

# DIGR VOUCHER PROGRAM

DEFENCE INDUSTRY GROWTH & RESILIENCE



A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN



Defence Trailblazer is a collaborative partnership between the University of Adelaide and UNSW, supported by the Australian Government's Department of Education. In collaboration with over 95 industry partners, academia and government, the Defence Trailblazer aims to strengthen Australia's defence capabilities by developing cutting-edge technologies and solutions, while simultaneously equipping the next generation of innovators with specialised knowledge and skills to meet the current and future needs of Defence.

Defence Trailblazer has launched a **\$2.5 million Defence Industry Growth & Resilience (DIGR) voucher program** to our existing industry partners.

## About the Program

The DIGR program will support the strengthening and resilience of defence businesses by enabling businesses to scale and compete to deliver sovereign capability to our Australian Defence Force and our allies.

The DIGR program will provide cash funding to support projects or activities conducted within your business designed to strengthen your business' position in the defence industry. These initiatives must align with the DIGR program's activity stream(s) and demonstrate a clear focus on growth, resilience and enhancing your business's role within the defence sector.

To download the full Program Guidelines, visit: [dtb.solutions/DIGR](http://dtb.solutions/DIGR)

## Activity Streams

The three streams will support industry-led projects and activities in the following areas:



### Business Uplift

To help businesses increase their defence

readiness and develop and execute strategies for company growth, products, markets or business resilience.



### Technical & Testing

To help businesses to undertake design, prototyping, testing and evaluation,

validation and verification, demonstration and trials, and de-risking activities required to commercialise new defence or dual-use products, processes or services.



### Workforce Connect

To support workforce talent engagement and

retention, talent attraction, upskilling and training, mobilisation of UNSW, UoA or TAFE students, graduates and Defence veterans into the defence industry.

# DIGR



## Key Dates for Round 2

Applications Open: **Mon 18 Aug 2025**

Applications Close: **Fri 12 Sept 2025**

Outcome by: **Fri 3 October 2025**

Activity Period: **Project or activity must be completed by 30 Nov 2026**

*Additional rounds of the DIGR Voucher Program may be offered, subject to the availability of funding. We strongly encourage applicants to aim apply during this round to ensure they do not miss out on this opportunity.*



## Further Information and Support

For more information about the DIGR program and to apply online visit: [dtb.solutions/DIGR](http://dtb.solutions/DIGR)

If you would like to discuss your project, please contact the Defence Trailblazer team: [programs@dtb.solutions](mailto:programs@dtb.solutions)

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## Eligibility

### Who can apply

- The DIGR program is open to all Defence Trailblazer industry partners, defined as industry partners that have contributed cash/or in-kind to a Defence Trailblazer R&D project or a Workforce, Innovation or Culture activity.
- Proposed activities may be extensions of related work undertaken through TDA, ASIC, Cyber Security Voucher Program or DINAMIC programs, or may be new activities.

*\* Defence Trailblazer reserves the right to invite other companies to submit applications.*

### Criteria for company

- A valid/current ABN / ACN
- Based in Australia
- Small to Medium Enterprise (Business Uplift streams only)
- Public Liability Insurance (Workforce Connect stream internships only)

## Application

Submit an application using the online DIGR Application Form, including:

- detailed project costing using the provided template
- outline all in-kind contributions
- provide any supporting documentation (e.g. quotes)
- demonstrate that industry funding obligations are met (1:3).

## Funding

### Funding Model

Defence Trailblazer will provide the industry partner with a cash voucher funding to assist with their project/activity.

The funding model will provide **\$1 for every \$3 of industry contribution**, to a maximum of 25% of the project/activity cost. That is, for every **\$1 of cash** provided by Defence Trailblazer, we require a ratio of **\$3 cash and/or in-kind equivalent** contribution from industry.

There is no specific requirements for the proportion of cash expenditure and in-kind contribution that makes up to the industry contribution\*\*. For example, an industry's contribution may be all in-kind rather than cash.

If there is university involvement in the project, then the university contribution will not be considered in the industry co-contribution calculations.

*\*\* For student intern placements under the Workforce Connect stream, industry contribution(s) must include cash to cover 75% of student wages.*

### Funding limits

The maximum DIGR voucher amount per application is \$100,000 or up to 25 percent of the project/activity cost. A single application encompassing multiple activities across all streams will be considered, provided it supports one unified objective.

Projects and/or activities exceeding this amount will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Contact [programs@dtb.solutions](mailto:programs@dtb.solutions) prior to application to discuss your application and project/activity needs.

## Restrictions

DIGR voucher funding cannot be used for the following:


- Projects or activities that replicate activities already funded through other Defence Trailblazer initiatives.
- Projects or activities that are already funded through alternative grant agreements.
- Projects or activities funded through vouchers cannot be retrospective.



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## What can the money be used for?

The DIGR voucher can be used to supplement the cost of a project or activity that supports growth and resilience within your business. The focus of the project/activity needs to align with increasing the business's competitiveness in the defence industry.

Any growth or resilience activities that align with your strategies or plans, and are within Defence Trailblazer's remit, can be considered. Each stream has a list of suggested activities:

### Business Uplift

#### Develop and/or execute:

- product development and/or R&D strategies
- a company growth strategy
- an export strategy
- IP protection strategy
- commercialisation pathway development
- a new dual-use or international market(s) strategy
- branding and/or marketing strategy development targeted at Defence customers, primes, and government stakeholders.

#### Uplift Defence readiness:

- prepare a Defence market strategy
- assist with the cost of employee security clearances
- achieve or upgrade DISP membership level
- achieve ISO27001 certification, or other defence related certification.

#### Uplift business resilience:

- business, Defence, and/or investment readiness
- pricing strategies
- cyber uplift
- legal and compliance support tailored to Defence
- collaborations.

### Technical & Testing

- To access equipment, facilities or expertise within the Defence Trailblazer Proto-Lab Network – including equipment, facilities or expertise within:
  - the University of Adelaide or UNSW
  - Defence Trailblazer quantum and electronics bonders, robotic additive manufacturing, and optics freeform generator equipment packages operated by CSIRO
  - External parties who have joined the Proto-Lab Network as a supplier.  
<https://dtb.solutions/proto-lab-network/>
- To access equipment, facilities or expertise outside the Defence Trailblazer Proto-Lab Network if the required equipment, facilities or expertise is not available inside the Network
- To purchase equipment and consumables required for the project or activity
- For other related expenses such as travel, postage, design services, etc.

### Workforce Connect

Vouchers can support businesses by providing financial support for the hiring of student interns, post-docs, graduates, academics or upskilling new and existing staff.


- Student internship placement
- Hire UoA, UNSW and/or TAFE student, graduate or academic talent
- Upskilling and training your staff
- Veteran employment.



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**1:3 FUNDING  
FOR INDUSTRY BASED  
PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES**

DIGR voucher will provide up to **25% cash** to Industry for your project / activity costs. Industry contribution of **75% or \$3 (cash or in-kind)** to every \$1 of DTB cash funding is required.

## BUSINESS UPLIFT\*



### DEVELOP AND/OR EXECUTE\*

Assist with costs associated with business activities or projects to develop or execute key business uplift functions, such as product development or R&D strategies, company growth strategy, a new dual use or international market strategy, IP or commercialisation strategy, export strategy and branding or marketing strategy development.



### UPLIFT DEFENCE READINESS\*

Assist with the costs associated with uplifting your business to compete for Defence business. Activities could include preparing a Defence market strategy, obtaining the necessary security clearances for staff, achieving or upgrading DISP membership level or working towards a defence related certification.



### UPLIFT BUSINESS RESILIENCE\*

Assist with costs associated with business resilience activities such as Defence and investment readiness through the development of competitive pricing strategies, a targeted cybersecurity uplift to meet Defence standards, legal or compliance support tailored to defence or the establishment of strategic collaborations to enhance innovation and industry engagement.

**\*SME ONLY**

## TECHNICAL & TESTING



### 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.



### FACILITIES OUTSIDE NETWORK

Access equipment, facilities or expertise outside the Defence Trailblazer Proto-Lab Network if the required equipment, facilities or expertise is not available inside the Network.



### EQUIPMENT & CONSUMABLES

Assist with the purchase of equipment and consumables required for your technical & testing activity.

## WORKFORCE CONNECT



### STUDENT INTERN PLACEMENTS

Access skilled undergraduate and postgraduate interns matched to their business needs. The DIGR voucher can provide financial support for intern wages.



### RESOURCE ENGAGEMENT

Hire UoA, UNSW and/or TAFE student, graduate or academic talent; extend previous engagements with UNSW/UoA/TAFE resource; engage with an identified UNSW/UoA/TAFE resource into casual or permanent employment; Employ Australian Defence Force veterans into the defence industry.



### UPSKILLING AND TRAINING

Utilising the Universities (UNSW/UoA), TAFE and/or registered training organisations (RTOs), the voucher can provide financial support for upskilling and training of employees and/or students engaged with Industry partners. Funding can help cover all costs associated with training including coursework, travel, accommodation and related expenses.



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