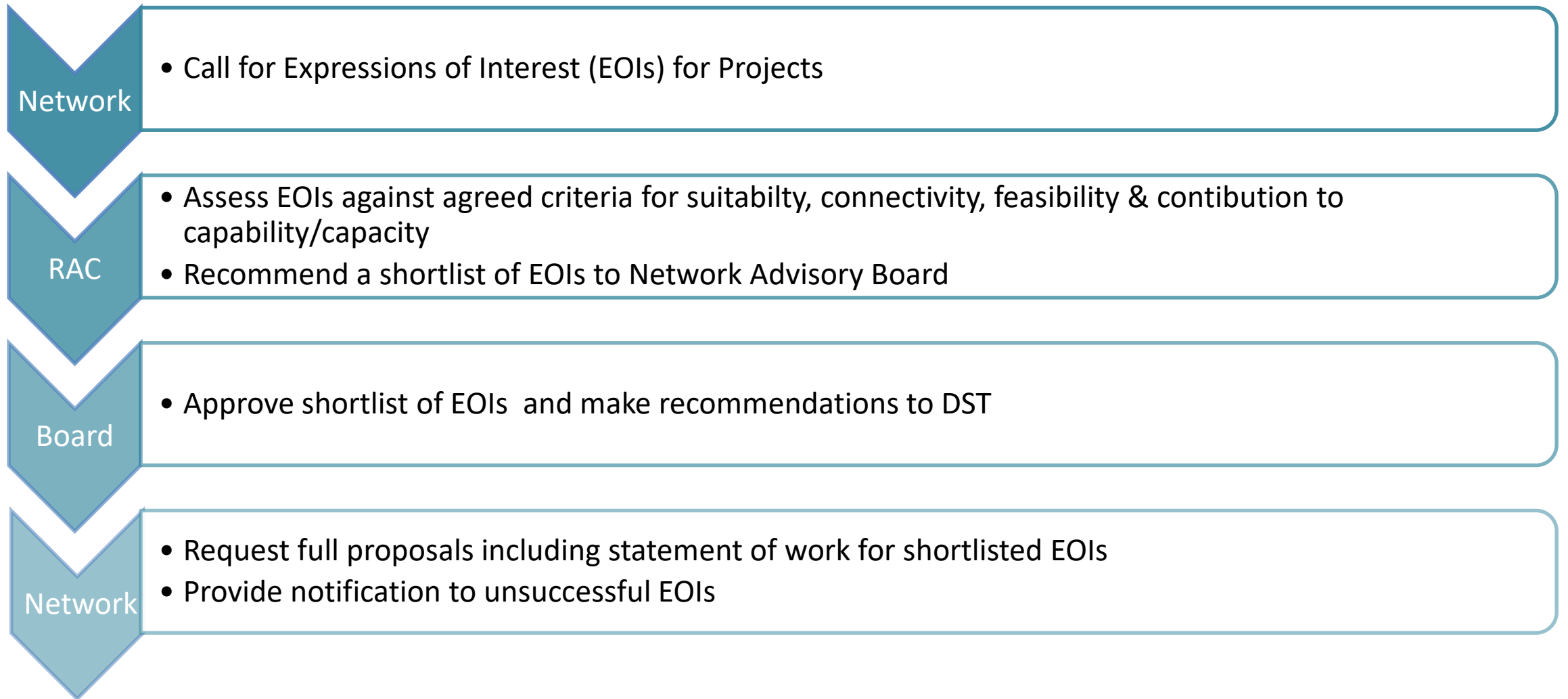
When will I find out the outcomes of project EOIs?

- Shortlisted applicants will be informed as soon as practical. It is expected that the assessment and shortlisting process will be completed within 4-6 weeks.

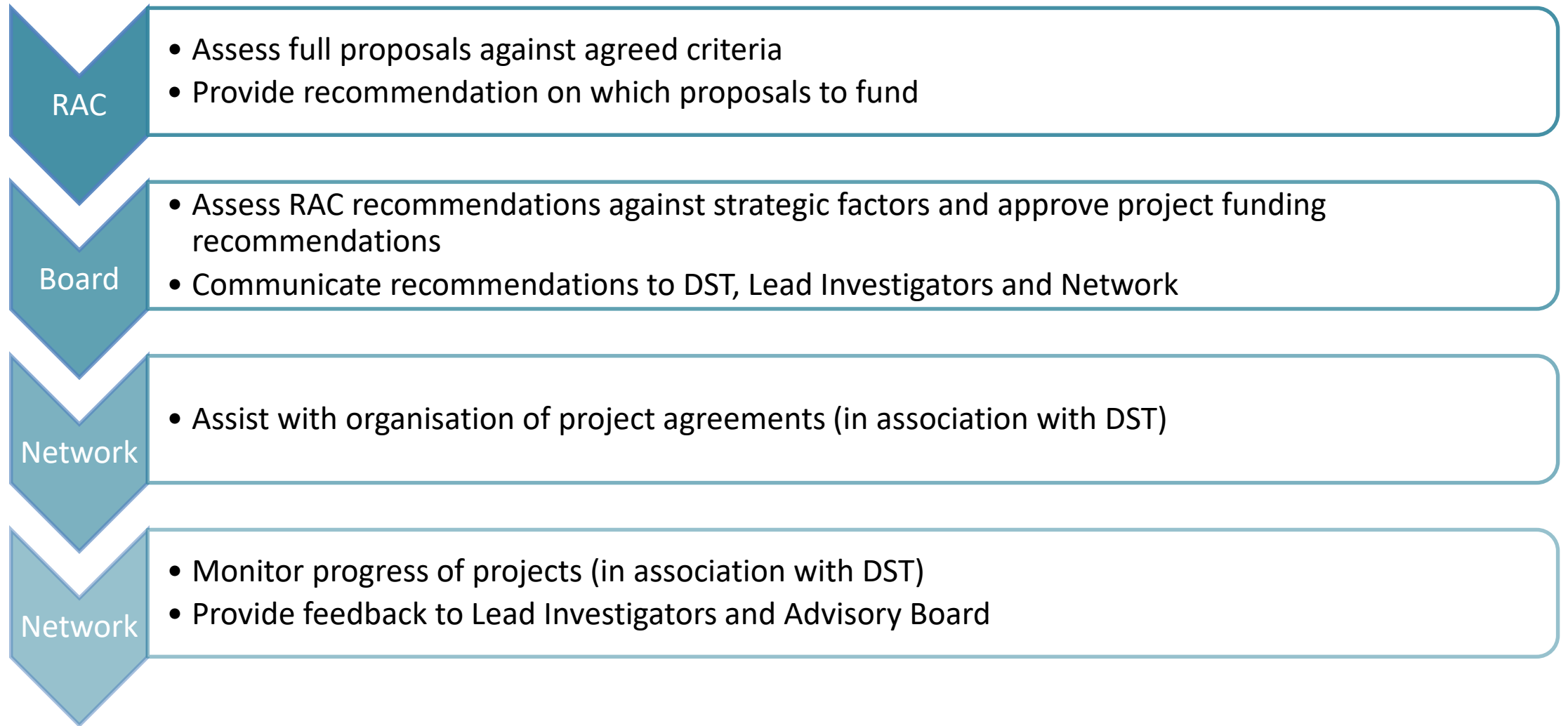
How can I get more information?

- Applicants should refer to the guidance documents. Any additional questions regarding the application process or the Research Network for Undersea Decision Superiority should be directed to the Network Director, Sharon Humphris, email: Sharon.Humphris@curtin.edu.au.

Assessment Process



Assessment Process



An initiative supported by the Australian Government through Defence Science and Technology Group.

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