Australian Government



**Department of Defence** Science and Technology



# **MEECAT – expert elicitation system**

DST has developed an online tool that facilitates the rapid discovery of knowledge and prioritisation of ideas.

Often the first step in discovering the reasons behind complex phenomena is to 'ask the experts'.

DST has created a tool that enables expert opinion to be quickly and easily distilled, analysed and interpreted.

MEECAT, the Maritime Expert Elicitation Capability Assessment Tool, was originally developed for maritime capability assessments, but can be used for any issue or evaluation.

It is a proof-of-concept web application and facilitation process, designed to help groups of experts systematically identify the major themes and issues about a topic in a way that supports rapid knowledge discovery and prioritisation of ideas.

## **Technology features**

MEECAT is part survey, part blog, part social media. It uses a range of quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques, supported by visualisations to help identify and understand the substantive issues about a topic, the pros and cons, along with the relationships between these themes.

### Uses

MEECAT can be used for any discussion topics. Typically, MEECAT is used for Defence Capability Assessments where subject matter experts are brought together to rate the performance of different subject items and provide contextual information explaining the justification for their inputs. These results are used to inform capability improvements and further research.

### **Benefits**

Implemented as a web application MEECAT allows debates and prioritisations to take place simultaneously, over a period of time, or from dispersed locations.

### **Partnering opportunities**

DST is looking for a partner to help develop the product by advancing the text processing algorithms and designing new modes of analysis and information visualisations.



For more information contact: PartnerWithDST@dst.defence.gov.au