GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

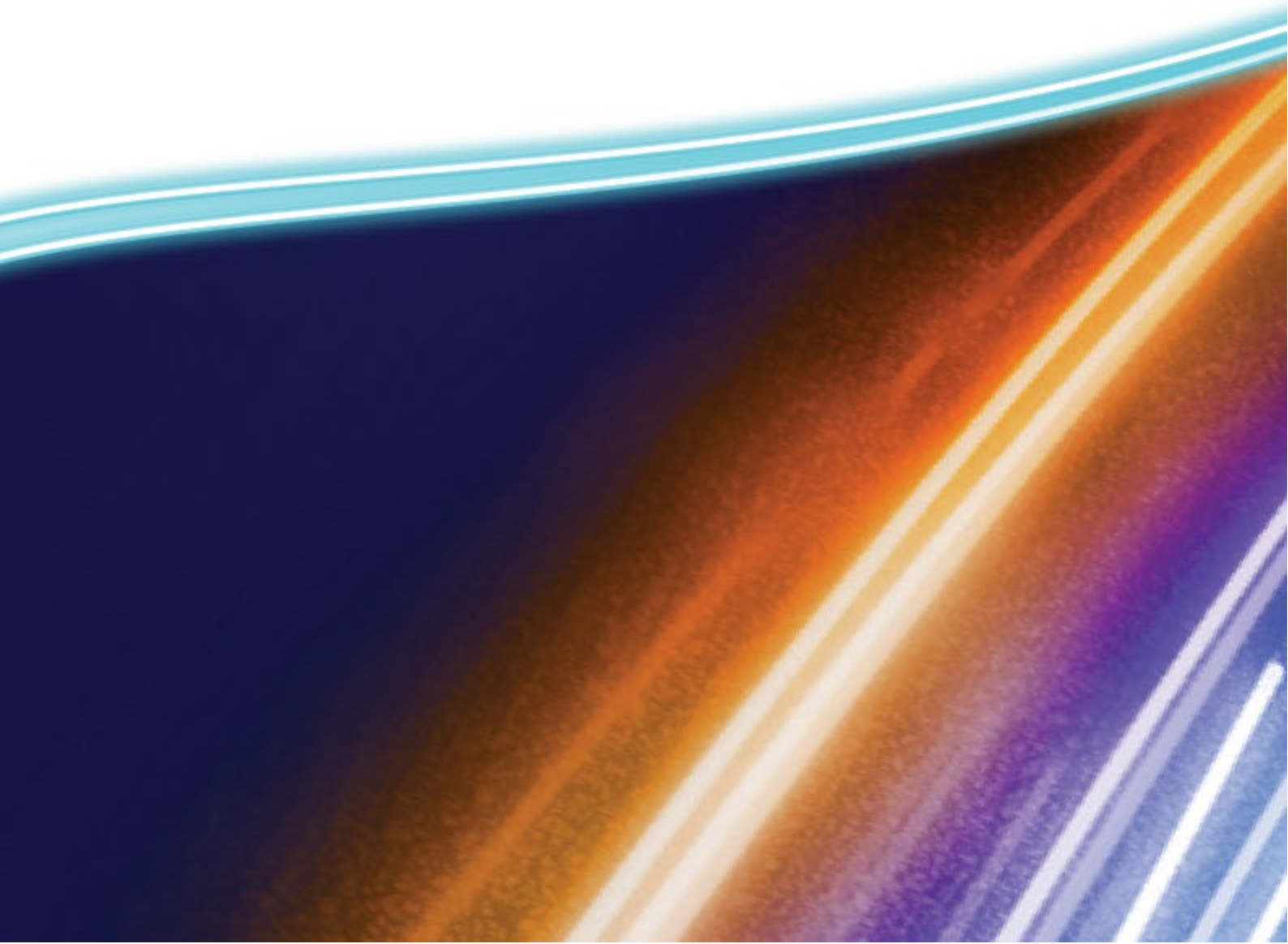
Department of
Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

DEFENCE SCIENCE CENTRE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Collaborative Research Grant

Guideline for Applicants

Round 6



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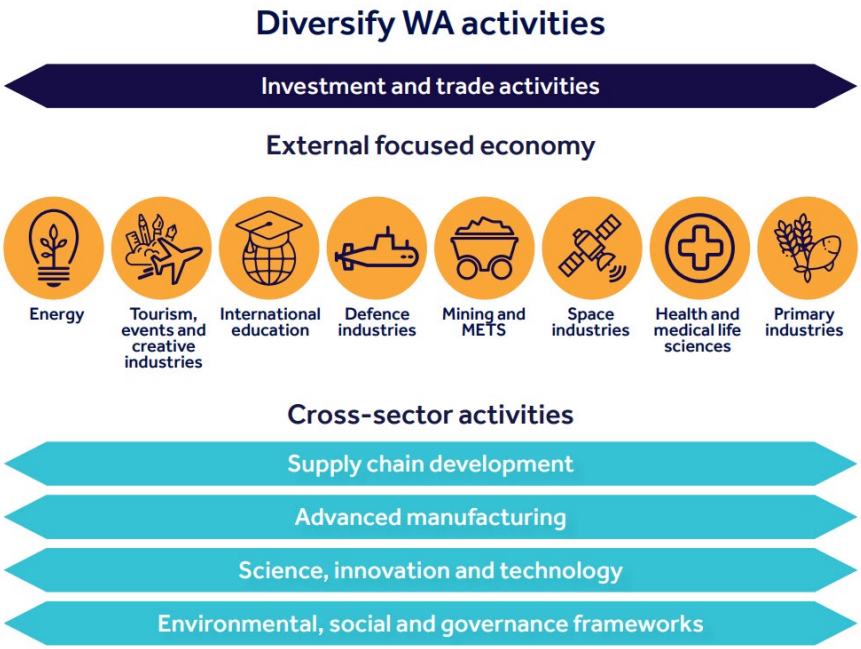
1. Background

Diversify WA is the economic development framework from Western Australia. It sets initiatives, actions and strategies that will contribute to achieving the vision of a "*strong and diversified economy delivering secure, quality jobs through increased investment across a broad range of industries*." [1]

Investments in science, research and development will enable WA industry to adapt to significant global changes and mitigate the impact of supply chain disruptions in the long-term. Through research and development, industry can use science as a basis to build new competitive advantages, increase productivity and test the boundaries of what is possible.

The Diversify WA framework stipulates 'Defence industries' as one of eight external-facing sectors for strategic development that match WA's unique strengths with global trends to achieve growth across the economy (see image below).



The Defence Science Centre (DSC) is a collaboration between the WA State Government and the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG).

The DSC supports the national Defence enterprise by facilitating collaboration with state university researchers, industry, DSTG, and Defence end-users. This facilitates engagement of Australia's best research and development capabilities with real-world challenges in support of the Defence mission; to defend Australia and its national interests.

The grant programs administered by the DSC are aimed at diversifying research and development efforts across defence-relevant technology areas to increase the impact of research outputs and improving industry and academic linkages.

[1] https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2021-10/2108-083_Diversify%20WA-Web.pdf

2. Nature of grant

2.1. Intent

The Collaborative Research Grant is one mechanism in which the DSC supports the Defence Science and Technology Group to enable the research and industry sector to focus their work on the development of advanced and asymmetric capabilities in key technological areas.

The Collaborative Research Grant is co-funded through the Western Australian State Government and the Department of Defence.

The intent of this funding is to leverage state-based defence research networks to support cross-disciplinary collaboration between researchers and industry which address the six Defence Innovation, Science and Technology priorities stemming from the Defence Strategic Review 2023, and contribute to ADF capability.

2.2. Funding available

The minimum grant amount is $50,000.

The maximum grant amount is $150,000.

Requests outside of this range may be considered where there is a compelling business case.

2.3. Timeline

Projects are expected to be scoped for within 12-18 month duration.

Extensions may be possible in unforeseen circumstances and subject to clauses in the Grant Agreement.

2.4. Use of funds

Funding is awarded on a competitive basis subject to prioritisation against the selection criteria and available funding.

Funds cannot be used for teaching relief, student fees or publication costs.

Funds may be used to pay for:

- project services and consumables;
- access to facilities (e.g. bench fees or workshop costs); and/or

- to support or employ research and technical staff.

3. Eligibility

The Collaborative Research Grant supports activities that are consistent with the intent and aims of the Defence Science Centre and Diversify WA.

In order to be considered eligible and to be included in the evaluation process, an application must be received by the closing date. Applications will not be accepted after this time.

Applications must meet the following criteria:

- Align to one of the Defence IS&T priorities of:
    - Hypersonics
    - Directed energy
    - Trusted autonomy
    - Quantum technology
    - Information warfare
    - Long-range fires

  Or align to one of the AUKUS Pillar 2 technology areas of:
    - Advanced cyber
    - Artificial intelligence and autonomy
    - Electronic warfare
    - Information sharing
    - Hypersonics
    - Quantum technologies
    - Undersea capabilities

  Or research that supports the nuclear submarine program[2].

[2] Priority nuclear powered submarine research areas include: acoustic sensors and signal processing; digital engineering and combat systems; submarine atmosphere control; health physics; habitability and human sciences; materials and corrosion science; nondestructive test; computational fluid dynamics; and reactor physics.

Or the theme of maritime maintenance/sustainment.

- Collaborate with at least one DSC member university. DSC member universities are Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, or the University of Western Australia.
- Include direct Department of Defence participation, or a Letter of Support from the Department of Defence representative of the rank of O-5 or above. List of military ranks and their equivalencies across three services is available on the Defence webpage.
- Accept the Intellectual Property Deed with the Defence Science and Technology Group. This is available for review on the DSC Grants Programs webpage.

Whilst it is not an eligibility requirement, it is highly desirable that the projects include at least one industry partner.

4. Evaluation Criteria

Your application will be evaluated against the criteria below and ranked against other applications. The Collaborative Research Grant is highly competitive and is often oversubscribed against a finite pool of funds. Therefore, an application does not guarantee subsequent funding, and a competitive assessment is used to identify the strongest applications.

All applications will be evaluated using the same criteria for collaboration, feasibility and impact, which are weighted equally. The application form provides opportunity to directly address each of the evaluation criteria.

4.1. Collaboration

Collaboration builds resilience and depth to a research proposal and addresses the intent of the NGTF to support cross-disciplinary research and build academic communities.

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- Any other university staff on the research team, preferable from more than one DSC member university
- Any industry partner as part of the research team, preferably Western Australian-based
- Any engagement of support from Defence, such as from the Defence Science and Technology Group or uniformed Defence member (where Protected Identity constraints allow)
- Co-contributions in cash or in-kind from team members
- Unique roles and responsibilities the team members will bring to the project.
- Those applications with genuine industry or Defence collaborators named within their application will be considered more favourably.

4.2. Feasibility

Feasibility assesses the ability of your proposed team, funding, and schedule to achieve the scope of the proposed project. It is not an assessment of the research topic per se, but rather in the confidence in achieving the project outcomes.

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- The experience of the collaborators and their track record in achieving successful research outcomes

- Mitigating factors to reduce the perceived technical risks
- Previous risk-mitigation measures which have been conducted to mature the Technology Readiness Level to date
- Your access requirements for specialist resources, platforms, infrastructure, equipment, or personnel and how you perceived this will be enabled
- Broad expected milestones.

4.3. Impact

Impact is a subjective assessment and considers how your application enhances ADF operational capability, secures strategic advantage, growth of sovereign industry capability, or economic development for Western Australia.

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- Anticipated project outcomes
- How the project addresses priority areas for Defence, as outlined in current strategic guidance released by Defence or related agency, such as but not limited to More Together Defence Science and Technology Strategy 2030, 2020 Defence Strategic Update, National Security Science and Technology Centre Priorities, HACSTRAT, Army Quantum Technology Roadmap, Mercator Maritime Domain Strategy 2040, Robotics Autonomous Systems and Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2040 and the Defence Strategic Review 2023.
- How the project addresses sovereign industry capability needs, such as but not limited to Diversify WA, Western Australian Defence and Defence Industries Strategic Plan, Defence National Manufacturing Priority Road Map, Critical Technology Priorities, or Sovereign Industrial Capability Priorities.
- How the project and collaboration partners will influence the change
- The relevance of the Defence endorsement, or previous Defence engagement which supports your project.
- Identification of commercialisation pathway.

5. How to apply

5.1. Abstract

To assist in determining if your project is in scope, applicants may choose to submit an abstract of their proposed project for early feedback from DSC to assist in application competitiveness and identifying potential collaborators.

The abstract must be under 300 words and submitted to DSC@jtsi.wa.gov.au prior to **5:00 PM, 22 MARCH 2024 AWST.**

Submission of an abstract is **not a pre-requisite** to apply to the Collaborative Research Grant, and applicants will need to submit a subsequent application (see below) to be considered.

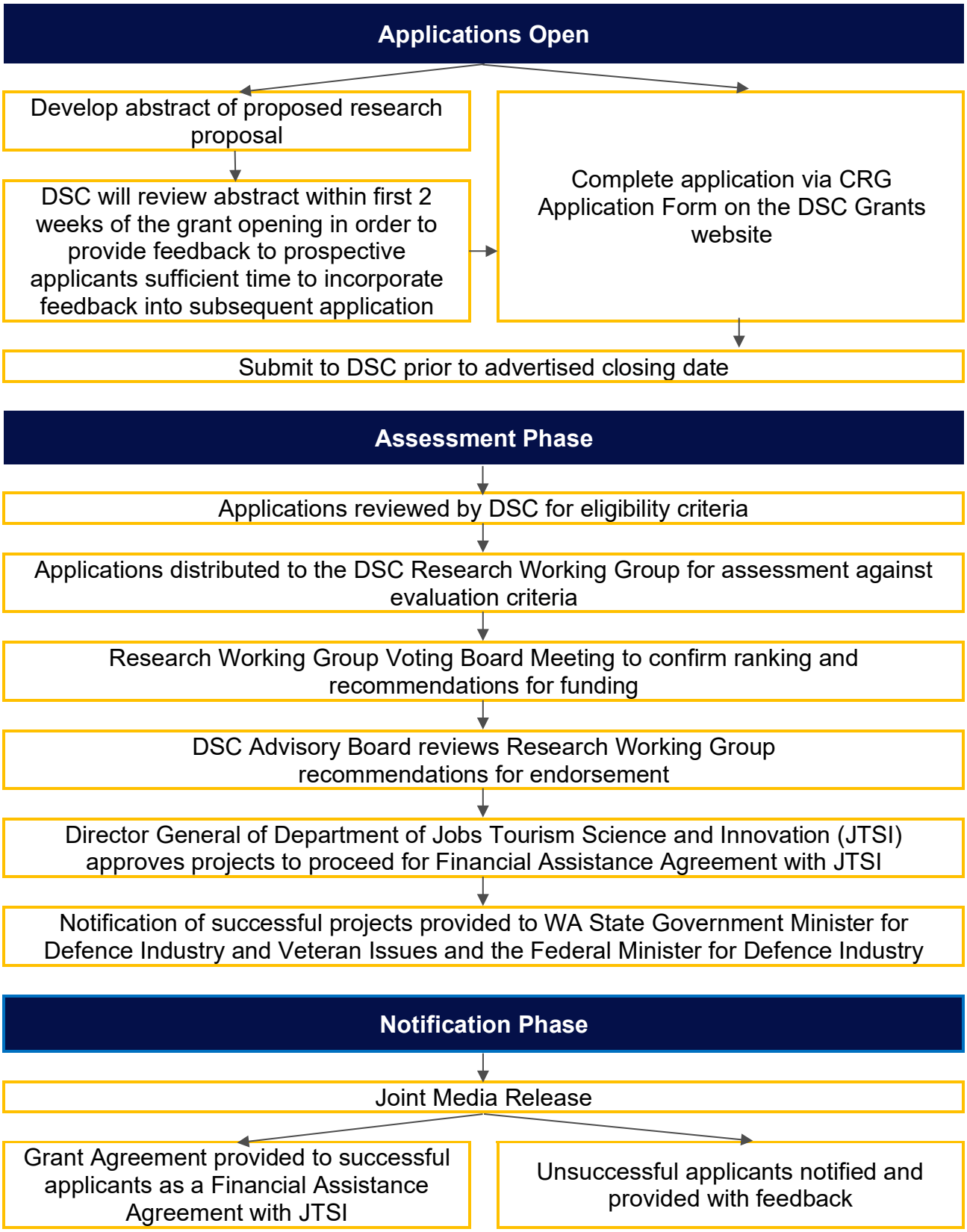
5.2. Application form

All applications are to be made via the provided application form on the DSC Grants Programs webpage. Applications must be submitted to DSC@jtsi.wa.gov.au before the closing date.

5.3. Closing date

Applications close **5.00 PM, 12 APRIL 2024 AWST**. Late applications will not be accepted.

5.4. Application process



5.5. Getting help

The DSC strongly advises that you contact your defence research university liaison for assistance completing your application. The contact details of the DSC-member defence research liaison are as follows:

Curtin University

- Gary Hale - Chief Security Officer & Director Defence & Space Research
- Phone: 08 9266 1448
- Email: defence@curtin.edu.au

Edith Cowan University

- Tony Marceddo - Director Institute for Securing Digital Futures
- Phone: 08 6304 5194
- Email: defence.research@ecu.edu.au

Murdoch University

- André deSouza- Director of Operations, Commercialisation and Defence
- Phone: 08 9360 1655
- Email: Andre.deSouza@murdoch.edu.au

University of Western Australia

- Caroline Chapman – Manager, Research Infrastructure and Partnerships
- Phone: 08 6488 7354
- Email: caroline.chapman@uwa.edu.au

If you require further assistance or guidance to complete your application or support to connect with potential collaboration partners, please email the team at DSC@jtsi.wa.gov.au. We will endeavour to respond to your email within two working days. For urgent assistance please call DSC on (08) 6277 3000.

6. Successful grant applications

6.1. Grant Agreement

The terms and conditions of this opportunity will be listed in the CRG Grant Agreement (also known as the CRG Financial Assistance Agreement). These terms are non-negotiable and will be provided to successful applicants upon conclusion of the assessment phase.

6.2. Payment

Payment of the requested funds will be settled in two instalments:

1. 90% upon commencement of the project term
2. 10% upon the conclusion of the project term and provision of a Completion Report.

6.3. Reporting

The reporting requirements requested by DSC are not intended to be overly burdensome but rather assist in facilitation collaboration between stakeholders and measuring opportunities for innovation, industry diversification and job growth benefits for Western Australia.

The reporting requirements for successful applicants to the Collaborative Research Grant are:

- **Milestone Reports**. Within 2 weeks of the completion of milestone activity.
- **Completion Report**. Within 2 weeks of the completion of the project term.
- **Financial Report**. Statement of income and expenditure of project funds, submitted in conjunction with the Completion Report.

Standard reporting templates will be provided as enclosures to the Grant Agreement.

6.4. Intellectual Property

The Lead Applicant is responsible for ensuring that any legal agreements and Intellectual Property arrangements that may be needed to support collaboration with their activity partners are established before finalising the CRG Grant Agreement.

The successful lead applicant must execute a Deed accepting intellectual property (IP) clauses ‘for Commonwealth purposes’. The IP clauses are the same clauses included in the DSTG Defence Science Partnerships Agreement.

The Intellectual Property Deed is available for review on the DSC Grants Programs webpage.

6.5. Security

Proposals and research applications to the DSC should be kept at Business Impact Level (BIL) of Low-Medium. Please contact the DSC if your proposal is above this BIL and you wish to apply through a classified network. For more information on protecting official information, see Defence Security Guide to Assessing and Protecting Official Information (PDF 2.01MB).

The DSC does not require a personal security clearance when applying for the CRG. However you should discuss this requirement with your defence research university liaison (see 'Getting Help') as to the any internal university policy regarding personnel checks when applying for national security-related projects.

If your application is successful, the Lead Applicant in consultation with the defence research university liaison, must indicate in the Grant Agreement how they intend to reasonably protect the proposed research, which may include (examples only):

- AS4811 screening of all research personal
- personal security clearance to the required protection level
- use of certified research ICT system.

6.6. Media and promotion

Successful grant recipients may be requested to feature as part of the Department's media release announcing the successful applications into this round of Collaborative Research Grants.