



Defence Cooperative Research Centres Program

Fact Sheet

The program will link industry with researchers to create a vibrant and interlocking research and innovation capability for delivering game-changing Defence capabilities.

What does it offer?

The Next Generation Technologies Fund has been allocated \$730 million from 2016-17 to 2025-26 to invest in forward-looking game-changing capabilities aligned with Defence priorities.

The program will link industry with researchers through Defence Cooperative Research Centres (Defence CRCs) to deliver the following outcomes:

- develop next generation technologies relevant to Australia's defence and national security sectors
- develop intellectual property (IP) that is available to industry participants for commercialisation and delivery of capability to Defence
- develop improved or new technologies to make the Australian defence industry more efficient, competitively priced and productive
- foster collaboration between Defence, industry and research organisations
- increase SME participation in collaborative research
- improve research skills and capabilities in the Australian defence industry and
- improve the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of the Australian defence industry.

How does it work?

The program will use a targeted non-competitive process to allocate grant funding to establish and fund Defence CRCs.

The Minister for Defence Industry will decide and announce the establishment of a Defence CRC, its chair and the priorities it will address under the Next Generation Technologies Fund.

The chair will facilitate applications from eligible entities to join the Defence CRC as industry and research participants at its formation. The chair will prepare the plan for the formation of the Defence CRC for approval by the Minister.

Once a plan is approved, the founding participants (including Defence) will form the Defence CRC as a company limited by guarantee (Defence CRC company), governed by a board responsible for its day-to-day operations. The Defence CRC will enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Participants contribute to a Defence CRC's schedule of work and are eligible to apply to participate in its approved projects.

The Defence CRC will develop project proposals and the board will approve projects aligned with the goals and objectives of the Defence CRC. The board will invite Defence CRC participants and, where necessary and appropriate, third parties to apply to take part in each project.

For more information on the formation and governance of a Defence CRC go to section 4 of the [program guidelines](#).

Who can participate in a Defence CRC?

When a Defence CRC is established, opportunities for participation in the Defence CRC will be announced on the [Defence Innovation Portal](#). Organisations may apply to become a participant at formation of a Defence CRC and at any time thereafter.

To become a participant in a Defence CRC you must be:

- a company incorporated in Australia (industry participant) or
- a Publicly Funded Research Organisation (PFRO) or entity incorporated in Australia that conducts research and development (research participant).

You must also:

- be prepared to enter into an industry participant agreement or a research participant agreement
- accept the terms of the Defence CRC project agreement template. The agreement template is available at [business.gov.au](#)
- be prepared to actively participate in the Defence CRC and
- be willing and able to pay the annual fee to the Defence CRC.

The Defence CRC board will invite participants and, where necessary and appropriate, third parties to apply to take part in projects. The board will consider applications and determine the project participants. Approved project participants will enter into a project agreement with the Defence CRC company.

What activities and projects are eligible?

Each Defence CRC will be provided with grant funds for a period of 5 to 7 years to undertake eligible activities. The Defence CRC will develop project proposals in consultation with participants and the board will approve projects aligned with the goals and objectives of the Defence CRC.

Eligible activities must align with the Next Generation Technologies Fund priorities and can include:

- approved projects
- industry-focused education and training programs
- implementation of strategies that build the research and development capacity within SMEs and
- deployment and commercialisation of developed technology by industry.

To be eligible a project must:

- align with the goals and objectives of the Defence CRC
- meet the requirements of the grant agreement between the Commonwealth and the Defence CRC company
- be approved by the board prior to commencement and
- include eligible expenditure.

How will my application to become a participant in a Defence CRC be assessed?

The chair will assess eligible applications for founding participants. Once the Defence CRC company is established, this role will pass to the board.

To be successful, applications must rate highly against these merit criteria:

- the research excellence and significance of contributions in a technology area of relevance to the Defence CRC's goals and objectives

- the capacity to contribute to the achievement of the Defence CRC's goals and objectives and
- the capacity and capability to effectively contribute to a collaborative team.

The merit criteria are equally weighted.

What will I need to do if successful?

Participants must enter into an industry participant agreement or a research participant agreement which sets out the terms of their participation. Sample agreements are available at business.gov.au.

Participants will be entitled to receive information about the Defence CRC's activities.

Participants are required to pay an annual fee to the Defence CRC. This fee will be determined by the board according to the nature, size and turnover of the entity.

Where invited by the board, participants may apply to take part in projects. Research participants undertake research for projects in which they take part on a fee for service basis. Participants will be required to provide an in-kind contribution when participating in a project.

How do I apply?

You should read the [program guidelines](#) before you apply. Opportunities for participation in the Defence CRC will be announced on the [Defence Innovation Portal](#).

Where can I find more information?

Visit business.gov.au or call **13 28 46**.