

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FUND (CRF) ASSESSMENT CRITERIA



DESIRABILITY

Desirability is determined by the extent to which a proposal meets a capability, enterprise or technology need from a Defence and National Security perspective. Collaborative Research Fund proposals should provide a description of how the project or activity meets or relates to defence needs, which could be informed by a combination of the following:

- Defence Capability Manager (CM) perspective
- Direct Defence involvement in the project eg. DSTG researcher involvement
- Alignment with the priorities of the Defence innovation, science and technology program

A broad range of factors can address desirability, including the extent to which the proposal:

- Will deliver new or enhanced capability to the Australian Defence Force (ADF), or
- Improve Defence effectiveness or efficiency, or
- Address a known capability gap or opportunity within Defence, or
- Has already been considered by, or is within the scope of, an existing program, project, minor acquisition etc. or
- Would disrupt current Defence plans and investment strategies, or
- Could be affected by planned obsolescence.

Desirability is determined against the following criteria.

Level	Comment
Low	Feedback from a relevant DSTG or Defence representative confirms that the outcome of the proposal would be of minimal, or no interest to the Australian Defence Organisation (ADO)*.
Good	Feedback from a relevant Defence and/or another relevant Government organisation confirms that the outcome of the proposal aligns with a recognised need, capability gap, opportunity or priority within Defence and would be desirable to the ADO.
Excellent	The proposal includes Defence and/or another relevant Government organisation as a participant and the outcome of the proposal would be desirable to the ADO.

* There is flexibility for the DIP to support CRF applications that are not considered 'desirable' by DSTG or Defence, eg there may be strong support from an alternate end-user organisation or an international ally, or strong alignment to the DIP objectives.

VIABILITY AND FEASIBILITY

Viability and feasibility consideration examines:

- How well technical or commercial issues have been addressed such as the proposed scope, schedule, budget and outcomes to determine if the activity is likely to be successful;
- If there are any factors that have not been adequately addressed by the proposal that might constrain success such as the availability of major Defence platforms, systems, key people, enabling infrastructure or services, or competing activities or priorities;
- The presence of other more mature solutions in the proposed marketplace;
- The technical feasibility of the proposal; and
- Prohibitive costs.

Score	Level	Comment
0	Low	The proposal has significant weaknesses such as a poorly developed statement of work, unrealistic schedule or insufficient resources; or requires substantial external resources that are not likely to be made available within the required timeline such as access to major platforms, systems, infrastructure, activities or people; or the technical risk is extremely high; or difficult to determine potential value or key discriminator in crowded marketplace.
1	Good	Generally sound but there are some risks against the basis of estimate or capacity to deliver. Moderate technical risk; lack of other solutions.
2	Excellent	Sound proposal with no significant risk to the identified baselines for scope, schedule and budget. Acceptable technical risk. Unique solution.



COLLABORATION

Ideally applications will include participants from Defence/Government, more than one South Australian University and an Industry or translation partner. The contribution (cash and/or in-kind) from participants will be considered to determine if it represents a relevant contribution to the activity.

Score	Level	Comment
1	Low	Partners include at least two participants from Defence/Government and South Australian Universities. Minimal cash and/or in-kind contribution from the participants.
2	Good	Partners include at least two participants from Defence/Government and South Australian Universities plus an Industry/translation partner. Relevant cash and/or in-kind contribution from the participants.
3	Excellent	Partners include DSTG or another relevant Defence/Government organisation, more than one South Australian University and an Industry/translation partner. Significant cash and/or in-kind contributions from the participants.

REALISATION AND IMPACT

Consideration includes outcomes that may result in changes to policy or procedures and not just technology or solution-based IP.

Score	Level	Comment
0	Low	No realisation pathway evident to mature, develop or commercialise a solution or product, or introduce a policy, procedure, solution or technology into service within Defence.
1	Good	A realisation pathway is proposed with the potential to further mature, develop or commercialise a solution or product, or introduce a policy, procedure, solution or technology into service within Defence.
2	Excellent	A realisation pathway to further mature, develop or commercialise a solution or product, or introduce a policy, procedure, solution or technology into service within Defence is evident and is supported by key stakeholders. Outcome will be at the forefront of the field or discipline.

ALIGNMENT TO DIP OBJECTIVES

Score	Objective	Comment
1	Identify pathways for the translation of research findings for commercialisation or application.	The outcomes have the potential for broader application inside and outside of Defence to support the long-term viability of the collaboration and project outcomes.
1	Increasing contributions to Defence projects by developing a strong South Australian research and development ecosystem.	The proposal supports the development of 'leave behind' R&D capability or 'depth' within the SA R&D ecosystem.
1	Increase South Australia's involvement in providing future technologies and expertise to defence.	Establishes a new defence relevant R&D partnership or a relationship with a new Australian Defence Organisation customer.
1	Focus South Australian researchers on research that will provide outcomes for defence.	The proposal aligns to priorities of the Defence innovation, science and technology program, a recognised Defence R&D need or priority, or will address an identified gap or opportunity for Defence or national security capability.
1	Leverage the State Government and DSTG funding and attract a larger share of funding from the Commonwealth, corporates, universities and overseas research entities by raising the profile of Defence related R&D.	The outcomes have the potential to capture the interest or attention of stakeholders, funding bodies investors prepared to invest in further development or maturation towards introduction into service, commercialisation, or implementation.