



Australian Government  
Department of Defence  
Science and Technology

Research Network for Undersea Decision Superiority

# Membership Information



# Network Background

The Research Network for Undersea Decision Superiority (the 'Network') is being established by the Defence Science and Technology Group (DST), with university partners, to ensure world class research capability in Australian partner universities and leverage the significant skills, expertise, networks and infrastructure of Australia's research base for sovereign benefit.

This initiative focuses on the human element in undersea decisionmaking and will provide a mechanism to fund and oversee research projects that lead to improved decision making in the context of future submarine operations.

By investing in research relevant to the human aspects of submarine operations today, the Network will build the capability and capacity of Australian researchers to respond to the research needs of tomorrow.

Based on a model of mutual investment and open engagement, the aim of the Network is to support a sustainable, long term research community in Australia that is responsive to the needs of Defence.

The Network will build capability through two main activities; research projects and education and training to support the research community.

# Network Objectives

The Network's objectives are represented in its Vision, Mission and core activities:

## VISION

A sustainable sovereign research capability that delivers enhanced human decision making to support regional underseasuperiority.

## MISSION

By investing in research on the human aspects of submarine operations today, we will build the capability and capacity of Australian researchers to respond to the research needs to tomorrow.

## CORE ACTIVITIES

Fostering opportunities that build research capability

- Providing leadership to initiate and accelerate research on factors that impact undersea decision making.
- Identifying opportunities that build research capability aligned to the strategic investment priorities.
- Supporting research aligned to the future needs of the Future Submarine Program.
- Building research capability aligned to the major and minor investment priorities.
- Monitoring and evaluating progress against the strategic investment plan.

Sharing and transferring knowledge for the benefit of the industry

- Providing a platform for network Members to share and build knowledge related to the submarine.
- The delivery of activities and programs that support the research community in building their capability.

# Membership Guidelines

Network Membership is open to all university signatories of the Defence Science Partnering Deed (DSPD).

The Network is made up of university partners. Network Members will be required to sign a Deed of Accession to the Network Agreement and will be required to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the Network.

Academics from Network members are able to apply directly for project funding opportunities presented by the Network. Non-Member academics, from DSPD signatory universities, are eligible to participate in projects through collaboration with Network Members through the usual subcontracting processes under the DSPD. Projects will be led by academics from Network members.

Up to \$2 million per annum of funding will be initially available for suitable projects and other Network activities such as seminars, administration and scholarships. Membership does not guarantee project proposal funding.

# Membership Guidelines

Application for Membership is via Expression of Interest and Membership acceptance is at the discretion of the Network Advisory Board.

The Network is governed by an Advisory Board that includes representation from DST and Network Members, as well as independent members.

The Network has three foundation university members: Curtin University, Edith Cowan University and the University of Western Australia. Curtin University will initially act as the Network Agent.

Membership will be reviewed periodically by the Network Advisory Board and new members may be invited to join. Inactive members may be asked to leave the Network.

An Interim Advisory Board will govern the Network for the first 12 months of operation. The Interim Advisory Board is chaired by retired submariner Steve Davies (CDRE ret) of Nova Systems, supported by independent members Dr Margaret Law (Naval Group) and Pat Hall (Independent Director), DST representative Dr David Gamble, and university representatives Dr Andrew Dowse (Edith Cowan University), Pru Ayling (University of Western Australia) and Tim Walton (Curtin University).

# Membership Benefits

Members of the Network are able to apply for project funding opportunities presented by the Network. Up to \$2 million per annum will initially be available for suitable projects and other Network activities that support the building of capacity and capability of Australian universities.

What's in it for members?



## Projects, Education and Training

- Funding for Network research projects
- Opportunities to improve outcomes for students (placements, scholarships, internships, jobs) and support for early career researchers



## Build and Strengthen Relationships

- Opportunity to understand DST and Defence's research priorities and influence the future research landscape
- Strengthen relationships with Defence, DST, research institutions and industry



## Build Internal Capability

- Opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to their own researchers in areas supported by the Network
- Opportunity to build university branding around defence: Improving the lives and working environment of Australia's defence personnel and contributing to Australia's sovereign capability

# Membership Commitment

Members will need to demonstrate a continuing, meaningful contribution to the Network (which will be determined by the Network Advisory Board) and may include, but will not be limited, to the following categories:

- Contributing to building capability and capacity by leading and/or participating in funded projects;
- In-kind contributions to cover some operational costs of the Network including research facilities, office space, and meeting room space;
- In-kind contributions providing administrative or technical support staff;
- In-kind contributions to cover the cost of events such as project reviews, seminars, symposiums or other Network activities.

The level of commitment required will be reassessed and re-defined from time to time by the Network Advisory Board.

# Projects Overview

For the first (2019) call for Expressions of Interest for Projects, up to \$2 million will be available for suitable projects and other Network activities.

- Projects can be based in **any discipline that is of relevance** to the Network's research topics of interest and can address specific problems or opportunities identified as key priorities.
- The maximum funding request is \$500,000 over 3 years. No minimum funding or time limits.
- Collaborators can be drawn from other Network Members or any other Australian university which has executed the DSPD.
- Applications must demonstrate the ability to at least match (in cash or in-kind) the level of funds requested.
- Project Expressions of Interest will be solicited from academics of Network Members. Full proposals are to be submitted by invitation only.
- Project funding will be provided on delivery of milestones and deliverables.

Detailed information can be found in the 2019 Project Application Guidelines (which will be released with the call for Expressions of Interest for Projects).



# Research Investment Strategy Overview

The Network has identified four areas critical to building undersea decision superiority over the long term; Human Mental Performance, Team Performance, Human Physical Performance and Data & Information. The areas are prioritised into two streams for the year, major and minor investments.

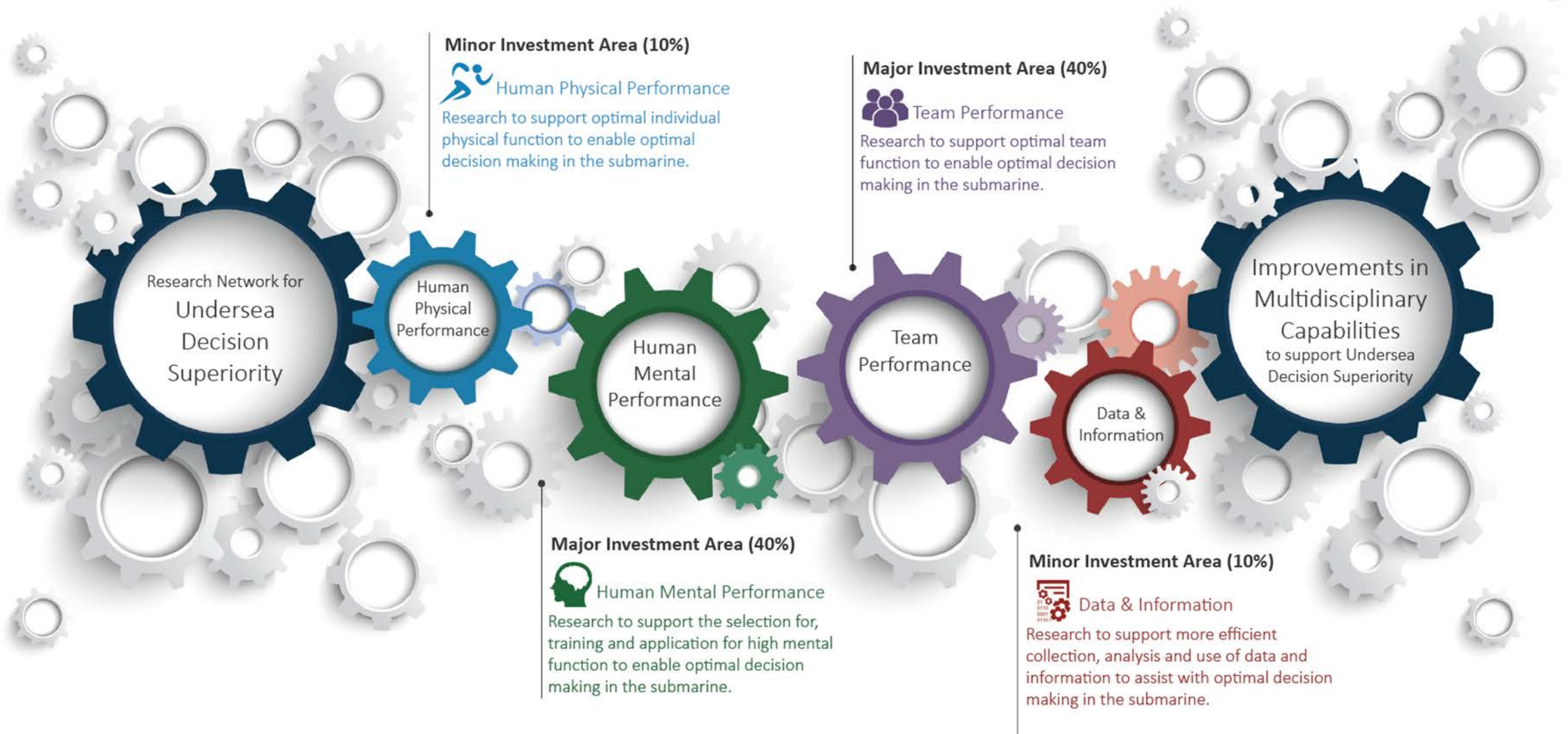
Expressions of interest and proposals for project funding from the Network will be expected to address specific needs or opportunities identified in the current Network Strategic Investment Plan and must demonstrate how the project aligns with the defined research priority areas.

A wide range of scientific disciplines have the ability to contribute to providing solutions, ranging from exercise physiologists, ergonomists, workplace psychologists, nutritionists, data analysts, and biomedical scientists to integration engineers, human factors researchers and others.

The Network strongly supports multidisciplinary research and will place a greater emphasis on projects that can build capability across disciplines.

The Network Investment Strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure continuous building of capability in areas that support undersea decision making.

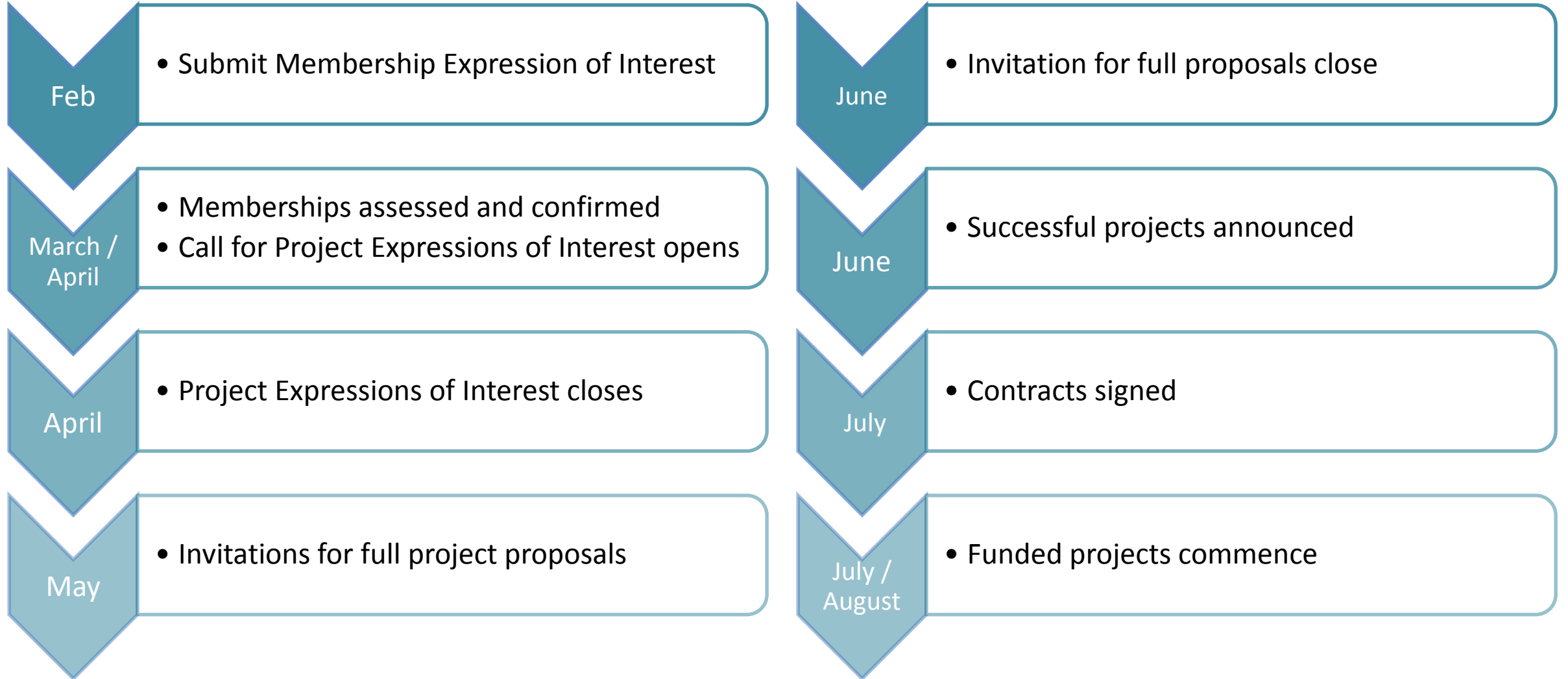
# Research Investment Priority Areas



# Joining the Network

Application	Complete the Network Membership Expression of Interest form and submit to the Project Director: <a href="mailto:Sharon.Humphris@curtin.edu.au">Sharon.Humphris@curtin.edu.au</a> by 25 March 2019.
Assessment	Network Membership Expression of Interest assessed by the Network Advisory Board.
Notification	University advised of outcome after assessment by the Network Advisory Board and provided Network Agreement.
Join	Review of Network Agreement and execution of Deed of Accession.
Contribution	Member contributes to the Network by participating in research projects and other activities.

# 2019 Network Timeline



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

Contact:

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