Australian Government
Department of Defence
Science and Technology

Call for Pilot Project Proposals
Artificial Intelligence for Decision Making Initiative 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

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

The Initiative is a national endeavour from the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) and the Office of National Intelligence (ONI), and in collaboration with the Defence AI Centre (DAIC) to fund up to 50 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 30 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 Australian permanent residents who reside in Australia and hold an Australian Business Number (ABN). If you are associated with an organisation or a university, please ensure your organisation agrees to the conditions outlined below before submitting your proposal.

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

Defence AI research network (DAIRNet) 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, each submission must be independently defined and, if chosen for funding, independently executed.

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 30 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 will be of a fixed value of $30,000 per project. There is no opportunity for additional funding during of this phase of the initiative.

What is the length of selected projects?

The projects must be completed within three months from signing of the project agreement. Submitted proposals must outline the work that can be completed within this time frame.

How many projects are you expecting to fund?

Up to 50 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. The projects must be completed within three months from signing of the project agreement.

What are the opening and closing times for applications?

Applications will be accepted from 7 March 2022.

Applications will close on 1 April 2022.

How will projects be administered?

The Initiative is administered by DAIRNet and successful applicants will be required to enter into a research agreement with Department of Defence. This initiative is based on the use of standardised research agreements and the terms and conditions of which are not open to

negotiation. Please ensure your organisation agrees to these conditions before submitting your proposal.

There will be two milestones due, one at the end of May and the other at the end of June, and corresponding invoicing will be as per the standard contract terms.

Local Australian Defence Science and University Network (ADSUN) members can also assist with the development of the applications. The ADSUN members for each State are as listed below.

SA & NT	Defence Innovation Partnership (DIP)	enquiries@defenceinnovationpartnership.com
WA	Defence Science Centre (DSC)	DSC@jtsi.wa,gov.au
VIC & TAS	Defence Science Institute (DSI)	ai@defencescienceinstitute.com
NSW & ACT	Defence Innovation Network (DIN)	info@defenceinnovationnetwork.com
QLD	Queensland Defence Science Alliance (QDSA)	info@queenslanddefencesciencealliance.com.au

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 the Department of Defence. This initiative is based on the use of standardised contracts, the terms and conditions of which are not open to negotiation. Please ensure your organisation agrees to these conditions before submitting your proposal.

All successful applicants must sign a Commonwealth Intellectual Property Licence Deed. Please ensure your organisation agrees to these conditions before submitting your proposal.

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

There is no requirement for in-kind contributions for the project.

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

No. Proposals involving requests for access to Defence information and personnel (including DSTG) 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 ADSUN members, as listed above. For questions relating to the submission and research agreements, please contact DAIRNet.

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 encouraged subject to approval by the Commonwealth first. Early notification of intent to publish is recommended.

What criteria are being used to assess proposals?

Please refer directly to the Initiative website for assessment criteria.