

## DSI COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

### Information for Applicants

#### AIMS OF THE SCHEME

The DSI Collaborative research Grant Scheme provides funding to enable industry and/or government to undertake collaborative research with DSI Participant universities in areas of interest to defence and national security. It helps to:

- Facilitate defence-relevant research engagement between universities, industry, DSTG and Defence and national security organisations; and
- Connect SMEs to research and expertise in order to strengthen SME participation in defence and national security business;

By providing funding to universities that helps to address financial barriers to collaboration and that will produce activities with the potential to lead to larger projects.

Collaborative Research Grants can be used to undertake any collaboration that meets the defined criteria.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

DSI makes no provision to approve or fully fund every proposal submitted to the Grant scheme. DSI reserves the right to reject proposals without consideration.

#### NATURE OF THE GRANTS

Up to \$50k is available to support collaborative defence and national security relevant research that either leverages existing funding from other sources or potentially leads to larger projects funded from elsewhere.

Grants are to be used for direct costs only. The grants do not fund indirect overheads/administration fees. This is due to the small nature of the grant funding and a desire to maximise the return on investment in the research.

Examples of ways in which the grants can be used include: services and consumables for pilot projects to provide proof-of-concept for funding applications; to support SME participation in collaborative research schemes; to cover costs associated with collaborative research visits; to enable attendance at industry conferences and workshops; to enable access to facilities (eg bench fees or workshop costs); to support or employ research and technical staff; to purchase equipment; to provide time release for SME staff to spend time on research projects.

The grants cannot be used for teaching relief, student fees or publication costs.

Investigators seeking stipend support for students should apply for a DSI RHD Support Grant.

Investigators seeking funding assistance for developing specified submissions and proposals for very large collaborative projects or pre-commercialisation activities should apply for a DSI Business Development Grant.

For further information on other DSI grants please contact [dsi.info@defencescienceinstitute.com](mailto:dsi.info@defencescienceinstitute.com).

The receiving institution is responsible for ensuring that any legal agreements and IP arrangements that may be required for the collaboration are in place.

DSI takes no interest (unless otherwise specified) in IP or funding royalties.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applications for funding will be assessed by the DSI Executive in consultation with technical experts when necessary, against the following criteria:

- *Relevance*: relevance to current and future needs of the Defence and National Security community; If the Call for Applications includes specific grant themes, alignment with these themes.
- *Feasibility*: realistic budgets and milestone dates; experience of the investigators and track record.
- *Collaboration Strength*: a higher weighting will be given to new collaborations and collaborations involving at least one industry or Defence or National Security collaborator. The nature/strength of the collaboration, including opportunities/plans for personnel exchanges and the level of co-contribution from members of the collaboration will be considered.
- *Longevity*: potential for development of an ongoing relationship between the collaborating partners; immediate or potential leverage of funds, including any schemes that will be applied for as a result of the project.

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application within 4 weeks of receipt (for continuously open rounds) or the nominated closing date (for rounds with a fixed opening period).

## **GENERAL CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

- Unless otherwise specified in the Call for Applications, the awarded organisation must be
  - i. a Victorian or Tasmanian university participating in DSI; *or*
  - ii. an Australian university collaborating with a Victorian-based SME where an SME employee is named as a co-investigator
- Unless otherwise allowed in the Call for Applications, grants are awarded to the university where the Lead Investigator is employed.
- The project must start within 3 months of the execution of the grant agreement.
- the project must be completed within 18 months of execution of the grant agreement.
- the grant will be paid in installments on completion of agreed milestones as designated in the grant agreement.
- The Lead Investigator must adhere to the reporting conditions outlined in the DSI project reporting guidelines.
- The DSI makes no claim on intellectual property or revenue arising from the project

## **SPECIAL CALLS**

DSI occasionally distributes grants via a special call, which may be in conjunction with another funding partner.

These calls may have additional special conditions or eligibility requirements which will be detailed in the Call for Applications. Unless otherwise detailed in the Call, these general conditions apply to all DSI Collaborative Research Grants.

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