

ACTIVATOR FUND: UNDERSTANDING AND COUNTERING INFLUENCE



DEFENCE
INNOVATION
PARTNERSHIP



ACTIVATOR FUND INFORMATION SESSION

AGENDA

Time	Activity	Who
1300 – 1310	Arrival, session commences	All
1310 – 1330	Introduction to Activator aims & process	Sumen Rai & DIP team
1330 – 1345	Overview (Challenges 1 & 2) with Q&A	Dr David Matthews
1345 – 1400	Challenge 1 with Q&A	Dr Tiffany Fischer
1400 – 1430	Challenge 2 with Q&A	Dr Damien Spry Dr David Kernot
1430 – 1500	Co-Design Activity (catering arrives at 1430)	All
1500 – 1600	Afternoon tea and networking	All

ACTIVATOR FUND

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES



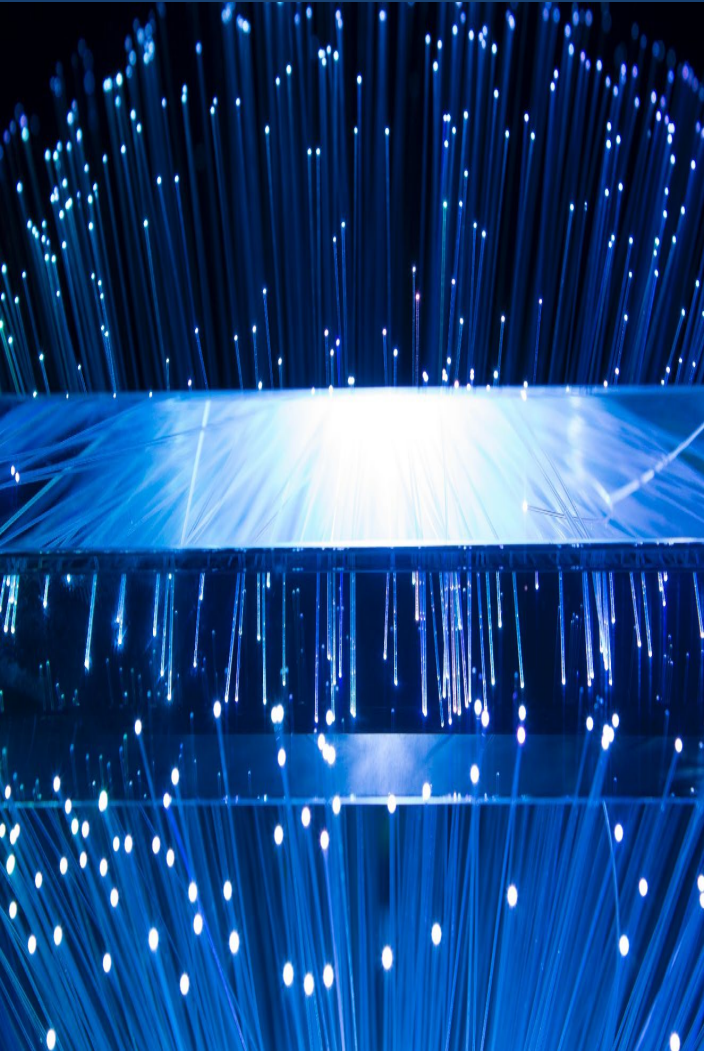
The Activator Fund will provide **over \$4 million** to support :

- **Targeted capability building** to align South Australia's R&D ecosystem with Defence's identified priorities and build scale in targeted areas

by:

- Enabling larger-scale research, development and innovation activities that have benefit for the South Australian economy
- Leveraging existing South Australian R&D, innovation and industrial strengths
- Building new South Australian R&D, innovation and industrial strengths in areas of strategic interest
- Enabling more rapid transition of technology developments into operational Defence capabilities

ACTIVATOR FUND ELIGIBILITY



Eligible proposals must have a minimum of:

- one South Australian university Partner Organisation,
- one South Australia-based industry Partner Organisation and
- Australian Department of Defence involvement (ideally as a Partner Organisation).

Minimum requirements for matched funding:

- minimum 1:1 matched (cash and in-kind) funding for the funding amount that is requested from the Activator Fund (\$1 Activator Fund to \$1 provided by participants).

Work funded by the Activator Fund must be undertaken in South Australia. Contributions from Lead and Partner Organisations may be used to fund work outside of South Australia, but the majority of overall project effort must occur in South Australia.

The **Lead Organisation** for an Activator Fund proposal can be a South Australian public university, a South Australia-based business (with an ABN), either headquartered (ABN registered in SA) or with substantial operations in South Australia relevant to the Activator Fund theme.

Partner Organisations for an Activator Fund proposal can be Australian Government agencies, South Australian Government agencies, Australian universities, Publicly Funded Research Organisations, Australian industry – startups, SMEs and large companies, overseas government, research and industry organisations.

ACTIVATOR FUND

UNDERSTANDING AND COUNTERING INFLUENCE THEME



Each Challenge has:

- \$400,000 from the Activator Fund
- \$150,000 contribution from DSTG, which can be used towards the matched funding requirement

Challenge 1: Regional statecraft and influence

Key consideration – to better understand Pacific voices, the tropes and frames, stories and priorities that matter to them and how these impact on their own perspectives regarding regional security and stability, including relationships with other countries.

Challenge 2: Digital and open-source methods

Key consideration – seeking a prototype analytical tool capable of using open-source information, within an accepted legal and ethical framework, that is able to conduct an array of advanced analytics relevant to online sentiment and behaviour. Preference will be given to proposals that have already developed foundational sociopolitical and psychological frameworks and are able to translate this prior work into a user-friendly tool for analysts that can be trialed within experimental environments and case studies.

OFF ALL

ACTIVATOR PROCESS



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PROBITY

DIP and DSTG staff members that have been involved in the design of the call will also be involved in assessment of the applications. However, an independent team will facilitate the co-design process with DSTG, including negotiation of potential DSTG contributions.

The assessment process will involve multiple members from both DefenceSA and DSTG, as well as seek advice from key military experts. Initial assessments will be conducted individually with no communication between assessors, prior to coming together to reach consensus.



KEY DATES



Co-design period
21 June 2024 – 15 August 2024

Application portal opens
25 June 2024

Deadline for applications
15 August 2024

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Defence desirability – How well does the proposal align with Defence priorities? Is there a clear and direct application to Defence? Does the proposal have applications in other sectors?

Project description – Has the proposal clearly identified the purpose, how the project will be undertaken and the desired outcomes? To what extent is the project novel and innovative?

Collaboration – Does the team have the expertise to undertake the project (minimum criteria being one South Australian university partner, one South Australian industry partner and a Department of Defence partner)?

Viability – How clear and articulated are the deliverables / milestones? Is the proposal achievable in the timeframe and within budget?

Budget – Does the budget represent value for money (are the costs to achieve the milestones / deliverables reasonable, or overheads acceptable)?

Realisation pathway – Has the commercial opportunity and impact been clearly articulated? Is there capacity / intention for the collaboration to continue into the future?

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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA		
2	Good	The proposal has considered project and technical risks and provided a description on mitigation strategy to undertake the project in the described timeframe and budget. The technical approach is realistic, but there are alternatives which could achieve similar results.
1	Poor	The proposal identifies project and/or technical risks but provides no strategies for mitigation. There are other alternative approaches which may provide improved outcomes.
0	Inadequate	The proposal does not address the project and technical risks and there are other alternative approaches which will give superior outcomes.
5. Budget		
1. Does the budget represent value for money (are the costs to achieve the milestones / deliverables reasonable, or overheads acceptable)?		
2. Does the budget for the base project fall within the required dollar range? Does the project include costed stretch milestones if additional funding becomes available?		
3. Is the budget costed appropriately (has the applicant allocated enough resources to successfully undertake the project)?		
Score	Rating	Definition
3	Exceptional work plan and costing	The proposal has clearly defined and realistic milestones and deliverables. The costing for the research is considered sufficient and provides outstanding value for money.
2	Acceptable work plan and costing	The proposal has adequately defined milestones and deliverables. The costing for the research is sufficient and provides reasonable value for money.
1	Poor work plan and costing	The proposal has poorly defined milestones and deliverables, with risks on its achievability. The costing for the research is potentially insufficient/ inadequate and provides limited value for money.
0	Unacceptable	Response provided is not of an acceptable nature to be scored.
6. Realisation pathway / commercial opportunity / scalability and impact (pathway for growth and ongoing market penetration, potentially into other sectors)		
1. Has the commercial opportunity and impact been clearly articulated?		
2. Is there capacity / intention for the collaboration to continue into the future?		
3. Has a detailed realisation pathway been described? Are there strong links to Defence and/or into another sector to enable the realisation pathway?		
4. To what extent has the strategy for scalability been defined?		
5. Does the proposal have the potential to provide economic benefit back to the state and has this been clearly articulated?		
Score	Rating	Definition
3	Outstanding opportunity	A clear commercial opportunity (including benefits and ROI) has been described along with an achievable market penetration (commercialisation) strategy and how scalability will be realised.
2	Good opportunity	The proposal describes a commercial opportunity and market penetration (commercialisation) strategy but lacks detail. Scalability is addressed but the strategy also lacks detail.

FAST FACTS, CRITERIA AND SAMPLE FORMS

- Assessment criteria, sample application forms and FAQs can all be found on the DIP website, under the Activator page.
- The DIP team will be available to assist with general enquiries during the co-design phase.



GET IN TOUCH

- Please direct ALL initial enquiries to the DIP email below
- Include in the subject line the nature of your enquiry, e.g. “Activator – INFLUENCE1 – DTSG contact” or “Activator – INFLUENCE2 – funding question”
- Contacts for co-design/consultation activity: *Bez Mohammadi* and *Dr Susannah Whitney*
- Contact for DIP Activator process/grant administration: *Merril Kirk*

enquiries@defenceinnovationpartnership.com

