

What is the Artificial Intelligence for Decision Making Initiative (the Initiative)?

The Initiative is a national endeavour from the Defence Science and Technology (DST) Group and the Office of National Intelligence (ONI) in collaboration with the Defence AI Centre (DAIC) to fund up to 100 pilot project proposals that will contribute to critically important Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technology.

The Initiative's call for proposals is "challenge based", with respondents expected to propose pilot projects that address one of 23 Challenges.

Who can submit project proposals?

Project proposals are sought from individuals who are interested in solving AI and ML related challenges. The Initiative is only open to Australian citizens and permanent residents who reside in Australia.

Can proposals be undertaken by more than one person?

The intent of the Initiative is to fund individuals to undertake separate projects. However, small team-based proposals may be considered, subject to available funding. Funding for a team-based proposal is restricted to the same arrangements for an individual.

Will I need to undergo any security check?

There may be a requirement for identification, police, and other background checks prior to the commencement of the project.

What is the goal of the Initiative?

The aim of this Initiative is to enhance national capability in AI. It will provide opportunities for Australians to advance critically important research and development and benefit defence and national security decision making.

The Initiative also aims to foster a national network focused on developing AI and ML technology. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to become part of the national network, or may also have their project prototypes progressed through the Defence Artificial Intelligence Centre (DAIC), or defence and university sectors.

What is the expected outcome of each project?

A software tool or related product that demonstrates the solution(s) to the chosen Challenge. A short report must accompany the tool/product that details the approach to the Challenge and an overview of the solution.

Are there any limits on the number of submissions I can make?

No. Individuals can submit as many proposals as they want. However, an individual will only be able to undertake one project.

Is there a format for project proposals?

Yes—applications will only be accepted through the [Initiative's Application Form](#).

How many Challenges are there?

There will be 23 AI Challenges, which can be found [here](#).

Will all Challenges be funded?

All Challenges are of equal weight and it is anticipated that projects will be funded against all Challenges. However, the final selection of projects will depend on the number and quality of the proposals. Funding for all Challenges is not guaranteed.

How much money is available for each project?

Individual projects are valued at \$20k each.

What is the length of selected projects?

3 months.

How many projects are you expecting to fund?

Up to 100 projects will be funded.

When will the projects be conducted?

Project run dates will be dependent upon the date of project selection. Successful applicants will be advised of their project run dates.

What are the opening and closing times for applications?

Applications will be accepted from 8 June 2020, closing 26 June 2020 or when funds are exhausted - whichever comes sooner.

Applications will be assessed on a continuous basis from the date of receipt of application, so it is recommended to apply early.

How will projects be administered?

The Initiative is administered on a state basis. Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with their local defence science facilitation network as listed below. This means a variety of agreements will be used for successful applicants, dependent on their location, the original source of funds and the organisational nature of the applicant. Core principles and requirements are common across the agreements.

<u>Applicant Location</u>	<u>Facilitation Network</u>
Victoria	<u>Defence Science Institute (DSI)</u>
NSW	<u>Defence Innovation Network (DIN)</u>
South Australia	<u>Defence Innovation Partnership (DIP)</u>
Western Australia	<u>Defence Science Centre (DSC)</u>
Tasmania	<u>Defence Science Institute (DSI)</u>
ACT	<u>Defence Innovation Network (DIN)</u>
Northern Territory	<u>Defence Innovation Partnership (DIP)</u>
Queensland	<u>Defence Science Institute (DSI)</u>

What options exist for follow on projects?

Successful applicants may have their project prototypes progressed through the Defence Artificial Intelligence Centre (DAIC), or defence and university sectors. The details on this process will be provided to successful applicants.

What terms and conditions are governing the project funding from this EOI?

Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with their local defence science facilitation network as listed above. This means a variety of agreements will be used for successful applicants, dependent on their location, the original source of funds and the type of applicant. Core principles and requirements are common across the agreements.

All successful applicants must sign a Commonwealth Intellectual Licence Deed.

Will there be any co-investment (in-kind) required for the projects?

No.

Will there be any co-investment (in-kind) support from Defence?

No. Proposals involving requests for access to Defence information and personnel (including DST Group) are unlikely to be funded. The Challenges are stand-alone with respondents expected to source background information, data and context.

What assistance is available for preparing the proposal?

For advice on project suitability, applicants in the first instance should refer to the eligibility requirements, or contact their local defence science facilitation network as listed above.

What prior research or background information can applicants draw upon for the project proposal?

Researchers must ensure that they do not inappropriately use third party intellectual property as part of research conducted in response to this call. Plagiarism checks may be conducted to confirm the originality of the work.

Who will own the intellectual property from the projects?

Ownership of intellectual property developed using the Initiative funding will be retained by the creator. All successful applicants will be required to grant a licence to the Commonwealth to use project intellectual property for Commonwealth purposes via an Intellectual Property Licence Deed.

Does this call involve classified research?

No. As this call is intended to facilitate AI research in an environment of increased need for work to be undertaken remotely, all work must be unclassified.

Will I be able to publish results from the research?

Publication is possible but it must be approved by the Commonwealth first.

What criteria are being used to assess proposals?

Please refer directly to the [Initiative website](#) for assessment criteria.