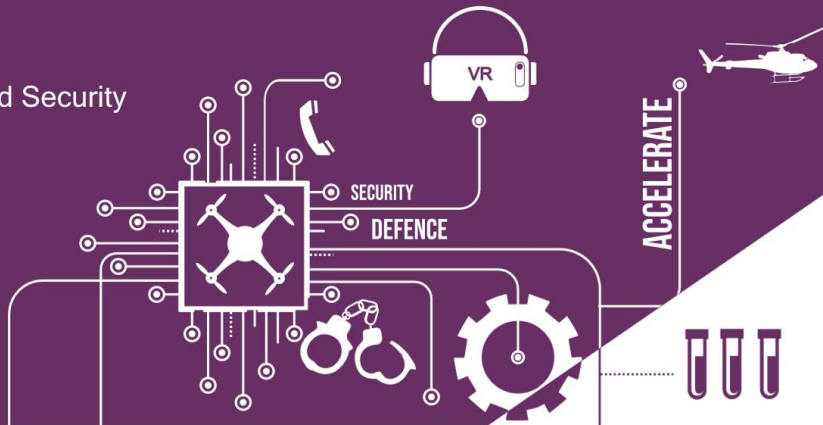
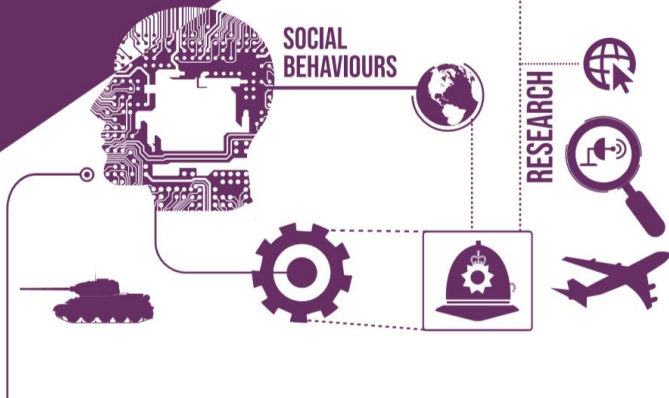




Defence and Security
Accelerator



DASA: THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY ACCELERATOR



OUR MISSION

Our mission is for the UK to have strategic advantage through the most innovative defence and security capabilities in the world.

We will find and fund exploitable innovations which support the defence and security of the UK faster and more effectively while seeking to generate economic value for the UK.





ABOUT US

DASA is a cross-Government organisation, created by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), working under the direction of the MOD's Chief Scientific Adviser.

We have been created to find and fund exploitable innovation which supports UK defence and security, protecting us against our adversaries. DASA has access to an £800M Defence Innovation Fund, and has a cross-government remit with support from MOD, Home Office and the Armed Forces.

Our competition environment drives innovation faster and turns great ideas into front line usable products, policies, processes and services.

We are actively seeking out the brightest opportunities through outreach, scouting, market intelligence and networks, and bring together talented, like-minded people from industry, academia and small and medium sized enterprises (SME) to compete, collaborate and develop solutions that range from an idea on a page to ready-to-use products.

We are open to anyone with a good idea. We want to help businesses grow by providing: funding, business support, access to end users, technical expertise and help building links between business need, procurement and exploitation.

We are not afraid to try new things or work in different ways. By being innovative ourselves, we aim to role model a new innovation culture and become the go-to place for the exploitation of solutions to defence and security needs.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Defence and Security Accelerator officially launched in December 2016 and have received over 700 Innovative proposals and funded 147 proposals... just in the first year.



OUR STRATEGY

OUR STRATEGY

We're here to help the UK to have strategic advantage through the most innovative defence and security capabilities in the world, and to build prosperity for the UK. We will do this by:



REACHING OUT

Building an ecosystem comprising of government, private sector, academics, individuals and introducing innovators to defence and security. We are interested in engaging with people who have not worked with defence and security before.

SUPPORTING

Funding and supporting SMEs, industry and academia to develop their ideas, in partnership with frontline stakeholders, into workable demonstrators, products and services.

IDEAS

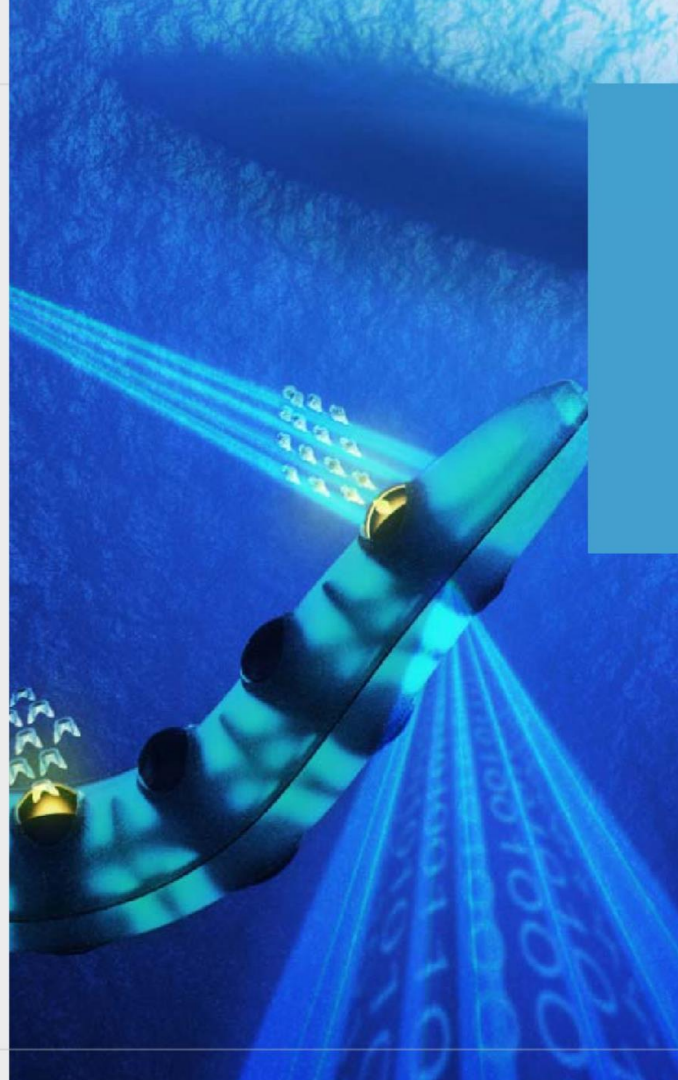
Working with defence and security stakeholders to exploit the best ideas, products and services, fast-tracking them to operational use and delivering commercial potential.

COLLABORATION

Working collaboratively to form partnerships, co-ordinate and complement existing activity, and avoid any duplication, to enhance the overall innovation ecosystem.

EXPERIMENTING

Experimenting with novel methodology and approaches in order to facilitate as wide a range of proposals as possible in order to find the best solutions.





OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

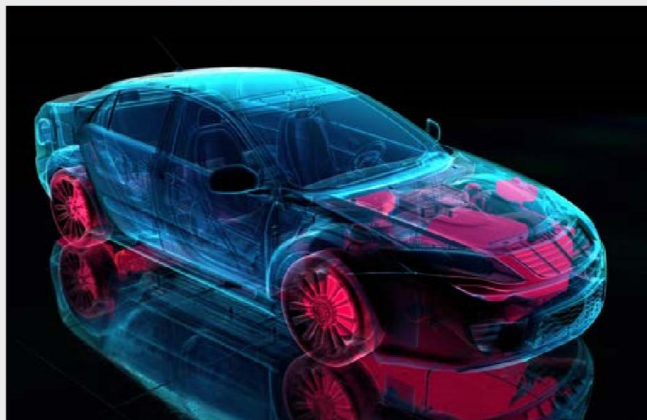
- You can trust us – we protect your IP.
- Our working practices are transparent, fair and accessible.
- We make it easy for people to find us, contact us, and work with us.

OPENNESS

- We are open to anyone with a good idea, including private sector companies, especially SMEs, third sector organisations, academics and spin-outs, innovators, and also relevant partner organisations and businesses overseas.
- We work regionally.
- Our processes are simple to access and use, clear, and non-bureaucratic.

COURAGE

- We have the courage to try new ways of working, evaluate, learn from them, and share best practice.
- We invest in high-risk evidence-backed innovation and understand that not every research project is successful.
- We open doors and will explore any exploitation pathway across defence and security.





WHY WORK WITH US?

WHY WORK WITH US?

Money

We provide funding to develop promising and game-changing ideas.

Access

Our networks and access to the customer and end users are invaluable.

Proactive

We scout for ideas and actively pursue them.

Contract terms

We offer quick, easy and beneficial contractual terms.

Events

Meet the buyers, explore challenges, network with Government officials, hackathons, sandpits, pitch panels, competitions and exhibitions.

Guidance

Our Innovation Partners and team provide guidance for your idea.

Exploitation

Help bridging the 'valley of death' and getting the best innovations through to exploitation.

Purpose

Keeping our country and people safe from adversaries and support economic growth and prosperity.

Trust

We are open and fair and provide transparency data on our website.

OUR TEAM IS

- Experienced across government.
- Multi-skilled.
- Well connected across different disciplines.
- Supported regionally.
- Networks across defence, security and the innovation ecosystem
- Working collaboratively.



DID YOU KNOW?

Over 40% of companies are new to us and have never worked with us before.



OUR SERVICES

OPEN CALL FOR INNOVATION

Our Open Call for Innovation is designed to encourage the submission of innovative ideas that can achieve an impact for defence or security. The Open Call is open 24/7 and welcomes supplier ideas (technology push) on anything that can add benefit to defence and/or security.

The Open Call for Innovation has two tracks, which suppliers will select depending on the maturity of their innovation. These tracks are:

1. EMERGING INNOVATIONS

In this category, we are encouraging the submission of proposals across a wide range of technology areas with the aim of finding new and novel opportunities for exploitation across defence and/or security.

Emerging innovations are viewed as those which will deliver a proof of concept at around

Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4, which in outline means delivering a proof of concept, with component and/or sub-system validation in a laboratory-style environment.

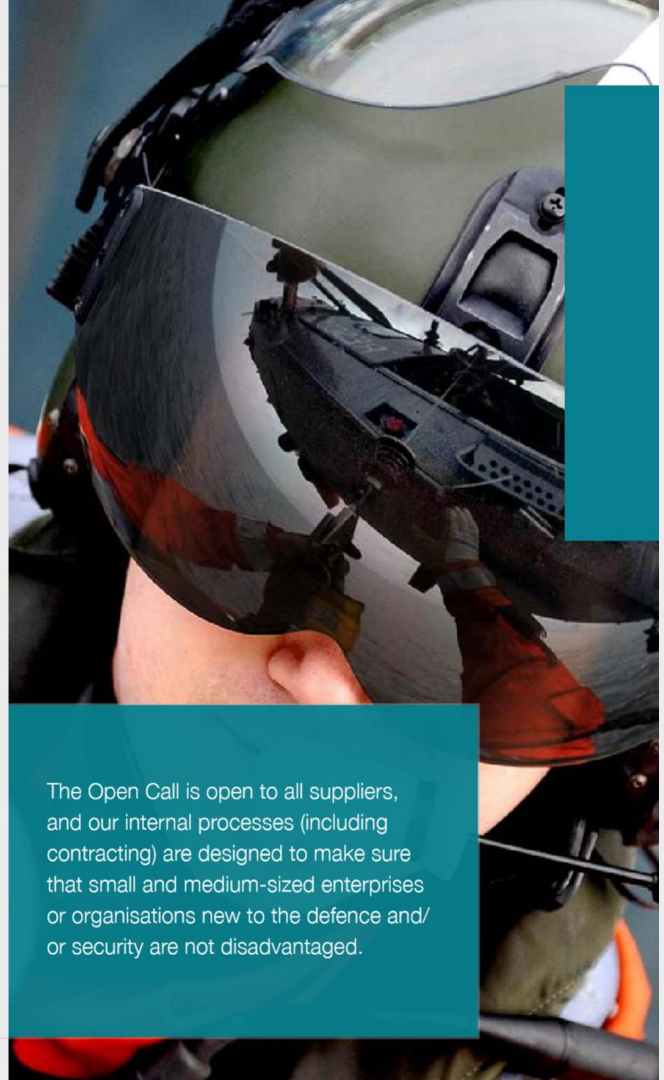
2. RAPID IMPACT INNOVATIONS

Proposals in this category are encouraged for projects which have a realistic prospect of achieving an impact within a three year time frame from the commencement of the project.

In this category, proposals will be funded only if there is a strong customer pull and capability need for the idea. Accordingly, additional effort will be required by suppliers to ensure there

is positive user interest in the idea before submitting a proposal.

To achieve an impact within three years, projects are expected to output a trial or pilot of the capability at a limited scale in the hands of end users, and in a representative context or environment in which it is expected to be used.



The Open Call is open to all suppliers, and our internal processes (including contracting) are designed to make sure that small and medium-sized enterprises or organisations new to the defence and/or security are not disadvantaged.



THEMED COMPETITIONS

THEMED COMPETITIONS

Themed competitions seek innovations against specific requirements (technology pull) and are bounded in terms of the level of funding available and timescale. A route for follow-on funding/exploitation is established from the outset of each competition.

Themed competitions run throughout the year. For details of all current competitions and past and future events, see the DASA external website.





HOW YOUR PROPOSALS ARE ASSESSED

DASA shares your idea with qualified assessors across a number of government organisations, these include: Dstl, security services, military commands and the Police.

They provide expert views and score your idea against assessment criteria, focussing on exploitation, value for money, programme priorities and whether it would provide real benefits to defence and security.

For each proposal a panel of assessors scores against each of the criteria and a moderator then makes the recommendation as to whether to fund it or not. The recommendation is also subject to an internal peer review before the final decision is made by a decision panel.

OUR 3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA ARE:

1. Desirable

DASA funds innovations that solve defence and security challenges and for which there is clear support from the users or sponsors who will exploit them. You should look out for things like the proposal's alignment with a strategic need or challenge, who would benefit from the innovation. Evidence of sponsor or user buy-in for the idea is important. Ideas that are useful for both defence and security should be acknowledged.

2. Feasible

You should assess whether the idea has a good chance of success technically. You are asked to consider whether the proposal is scientifically, technically and practically feasible. Also, how innovative the idea is, and how it compares with potential alternatives. A clear and logical plan, backed by relevant expertise, capability and appropriate resources needs to be present.

3. Viable

You should assess for evidence that the idea can be delivered within the project scope and timelines and has some realistic prospects beyond. Look for evidence of a robust project plan which identifies any links or dependencies between work packages and milestones, and which clearly identifies measurable deliverables. We are looking at overall costs and value for money. Finally, please look at the proposer's plans to take their innovation forward beyond the project end.



AFTER YOU SUBMIT

You'll be able to track the progress of your application through the submission service on your dashboard. You'll be notified by email when we've made a decision on whether or not to fund your proposal. If you're successful, our commercial team will be in touch to get contracting started.

If you're not successful, we'll give you written feedback to help you understand why.

RESUBMISSION

Please don't resubmit an idea that's been unsuccessful in gaining DASA funding previously, unless we've specifically encouraged a resubmission in our feedback to you.

If you are resubmitting an idea, you need to make it clear where you've made changes to address the feedback provided.

If it's not clear that you've made changes to address the feedback, we'll reject the proposal before assessment. This is to ensure the best use of public money for assessing DASA proposals.



PROTECTING YOUR IDEAS

PROTECTING YOUR IDEAS

DASA is required to protect all third-party IP. We use a number of safeguards to protect your IP while also allowing proper scrutiny of your proposals by our expert assessors and appropriate transparency of how public money is being spent.

After a fixed period of time (usually around 6 months after the competition has completed), your submission will be deleted from our records. We do this to protect your IP.

We do not use information received from you other than for the purpose for which it's provided to DASA. Any information you provide to us as part of a DASA proposal that's not already available from other sources will be handled in confidence. It won't be used or disclosed for other purposes without having the right or seeking permission to do so. Submitting a proposal to DASA won't jeopardise a potential patent application as it's submitted in confidence.

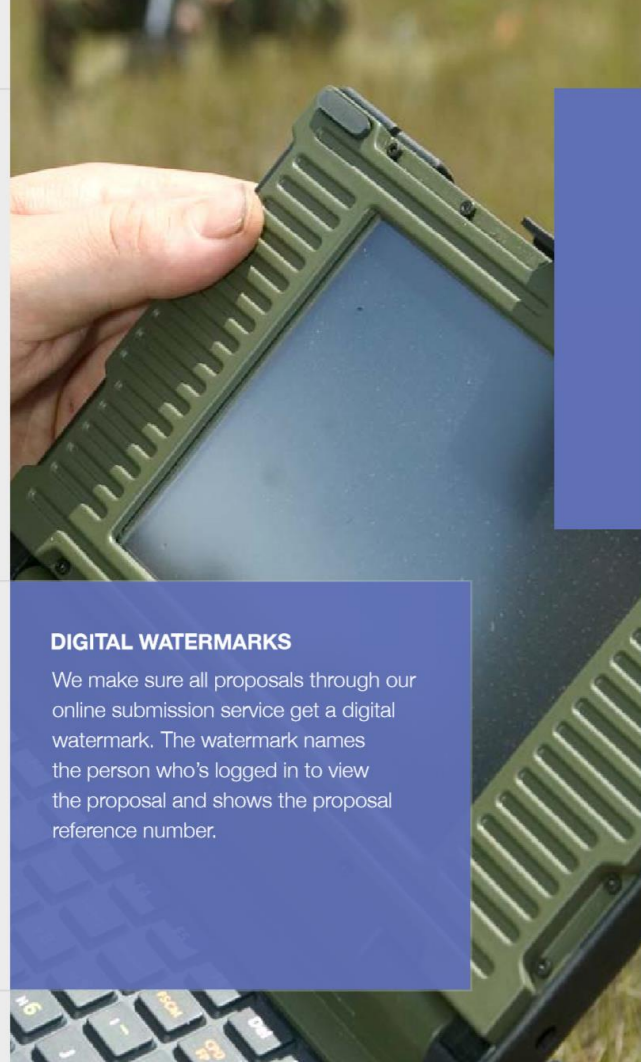
INFORMATION WE KEEP

We must keep indefinitely the following information on your proposal:

- Title
- Summary
- Total price
- Technology area(s)
- Previous submission reference number (if applicable)
- Organisation

For those projects we fund, we'll also release to the public:

- Title
- Total price
- Names of deliverables
- Organisation



DIGITAL WATERMARKS

We make sure all proposals through our online submission service get a digital watermark. The watermark names the person who's logged in to view the proposal and shows the proposal reference number.



EXPLOITATION

DASA is focused on exploiting innovative ideas for defence and security. We want to ensure that front-line officers – military, police, and security services – have the best and most innovative technology and services available to make them more effective and more efficient.

Our Exploitation Team is focused on making this happen. While we don't make procurement decisions, we seek to engage the right people at the right time and bring the end-users into the process early in order to help shape development.

We have a good understanding of defence and security 'problems', existing capabilities, and opportunities to improve. We will identify the appropriate organisation(s) and broker joint working across all stakeholders on a project by project basis. The Exploitation Team will help to plan, challenge, overcome barriers to innovation, and seek to achieve real-world impact for DASA's pipeline of projects.

We seek to take projects through to the point where there is a compelling business case or a clear understanding

of the value, in terms of a demonstration or proof-of-concept, so that the right decisions can be taken.

Whilst we do not expect all projects to be implemented at the front-line, because many are experimental and involve some risk, we also seek to explore other pathways to exploitation either commercially or through exports. We will take a learning approach to evaluate each project and understand what has happened, and why, and if there are lessons we can apply in the future.



DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of contracts are placed within 3 weeks of a funding decision.



GET IN TOUCH

GET IN TOUCH

We want to hear your innovative ideas on how we can improve our services, our support and how we can ensure the UK had a competitive advantage over its adversaries. If you would also like to hear about an event or competition, or to contact us for advice you can contact us by:

EMAIL

accelerator@dstl.gov.uk

WEBSITE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-and-security-accelerator>

"Don't forget to sign up for .gov alerts for notifications on upcoming events and announcements!"

TELEPHONE

01980 950000 option 3

TWITTER

@DASAccelerator

LINKEDIN

Defence and Security Accelerator



WE ARE REGIONAL TOO

Our regional Innovation Partners cover the length and breadth of the United Kingdom.

They are responsible for supporting suppliers through the process of applying, promoting who we are and what we do and are available to source technical expertise if you need it.

If you would like us to arrange contact with an Innovation Partner, please drop us an email with your details and we'll put you in touch.

