

Call for Submissions – Assessment Criteria and Assessment Process

Assessment Criteria

Each submission in response to the Call for Submissions (CFS) will be assessed against the following criteria, not in any order of importance:

- a. Suitability** - *The extent to which the proposed innovation could further the effectiveness of a Defence capability, enterprise, or technology challenge*

Defence will consider the following elements in making an assessment against this criterion:

- (i) the extent to which the respondent's submission clearly articulates and explains the proposed innovation; and
- (ii) the extent to which the proposed innovation is unique, and would provide a new or enhanced capability, or improves Defence's effectiveness and efficiency through innovation.

- b. Feasibility** - *The extent to which the proposed innovation will be able to be developed and adopted with relevant defence systems, from a technology perspective*

Defence will consider, in making an assessment against this criterion, the current technology readiness level of the proposed innovation, and the relevance and credibility of any claims made by the respondent relating to the feasibility of the proposed innovation.

- c. Timeliness** - *The anticipated timeframe that the proposed innovation would require to realise a positive impact on Defence capability.*

Defence will consider, in making an assessment against this criterion, the extent to which the proposed timeline and duration of the proposed innovation aligns with timelines for any Defence capability requirements or related activities undertaken by Defence.

- d. Contribution to Australia's defence industry capability** - *The extent to which the proposed innovation has the potential to improve or contribute to Australia's defence Industry capability and capacity.*

Balance of Investment

After each submission is assessed against the criteria, Defence will consider the submissions it has received to ensure that it maintains a balanced portfolio of investments.

Defence's objective is to ensure a portfolio of investments is maintained that achieves an appropriate balance across capability streams, technology sectors and the innovation lifecycle.

Defence will seek to ensure the submissions that are selected to be invited to progress to Request for Proposal (RFP) will meet the current balanced portfolio objectives. This assessment may be dependent on the existing composition of investments.

Balance of investment considerations will include:

- **Alignment to Defence priorities** - priority may be given to submissions that align with Defence's innovation investment priorities for the relevant financial year, but there is no guarantee that all submissions aligned to the highest priority, or any identified priority, will be progressed
- **Diversity** – Defence's objective is to ensure a portfolio of investments is maintained that achieves an appropriate balance across capability streams and technology sectors.
- **Innovation lifecycle** - Defence's objective is to ensure a portfolio of investments that is spread across the innovation lifecycle and which is likely to meet current and future Defence requirements. A mix of proposals at different technology readiness levels is desirable.
- **Financial considerations** – a submission may not progress if Defence does not have the budget to support it.

Clarification and exclusion from further consideration

At any stage during the assessment process, Defence may:

- seek clarification of your submission in accordance with clause 4 of the Terms; or
- exclude your submission from further consideration in accordance with clause 9 of the Terms.

Advice on outcome

Respondents will be advised of the outcome of their submission.

Request for Proposal

Respondents with successful CFS submissions will be invited to participate in a RFP process, in which more detailed information will be sought and a more detailed assessment of the proposal undertaken.

The RFP will be subject to its own terms and conditions.

However, assessment of the proposal will include assessment against the assessment criteria, consideration of balance of investment considerations and strategic considerations. An overview of RFP process is provided below:

RFP Assessment Criteria

Each proposal submitted in response to a RFP will be evaluated on the basis of likelihood to result in best value for money consistent with Commonwealth procurement policies, utilising the proposal evaluation criteria outlined below. Neither the lowest priced proposal nor any proposal will necessarily be selected.

Proposals submitted in response to a RFP will be assessed against the following criteria, not in any order of importance:

- a. Suitability** - *The extent to which the proposed innovation could further the effectiveness of a Defence capability, enterprise or technology challenge*

Defence will consider the following elements in making an assessment against this criterion:

- (i) the extent to which the Respondent's submission clearly articulates and explains the proposed innovation; and
- (ii) the extent to which the proposed innovation is unique, and would provide a new or enhanced capability, or improves Defence's effectiveness and efficiency through innovation.

- b. Feasibility** - *The extent to which the proposed innovation will be able to be developed and adopted with relevant defence systems, from a technology perspective*

Defence will consider the following elements in making an assessment against this criterion:

- (i) the current technology readiness level of the proposed innovation, and the relevance and credibility of any claims made by the Respondent relating to the feasibility of the proposed innovation;
- (ii) the level of effort that is required to implement the proposed innovation into the relevant Defence system or platform; and
- (iii) the extent to which the proposed innovation can be applied to a platform or system that is readily available for modification.

- c. Timeliness** - *The anticipated timeframe that the proposed innovation would require to realise a positive impact on Defence capability.*

Defence will consider, in making an assessment against this criterion, the extent to which the proposed timeline and duration of the proposed innovation aligns with timelines for any Defence capability requirements or related activities undertaken by Defence.

- d. Contribution to Australia's Defence industry capability** - *The extent to which the proposed innovation will improve or contribute to Australia's Defence Industry capability and capacity.*

- e. Cost** – *The cost of the proposed innovation, including contract price, Defence items and any other costs to Defence.*

- f. Organisational Capability and Capacity** – *The extent to which the respondent is capable of, and has the capacity to, successfully progress the proposed innovation now and into the future.*

Defence will consider the following elements in making an assessment against this criterion:

- (i) the extent of the project management capability of the respondent, and appropriateness of any proposed or existing governance arrangements;
- (ii) Financial and corporate viability and commitment of the respondent; and
- (iii) Previous performance of the respondent and their key personnel in delivering similar projects or services.

Balance of Investment

After each proposal is assessed against the criteria, Defence will consider the proposals it has received to ensure that it maintains a balanced portfolio of investments, taking into account the Balance of Investment considerations set out above.

Strategic Considerations

Following the evaluation of proposals and the consideration of the balance of investment, the recommendations for the selection of successful proposals will be reviewed by an investment advisory group who will take into account strategic and other matters that are considered relevant to the investment in innovation. The views of the advisory group or other advisers will be taken into account by the delegate when making their decision in relation to a proposal.

Defence will not be obliged to disclose to respondents any of the strategic level or other considerations that may be or are taken into account by the advisory group in forming its views, or by the delegate in making their decision in relation to a proposal.

Advice on outcome of RFP

If, as a result of the assessment process, the delegate considers that a proposal does not meet Defence's needs, Defence will advise the respondent as soon as practicable.

If a proposal is successful, the respondent will be invited to execute an Innovation Contract.