



Australian Government  
Department of Defence  
Science and Technology

# Research Network for Undersea Decision Superiority Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



# Membership FAQs

## **Who can join the Network?**

- The objective of the Network is to develop Australian research capability and capacity. Therefore, applications for membership will be accepted from any research organisation that is a signatory to the Defence Science Partnering Deed (DSPD).

## **When will I find out the outcomes of Membership expressions of interest (EOIs)?**

- Applicants will be informed as soon as practical. Applications will be considered at the April 2019 Advisory Board meeting. Efforts will be made to ensure that membership is in place for researchers submitting project expressions of interest.

## **When will expressions of interest (EOIs) for Research Projects open?**

- The call for Projects was opened in March 2019.

# Membership FAQs

## What is meant by co-investment?

- The Network expects university partners to co-invest in both the Network and in individual projects to develop a focussed research capability and capacity that has the ability to deliver outcomes for Defence into the future.
- For Network membership, this will take the form of activities contributing to the aims of the Network such as promoting the development of capability and capacity through research projects or supporting the operation of the network.
- Minimum contributions will be determined by the Advisory Board from time to time and may include, but may not be limited to, contributions falling within the following categories:
  - 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;
  - Contributing to building capability and capacity by leading and/or participating in funded projects;
  - In-kind contributions to cover the cost of events such as project reviews, seminars, symposiums or other Network activities;
  - Participation as an Advisory Board member or Research Advisory Committee member;
  - Cash contributions.

# 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 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 a 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 expressions of interest and project proposals will be disclosed to the 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 a proposal?**

- 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 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 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 a 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 conducted as research or collaborative 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 conducted as research or collaborative 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 DSP, 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 will be 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 a proposal 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.

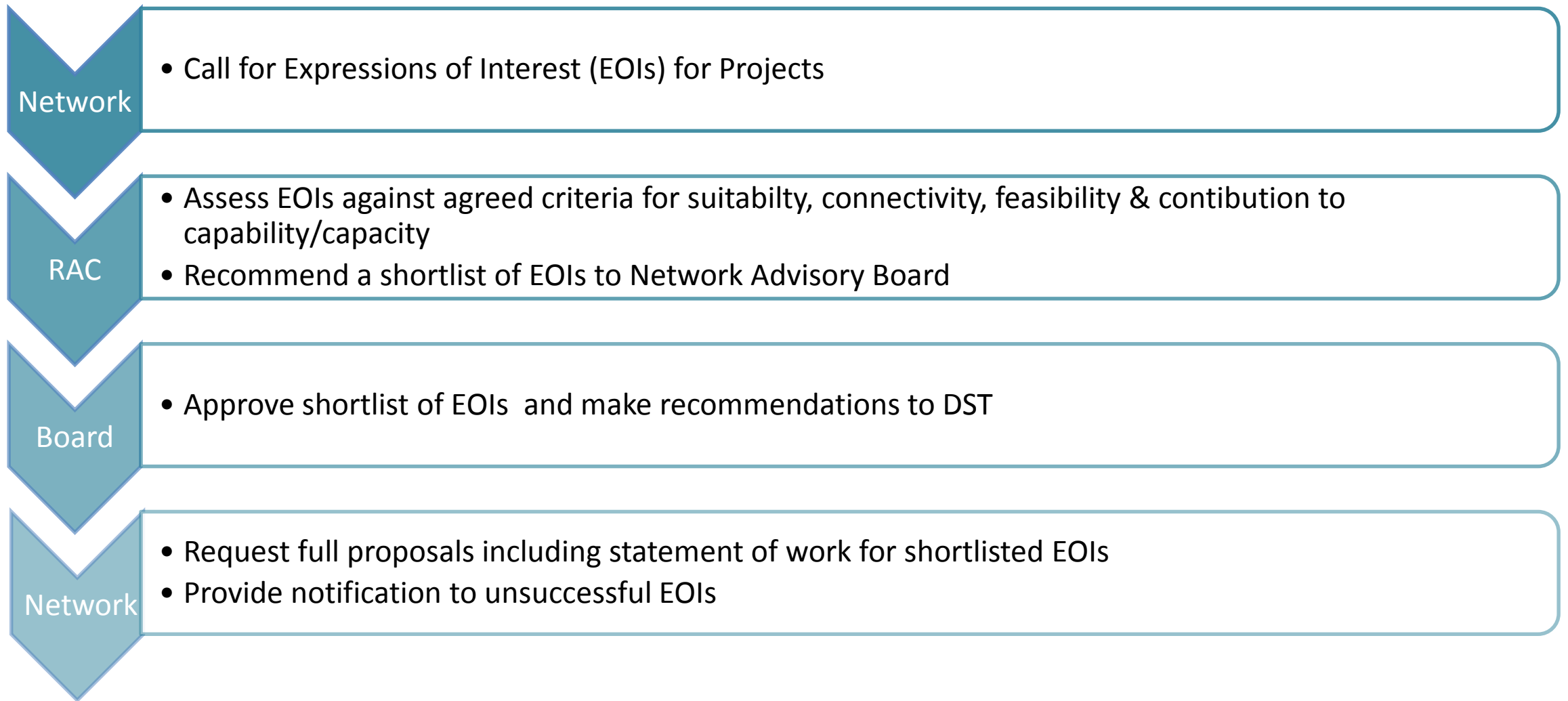
## **When will I find out the outcomes of project EOIs?**

- 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.

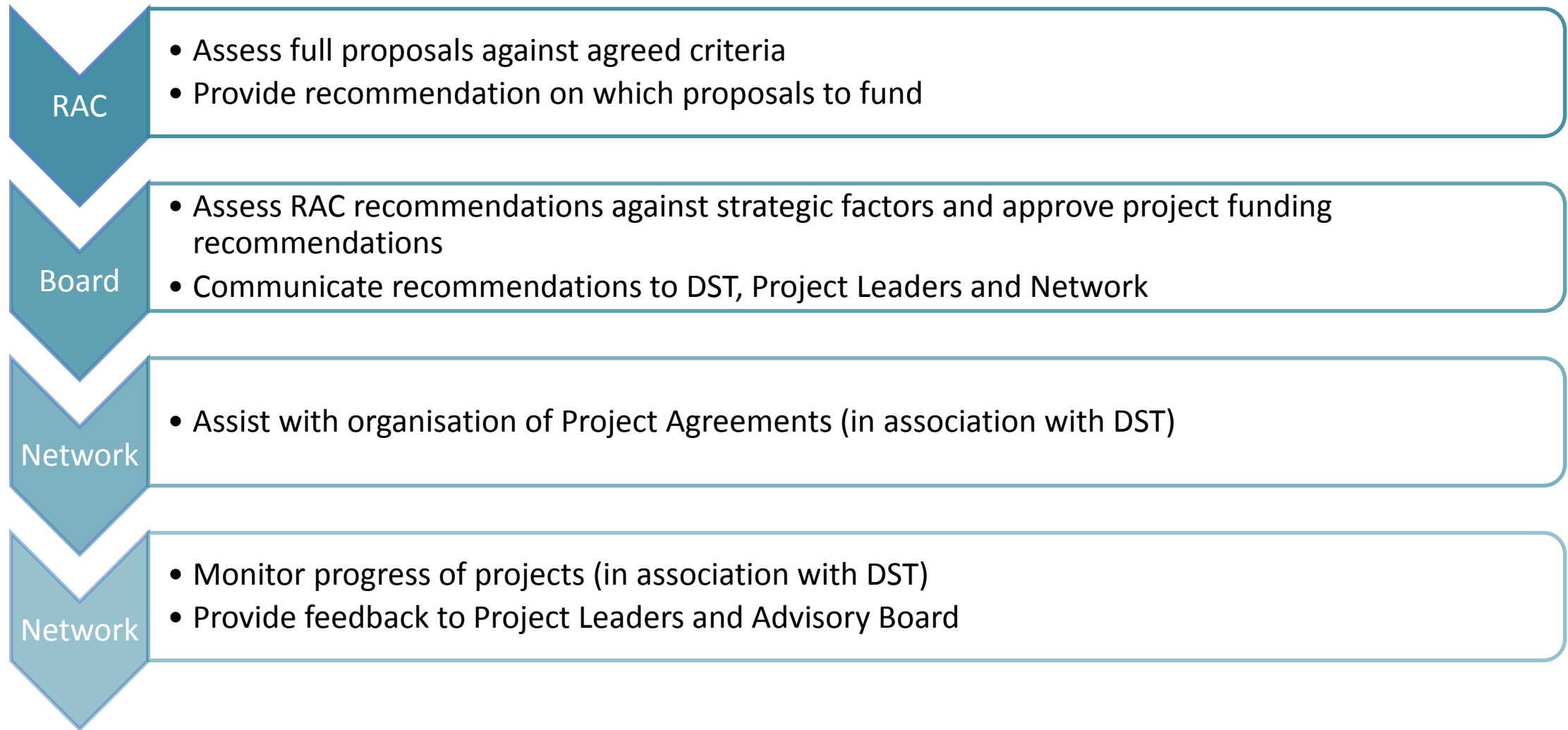
## **How can I get more information?**

- 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 Project Director, Sharon Humphris, email: [Sharon.Humphris@curtin.edu.au](mailto: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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