

The Defence Trailblazer is a once in a generation opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between defence, academia and industry whilst accelerating research and commercialisation.

In partnership with the University of Adelaide (UoA), UNSW, over 50 industry partners and with the support of the Department of Education, the initiative will skill the workforce of the future, support Defence-focussed innovation, and play a leading role in accelerating the delivery of sovereign capabilities for the nation's security and prosperity.

Program Guidelines for Accelerating Sovereign Industrial Capabilities (ASIC) Program

Expression of Interest

The Defence Trailblazer is issuing an open call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for up to \$12 million funding to enable faster commercialisation of larger scale defence research & development (R&D) activities and collaborations focused on delivering capabilities in the Sovereign Defence Industrial Priorities outlined in the Defence Industry Development Strategy.

- Project proposals will be sought from industry (i.e. with an ABN / ACN) based in Australia and involving at least one Defence Trailblazer research university (University of Adelaide and/or UNSW).
- New Industry Partners are encouraged, but existing partners can also apply.
- Collaborative projects involving one or more industry partners are highly encouraged.
- As part of the application, new and existing industry partners can access and include workforce skilling and attraction programs including the:
 - Staff Mobility Program
 - Student Placements & Projects Program
 - NEW Proto-Lab Network

APPLY ONLINE
dtb.solutions/asic

EOI CLOSING
24 July at 11:59pm

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Program Objectives

- Enable larger scale research, development, and innovation with a drive for faster translation into minimum viable capabilities. It is envisaged the grant will support industry partners to de-risk product development and scale up their enterprise.
- Leverage existing and/or build new sovereign defence industrial strengths in areas of strategic priority to meet Defence's needs.
- Establish new collaborative partnerships with leading researchers and industry partners.



Further Information and Support

For more information about the ASIC program and to apply online visit:
dtb.solutions/asic

If you would like to discuss your project, please contact the Defence Trailblazer Partnerships team: partnerships@dtb.solutions

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Research Project Themes



Source: defence.gov.au

The ASIC Research Project themes align to the Defence Sovereign Industrial Priorities as outlined in the Defence Industry Development Strategy.

For more information see:

**Defence Industry
Development
Strategy website**

Funding Arrangements

- There is a requirement for minimum 1:1 matched (cash) funding for the amount that is requested from the ASIC program (\$1 ASIC funding to \$1 provided by participants). This total amount will make up the ASIC Project funds.
- There is no minimum grant amount specified, however, preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate ability to build scale in research and development.
- Proposals which include substantial in-kind contributions from industry parties will be prioritised. In-kind can include labour, facilities, equipment, donated items, software licenses, or essential goods and services required to facilitate the project.
- ASIC Project funds must be allocated to and used within at least one of the Defence Trailblazer universities (University of Adelaide and/or UNSW) to undertake research and development activities required by the project. Relevant university in-kind will also be contributed to the ASIC Project.

Requirements

- ASIC Projects must be closely aligned with the Sovereign Defence Industrial Priorities outlined in the Defence Industry Development Strategy with a clear end-use customer identified.
- Proposals must demonstrate a strong collaborative team to deliver a larger scale project. While there is no minimum grant amount specified, preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate ability to build scale in research and development.
- It is envisaged that successful projects will develop a minimum viable product (MVP) demonstrator/proof-of-concept (e.g., laboratory validation or early-stage prototype). Successful participants and existing partners will have access to the proto-lab network. This network provides the necessary facilities and equipment to help transform early-stage ideas into more refined prototypes or MVPs.
- Once projects have been selected there will be a maximum of 6 weeks by which time a formal contract must be executed or the arrangements may be terminated.
- ASIC Projects **need to be completed by December 2026.**



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Evaluation Criteria

ASIC Project Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Strategic Alignment
 - Must be closely aligned with the Sovereign Defence Industrial Priorities outlined in the Defence Industry Development Strategy with a clear end user identified.
- Impacts
 - Projects will develop a minimum viable product (MVP) demonstrator/ proof-of-concept (e.g., laboratory validation or early-stage prototype).
 - Demonstrates impact in regional Australia, such as working with regional partners, students and suppliers or has established regional facility.
 - Projects will involve the recruitment or development of staff to undertake the research.
- Utilisation
 - Has a clear end-user
 - Has a clear commercialisation pathway.
- Research
 - Collaborative – project involves multiple partners and/or diverse businesses.
 - Brings together high-quality team.
 - Has high quality research outcomes as an objective.
 - Builds and develops the attraction and retention of talent for an advanced technology workforce and Australia’s defence industry future.
- Project Management
 - Well-developed project methodology – defines strategy, milestones and budget.
 - Well-developed risk and opportunity assessment.
 - Budgets represent value for money leveraged with investments of both cash and in-kind by project partners.

Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate an ability to build scale in research and development with a stronger weighting given towards small-medium enterprise (SME) led and multi-party project proposals; and projects which include substantial in-kind contributions from industry.

Program Dates

Activity	Date
Accelerating Sovereign Industrial Capabilities (ASIC) Program EOI Open	28 May 2024
Online ASIC Information Session Webinar - register at dtb.solutions/asic	5 June 2024
Online Submissions for EOI Close	24 July 2024 at 11:59pm



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University Staff

ASIC Project funds will be used to fund university research and development staff. This contribution is valued as the proportion of a university employee's time spent on the project's activities with respect to their salary. R&D must be undertaken within universities.

University Facilities

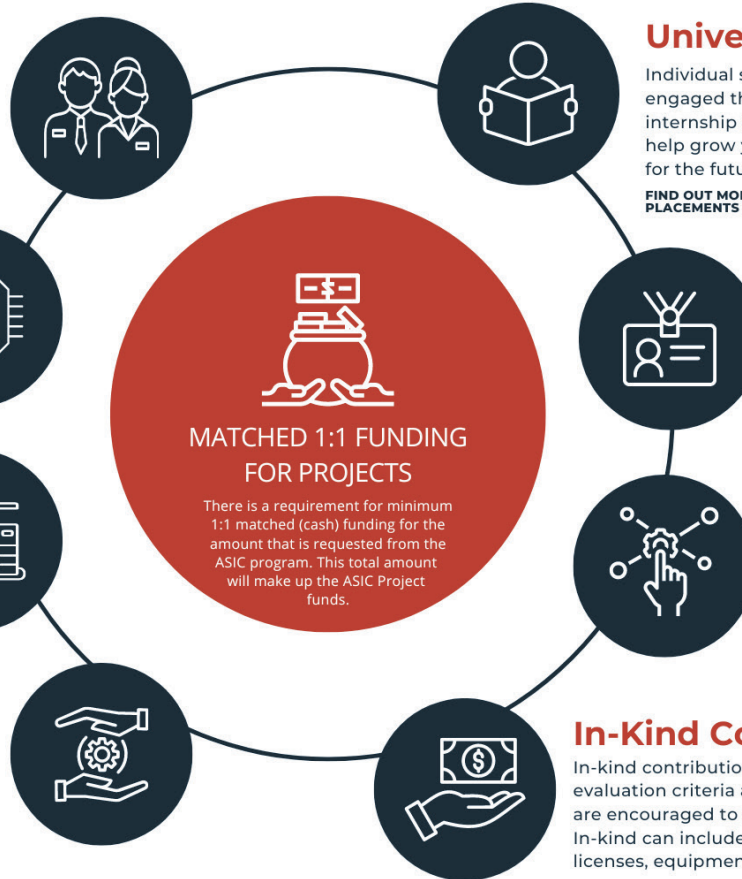
As the project must be undertaken at one or both of Defence Trailblazer's partner universities, University of Adelaide, or UNSW, the ASIC Project funds can be put towards the fees to use facilities needed for the project.

University Equipment

If University equipment needs to be taken off-site for test and evaluation, ASIC Project funds can be used for the University equipment hire fees and for the reasonable travel costs to get the equipment to the test site.

New Equipment Purchase

If new or specific equipment is required for your project, ASIC Project funds can be used to purchase and retain equipment at the University.



University Students

Individual students or student project teams can be engaged through a work project, industry placement or internship to help deliver outcomes for your organisation, help grow your talent pipeline and help prepare students for the future work in Australia's defence industry.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DEFENCE TRAILBLAZER'S STUDENT PLACEMENTS & PROJECTS PROGRAM ON OUR WEBSITE

Staff Mobility

ASIC Project funds can be used to enable industry staff placements and exchanges to work on your project at the university sharing knowledge, expertise, facilities and capabilities

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DEFENCE TRAILBLAZER'S STAFF MOBILITY PROGRAM ON OUR WEBSITE

Proto-Lab Network

Access the Defence Trailblazer's Proto-Lab Network. This network provides access to university, government and industry facilities, equipment, infrastructure and know-how to support design, prototyping, test & evaluation, and low-volume manufacturing activities.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DEFENCE TRAILBLAZER'S PROTO-LAB NETWORK ON OUR WEBSITE

In-Kind Contributions

In-kind contributions will be considered in the evaluation criteria assessment. Prospective partners are encouraged to contribute significant in-kind. In-kind can include but is not limited to software licenses, equipment, facilities, labour etc.

The ASIC Program funds research and development (R&D) activities (including the purchase of equipment and staffing) based at one or both Defence Trailblazer universities – the University of Adelaide or UNSW. Purchasing assets/equipment over \$50,000 requires Department of Education approval. Funds cannot be used for in-house (industry) R&D including in-house labour, facilities and/or equipment. If you wish to fund R&D (including labour, facilities, equipment) in-house/at your workplace, please consider the Defence Trailblazer Technology Development and Acceleration (TDA) program.



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