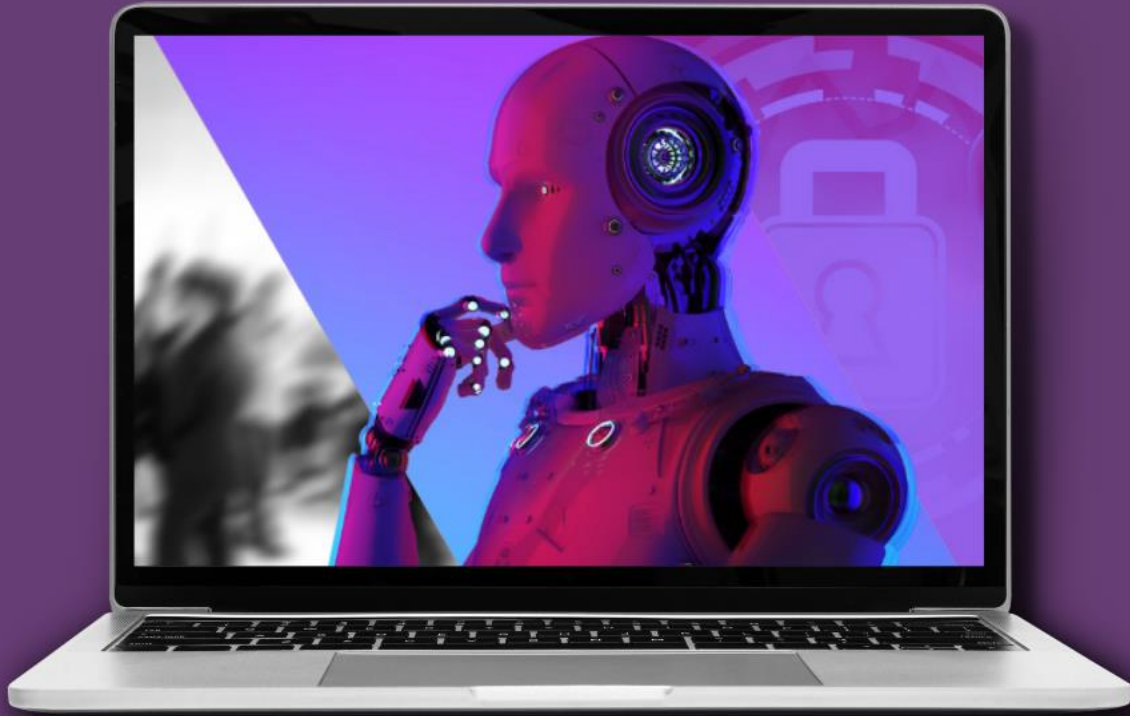




Defence and Security  
Accelerator



# Scoping out the Grey Zone: Sub-threshold AI Competition Launch Webinar

25 April 2023, 10am - 12pm

---



Defence and Security  
Accelerator

# Welcome and Housekeeping

Joanne Bevan  
Competition Delivery Manager



@DASAccelerator



Defence and Security Accelerator



# Housekeeping

- Welcome to today's launch Q&A for the new DASA competition: **Scoping out the Grey Zone: Sub-threshold AI**
- Please note your camera and microphone will be kept off
- Today's event will be recorded (audio only) and the slides and recording will be made available afterwards via the competition page on the DASA Gov.uk site
- Discussions will remain at **OFFICIAL**
- Q&A session will take place after via Slido. To access, go to the website [www.sli.do](http://www.sli.do) (on a separate tab or device) and enter the code #GREYZONE
- If you are having any technical issues, please use the chat function in Teams.

# Q&A

## How to submit questions

Please submit or upvote any questions via slido



- Scan above, or go to website [sli.do](https://sli.do) and enter code #GREYZONE

# Agenda

Time	Description	Speaker
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome and Housekeeping	<b>Joanne Bevan</b> DASA Delivery Manager
10.05 – 10.20	Overview of DASA	<b>Tom Adamson</b> DASA Innovation Partner
10.20 – 10.45	Overview of Competition: Scoping out the Grey Zone: Sub Threshold AI	<b>Brendan Neeson</b> DSTL Principle Scientist
10.45 – 11.00	Break – opportunity to submit questions via Slido (website sli.do, code #GREYZONE)	
11.00 – 11.50	Open Q&A	<b>Competition team</b>
11.55 – 12.00	Closing remarks	<b>Joanne Bevan</b> DASA Delivery Manager



Defence and Security  
Accelerator

# DASA Overview

**Tom Adamson**  
**Innovation Partner**



@DASAccelerator



Defence and Security Accelerator



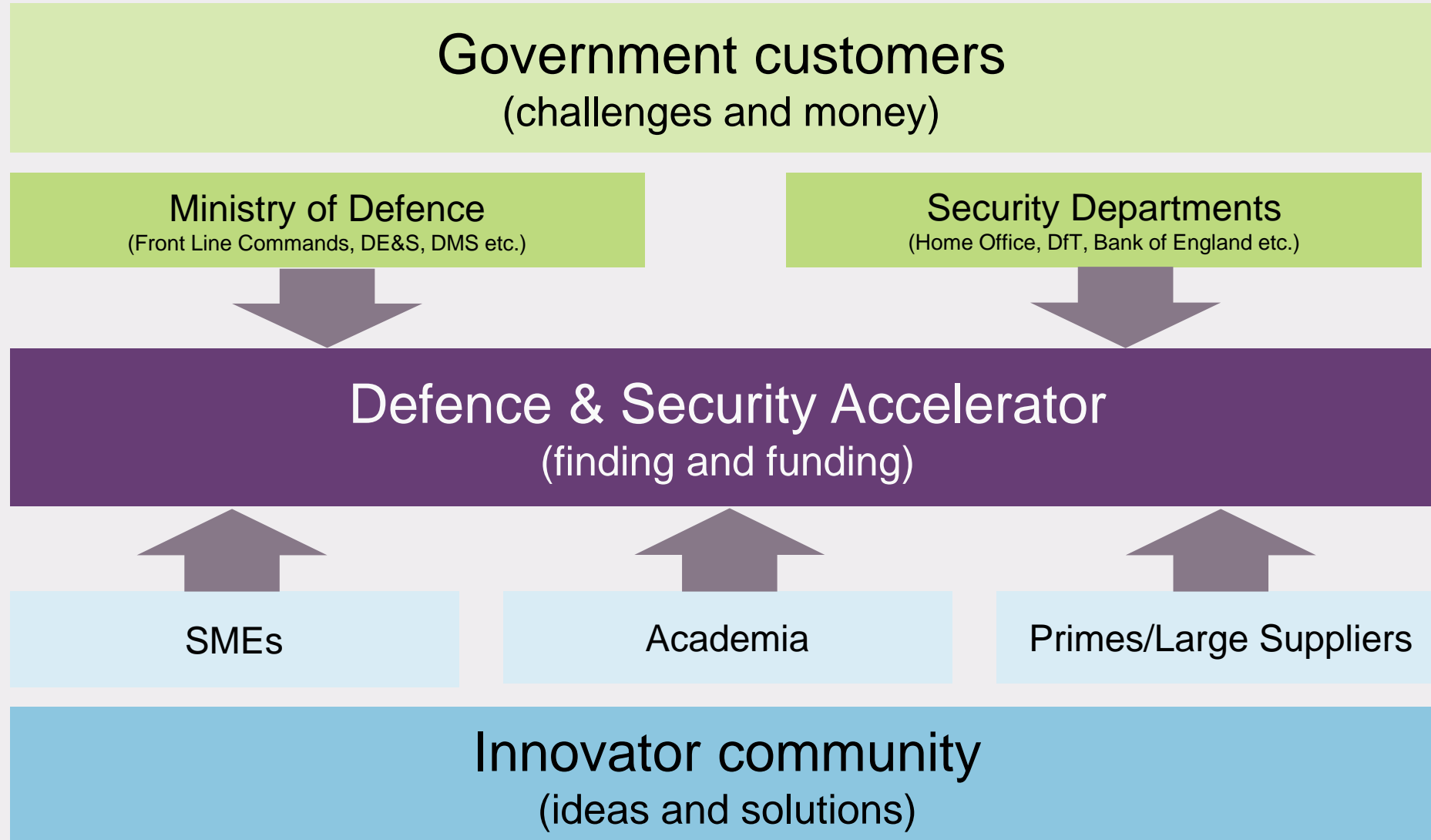


# Our Mission

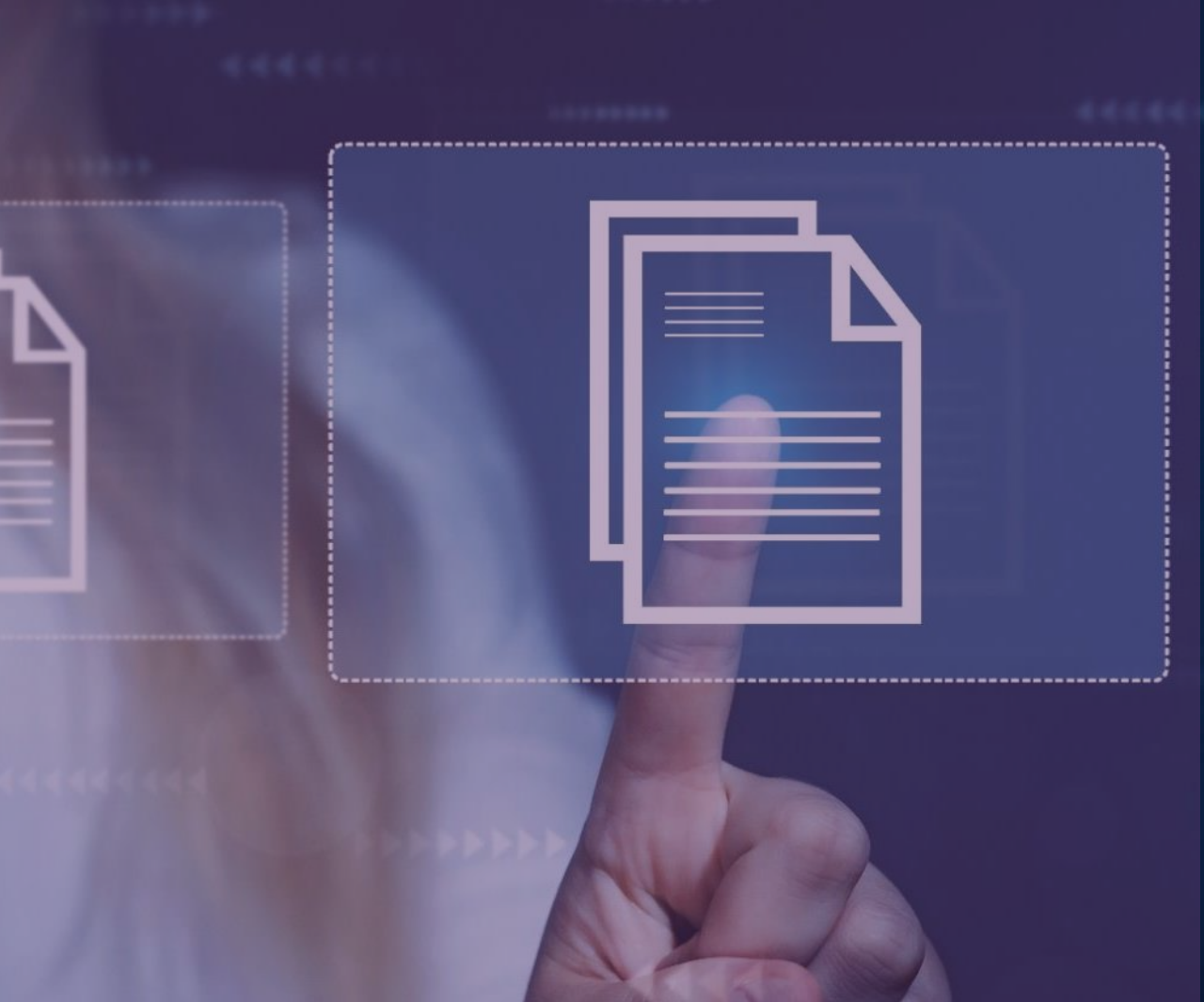
ABOUT US

**We find and fund exploitable innovation to support UK defence and security quickly and effectively, and support UK prosperity.**

# How do we work?







# Our Offer

## Finding Innovation:

- Market Explorations
- Innovation Portal
- Innovation Outlines

## Funding Innovation:

- Open Call for Innovation
- Themed Competitions
- Defence Technology Exploitation Programme
- Defence Innovation Loans

... plus **post-funding support** to help build the business

**DASA is set up to accelerate innovative ideas towards impact and help businesses succeed.**

- Intellectual property stays with the innovator
- Quick, simple application process
- Innovation Partners provide advice and guidance at initial stages
- Project Managers and Technical Partners to support delivery of the projects
- Post-funding support to help innovators pull ideas through to impact
- Generally 100% funding through Open call and Themed Competitions



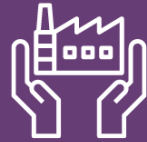
# Innovators

## Why do innovators work with us?

**1 in 5**  
proposals funded



**57%**  
Contracts  
awarded to SMEs



**£50-170k**  
Typical funding  
amount



Up to **4x**  
leveraged through  
follow on investment



# Innovators

# Meet the Team

Our Innovation Partners help innovators throughout the UK and abroad understand opportunities across the defence and security community.

How to contact us:

- Visit [www.gov.uk/dasa](http://www.gov.uk/dasa) and click 'Get in touch with DASA'
- Submit an 'Contact DASA' form
- Attend regional outreach events
- Follow us on social media



Andrew Peaty  
West Midlands



Clare Green  
Yorkshire and  
Humber



Jas Shanker  
East Midlands



Jonathan  
Jones  
North West



Mike Madden  
South West



Anna Taylor  
North East



Paul Alderton  
South East



Ralph Wilkins  
London



Vicki Savage  
East of England



Tom Adamson  
Wales



Deb Carr  
Scotland



Linda Galloway  
International

# Agenda

Time	Description	Speaker
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome and Housekeeping	<b>Joanne Bevan</b> DASA Delivery Manager
10.05 – 10.20	Overview of DASA	<b>Tom Adamson</b> DASA Innovation Partner
10.20 – 10.45	Overview of Competition: Scoping out the Grey Zone: Sub Threshold AI	<b>Brendan Neeson</b> DSTL Principle Consultant
10.45 – 11.00	Break – opportunity to submit questions via Slido (website sli.do, code #GREYZONE)	
11.00 – 11.50	Open Q&A	<b>Competition team</b>
11.55 – 12.00	Closing remarks	<b>Joanne Bevan</b> DASA Delivery Manager



# Scoping Out the Grey Zone: Sub-threshold AI

---

DASA Themed Call



Ministry  
of Defence

---

11/05/2023 / © Crown copyright 2020 Dstl

**UK OFFICIAL**

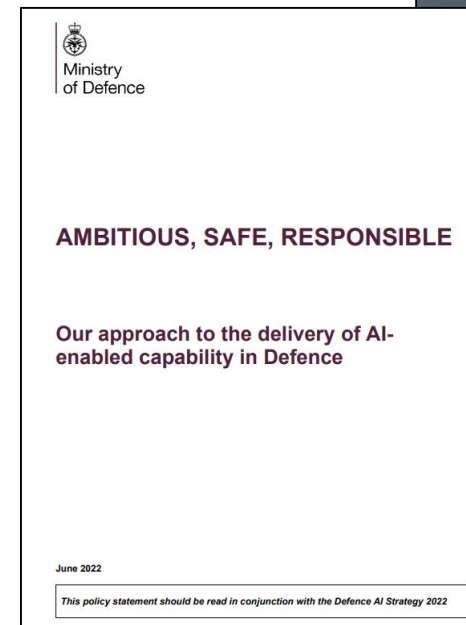
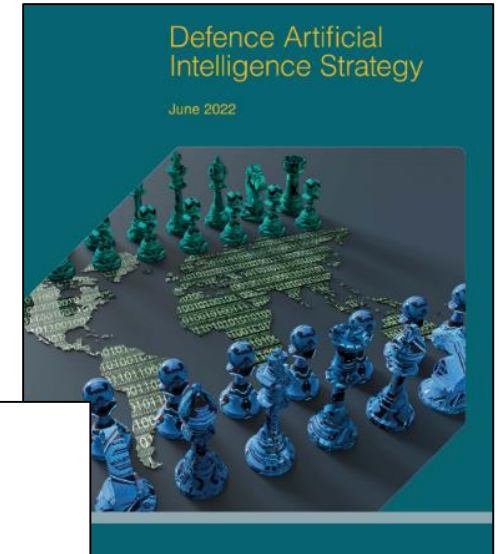
## HMG Integrated Review Refresh (2023)

- Artificial Intelligence a key innovation area for S&T
- Systemic Competition
  - Including below the threshold of armed conflict
  - HMG “will further strengthen the UK’s ability to tackle state and non-state threats below the level of armed conflict”

***“We will also continue to develop our broader deterrence and defence toolkit, including information operations.....and make greater use of open source information alongside our intelligence capabilities”***

## Approach to delivering AI enabled capability in Defence

- **Ambitious** in terms of the tools and operational effects we seek to deliver;
- **Enable** – rather than constrain – the delivery of those tools and effects; and
- Deliver and use AI-enabled capability in a **safe and responsible** manner.
  - Legal
  - Ethical
  - Trusted



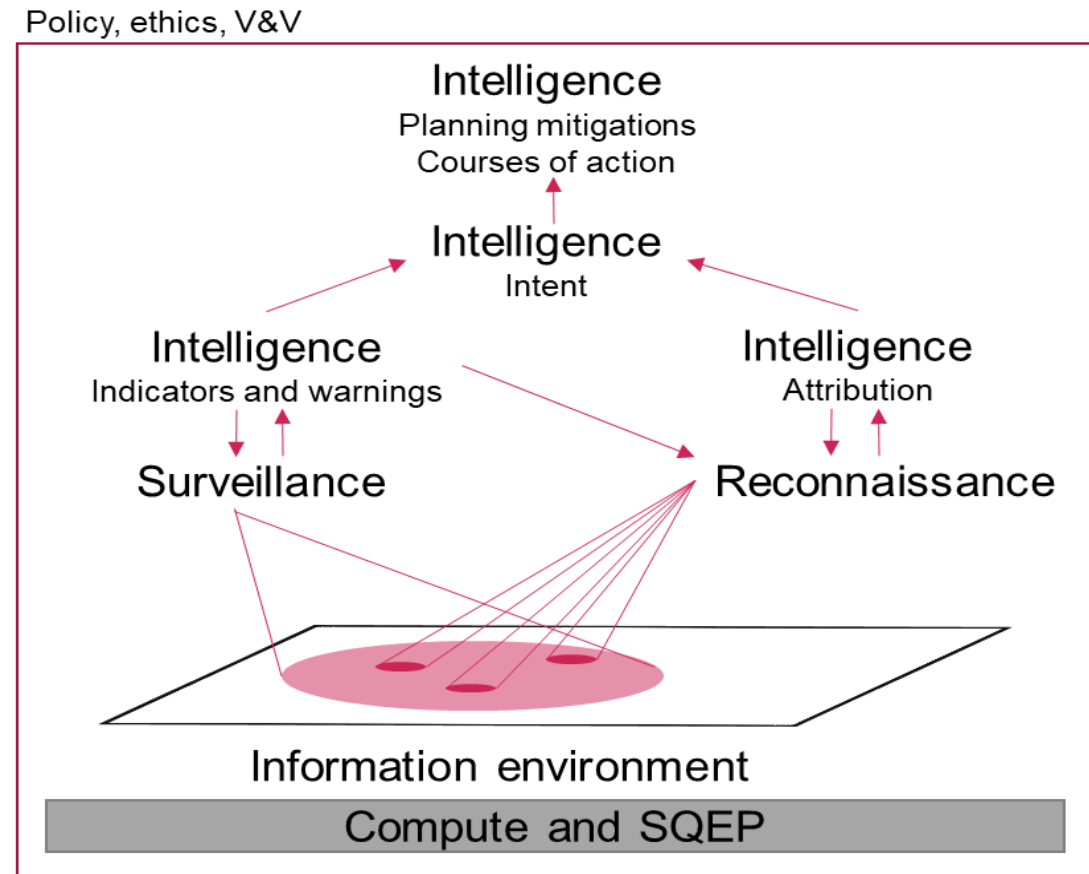


Research technologies to enable the UK to conduct Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) of the **sub-threshold Information Environment**\*

- Understand actions in the sub-threshold, and to be able to identify which are (or appear to be) malign
- Increase UK ability to understand the implications and reach of activities in the sub-threshold
- Attribute actions to actors
- Identify likely or plausible intent or consequences
- Propose plausible response options

\* *A diverse global environment that consists of the physical, virtual and the cognitive dimensions where humans and automated systems observe, orient, decide and act on data, information and knowledge*

- The sub-threshold encapsulates all activity up to, but not crossing, the legal definition of armed conflict.
- 57 activities of potential interest, across Diplomatic, Information, Military and Economic dimensions identified
- We then developed a simplified ISR model of the Sub-threshold information environment



## 1. Indicators and Warnings

*Applying AI techniques to detect individual indicators & warnings relevant to the sub-threshold information environment*

*“Establishing competitive advantage in the sub-threshold in an environment of constant competition.”*

## 2. Intent and Attribution

*Attributing actions to actors and providing insight into the intent behind them*

## 3. Courses of Action

*Developing the capabilities required to support human machine teams in the generation and evaluation of courses of action*

Can we identify potentially hostile activity **using AI**?

- Can we validate information in publicly available (open-source) information
- Can we identify manipulated media – e.g. video, imagery, text, audio?
- Can we detect and characterise the spread of narratives?
- Can we detect attempts to acquire or monopolise technologies or natural resources?

- Having identified potentially hostile activity (challenge 1) can we **use AI to:**
- Attribute these actions to the Adversaries directing them?
  - Understanding the Adversary's intent and aims?
  - Understand how Adversary activity in the information environment is received by the adversaries target audience?

This a demanding challenge area

- how could AI technology be applied to support the generation of CoAs to counter Adversary sub-threshold activity in the Information Environment?
  
- Examples could include (not limited to):
  - AI for wargaming?
  - Decision support in the subthreshold using AI
  - AI to formulate and plan Information Operations and evaluation of these

- Ambitious, Safe, Responsible (Defence AI Strategy)
- Developing or enhancing technology / software tools / demonstrators to enable Defence analysts to overcome these problems
  - At machine speed, at the volumes of data encountered, verified and validated outputs
  - Human - machine teaming
- We are interested in submissions across a range of maturity levels up to TRL 6



Sub-threshold activity often precedes and coincides with overt military action



# **[dstl]** The Science Inside

Discover more



# Agenda

Time	Description	Speaker
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome and Housekeeping	Joanne Bevan, DASA Delivery Manager
10.05 – 10.20	Overview of DASA	Tom Adamson, DASA Innovation Partner
10.20 – 10.45	Overview of Competition: Scoping out the Grey Zone: Sub Threshold AI	Brendan Neeson DSTL Principle Consultant
10.45 – 11.00	Break – opportunity to submit questions via Slido (website sli.do, code #GREYZONE)	
11.00 – 11.50	Open Q&A	Competition team
11.55 – 12.00	Closing remarks	Joanne Bevan DASA Delivery Manager

# Break – back at 11am

Please submit or upvote any questions via slido



- **Scan above, or go to website [sli.do](https://sli.do) and enter code #GREYZONE**

# Agenda

Time	Description	Speaker
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome and Housekeeping	<b>Joanne Bevan</b> DASA Delivery Manager
10.05 – 10.25	Overview of DASA	<b>Tom Adamson</b> DASA Innovation Partner
10.25 – 10.50	Overview of Competition: Scoping out the Grey Zone: Sub Threshold AI	<b>Brendan Neeson</b> DSTL Principle Consultant
10.50 – 11.00	Break – opportunity to submit questions via Slido (website sli.do, code #GREYZONE)	
11.00 – 11.55	Open Q&A	<b>Competition team</b>
11.55 – 12.00	Closing remarks	<b>Joanne Bevan</b> DASA Delivery Manager

# Q&A

Website [sli.do](https://sli.do)  
Code #GREYZONE  
Or scan →



**Scan above, or go to website [sli.do](https://sli.do) and enter code #GREYZONE to submit or upvote your questions**

# Agenda

Time	Description	Speaker
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome and Housekeeping	Joanne Bevan, DASA Delivery Manager
10.05 – 10.20	Overview of DASA	Tom Adamson, DASA Innovation Partner
10.20 – 10.45	Overview of Competition: Scoping out the Grey Zone: Sub Threshold AI	Brendan Neeson DSTL Principle Consultant
10.45 – 11.00	Break – opportunity to submit questions via Slido (website sli.do, code #GREYZONE)	
11.00 – 11.55	Open Q&A	Competition team
11.55 – 12.00	Closing remarks	Joanne Bevan DASA Delivery Manager

# Closing remarks

- Thank you for attending this Q&A event
- We will post this presentation and the Question and Answer session on the competition pages. Please sign up for alerts to remain up to date
- Help is available from DASA Innovation Partners



[accelerator@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:accelerator@dstl.gov.uk)



01980 950000 option 3



[www.gov.uk/dasa](http://www.gov.uk/dasa)



@DASAccelerator



Defence and Security Accelerator

# Contact us