

Priority areas

Through extensive consultation with the national security community, six national security S&T priority areas have been identified:

Cyber Security

- Anticipate vulnerabilities
- Strengthen cyber systems and critical infrastructure
- Enhance response and recovery from cyber attack



Intelligence

- Data sources / collection
- Data analytics / integration
- Dissemination of product



Border Security and Identity Management

- Biometric capabilities
- Identity management / people scanning / tracking
- CBRNE screening / detection
- Other screening / detection



Investigative Support and Forensic Science

- Detection and collection (overt / discreet)
- Rapid analysis (in-field)
- Deep analysis / forensic data analytics
- Attribution



Preparedness, Protection, Prevention and Incident Response

- CBRNE detection / protection / response
- Other first responder capabilities
- Physical and social resilience
- Forecasting, modelling and risk assessment
- Information management



Technology Foresighting

- Cyber / digital disruption
- Advanced sensors
- Stand-off sensing
- Autonomous systems
- Advanced materials
- CBRN / medical countermeasures
- Enhanced human performance
- Biometrics



DSCZ004



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Science and Technology

The National Security Science and Technology Centre



Key Contacts

Dr Richard Davis

Chief Technology Officer – National Security
richard.davis@dst.defence.gov.au
(02) 6128 6590

General Enquiries

nstcexternal@dst.defence.gov.au

The National Security Science and Technology Centre

Due to the fast moving nature of the terrorist threat, Australia needs to remain on the forefront of science and technology (S&T) in order to remain agile and anticipative of new and emerging threats.

Australia's national security arrangements are underpinned by multiple agencies working across diverse areas. The National Security Science and Technology Centre (NSSTC) within Defence Science and Technology (DST) coordinates whole-of-government science and technology for national security in order to prioritise requirements, reduce duplication and improve impact. To achieve this, DST fosters academic, industry and international partnerships to build a targeted national science and technology capability and leverage state of the art capabilities for Australia.

In addition, the NSSTC manages the DST national security science and technology program to maximise dual-use applications of DST sovereign capabilities.

The NSSTC is led by the Chief Technology Officer with team members located in Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Responsibilities

The NSSTC is responsible for:

- **Coordinating whole-of-government national security S&T** with two key mechanisms being the inter-departmental committee – NSST IDC (Australian border protection, law enforcement, intelligence and policy agencies) and the Australian New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee – ANZCTC (first responders).
- **Fostering academic and industry S&T partnerships** with publicly funded research agencies (PFRAs), industry and academia.
- **Fostering international research collaboration** through partnerships with the Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office and Department of Homeland Security in the US, the Home Office in the UK, Centre for Security Science in Canada, New Zealand, and the recently established 5RD council.
- **Managing DST's national security S&T program** to drive dual-use application of sovereign DST technology.

Requirements



Coordinate Whole-of-Government National Security S&T

S&T Providers



Foster international research collaboration
Foster academic and industry S&T partnerships
Manage DST's National Security S&T program

5RD Council

Building on the successful bilateral engagements between our allied nations, a Five Nation Research and Development Council (5RD) has been established which seeks to create new opportunities to deliver more efficient and cost-effective access to results, expand research, development, testing, and evaluation capacity, and offset limitations in a constrained environment.



Policy and Priorities

The National Security Science and Technology Policy and Priorities were endorsed by the NSST IDC and released by The Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, on 1 May 2018, an action articulated in the Defence Industry Policy Statement. The Policy and Priorities provide the science industry community with visibility of the endorsed national security science and technology focus areas, governance arrangements and engagement mechanisms.