



Australian Government
Defence



Dear Innovator,

The Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA) is pleased to launch the first AUKUS Innovation Challenge in conjunction with the defence innovation programs of the United Kingdom (the Defence and Security Accelerator, or DASA) and United States of America (the Defence Innovation Unit, or DIU).

ASCA is transforming the way breakthrough military solutions are delivered by rapidly translating innovative technologies into capabilities that will help take Defence further, faster. ASCA's purpose is to accelerate delivery of capability to our Australian Defence Force (ADF) through innovation.

AUKUS will deliver strategic and technological advantage by combining national strengths and pooling resources to deliver game-changing capabilities. AUKUS will break down barriers and improve cooperation and technology sharing. This initiative demonstrates the Government's commitment to the AUKUS partnership in working with the science, technology and industry sectors to deliver cutting-edge capabilities to our war fighters and secure a competitive advantage to deter threats to our regional security.

On 2 December 2023, Defence Ministers from the United Kingdom, United States and Australia announced an innovation challenge series for AUKUS Pillar II: Advanced Capabilities. The challenge series will be administered by the AUKUS Innovation Working Group (IWG), comprising representatives from all three nations. The AUKUS IWG will use each nation's respective innovation system to simultaneously run and administer challenge processes for that nation.

The first of these challenges will focus on Electronic Warfare.

ASCA invites you to respond to an open Request for Proposal by presenting potential solutions to the enclosed Challenge Statement. Successful tenderers will be invited to enter into fixed-price contracts to further the development of detailed Project Execution Plans for their solutions through co-development workshops with Defence officials.

This Request for Proposal has been prepared using the *ASDEFCON (Request for Proposal)* template and comprises:

- Part 1 - Conditions of Proposal, including Attachment A (Response Form) and Annex A to Attachment A (Declaration by Tenderer) and Annex B to Attachment A (Glossary);
- Part 2 - Statement of Requirement;
- Part 3 - Draft Contract.

Proposals are to be submitted by the Proposal Closing Time specified in clause 3.1.3 of the Conditions of Proposal. Any questions in relation to this Request for Proposal should be directed to the Contact Officer specified in clause 2.5 of the Conditions of Proposal.

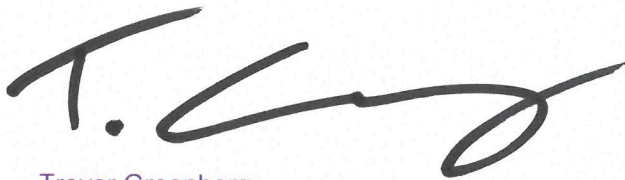
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Subject to the Conditions of Proposal, the proposed schedule for evaluation is:

Milestone	Completion Date
Challenge Statement Release	27 March 2024
Market Brief	16 April 2024
Request for Proposal Submission Closure	7 May 2024
Evaluation Complete	14 June 2024
Select Successful Tenderers	21 June 2024
Contract Execution	5 July 2024
Contracts Complete	22 July 2024

Respondents should note that the above schedule is subject to change at any time and is not to be relied upon as final and definitive.

Yours sincerely,



Trevor Greenberg
Director Innovation Incubation
Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator, Defence

25 March 2024

Enclosure

Challenge Statement

Challenge Statement:

AUKUS Electronic Warfare Innovation Challenge

The electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) presents a congested and competitive environment, requiring low-cost, disposable, and highly autonomous capabilities for asymmetrical advantage. This challenge is focused on the ability to leverage EMS technologies for both offensive and defensive purposes. Key capabilities sought include:

Find: Identification of targets using EMS.

Fix: Locating targets via EMS.

Track: Monitoring target movement using EMS.

Target: Selection and application of EMS assets and enabled weapon systems.

Engage: Application of EMS assets and enabled weapons.

Assess: Evaluation of attack effects using EMS.

Technical Features List:

The listed features aim to help industry concentrate efforts on high-impact capabilities, including but not limited to:

Sensors: Enhancing sensor quantity and quality for target identification, location, monitoring, and assessment. (to enable Find, Fix, Track, and Assess phases)

Closed loop targeting: Employing existing EW sensor data and predetermined parameters for swift cueing and engagement. (to enable Target and Engage phases)

Electronic Attack: Disrupting adversary C4ISREW* systems and EMS-enabled weapons. (to enable all aspects of the targeting cycle)

EMS access: Dynamically accessing EMS for resilience, stealth, and reduced spectrum conflicts. (to enable Find, Fix, Track, Target, Engage, and Assess phases)

EMS Deception & Denial: Preventing adversary exploitation of emissions or understanding of true intent to enable blue force projection and blue force protection, to counter all aspects of the targeting cycle.

* C4ISREW: Command, Control, Communication and Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare

Capability Considerations:

We seek innovative proposals with fast-delivery capabilities, prioritising rapid problem orientation and iteration over current technology readiness level. Proposals should prioritise:

Agility: Systems with multi-spectral, distributed, high dynamic range, wide/multi-band capabilities, allowing rapid reprogramming and real-time data updates.

Multi-functionality: Systems addressing multiple areas of interest.

Interoperability: Systems adhering to common data standards and flexible Defence integration, and can cooperate with existing data and systems.

Interchangeability: Systems easily integrated with AUKUS partners.

Connectivity: Systems operable in a denied, degraded, intermittent and limited environment.

Cost Effectiveness: Low-cost, easily manufacturable, and disposable/ attritable systems.

Sovereignty: Domestically manufactured (or have the potential to be) with a secure, resilient and reliable supply chain.

Range: Adaptable for close-range to over-the-horizon operations, with protection to operate within proximity of adversaries.

Time: Varied operational speeds and durations.

Autonomy: Minimal training required, reducing reliance on human resources.

Projection: Easily projected from existing platforms and deployable into contested environments with minimal modification.

Domain: Applicable in the physical domains (air, land, space, maritime [surface and subsurface]), or across multiple domains.