Information on the Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA) Initiative

The Australian Government has announced the Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA) initiative. The Government is investing $3.4 billion dollars in the ASCA over the next decade to streamline defence innovation, and drive capability development and acquisition pathways.

Two schemes are now open:

- the **Missions** program (due 25 January 2024); and

- the **Emerging and Disruptive Technologies** (EDT) program (due 9 February 2024).

Key information on the *Missions* [ATM ID:ASCA-MS01-2023] and *EDT* [ATM ID:ASCA-EDT-EXPLOR-2023] streams should be accessed firstly via Austender.

Please read all Request for Proposal (RFP) documents available on Austender and monitor the release of subsequent addenda for up-to-date information from ASCA.

UQ Notice of intent

All researchers intending to lead or partner in an ASCA bid are requested to submit a mandatory internal UQ Notice of Intent (NOI) at their earliest convenience.

UQ submission procedure

Please note that although UQ's participation in the ASCA program will be coordinated by UQ's Research Partnerships Office, you will need to follow routine Research Office procedures, including a FAC, for submission of tender documents and Faculty-based support for budget and approvals.

For information on the submission procedure, please contact CoRE in the first instance.

UQ's Defence partnerships

The Research Partnerships Office can provide advice on UQ's defence research strengths, key partners and infrastructure. For information that may assist you in responding to the RFPs, please refer to the UQ defence and national security webpage and the UQ Space webpage.

If you have more specific enquiries, please email Dr Greta Nabbs-Keller, Associate Director Enterprise Research Partnerships (Defence, Space and National Security) at g.nabbskeller@uq.edu.au. Please note the office will be closed from 22 December 2023, returning 2 January 2024.

Further information on UQ's Defence Industry Security Program (DISP)

Below you will find up-to-date information about UQ's Defence Industry Security Program (DISP) membership status to support your application.

UQ is in the final stages of obtaining DISP membership, with a decision on our application imminent. The DISP sets minimum Governance, Personnel, Physical and Cyber/Information security requirements for partnering with the Department of Defence on contracts and tenders.

The specific security measures that may be required for your project will depend on a range of factors, including the sensitivity/classification level of the project and any specific requirements set by Defence. These measures may include the need to obtain a government issued security clearance for you and your project team.

For more information about the specific requirements of the DISP and how they might apply to your project, please contact the DISP Primary Security Officer, Simon Pengilly (s.pengilly@uq.edu.au).