NSTIx

National Security Technology and Innovation Exchange

What is NSTIx?

The National Security Technology and Innovation Exchange (NSTIx) is a government-led science, technology and innovation (ST&I) partnership that enables coherent and agile delivery of innovative national security outcomes through a co-ordinated and systematic approach to research and capability development. We are a key contributor to delivering the UK's ambition to be a 'Science and Technology Superpower', including in new and emerging technologies.

NSTIx engages with UK government organisations that require national security ST&I to identify and communicate cross-cutting areas for collaboration and co-creation. We aim to drive coherence and efficiencies across the national security ST&I ecosystem. We also feed national security ST&I expertise into the wider government ST&I ecosystem, informing decisions on UK strategic advantage through ST&I. We promote engagement with providers and end users of ST&I, including with industry and academia, to enable better outcomes for all parties. We identify enablers and seek to break down common barriers to ST&I across this landscape.

NSTIx has established a government-led network of themed Co-Creation Spaces (CCS). The CCSs combine the respective power of specialist public and private sector partners in research, capability development and end user requirements. This supports the development of effective, user-driven technology at pace in areas that are critical to national security.

NSTIx Vision, Mission and Values

A world–leading, agile and responsive National Security Science, Technology and Innovation Ecosystem that amplifies the UK's strengths to secure operational and competitive advantage, through a more coherent and effective approach to innovation.

To scale science, technology and innovation investments and impact on common national security priorities by co-ordinating and cohering across the national security system, as a systems enabler.

Innovate. Collaborate. Co-Create.

Why does NSTIx exist?

NSTIx was born out of the need to deliver coherence and efficiencies across the national security ST&I ecosystem, to meet UK national security needs and respond to rapid changes in threats and opportunities. NSTIx is vital in scaling up our investment in ST&I more efficiently and effectively through joining up requirements, breaking down barriers and enabling best practice in co-creation with suppliers and end users in academia and the private sector. NSTIx will also play a role in the wider ST&I ecosystem by sharing national security ST&I expertise to support decisions on the goals, missions and technology areas where strategic advantage through ST&I can add the most value.

How does NSTIx engage with suppliers and end users in industry and academia?

While NSTIx is primarily government facing, it also plays a key role in promoting engagement and co-creation with academia and industry ST&I suppliers and end users. This happens primarily through our Co-Creation Network but also through sharing information on cross-cutting government national security requirements where appropriate. This engagement will drive strategic advantage through diversity of thought, provide greater value for money, stimulate prosperity and support delivery of innovation with the end user in mind.

NSTIx Co-Creation Spaces

What are Co-Creation Spaces?

Co-Creation Spaces bring together key public and private sector parties to foster open and collaborative development of high-impact, user-driven technology solutions around a cross-cutting theme critical to national security, at a pace and scale that could not otherwise be achieved. NSTIx does not directly task or fund the Co-Creation Spaces or the projects within them. NSTIx does provide the partnerships and enablers under which co-creation can thrive. In return, Co-Creation Spaces provide NSTIx with a practical outlet for our core work, allowing us to develop cross-cutting capabilities, test concepts and develop best practice in co-creation that will be fed back into the Co-Creation Spaces and to wider partners.

How is co-creation useful?

It is widely recognised that co-creation enables opportunities for innovative development and prosperity by bringing parties to the table that would not normally be involved. Following the success of its pilot scheme, NSTIx Co-Creation Spaces have been referred to as a successful example of industry, research and government collaboration in the Integrated Review of Defence, Security and Foreign Policy and the UK Innovation Strategy, both published in 2021.

How are Co-Creation Spaces run?

Co-Creation Spaces are collaborative environments, sited near to pre-existing clusters of relevant government, commercial and/or academic technical excellence. They connect with, and exploit, existing specialist ST&I facilities and expertise, not to replicate or duplicate them. Each space is run by a small, enduring core of domain and support staff, sourced mainly from the lead departments. Project teams develop technology solutions to maximise agility and efficiency.

Where are the Co-Creation Spaces and what do they specialise in?

Co-Creation Spaces are sited at various locations across the UK. Locations are decided by the lead government department.

The Co-Creation Network adapts according to national security priority needs. These currently include: Protective Security, Defence Innovation, Cyber, Data Science & Artificial Intelligence and Operational Technology.

Will Co-Creation Spaces only be in the UK?

Although UK focussed, Co-Creation Spaces will, where appropriate, build relationships with overseas ST&I providers and users.

Where can I find out more about NSTIx?

You can find out further information about NSTIx on our gov.uk webpage or alternatively you can contact the team with any enquiries to the NSTIx e-mail address: nstix@nstix.gov.uk