

PRIORITY AREAS

The six national security science and technology priority areas are:

Technology Foresighting



The ability to monitor, analyse and evaluate the implications of scientific and technological developments to prevent strategic and tactical surprise.

Intelligence



The ability to collect, analyse, integrate, assess and disseminate intelligence with the accuracy, scale and speed required to support timely national security and intelligence decision making.

Preparedness, Protection, Prevention and Incident Response



The ability to appropriately equip and prepare Australian agencies to effectively address national security threats and natural or man-made destructive events, including mass-harm and mass-damage incidents, either by preventing their occurrence, or responding and recovering effectively if they have occurred.

Cyber Security



The ability to strengthen the cyber security and resilience of critical infrastructure and systems of national significance through the conduct of research and development, and the delivery of advanced cyber technologies, tools, techniques and education.

Border Security and Identity Management



National security community's ability to protect and secure Australia's borders from disease outbreaks, hazardous material and threats to our community, including maximum disruption effect on illegal activity and migration with projected growth in people and cargo movement across Australian borders.

Investigative Support and Forensics



Law enforcement's ability to prevent, disrupt and prosecute terrorist and criminal activities in a complex transnational and evolving digital environment.



Australian Government

THE NATIONAL SECURITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

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THE NATIONAL SECURITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Given the commitment and capacity of adversaries to engineer smarter, more agile and increasingly innovative technologies to threaten our national security, and the growing challenges arising from our natural environment that test the resilience of our society and national systems, Australia needs to remain at the forefront of science and technology in order to remain agile and anticipative of new and emerging threats.

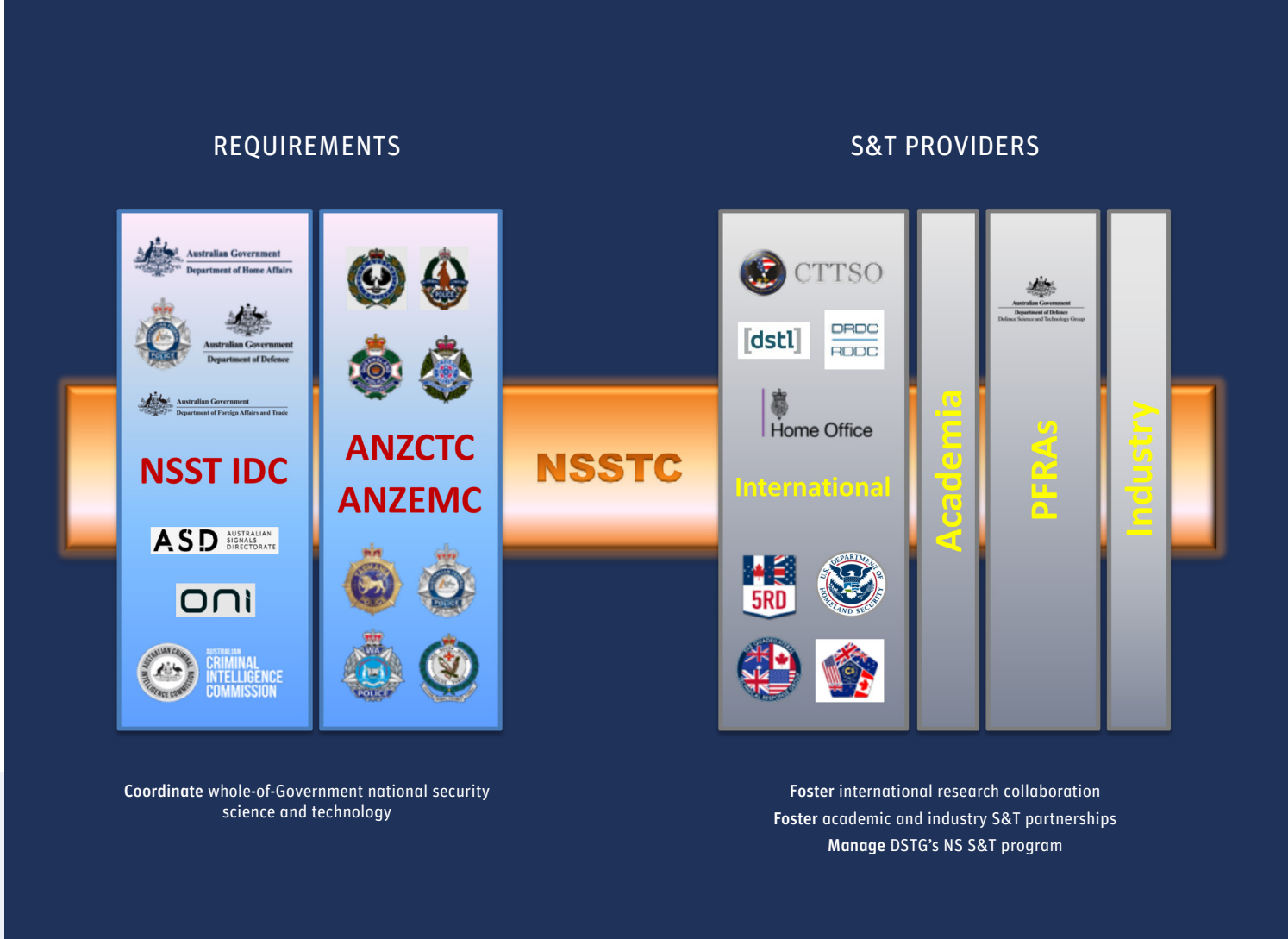
Australia’s national security arrangements are underpinned by multiple agencies working across diverse areas. The National Security Science and Technology Centre (NSSTC) within Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) coordinates whole-of-government science and technology for national security in order to prioritise requirements, reduce duplication and improve impact. To achieve this, DSTG 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 DSTG national security science and technology program to maximise dual-use applications of sovereign capabilities.

The NSSTC is led by the Chief Technology Officer with team members located in Canberra, Sydney and Adelaide, including Science Counsellors embedded within ONI and Home Affairs.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The NSSTC is responsible for:

- Coordinating whole-of-government national security science and technology (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 5RD Council.
- Managing DSTG’s national security S&T program to drive dual-use application of sovereign Defence science and technology.



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.



NATIONAL SECURITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRIORITIES

In 2020 the National Security Science and Technology Priorities were updated with broad input, close engagement and agreement across the national security community and released on 13 October 2020 by the Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC. This is a thorough update to the 2018 Policy and Priorities, with greater consideration given to recent challenges such as national resilience and biosecurity, and provides the science and industry community with visibility of the endorsed science and technology areas where we seek alignment, partnership and activity.