



DEFENCE
INNOVATION
PARTNERSHIP

ACTIVATOR FUND GUIDELINES

Counter Uncrewed Aerial System Technologies

Opening date:	7:00AM ACST on 1 September 2026
Closing date:	11:59PM ACDT on 30 October 2026
Administering entity:	Defence Innovation Partnership, Defence SA
Enquiries:	enquiries@defenceinnovationpartnership.com
Date guidelines updated:	18 August 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

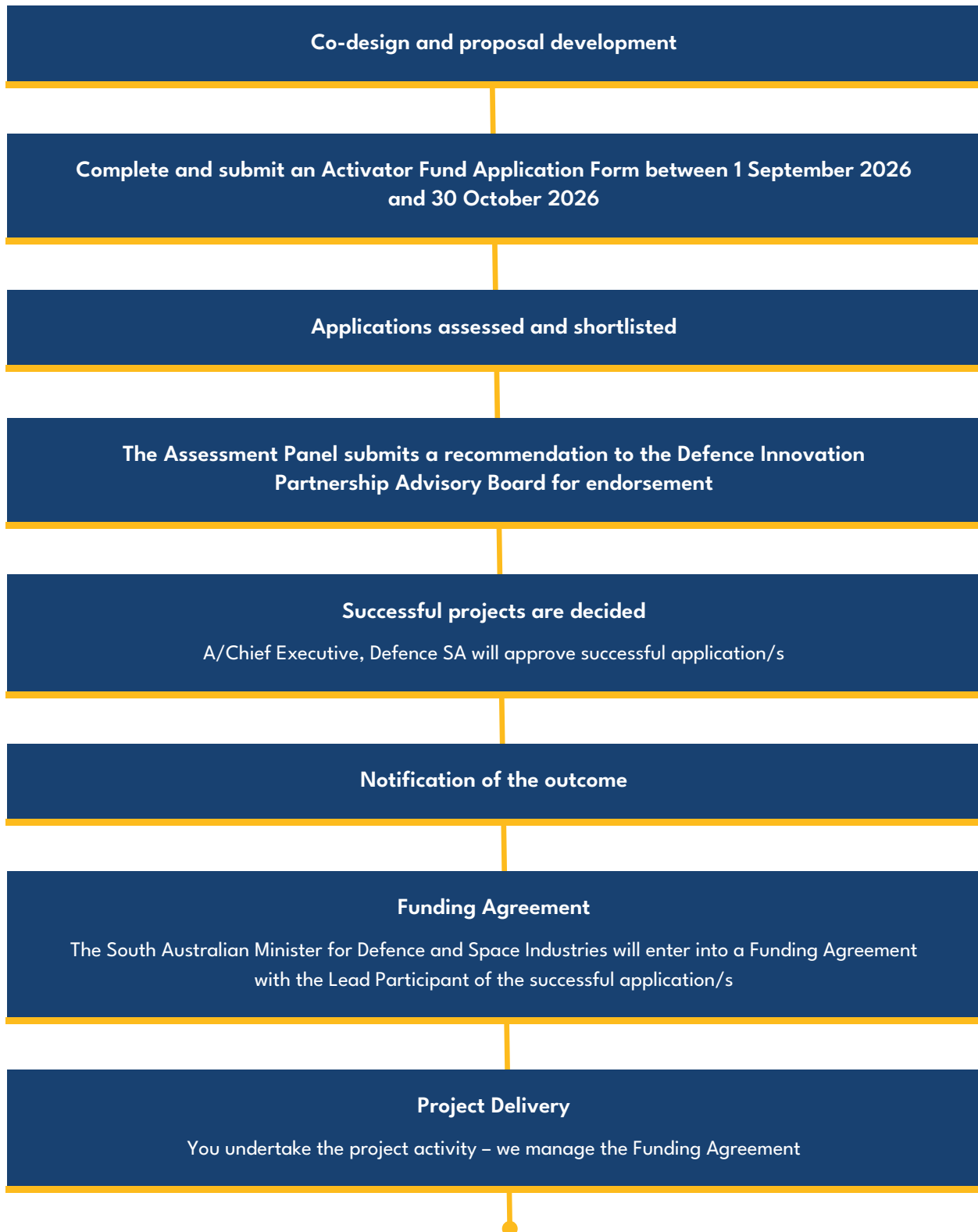
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1. The Activator Fund process

The Activator Fund aims to activate South Australia's defence innovation ecosystem.

[View details of the Activator Fund here.](#)



2. About the Defence Innovation Partnership

The Defence Innovation Partnership is a collaborative initiative of the South Australian Government through Defence SA, the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG), Adelaide University and Flinders University.

The Defence Innovation Partnership (DIP) is hosted and administered by Defence SA.

3. About the Activator Fund

The DIP, in collaboration with DSTG, is releasing the next round of the Activator Fund, with a total of up to \$1.6 million available to fund two projects (DIP is expecting to fund two (2) projects requesting up to \$800,000 each).

The Activator Fund aims to:

- enable South Australia to create and participate in larger-scale innovation activities that are aligned with significant challenges facing Defence
- have ongoing impacts on the South Australian innovation ecosystem, particularly to enable more rapid transition of technology developments towards future operational capabilities
- create opportunities for greater follow-on investment from national R&D programs, spinoffs into local industry including dual use into non-defence sectors, and uplift of local industry to supply into international defence/space programs.

3.1 About the Activator Fund Opportunity – Counter Uncrewed Aerial Systems (C-UAS) Technologies

3.1.1 Context

The National Defence Strategy 2026 identifies a requirement for “new and continued investment in counter-small uncrewed aerial systems for domestic and deployable use to protect buildings, headquarters and deployed Australian Defence Force (ADF) systems and personnel”. The rapid proliferation of low-cost, highly capable and increasingly autonomous uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) continues to alter the character of modern operations and presents a growing threat to ADF personnel, platforms, infrastructure and freedom of manoeuvre.

While the ADF has acquired a range of counter-UAS (C-UAS) capabilities, current systems face significant challenges in detecting, tracking, understanding and responding to increasingly sophisticated threats. Small, low radar cross-section UAS, autonomous and swarm-enabled platforms, and emerging threats such as fibre-optic guided drones can operate effectively in complex, cluttered and contested environments where traditional sensing approaches are less effective. No single sensor or effector provides a complete solution; rather, effective defence requires a layered and integrated approach that combines complementary capabilities.

Current limitations are particularly evident in the areas of persistent tracking, multi-sensor integration, target classification and decision support. Existing systems can struggle to maintain track continuity across multiple sensors, discriminate genuine threats from clutter, and provide operators with the situational awareness and decision advantage required to respond to large numbers of simultaneous threats. Furthermore, many current capabilities are not optimised for integration into AI-enabled Command and Control (C2), Battle Management Systems (BMS) and broader integrated air and missile defence architectures, limiting their ability to support coordinated and timely responses.

Enhanced C-UAS capabilities are required to improve the protection of ADF personnel, bases, vehicles and critical infrastructure in both deployed and domestic operating environments. Future solutions should contribute to a scalable, layered and interoperable C-UAS ecosystem capable of detecting, tracking, prioritising and defeating Group 1–3 UAS threats while supporting integrated base defence, protected manoeuvre and distributed operations.

3.1.2 Challenge Statement

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) and DSTG, in collaboration with the DIP, are seeking innovative solutions that address the challenge:

How can we develop and operationalise advanced C-UAS technologies that improve the detection, tracking, classification and prioritisation of increasingly sophisticated and numerous drone threats, while enabling scalable and resilient decision-making in contested environments?

This challenge seeks to accelerate innovation in the highest-priority capability gaps within the C-UAS kill chain, with particular emphasis on:

- persistent tracking and understanding of multiple UAS and swarm threats
- AI-enabled threat classification, prioritisation and decision support
- human-machine teaming approaches that improve operational effectiveness while maintaining appropriate human oversight
- multi-sensor fusion across radar, EO/IR, RF and acoustic systems
- distributed sensing architectures and edge-based processing that enhance resilience and scalability.

This challenge statement aims to provide South Australian industry, research organisations and academia with opportunities to contribute to the ongoing modernisation of LAND 156 and broader ADF C-UAS capability development. Proposed solutions should demonstrate a clear pathway for integration with the LAND 156 Integrated C-UAS Acquisition, Refresh and Upgrade Schedule (ICARUS) and be designed to support compliance with the SAPIENT architecture and relevant open-system standards.

Note: SAPIENT (Sensing for Asset Protection with Integrated Electronic Networked Technology) is an open interface standard, developed by the UK Defence Science and Technology Laboratory to enable plug-and-play integration for counter-drone and surveillance sensors (reference: <https://www.suasnews.com/2026/06/from-uk-prototype-to-nato-standard-the-global-rise-of-the-sapient-architecture/>).

3.1.3 Priority Research and Development Areas

1. Tracking, Understanding and Decision Advantage

Defence seeks solutions that improve the ability to understand, monitor and respond to complex UAS threats, particularly autonomous and swarm-enabled systems operating in contested environments. Proposals should focus on generating actionable information and decision advantage for operators.

Areas of interest include:

- multi-target and swarm-aware tracking algorithms
- cross-domain sensor handoff and persistent track continuity
- cooperative cueing and distributed tracking networks
- AI-enabled threat classification and identification
- decision-support algorithms for threat prioritisation
- AI-enabled engagement recommendation and fire-control support
- human-machine teaming concepts that maintain appropriate human oversight
- explainable and auditable AI approaches that provide transparent and trustworthy recommendations
- correlation and fusion methods that maintain performance under electronic warfare conditions

Desired outcomes:

- persistent tracking of multiple threats and swarms
- improved threat understanding and classification accuracy
- reduced operator workload and cognitive burden
- faster and more effective decision-making
- increased trust, transparency and accountability in AI-assisted operations

2. Advanced Detection, Sensing and Layered Effects

Defence seeks innovative technologies that increase the probability of detecting and countering increasingly sophisticated UAS threats while supporting scalable and resilient C-UAS architectures.

Areas of interest include:

- multi-band and multi-static radar technologies
- sensor fusion across radar, EO/IR, RF and acoustic modalities
- edge-based AI detection and classification capabilities
- distributed and resilient sensing networks
- detection of low-observable and fibre-optic guided UAS
- electronic warfare solutions for advanced and autonomous UAS threats
- modular interception, decoy and defensive-drone concepts
- layered integration of kinetic, non-kinetic and directed-energy effects
- simulation, test and training environments supporting capability development and operational validation

Desired outcomes:

- Improved detection and tracking initiation of low-signature UAS
- Increased resilience in complex, cluttered and contested environments
- Scalable layered defence architectures
- Enhanced integration with broader Defence C2 and Battle Management Systems
- Cost-effective methods for countering large numbers of UAS threats

3.2 Proposal Requirements

Proponents are invited to submit proposals for technologies which can be ready for meaningful demonstration (~TRL6) within 12 months. Solutions should minimise Size, Weight, Power, Cost and Compute (SWaP-C) while demonstrating applicability to operational environments. Technologies should, where relevant:

- support open architectures and interoperability
- comply with SAPIENT architecture and relevant NATO Standardisation Agreements
- operate effectively in contested electronic warfare environments
- function in complex urban, littoral and base-defence scenarios
- enable integration into Defence C2, BMS and future multi-domain systems.

Details on what should be included in your proposal are in the Assessment Criteria section below. In addition to the selection criteria, the application form will also ask you to address:

3.2.1 Security and Classification Considerations (refer attached C-UAS - Security Classification Guidance)

Proponents should identify:

- the anticipated security classification or sensitivity of the technology, data and research activities, consistent with Defence security classification guidance
- any security constraints associated with development, testing, integration or deployment
- how classified, controlled or sensitive information will be managed throughout the project
- the facilities, personnel clearances and security processes available to support research and development activities at the required classification level

3.2.2 Government Furnished Equipment and Support (GFX)

Proponents should specify:

- any Government Furnished Equipment (GFE), Government Furnished Information (GFI), facilities, data, test environments or other Defence support sought to undertake the project
- why the requested support is necessary
- how the requested support contributes to achieving project objectives and demonstration outcomes

3.3 Proposal Submission Expectations

This challenge is not seeking a fully integrated end-to-end system. Rather, proposals are encouraged for modular technologies, software components, algorithms, sensing solutions, decision-support applications or standalone systems that can be integrated into a broader layered C-UAS architecture.

Proposals should clearly articulate the innovation being offered, demonstrate collaboration between industry and academia where appropriate, and provide a credible pathway to demonstration, capability transition and future operational integration.

3.3.1 Desired Outputs

Projects may deliver one or more of the following:

- functional prototypes or demonstrators
- software algorithms and decision-support tools
- sensor fusion, tracking or AI modules
- integration artefacts and interface specifications
- test and evaluation data
- performance assessment and operational suitability reports
- transition roadmaps and capability maturation plans
- recommendations supporting future LAND 156 and broader ADF C-UAS capability development.

4. Grant amount and grant period

4.1 Grant amount and co-contributions

Up to \$1.6 million is available in this round of the Activator Fund. The maximum you can request is \$800,000 for a single project. While there is no minimum request requirement, DIP's preference is to fund larger-scale projects.

4.2 Project period

Projects begin as soon as the Funding Agreement has been signed by all parties. The expected timeframe for projects is 12 months.

5. Eligibility criteria

5.1 Minimum requirements for collaboration and matched funding

Minimum requirements for collaboration:

- Eligible proposals must have a minimum of one South Australian university Partner Organisation, one South Australia-based industry Partner Organisation and Australian Department of Defence involvement as a Partner Organisation.

Minimum requirements for matched funding:

- Funding requested from the Activator Fund must be matched 1:1 by the applicant/project participants with cash and/or in-kind contributions. For example, if you request \$800,000 from the Activator Fund, you must provide \$800,000 of cash and/or in-kind contributions.
- Matched funding from participants can include cash and/or in-kind from the Australian Department of Defence. Please note that for this Activator Fund round, there will be a Baseline Defence Contribution which can be used as part of the matched funding requirement, and this will be available across all proposals. Any Defence contributions negotiated by the applicant above the Baseline Defence Contribution can also be included as part of the matched funding requirement.
- Work funded by the Activator Fund must be undertaken in South Australia. Contributions from Lead and Partner Organisations may be used to fund work outside of South Australia, however the majority of the overall project effort must occur in South Australia.

5.2 Who is eligible to participate?

The Lead Organisation for an Activator Fund proposal is the entity with which the Minister for Defence and Space Industries will enter into a Funding Agreement. The Lead Organisation for an Activator Fund proposal can be:

- a South Australian public university
- a South Australian-based business (with an ABN), either headquartered or with substantial operations in South Australia relevant to the Activator Fund theme.

Partner Organisations for an Activator Fund proposal can be:

- Australian Government agencies, including Department of Defence.
- South Australian Government agencies.
- Australian universities.
- Publicly Funded Research Organisations.

- Australian industry – startups, SMEs and large companies.

6. What the Activator Fund money can be used for

6.1 Eligible activities and expenditure

Eligible activities may include:

- employing and/or providing stipends to research staff to work on the Activator Fund project
- purchasing hardware and software
- costs to access research infrastructure
- travel costs directly related to the Activator Fund project

We may also approve other activities.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

To be eligible, expenditure must be a direct cost of the project.

You must incur the project expenditure between the project's start and end dates for it to be eligible.

You must not commence your project until the Funding Agreement with the Minister for Defence and Space Industries has been executed.

7. Assessment Criteria

The Activator Fund Application Form asks questions that relate to the Assessment Criteria listed below.

It is recommended you become familiar with the Assessment Criteria before completing your application.

Please note the Assessment Criteria are weighted differently as follows:

- Criterion 1 – Project Description and Technical Innovation – 15%
- Criterion 2 – Defence Relevance – 25%
- Criterion 3 – Collaboration – 20%
- Criterion 4 – Viability and Feasibility – 20%
- Criterion 5 – Budget – 10%
- Criterion 6 – Realisation Pathway / Commercial Opportunity/ Scalability & Impact (10%)

7.1 Assessment Criterion 1 – Project Description and Technical Innovation (15%)

1. How clearly articulated is the proposed problem and the proposed solution?
2. Has the proposal clearly identified the purpose, how the project will be undertaken and the desired outcomes? Do these align with the purpose and objectives of the Activator Fund?
3. Is the proposal of an adequate scale for Activator Fund, and is it likely to build scale in research and development activities in South Australia?
4. What is the novelty of the underlying technology or approach compared with current state-of-the-art solutions?

5. Does the project have the potential to demonstrate a measurable performance advantage over existing capabilities?
6. What is the quality of evidence that supports the proposed innovation?

Score	Rating	Definition
3	Well described and a step change technology	The proposal presents a well thought through and achievable program of work; technical challenges have been addressed. The proposal clearly outlines the purpose and outcomes, which support the purpose and objectives of the Activator Fund. The proposal is of an adequate scale for Activator Fund and clearly demonstrates significant ability to build scale in R&D activities in South Australia. The proposal clearly describes the limits of current practice and novelty/innovation of the proposed approach.
2	Adequately described and an evolutionary technology	The proposal presents a program of work that is feasible and credible but not clearly articulated; technical challenges have been addressed. The proposal outlines the purpose and objectives, which support the purpose and objectives of the Activator Fund. The proposal is of an adequate scale for Activator Fund and demonstrates ability to build scale in R&D activities in South Australia. The proposal describes the limits of current practice and novelty/innovation of the proposed approach.
1	Poorly described and an incremental improvement	Proposal may be feasible. The program of work is ambitious given the available budget, timeframe and team, and technical challenges not fully addressed. The proposal is of an adequate scale for Activator Fund and mentions the possibility of building scale in R&D activities in South Australia. The proposal does not fully support the purpose and objectives of the Activator Fund.
0	Unacceptable detail	Proposal is unlikely to be feasible. The program of work is unlikely to be delivered within the proposed timeframe and/or budget; technical challenges poorly addressed. The proposal does not adequately support the purpose of the Activator Fund. The proposal is of an inadequate scale for Activator Fund, and/or does not demonstrate the possibility of building scale in R&D activities in South Australia. The proposal does not describe current practice or the novelty/innovation of the proposed approach.

7.2 Assessment Criterion 2 – Defence Relevance (25%)

1. How well does the proposal address one or more priority challenge areas in the Guidelines document?
2. How relevant is the proposal to identified capability gaps in tracking, understanding, decision, advantage, sensing or layered effects?
3. Does the proposal have potential to contribute to Land 156 ICARUS (integrated CUAS acquisition, refresh and upgrade schedule) and broader ADF counter-UAS objectives?
4. Does the proposal demonstrate potential to improve Defence effectiveness against Group 1-3 UAS and swarm threats?
5. How operationally relevant is the proposal to counter-UAS missions? (eg operates in contested, cluttered, urban, littoral or deployed environments, supports operator decision-making and reduces cognitive burden).

Score	Rating	Definition
3	High relevance for Defence	Proposal aligns very closely with Australian Department of Defence requirements and there is strong support and involvement from Australian Department of Defence personnel. The proposal has a clear defence application, and a strategy has been described by which further support from Australian Department of Defence could be achieved.
2	Moderate relevance for Defence	Proposal aligns with Australian Department of Defence requirements and there is some support and/or involvement from Australian Department of Defence personnel. The proposal has defence application, however there is limited or no strategy regarding further maturation.
1	Minimal relevance for Defence	Proposal has moderate alignment with Australian Department of Defence requirements, but there is no involvement or support from Australian Department of Defence personnel. There is an identified defence application, but the links as to how it might be utilised are unclear.
0	No Defence relevance	The proposal does not align with Australian Department of Defence requirements.

7.3 Assessment Criterion 3 – Collaboration (20%)

1. Does the Project Team have the expertise to undertake the project (including minimum criteria being one South Australian university partner, one South Australian industry partner and an Australian Department of Defence partner)?
2. Does the Project Team have the resources required to undertake the project?
3. Does the Project Team have the minimum matching contributions?
4. Are all Project Team participants providing meaningful contributions?
5. What is the level of Australian Department of Defence participation?

Score	Rating	Definition
3	Exceptional	The proposal clearly articulates that the proposal possesses all the capabilities required and has the capacity to successfully undertake the project in the described timeframe. Includes significant Australian Department of Defence participation.
2	Good	The proposal describes strategies that the proposal will put in place to ensure they have access to the capabilities and capacity to successfully complete the project in the described timeframe. Includes moderate Australian Department of Defence participation.
1	Poor	The proposal does not provide sufficient confidence that the proposed team possesses the capabilities or the capacity to successfully undertake the project in the described timeframe. Includes limited Australian Department of Defence participation.
0	Inadequate	Response provided is not of an acceptable nature to be scored. Includes no Australian Department of Defence participation.

7.4 Assessment Criterion 4 – Viability and Feasibility (20%)

1. Is the proposal achievable in the timeframe and within budget?
2. How clear and articulated are the deliverables/milestones? Are they feasible within the 12-month duration of the project?
3. Have any project and technical risks been identified and addressed (eg access to trial facilities and participants, use of technical methods which have a higher risk of failure)?
4. Do the participants have experience completing innovation projects of a similar scale?
5. Is the proposed technical approach and methodology credible? Is there a more practical technical approach with better outcomes?

Score	Rating	Definition
3	Exceptional	The proposal has considered all the project and technical risks required to successfully undertake the project in the described timeframe and budget. The technical approach is highly appropriate.
2	Good	The proposal has considered project and technical risks and provided a description on mitigation strategies to undertake the project in the described timeframe and budget. The technical approach is realistic, but there are alternatives which could achieve similar results.
1	Poor	The proposal identifies project and/or technical risks but provides no strategies for mitigation. There are other alternative approaches which may provide improved outcomes.

0	Inadequate	The proposal does not address the project and technical hurdles and there are other alternative approaches which will give superior outcomes.
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7.5 Assessment Criterion 5 – Budget (10%)

1. Does the budget represent value for money (are the costs to achieve the milestones / deliverables reasonable, or overheads acceptable)?
2. Does the budget for the base project fall within the required dollar range?
3. Is the budget costed appropriately (has the applicant allocated enough resources to successfully undertake the project)?

Score	Rating	Definition
3	Exceptional work plan and costing	The proposal has clearly defined and realistic milestones and deliverables. The costing for the research is considered sufficient and provides outstanding value for money
2	Acceptable work plan and costing	The proposal has adequately defined milestones and deliverables. The costing for the research is sufficient and provides reasonable value for money.
1	Poor work plan and costing	The proposal has poorly defined milestones and deliverables, with risks on its achievability. The costing for the research is potentially insufficient/ inadequate and provides limited value for money.
0	Unacceptable	Response provided is not of an acceptable nature to be scored.

7.6 Assessment Criterion 6 - Realisation pathway / commercial opportunity / scalability and impact (10%)

1. Has a commercial opportunity and impact been clearly articulated?
2. Is there capacity / intention for the collaboration to continue beyond the project's 12-month timeframe?
3. Has a detailed realisation pathway been described, including consideration of certification, security, testing and operational transition requirements?
4. How well is the proposed pathway aligned to Land 156 and other Defence acquisition opportunities? What is the potential for integration with Defence systems, including SAPIENT compliant architectures and C2/BMS environments?
5. To what extent has a strategy for scalability been defined?
6. Does the proposal have the potential to provide economic benefit back to the state and has this been clearly articulated?

Score	Rating	Definition
3	Outstanding opportunity	A clear commercial opportunity (including benefits and ROI) has been described along with an achievable market penetration (commercialisation) strategy and how scalability will be realised.

2	Good opportunity	The proposal describes a commercial opportunity and market penetration (commercialisation) strategy but lacks detail. Scalability is addressed but the strategy also lacks detail.
1	Moderate opportunity	The commercial opportunity and commercialisation strategy are unclear (minimal detail provided), as are the benefits and ROI. Scalability has not been addressed in any detail.
0	Poor opportunity	No detail has been provided on the commercial opportunity or how the technology will achieve scalability or market penetration.

8. How to apply

You can submit an application any time between 7am on 1 September 2026 until 11:59pm on 30 October 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

Before applying for the Activator Fund, it is recommended you read and understand these guidelines, and the [sample draft South Australian Government Funding Agreement](#) published on the [Defence Innovation Partnership](#) website.

To apply, you must complete and submit your application through the SmartyGrants online portal, including all requested information as attachments/uploads, eg Participant Declarations, Letters of Support.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, contact us at enquiries@defenceinnovationpartnership.com.

9. The Activator Fund selection process

9.1 Assessment process

The Defence Innovation Partnership will first assess applications against the Eligibility Criteria. If eligible, applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

Applications will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria, with consideration of:

- how well the application meets the criteria
- how the application compares to other applications.

The Assessment Committee will include representatives from the Australian Department of Defence (including subject matter experts) and the South Australian Government. The Assessment Committee may also seek additional advice from independent technical experts.

The Assessment Committee will assess applications against the assessment criteria and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which projects to fund.

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in your application, we may contact you to correct or clarify the errors, but you cannot make any material alterations or additions.

Any conflicts of interest for the Assessment Committee will be declared and managed during the assessment process, which might include members of the Assessment Committee abstaining from assessing some proposals.

9.2 Approvals process

The Assessment Committee will present funding recommendations to the Defence Innovation Partnership Advisory Board for endorsement. If recommendations are endorsed, the Acting Chief Executive of Defence SA will approve the grant(s).

Note: The South Australian Government reserves the right to determine the number of projects supported under this round of the Activator Fund. Following assessment, we may:

- fund one or more projects
- fund a smaller or larger number of projects than originally anticipated
- not proceed with any funding awards.

The South Australian Government's decision is final and no applicant has any entitlement to funding as a consequence of submitting an application.

10. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing.

If you are successful, you will be advised about the next steps to execute the Funding Agreement(s).

If you are unsuccessful, you will receive the outcome in writing, and we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

11. Successful Activator Fund applications

11.1 Funding Agreement

You must enter into a legally binding Funding Agreement with the South Australian Government (please view sample [HERE](#)).

We will manage the South Australian Government Funding Agreement, which includes issuing and executing the Funding Agreement (execute means both you and the South Australian Government have accepted the agreement). You must not start the Activator Fund project activities until a Funding Agreement is executed. We are not responsible for any expenditure incurred prior to the Funding Agreement being executed and cannot make any payments until a Funding Agreement is executed.

The approval of your Activator Fund project may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process which will be identified in the offer of the Funding Agreement.

The South Australian Government may recover funds if there is a breach of the Funding Agreement.

11.2 Intellectual Property

Ownership of intellectual property (IP) developed using the funds will be retained by the successful applicants. Project Teams are encouraged to discuss background and foreground IP arrangements early in the proposal development process.

Defence SA makes no claim to ownership of either background or foreground IP arising from Activator Fund projects funded under this theme. Intellectual Property Rights created through the project remain vested in the Grantee in accordance with the Funding Agreement, subject to any licence rights granted to the State of South Australia under that Funding Agreement.

Please refer to the [DRAFT Funding Agreement](#) for more details.

Where there is an Australian Department of Defence contribution to a project, applicants may be required to grant a licence to the Commonwealth to use project intellectual property for Commonwealth purposes.

11.3 How we pay the grant

The Funding Agreement will include:

- the term of the Funding Agreement
- the total amount of funding for the Activator Fund project
- details of how instalments will be paid
- all reporting requirements.

Payment of the grant will be linked to Key Milestones identified in the application process.

We will make payments according to the agreed schedule set out in the Funding Agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress of the project.

12. Announcement of grants

Outcomes of the Activator Fund will be embargoed and must not be shared publicly or announced until the Defence Innovation Partnership notifies that the embargo has been lifted, or the South Australian Government makes a public announcement.

The Defence Innovation Partnership and Defence SA will liaise with the Lead Organisation of successful proposals, and other relevant parties as necessary, to finalise media releases, articles and social posts about the Activator Fund outcomes.

A non-sensitive description of successful projects will be published on the Defence Innovation Partnership website, through social media and other media channels, including details such as:

- name of the Lead Organisation and Partner Organisations
- title of the project
- brief description of the project and its aims
- amount of Activator Fund funding awarded, and total value of the project.

13. How we monitor your grant activity

13.1 Reporting

The Lead Organisation must provide the Defence Innovation Partnership (Defence SA) with:

- the Reports specified in the Schedule
- appropriate and regular information, records and any other reports requested by the Defence Innovation Partnership (Defence SA) from time to time, including information about:
 - the application of the grant funds by the Lead Organisation (with appropriate evidence in support)
 - the progress of and material changes to the nature and scope of the Project
 - any significant changes to the nature and/or scope of the activities conducted by the Lead Organisation with respect to the Project

- any other funding or financial assistance promised or received for the Project from sources other than the Defence Innovation Partnership (Defence SA)
- the performance of the Lead Organisation's undertakings and obligations under the Funding Agreement
- the Lead Organisation's management of the grant funds, including but not limited to the economic and efficient use of resources to achieve the Purpose
- any other matters relevant to the Project, as reasonably required by the Defence Innovation Partnership (Defence SA).

The Lead Organisation must, upon reasonable notice, permit any officer authorised by Defence Innovation Partnership (Defence SA):

- have access to all accounting records, equipment, documents and information in relation to the Project and the grant funds, if required
- discuss matters pertaining to the Project and the grant funds with employees of the Lead Organisation who are engaged in the conduct of the Project or the management of the grant funds.

13.1.1 Milestone reporting

Milestone reports are to be provided within two weeks of either of the following events:

- a project milestone as detailed within the Funding Agreement is achieved
- it is realised that a project milestone as detailed within the Funding Agreement cannot be met.

A template for milestone reporting will be provided to the Lead Organisation and will include (at least) the following information:

- project name
- lead participant details
- title of milestone
- statement of key activities and/or outcomes achieved
- in the case where a project milestone cannot be met, include details of the reason why the milestone cannot be met and details of proposed changes to scope, schedule or budget
- indication of any additional risks identified
- confirm scope and schedule for the next phase of the project.

The Lead Organisation must give notification of any milestone reporting delays as soon as they become aware of them.

13.1.2 Completion reporting

At the end of the project period, you must submit a project completion report. The report is to be provided within one month of completing the project. The Lead Organisation must:

- submit a Completion Report
- support the preparation of a short case study and presentation to highlight the project methodology, outcomes, and potential benefits for key stakeholders.

A template for the Completion Report will be provided to the Lead Organisation and will contain (at least) the following information:

- project name
- lead participant details
- title of milestone
- statement of outcomes
- details of benefits or opportunities identified, either potential or realised, including opportunities for additional collaboration, further development or alternate funding
- details of any recommendations resulting from the project
- signed copy of the Income and Expenditure Statement as per the Funding Agreement.

13.2 Audit

The Defence Innovation Partnership (Defence SA) may direct the Lead Organisation to arrange for the financial accounts relating to the grant funds to be audited at the Lead Organisation's expense. The Defence Innovation Partnership (Defence SA) may specify the minimum qualifications to be held by a person appointed conduct the audit.

13.3 Funding Agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your Funding Agreement, including:

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project but within the maximum grant period
- changing project activities.

The program does not allow for:

- an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the Funding Agreement, you must put them in writing before the project milestone end date. You can submit a variation request to enquiries@defenceinnovationpartnership.com.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome
- consistency with the Activator Fund objectives, guidelines and any relevant policies of the South Australian Government
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

13.4 Grant acknowledgement

The Lead Organisation must not make or permit a public announcement or media release to be made about any aspect of the Funding Agreement without first obtaining consent from the Defence Innovation Partnership

(Defence SA), which may not be unreasonably withheld, and which will not be required if the public announcement is required by law.

14. Security and export controls

14.1 Security

Eligible activities under this grant may have national security implications. Project Teams should consider implications of the proposed project and identify and manage any risks, particularly relating to export controls, foreign interference and technology transfer.

If the outcome of the Activator Fund activity has the potential to be classified, or if classified inputs or discussions are needed to complete the work, then all team members undertaking the Activator Fund activity must be willing to undergo a security assessment if requested and, at a minimum, obtain a Baseline security clearance; noting that some projects may require higher level clearances, depending on the scope. Unless involved in unclassified aspects of a potential project, personnel involved must hold (or be able to obtain) an appropriate security clearance commensurate with the nature of the proposed project.

Citizenship status may impact ability to obtain appropriate security clearances. Potential overseas collaborators may need to get their clearances recognised if they plan to work on parts of the projects above unclassified level.

Proof of citizenship or permanent residency status may be requested.

Residents in Australia on a Temporary Work Visa may be approved for participation in the project in exceptional circumstances.

Project Team members and the Lead Organisation should undertake appropriate due diligence, proportionate to the risk and subject to available information, on all partners and personnel participating in the project. This should take into account any potential intellectual property, security, ethical, legal and reputational risks, and, where necessary, you should be prepared to demonstrate how you will manage and mitigate any identified risks.

The successful project(s) will be required to complete a Research & Innovation Security Assessment (RISA). The DIP Team will facilitate the security assessment process in consultation with DSTG technical experts and will engage with Project Team members where necessary, including the Defence members or sponsors. The RISA provides a clear understanding of the security requirements associated with a R&I project, including release limitations and who can undertake the R&I collaboration and any requirements for Defence Industry Security Program (DISP) accreditation.

Refer [HERE](#) for the document titled Security Classification Guidance: counter-UAS (C-UAS) Innovation Challenge.

14.2 Export Controls

Lead Organisation and Project Teams undertaking Activator Fund projects which involve collaboration with foreign entities should be familiar with Australia's export controls requirements. It is your responsibility to consider the implications of the relevant legislation on the proposed project before submitting your application, and to comply with any applicable requirements if it is successful.

15. Contact details

All enquiries about the Activator Fund, including requests for assistance in the proposal development/co-design phase, should be sent to enquiries@defenceinnovationpartnership.com with '**Activator Fund – COUNTER-UAS – DSTG Contact**' or '**Activator Fund – COUNTER-UAS – Funding Question**' in the Subject line. Enquiries will be responded to within one business day.

Key contacts for Activator Fund are:

- Co-design / consultation activity: Parth Gohil, Program Coordination Officer, Defence Innovation Partnership
- DIP Activator process / grant administration: Merrill Kirk, Program Operations Manager, Defence Innovation Partnership