

Review Criteria

We encourage applications from UK universities with leading academics, research groups or research centres in the subject areas identified in the call. We intend to fund one Post-Doctoral Research Associate for one year within a university. We also, where possible, intend to build upon the investment by the research councils in leading expertise within specific fields. Applicants therefore need to demonstrate how they are leading the thinking in the area and what benefit MOD would obtain through funding research at their particular institution.

Applications should be submitted by noon on 15th September 2016 to postdocs@dstl.gov.uk and should include:

- The completed application form
- Where applicable cost quotations to support the Price breakdown
- CV of RA (if known)
- CV of UK-based Principal Investigator
- A single slide which summarises the scope of the proposed work

All applications will be reviewed under the following criteria and therefore they must provide the necessary information requested in the application form.

Guidelines for applicants

Assessment Criteria used to Review the Application

All applications will be reviewed for technical relevance and quality prior to being considered further according to the Research Centre/Group and Linkages criteria.

Assessment Area	Assessment Criteria used to review the application
Scientific Quality and Innovation	<p>The application will be assessed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The novelty of the proposed work in relation to the context, and the timeliness.▪ Whether the proposed work is ambitious, adventurous, and transformative.▪ How well the multidisciplinary elements of the proposal are integrated.▪ The pathway to impact for the proposed research.▪ How complete and realistic the proposed approach is.

Academic Staff, Resources and Management	<p>The application will be assessed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CV(s). ▪ Whether the team's expertise aligns with the topic of the call. ▪ The balance of skills of the team. ▪ The time and commitment proposed. ▪ If requirements for Government Furnished Equipment or Information (GFE, GFI) are realistic and whether any work involving human participation is being reasonably proposed.
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Assessment Criteria used to review the Centre or Research Group and the value to Dstl

Only technically strong applications will be considered for funding. The Research Group/Centre and Linkages criteria will be used to further assess the quality of the application(s).

Assessment Area	Assessment Criteria used to review the application
The Research Group/Centre	<p>The application will be assessed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidence provided of the international standing of the research of the group or centre, including evidence of significant research income and their contribution to the UK and international research landscape. • The benefit MOD would obtain through funding research at the particular institution. • The relevance of the broader research in the group or centre to MOD.

Linkages	<p>The application will be assessed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of linkages to Dstl. Applicants are encouraged to provide options that include significant alignment/contribution of other studentship support from the host university (e.g. from EPSRC, institutional funds, other funding sources).
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TTCP CREATE Portfolio Balancing

The TTCP is seeking to promote a balanced research programme across its international community. For this reason Dstl will share promising proposals with its equivalent Government partners in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

Research proposals will be assessed at the national level using the criteria above. Each proposal deemed fundable by the UK assessors will be then subject to an international portfolio balancing exercise. This exercise will aim to maximise the number of challenges in which work is performed, to create a balanced portfolio.

Portfolio balancing is designed to encourage mutual reliance across the full multinational programme of work. An international panel of subject matter experts having visibility across all proposals will provide national assessors with advice. The national assessor will then use this information to fund those proposals which will maximise mutual reliance across international partners.

Assumptions and Dependencies

1. The research should start within 8 weeks of the notification of award to ensure coordination of the research activities across the international partner nations. The anticipated award notification date is 4th November 2016.
2. Each proposal deemed fundable will be subject to the portfolio balancing exercise.
3. The level of funding for the pilot phase is expected to equate to one person year at Research Associate level plus an appropriate level of Principal Investigator time.
4. The output of the project must be original and novel TRL 1-3 research. A test of this novelty and originality is that it is suitable for publication in academic journals and at academic conferences.
5. Output will be unclassified.
6. Proposals shall be limited to the challenges described in the calling notice.

7. Complete coverage of all topics is not expected. Proposals should aim to address at most one or two of the technical challenges detailed earlier.
8. It is essential that proposals demonstrate applicability to both physics-based and human-based sources.
9. Multiple proposals from the same proposers are welcome.
10. Collaboration with researchers in other nations who are beneficiaries of the associated calls is encouraged.
11. Each proposal shall include a costed travel plan that includes:
 - a. Attendance at one international review meeting hosted by one of the international partners, and
 - b. Collaboration visits with researchers in other nations, as described in item 10.
 - c. Peer review conference attendance and other activities expected of RAs.
12. The TTCP ISTAR TP1 panel is developing an open source Tracking and Fusion Framework for the development and evaluation of fusion algorithms. Successful proposers are expected to interact with this team. Where possible, software outputs should be compatible with the framework.
13. Research outputs will be assessed at the national level and will be accepted using the assessment criteria detailed above.
14. Deliverables shall include source code and data (both where applicable) that permit the reproduction of reported results.
15. Research products (including source code) will be shared across international partners.
16. It is not anticipated that there will be any limitations on conducting or reporting this research resulting from export control regulations. National representatives will assist with ensuring compliance. Proposals which appear to contravene national export control regulations at the national assessment phase will not be submitted to portfolio balancing.
17. Intellectual Property: deliverables and source code will be subject to DEFCON 705 (full rights) conditions.
18. Government subject matter experts from international partners will be involved in periodic project review and research assessment and may provide non-binding technical guidance and feedback during the project.
19. Proposals shall identify the participating researchers. The submission shall be able to demonstrate a suitable level of expertise in the proposed topic.