



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF DEFENCE SCIENTIST

The \$730 million Next Generation Technologies Fund is an exciting and bold program, focussed on delivering game-changing capabilities for Australia's Defence Force.

To deliver on this 10 year forward-looking program, Defence is partnering with industry, universities and other publicly funded research agencies through a range of small, medium and large-scale initiatives that will drive innovation and meet the technology challenges of the future.

The Grand Challenges program is one of the primary initiatives. A grand challenge is a highly complex and seemingly intractable problem which requires new ideas and technologies for a solution based on multi-disciplinary research and wide-ranging collaboration.

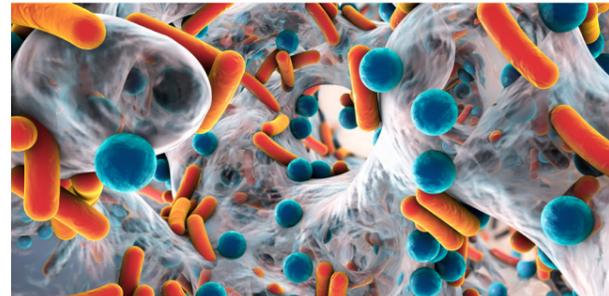
This type of research program was pioneered by the USA when in 1961 President John Kennedy set the challenge of taking a man to the moon and safely returning to earth within a decade. To achieve this mission NASA had to solve complex

multidisciplinary problems with a team of scientists and engineers working together, a team of teams.

In 2017 we used this approach to counter improvised threats with our first Grand Challenge. Defence awarded \$19 million to fund 13 proposals in collaboration with over 20 partners to develop a threat detection and defeat system over 4 years. Since its launch, our Grand Challenges program has garnered considerable attention both nationally and internationally.

We welcome proposals from the innovation community for solutions to the Grand Challenges we announce in the years ahead and look forward to working together on delivering successful outcomes for Defence future capability.

Dr Alex Zelinsky
Chief Defence Scientist



DEFENCE INNOVATION WEBSITE

The Department of Defence welcomes your innovative ideas, no matter how big or small. If you work for a university, research agency, multinational, have your own business, belong to a think-tank or anything in between. Defence wants to hear from you. The website is home to Defence innovation priorities and helpful documents like our new intellectual property strategy and contracting framework. It's also where you can submit your innovation proposals to our two signature innovation programs – the Next Generation Technologies Fund and the Defence Innovation Hub.

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GRAND CHALLENGES PROGRAM LEAD

Dr Roger Neill
grandchallenges@dst.defence.gov.au



Australian Government



DEFENCE INDUSTRY & INNOVATION

NEXT GENERATION TECHNOLOGIES FUND

Grand Challenges

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