

PILOT PROJECTS: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Defence Innovation Network, an association of seven leading NSW universities, has received support from the NSW Government to fund projects with direct industry and defence focus. In August 2018, the NSW DIN hosted a number of workshops with end users from ADF, DST Group and industry. The workshops delivered various problem statements, which are the subject of this call. The DIN is calling for a limited number of well-coordinated proposals which directly address the problem statements, and which demonstrate a best team fit and distinct collaboration between member universities. For these projects, inter-university (at least two universities involved) collaboration is imperative: proposals that do not demonstrate inter-university collaboration will not be considered.

To be successful, Pilot Projects must meet the DIN's selection criteria, attached. Projects should be scoped in such a way as to be completed within a 4-12 month timeframe, and preferably employing existing research capability and capacity. To ensure substantive progress towards realistic goals, applicants may scope the project as part of a longer-term program of work, and may contain one or more milestones towards the achievement of goals towards solving the problem.

Please forward any queries to your university's main point of contact as follows:

- University of Wollongong: Stefan Delfgou, George Tomka
- University of Western Sydney: André Urfer
- University of Sydney: Richard Cislowski
- University of Technology Sydney: Arno Schaaf
- University of New South Wales: Vivienne Moyle
- Macquarie University: Mark Berlage
- University of Newcastle: Chris Wensrich

Proposals should be submitted to the named person above, by the due date **17 December 2018** using the template provided. Please communicate with your university coordinator to ensure that they have optimum visibility of progress and of intended submissions.

It is important to note that the DIN has limited funding and can support 3-5 projects up to \$200 000, depending on the value and merit of the individual proposals.

Proposals with merit may be used by the DIN, with the agreement of the applicants, to attempt to secure other sources of funding.

This year, the DIN is running a two-stage process. Both stages will be subjected to peer review. Stage 1 will be reviewed by a DST Group science and technology experts who will advise the Steering Committee relating to shortlisting of proposals. The Steering Committee may at its discretion seeks additional reviews. Selected proposals will move to Stage 2 full proposals, where additional and more detailed information will be sought from applicants.

This two-stage approach affords applicants the benefit of receiving feedback from DST Group experts and addressing any concerns raised in order to improve outcomes.

DIN expects submitting teams to correspond with the originator of the problem, during the proposal drafting stage, to ensure clarity of the objectives of the problem and alignment with end user requirements. **Once your team has formed, please contact us on info@defenceinnovationnetwork.com for contact details of the problem originator.**