



AUKUS MARITIME INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2025

AUKUS: Maritime
Innovation Challenge 2025

Webinar
3rd April 2025

ASCA



Defence and Security
Accelerator





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Agenda

- **What is AUKUS?**
- **Maritime Innovation Challenge 2025: Competition Scope**
 - Technical Area
 - Mission Requirements
 - What are we looking for?
- **The Trilateral Process**
 - Assessment Process
 - Stage 1
 - Stage 2
- **Key dates**
- **Q&A Session**





What is AUKUS?

- **AUKUS** is a trilateral strategic security partnership between **AU**stralia, the **UK**, and the **USA**. Its primary focus is to promote security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- AUKUS is made up of two ‘Pillars’ (a.k.a. lines of effort).
 - Pillar 1 – is focused on Australia acquiring nuclear-powered attack submarines/basing US and UK nuclear-powered attack submarines in Australia.
 - Pillar 2 – encapsulates other areas. It focuses on the collaborative development of advanced capabilities in six technological areas (and working groups):
 - **Undersea capabilities (the area for the 2025 Innovation Challenge)**
 - Quantum technologies,
 - Artificial intelligence and autonomy,
 - Advanced cyber,
 - Hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities,
 - **Electronic warfare (the area for the previous 2024 AUKUS Innovation Challenge).**





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Maritime Innovation Challenge 2025: Competition Scope

AUKUS MARITIME INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2025

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Maritime Innovation Challenge 2025 Technical Area

AUKUS partners are seeking to research and develop innovations to enable the synchronisation and teaming of multiple undersea systems. With up to \$8m (USD), the UK, Australia and USA are expecting to fund 3-10 proposals.

We invite innovations that enable some or all of the following Desired Capability Effects:

1. Provide near real time communications between Undersea Vehicles (UVs)
2. Provide near real time communications from UVs to Command and Control (C2) Systems /Battle Management System (BMS)
3. Provide near real time communications between seabed systems to UVs and C2 System and BMS
4. Provide a system that can optimally allocate the right asset to the right task in a dynamic and complex environment
5. Provide optimal bandwidth utilisation and effective range, and perform in a contested/congested environment

Successful proposals to this competition should seek to tackle one or more of the above capability challenges (1-5).



Maritime Innovation Challenge 2025 – Mission Requirements



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- **Planning and Initiation**
- **Adaption reporting**
- **Security**
- **Navigation**
- **Large Data**





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We are looking for...

- Proposals that describe how their solution will perform at various depths and hydrographic conditions
- Solutions that exploit the right mode of communication at every point of the mission to optimise the chance of mission success
- Solutions that could be applied to attritable or survivable systems
- Technologies that are Secure By Design

We are *not* looking for...

- The development or redesign of new sensors
- Technologies related to the recovery of UUVs
- Novel power and energy technologies, such as batteries or fuel cells

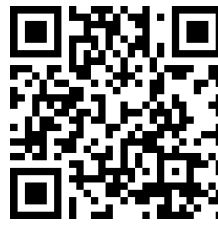




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The Trilateral Process





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Assessment Process – Stage 1

Process	Key Information	Date
Stage 1 Submission deadline	<p>Using the ‘Stage 1 Submission Form’, innovators submit a short description of the particular innovation to one of the national submission portals. This form will detail how the proposal meets the competition scope, a rough order of magnitude cost (ROM) and a brief overview of the respondent’s organisation.</p> <p>The choice of portal does not affect assessment of the submission, all submissions will be reviewed by each of the AUKUS partners and evaluated and compared trilaterally.</p>	28 April 2025
Stage 1 Decision release date	<p>Successful submissions will receive an invitation on the 26th of May 2025 to submit a full proposal into Stage 2 of this competition. Unsuccessful submissions will receive notification by the same time and brief feedback may be provided.</p>	26 May 2025

Please note: Dates may be subject to change.

Stage 1 Assessment Criteria

Desirability - The extent to which the proposed solution addresses the Desired Capability Effects, including:

- The degree to which the proposed solution is unique and provides benefit over existing technology; and
- The ability of the proposed solution to provide operational benefit and be introduced into service;

and

Feasibility - The extent to which the proposed solution can be developed, including:

- The soundness, technical merit, and ability of the solution to be developed to the declared state of maturity within the 12-month timeframe of the challenge (from contract commencement); and
- The high-level organisational capability of the innovator to execute the proposed development approach.



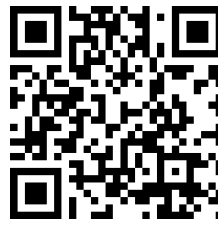


Assessment Process - Stage 2

Process	Key Information	Date
Stage 2 Submission portals open (by invitation only)	Stage 2 will be opened to successful submissions from the trilateral evaluation for Stage 1. Innovators will be invited to submit a full proposal into a specified national portal for this tender response. The portal will be allocated by the AUKUS team. Each nation will release the draft Terms and Conditions for contracting at this stage.	9 June 2025
Stage 2 Submission Deadline	The planned closing date for proposals into Stage 2 is 7 July 2025	7 July 2025
Stage 2 Decision release date	Following assessment, innovators will be notified of whether they have been selected for contracting by an AUKUS partner.	18 August 2025

Please note: Dates may be subject to change.

Key Facts



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Key Information	Competition Details
Stage 1 Submission deadline	Midday/12:00 on 28 April 2025 (Local Time)
Stage 1 Decision release date	26 May 2025
Stage 2 Submission portals open (by invitation only)	9 June 2025
Stage 2 Submission Deadline	7 July 2025
Stage 2 Decision release date	18 August 2025
Total funding available	Up to \$8 million (USD). Together, UK, AUS and US are expecting to fund 3-10 proposals
<u>Technology Readiness Level</u> (TRL)	Achieving minimum TRL6 (Technology model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment)
Contract start month	Aim to start November 2025
Project duration	12 months. Final deliverable is to be a demonstration at an appropriate multinational maritime exercise.

Further Help

Please use the following links for any questions relating to the competition.

DASA – accelerator@dstl.gov.uk

ASCA –

asca.innovationchallenges@defence.gov.au

DIU - <https://www.diu.mil/general-inquiry>



Q&A



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