



Australian Government  
Department of Defence  
Science and Technology

Research Network for Undersea Decision Superiority

# Research Project Funding Guidelines



# Background

Defence Science and Technology Group (DST), as part of the Future Submarine Program Science and Technology Plan, is seeking to establish a long term research initiative 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.

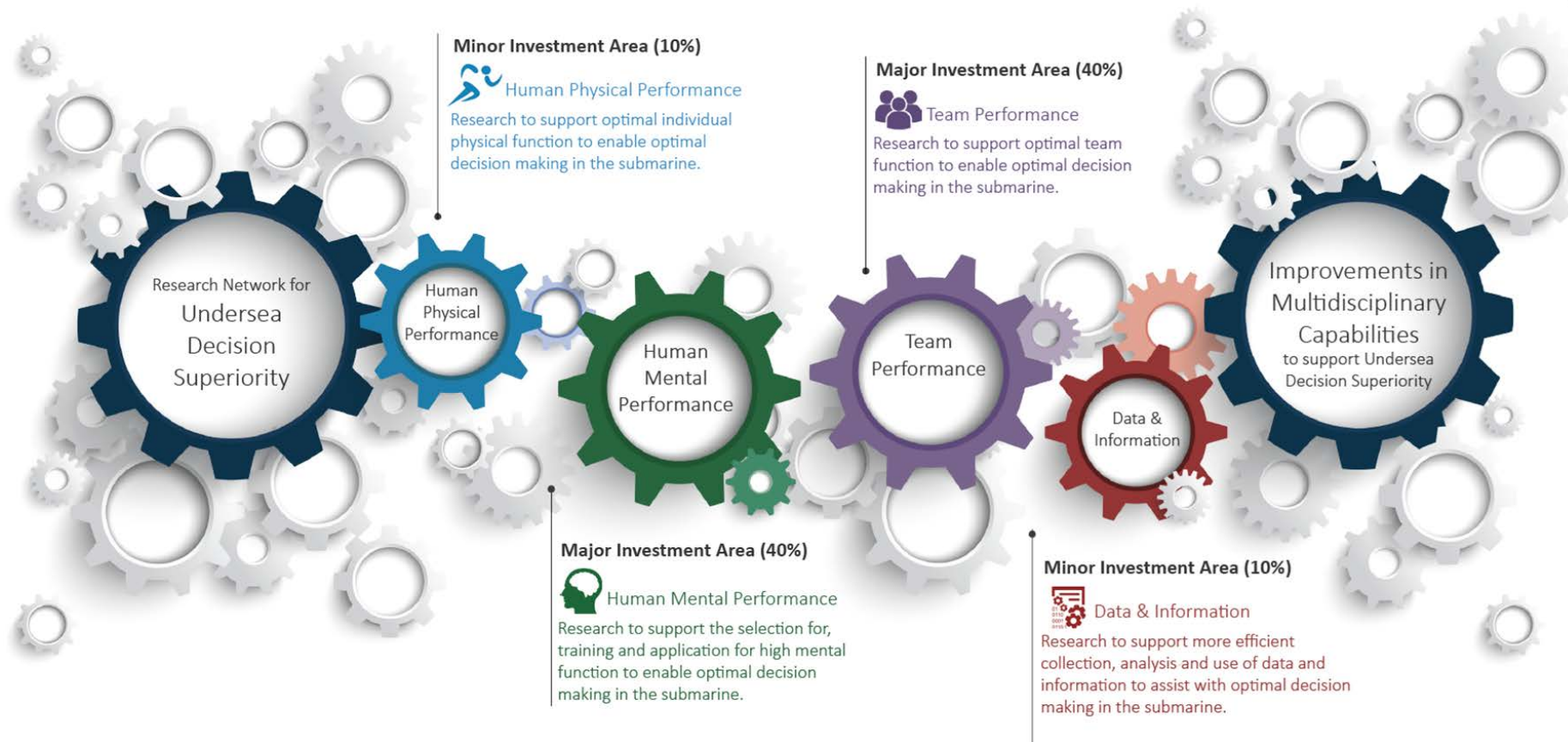
Enabling submariners to make the best decisions possible in a challenging information environment has been identified as an area of focus for research to improve future capability.

This initiative, the Research Network for Undersea Decision Superiority (the 'Network'), focuses on the human element and will provide a mechanism to fund and oversee research projects that lead to improved decision making in the context of future submarine operations.

Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis to participating universities to undertake research projects that contribute to the Network's research objectives. There is no guarantee that any project application will be approved or fully funded.

# Areas of Interest

Expressions of interest and research proposals will be expected to demonstrate alignment with at least one of the investment areas identified in the Network Strategic Investment Plan (summary below). Please note research funding principles on pages 8-10.



# Eligibility

- Academics from members of the RN-UDS are able to apply for project funding opportunities presented by the Network.
- Network membership is open to all university signatories to DST Group's Defence Science Partnering Deed (DSPD).
- The lead investigator must be employed by and undertake the project at an Australian university which has executed a Deed of Accession to the RN-UDS Network Agreement.
- Collaborators can be drawn from other Network Members or any other Australian university which has executed the DSPD.
- Co-contributions will be considered favourably in the assessment criteria. Applications must demonstrate the ability to at least match (in cash or in-kind) the level of funds requested.
- Successful research proposals will be funded as research agreements under the DSPD.

# Eligibility

- Successful projects must enter into a Schedule 3 Research Agreement or Schedule 4 Collaborative Research Agreement with DST under the Defence Science Partnering Deed (DSPD).
- All students participating in projects must be Australian citizens and must enter into a Schedule 14 Student Participation and IP Deed, and as required, Schedule 7 Scholarship (Project-Based) Funding Agreement under the DSPD.
- Projects can be based in any discipline that is of relevance to the Network's research areas of interest. A wide range of scientific disciplines could have the ability to contribute to providing solutions, ranging from exercise physiologists, ergonomists, workplace psychologists, nutritionists and biomedical scientists to integration engineers, human factors researchers and others.
- Multidisciplinary proposals are encouraged.

# Funds Available

For the first (2019) call for Expressions of Interest for Projects, up to \$2 million will be available for suitable projects, administration and other Network activities. Project selection will be subject to the acceptance of Network funding recommendations by DST.

The request for funds must detail the entire project's budget, not just the first year's budget.

# Project Proposal Timeframe

Milestones for the RN-UDS 2019 funding scheme are shown below. Deadlines for applicants are in **bold**.

Date	Milestone
18 March 2019	Call for Project Expressions of Interest (EOIs) opens
14 April 2019	<b>Deadline for EOI submission</b>
May 2019	EOI evaluation completed Shortlisted applicants invited to submit proposals
June 2019 (TBC)	<b>Deadline for proposal submission</b>
June 2019	Approved projects announced
July 2019 (TBC)	<b>Deadline for execution of Research Agreement</b>



# Research Funding Principles

The Network is seeking fundamental and applied research aligned with the Strategic Investment Plan that can demonstrate how it will develop Australia's national research capacity and capability, provide research training, and produce opportunities to further build Australia's sovereign knowledge base. The following principles apply to Network investment decisions:

- **Unclassified research.** Research projects should address a problem of significance with the aim to increase the body of relevant knowledge rather than respond to specific problems.
- **Investment is subject to Advisory Board recommendations and DST approval.** Submissions will be assessed and ranked against agreed criteria by a Research Advisory Committee (RAC). All Network research investment recommendations will be subject to the approval of the Network Advisory Board and DST.
- **Alignment with Network Strategic Investment Plan.** The Strategic Investment Plan sets out the research strategy for the Network. EOIs and proposals will be expected to demonstrate alignment with the Plan.



# Research Funding Principles

- **Advancement in Australia's sovereign research capability and capacity.** Central to the Strategic Investment Plan is the objective of achieving improvement in Australia's ongoing research capability and capacity in a manner that is most efficient for the research funds expended. The Network encourages projects that will develop national research capacity and capability and therefore promote effective collaboration and research training.
- **Open call for Expressions of Interest from Network Member universities.** It is recognised that preparing full proposals requires considerable investment in resources and time and therefore, in the first instance, brief and concise Expressions of Interest will be solicited. The highest ranked EOIs will be shortlisted and a full proposal invited from shortlisted applicants. Feedback to applicants of shortlisted EOIs may comprise suggestions such as to include or exclude certain objectives, to restructure the project, to adjust the funding requirements, to consider or build on results of previous projects, to consider collaborating with other organisations or disciplines, or to combine similar or complementary EOIs. For strategic or budget reasons, the Network may also request the full proposal to be submitted at a later date.

# Research Funding Principles

- **Proposals by invitation only.** Full proposals are to be submitted by invitation only based on shortlisted EOIs. Unsolicited proposals will not be considered.
- **Payment on milestones and deliverables.** Project funding will be provided in a phased or gated manner strictly to acceptable milestone and deliverable progress. Agreed milestones and deliverables will be incorporated into a schedule to the Research Agreement based on those included in the proposal.

# Project Guidelines

## Research Network Funding†

Funding Limits	<p>The maximum funding request is \$500,000 over 3 years. The funding request must cover the entire project budget.</p> <p>There is no minimum funding limit.</p>
Project length	<p>Maximum of 3 years. Funding will be provided in 1 year increments with the option to extend the project in a stage-gated manner, subject to annual review. The funds will be paid in instalments, on signing of the project agreement and acceptance of each milestone and deliverable until the final report.</p>
Co-contribution	<p>Applications must demonstrate the ability to match or exceed (in cash or in-kind) the level of funds requested.</p> <p>Both cash and in-kind contributions will be assessed favourably.</p>

†Based on DSPD. Note DSPD conditions take priority in case of conflict.

# Project Guidelines

## Research Network Funding†

Eligible cash expenditure	<p><b>Personnel:</b> Salaries &amp; fellowships (plus direct on-costs) and student scholarships or stipends. Calculated as per Research Rates 1-3 for research salaries applied in the DSPD (representing on-costs and non-salary costs). [Usually Research Rate 2: [(Direct Salary Costs + Direct Salary On-costs) x 1.40] + (Non-Salary Costs x 1.15)].</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> University infrastructure costs, services, access to equipment and facilities.</p> <p><b>Materials/Consumables:</b> Direct research costs including materials, consumables, and operational expenses.</p> <p><b>Travel:</b> Domestic and international travel costs for directly related fieldwork, necessary collaboration activities, and conferences.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> Directly related, justifiable costs not considered above.</p>
Ineligible cash expenditure	<p>Activities already funded by other Australian Government schemes.</p> <p>Capital works, minor or major equipment or infrastructure.</p> <p>Basic facilities (accommodation, library, IT, telecommunications).</p>

†Based on DSPD. Note DSPD conditions take priority in case of conflict.

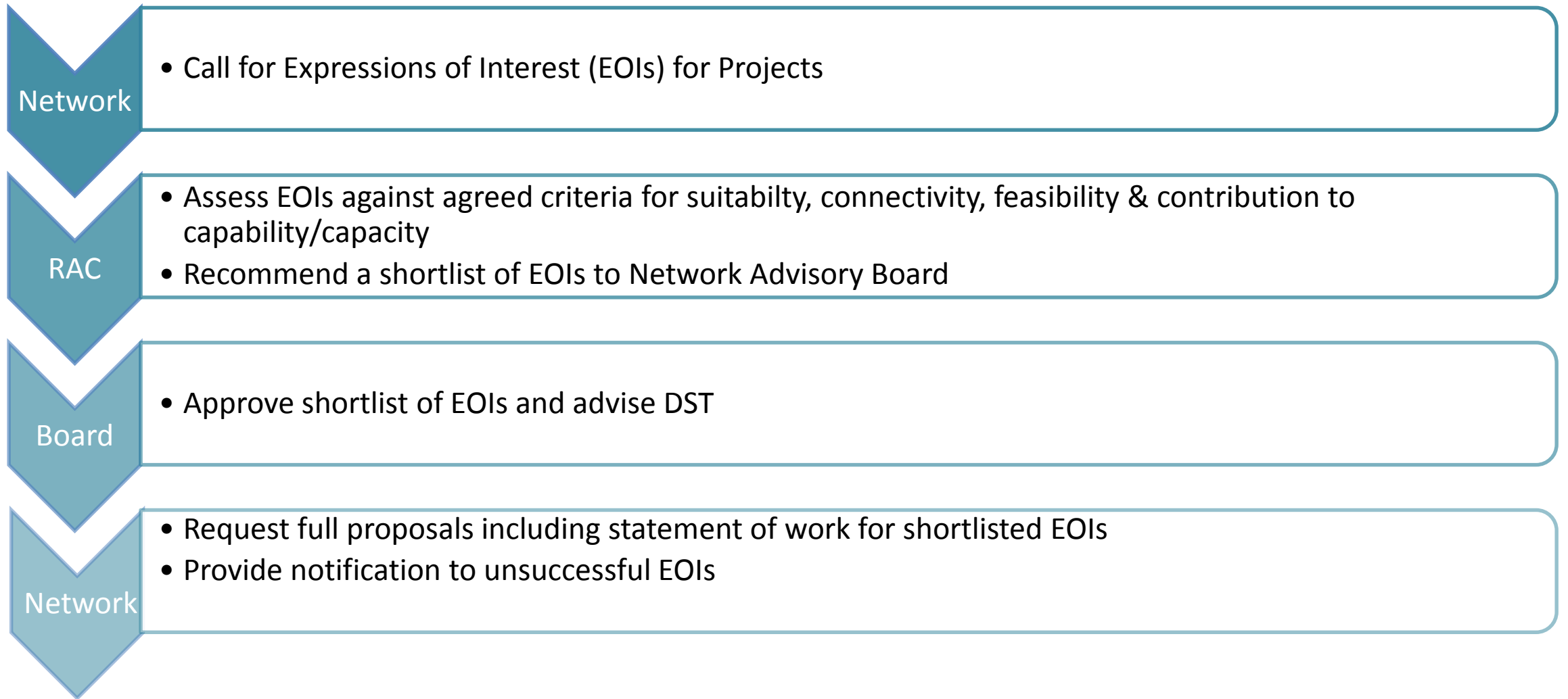
# Project Guidelines

## In-kind Contribution†

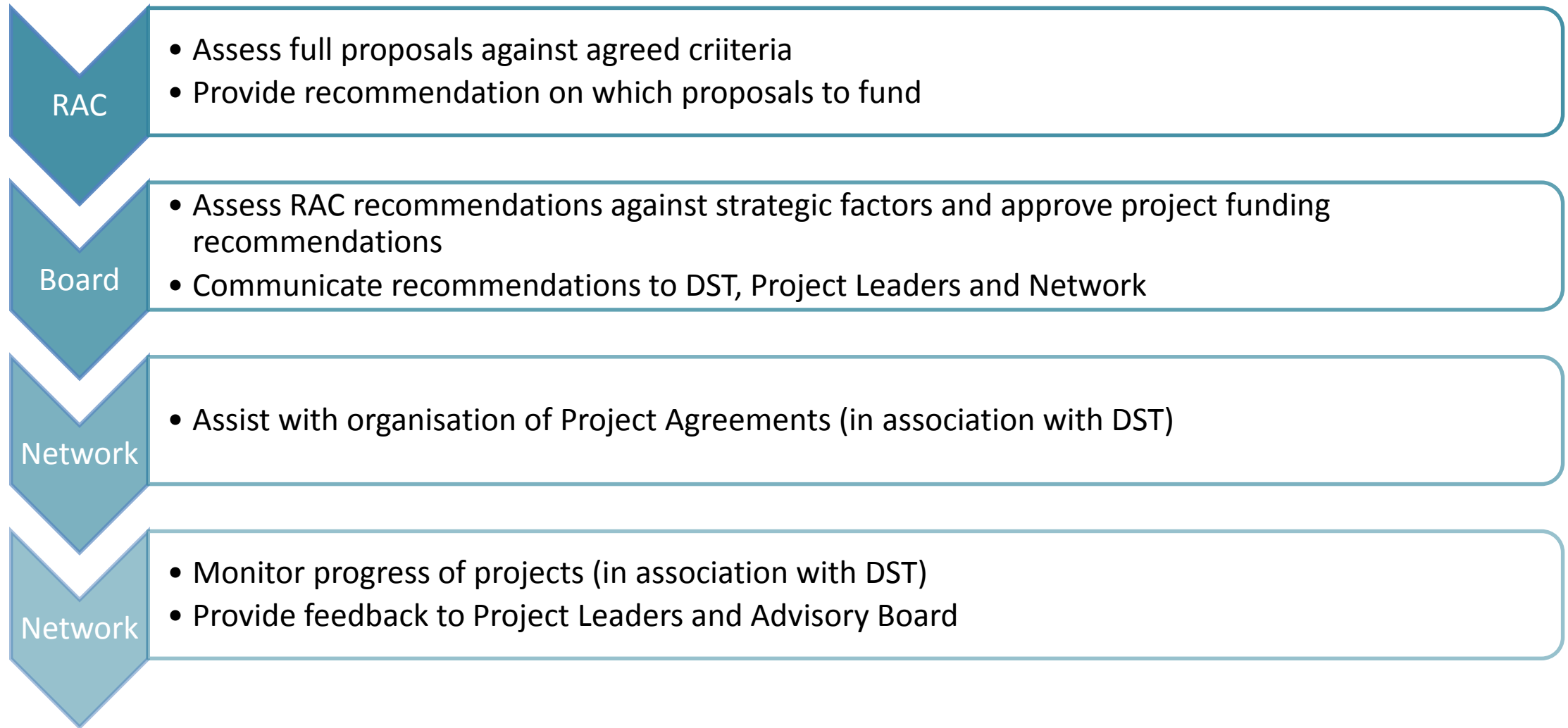
Eligible contributions	<p><b>Personnel:</b> calculated as per the Research Rates 1-3 applied in the DSPD (as above) for research personnel.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Access to capital items or services based on proportional internal running costs and depreciation by usage.</p> <p><b>Indirect costs:</b> Indirect research costs</p>
Ineligible contributions	<p>Development costs for existing equipment, facilities, materials, or systems.</p> <p>Commercial or charge-out rates for access to facilities or services.</p>

†Based on DSPD. Note DSPD conditions take priority in case of conflict.

# Assessment Process



# Assessment Process





# Selection Criteria

Expressions of Interest and proposals will be evaluated by the Network's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) against four technical and strategic criteria – Suitability, Connectivity, Feasibility and Contribution to Australian Capability. All criteria have equal weighting.

Criteria	Factors
Suitability	The degree of innovation and quality of research applied to a problem of significance Alignment of the research proposal with the advertised RN-UDS research focus and Strategic Investment Plan Extent to which the proposal increases the knowledge base Research rather than development based
Connectivity	Extent to which the problem and solution identifies and involves an appropriate multi-disciplinary approach - <i>and/or</i> Extent to which the proposal involves Defence and/or develops cross- and inter-disciplinary relationships

# Selection Criteria

Criteria	Factors
Feasibility	Extent to which the proposal is likely to meet its stated objectives i.e. through track record of investigators - <i>and/or</i> Extent to which the proposal addresses and manages risk of failure to deliver research outcomes
Contribution to Australian Capability	Contribution of the proposal to the development of Australia's future research capability and capacity Level of co-contribution

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.

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