



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

RGS

National Intelligence and
Security Discovery Research
Grants (NISDRG) Program
Round 3
Expression of Interest
Information Webinar

27 July 2022

Introductions

Key agencies

- Office of National Intelligence (ONI) – Policy Owner, Funding Entity
- Department of Defence, National Security Science and Technology Centre (Defence-NSSTC) – Policy Owner, Funding Entity
- Australian Research Council (ARC) – Research Grants Services (RGS) – Grants Administration



Webinar Topics

- About the National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants (NISDRG) program
- Research Grants Services (RGS), ONI and NSSTC roles
- The new Assessment Process for Round 3
- How to apply
- The available grant funding
- The Intelligence Challenges and National Security Challenges
- The Technological Readiness Level
- Eligibility, including personnel requirements
- Common questions



About the NISDRG Program

- NISDRG supports excellent research that deepens understanding of **emerging science and technology** and addresses intelligence and national security interests.
- The grant program aims to **facilitate innovation** and **develop national security and intelligence capacity**. It will also enable Australia's National Intelligence and Security Communities to systematically **engage with Australia's research and technology community**.
- NISDRG provides support to priority research areas outlined in the **Intelligence Challenges** and **National Security Challenges**.



NISDRG Program Objectives

- Support excellent fundamental research in areas identified in the Intelligence Challenges and National Security Challenges; and
- Build Australia's research capacity and capability in these areas;
- Enhance collaboration; and
- Support systematic and coordinated engagement between research, science and technology community and the Australia's National Intelligence and Security Communities.



NISDRG Program Outcomes

- **Increased scale of Australian research** into emerging science and technology impacting Australia's national security, sovereignty and potential future intelligence capability.
- **Strengthened relationships and greater interaction** between the research community and Australia's National Intelligence and Security Communities.
- Enhanced ability to access and **use relevant knowledge and research to inform policy development** in intelligence and national security related science and technology.



What is Research Grants Services?

- The ARC is providing Research Grants Services (RGS) for other entities
 - Supports the Whole of Government Streamlining Government Grants Administration Program
 - Provides pre-award and/or post-award management of research grants funded by other government entities tailored to the funding entity needs
- RGS provides pre and post award grants administration support to ONI and NSSTC for the National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants (NISDRG) Program.



ONI vs NSSTC vs ARC RGS?

ONI and Defence-NSSTC:

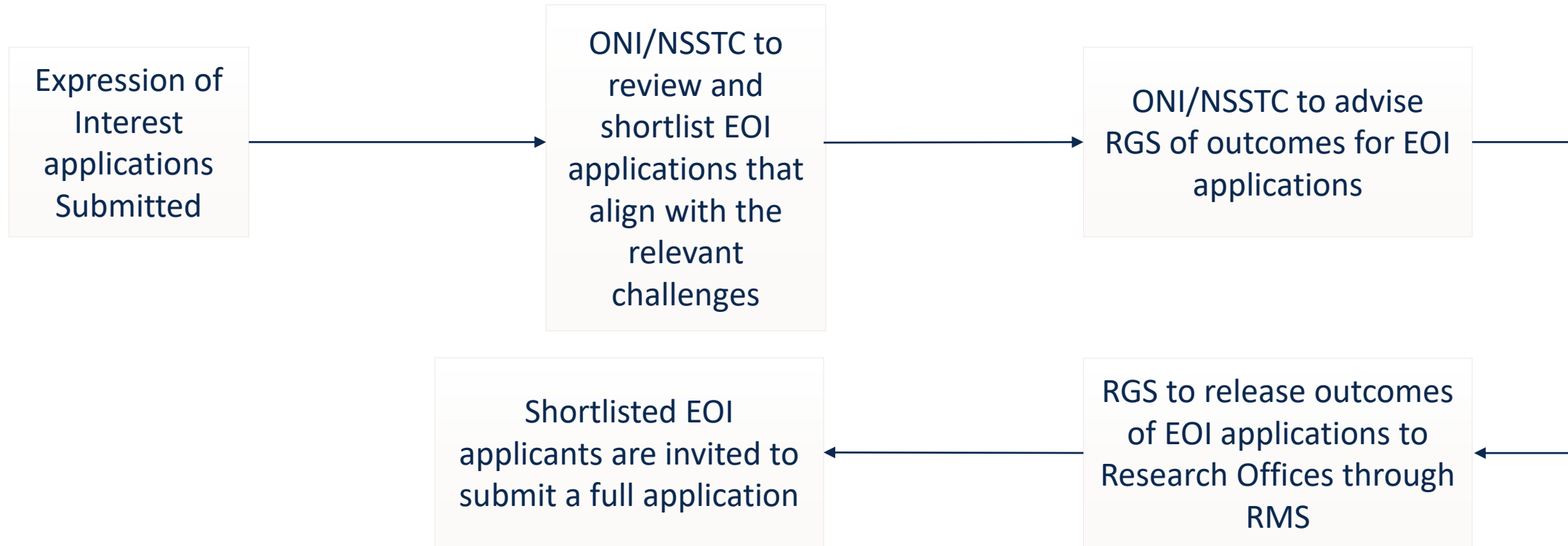
- Policy owners and Funding Entities of NISDRG
- Decision makers/Approvers of grant applications and most variations etc.
- Enter into Grant Agreements with successful eligible organisations
- Will engage with grantees and research teams over the life of projects.

ARC:

- Facilitates the selection process and manage the resulting grants.



EOI Assessment Process



Applying for NISDRG Grants

- Key dates for the program are on the ARC website - <https://www.researchgrants.gov.au/key-dates-nisdrgr>
- Expression of Interest supporting documentation is located on GrantConnect - <https://www.grants.gov.au/>
- Expression of Interest applications are available through the relevant RMS portal:
 - Intelligence Challenges
 - ONI RMS portal - <https://rmsoni.researchgrants.gov.au/>
 - National Security Challenges
 - Defence RMS portal - <https://defence.researchgrants.gov.au>
- Expression of Interest Applications close 5.00pm on 19 August 2022



Grant Funding

- Funding Period: 1 year up to 3 years
- Funding Level per grant: \$400,000 to \$600,000
- Minimum funding per year: \$100,000
- Maximum funding per year: \$400,000
- Minimum total funding per grant: \$400,000
- Maximum total funding per grant: \$600,000
- Available funding for each grant opportunity commencing in 2023:
 - \$4.2 million from ONI
 - \$3 million from NSSTC
 - NOTE: there is no indexation of funding – build salary indexation into the requested funding

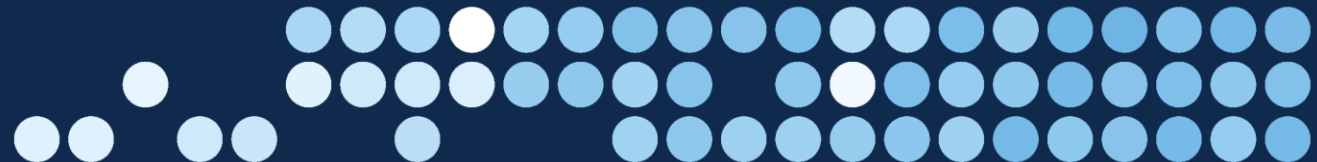


Intelligence Challenges (ONI)

You must select and address one or more Intelligence Challenge:

- Covert collection challenges
- Space-based challenges
- Identity management challenges*
- Emerging biological and material science exploitation challenges
- Cyber security, protective security and offensive cyber challenges
- Human behaviour and influence challenges
- Data-driven and real-time analytical challenges
- Situation awareness and multi-source assessment challenges

*Applications are strongly encouraged



National Security Challenges (DEFENCE-NSSTC)

You must select and address one or more [National Security Challenge](#):

- **PREPAREDNESS, PROTECTION, PREVENTION AND INCIDENT RESPONSE CHALLENGES**
 - Reliable Detection and Prevention
 - Integrated Information Sharing
 - Enhanced Analysis
 - Robust Consequence Management
- **BORDER SECURITY AND IDENTITY MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES**
 - Enhanced Analysis
 - Integrated Information Sharing
 - Improved Detection and prevention
 - Rapid and Reliable Identification (human, object, & CBRNE)
- **INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT AND FORENSIC SCIENCE CHALLENGES**
 - Enhanced Analysis
 - Enhanced Detection and Identification
 - Advanced Protection and Exploitation
 - Integrated Information Sharing



Technological Readiness Level (TRL)

A scale to identify the maturity of research from Basic Research (TRL1) to System Proven and Ready for Full Commercial Deployment (TRL9).

The scale for self-assessment is located - [TRL Explanations_1.pdf](#) (defence.gov.au).

The Technological Readiness Level will help ONI and NSSTC to understand the Research and Development stage of the proposed research.



EOI Eligibility

At the EOI stage, only the Project Leader (Lead Chief Investigator) and the Administering Organisation will be added to the form.

The Project Leader must:

- have the capacity to manage the project
- must be engaged by the Administering Organisation for the period of the project activity, including any post project reporting period
- not be undertaking a Higher Degree by Research during the project
- reside in Australia for more than 50 per cent of the project activity period
- be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or New Zealand Special Category Visa holder.



Full application eligibility

Research Offices will need to certify that researchers are eligible to apply at both the EOI and full application stage.

The full eligibility questions will be contained in the full application form. If you are successful in the EOI and are invited to complete a full application, there will be validations within the full application form to assist with eligibility requirements.

Please read the [Grant Guidelines for details](#) about eligibility.

Please note - partner orgs cannot be Department of Defence or an Australian National Intelligence Community member entities.



Personnel Requirements

- The Project Leader (Lead Chief Investigator) must be **engaged with an Eligible Organisation for the period of the project activity including any post project reporting period.**
- **At least one Chief Investigator** - must be an employee for at least 20 per cent of Full Time Equivalent (0.2 FTE) or be a holder of an honorary academic appointment at an Eligible Organisation.
- Other Chief investigators must meet at least one of the following criteria as at the grant commencement date:
 - engaged at an Eligible Organisation for the project activity period
 - an employee for at least 0.2 FTE at an Eligible Organisation
 - be the holder of an honorary academic appointment (as defined in the Glossary) at an Eligible Organisation.
- Partner Investigators - must not meet the eligibility criteria for CIs at the grant commencement date or at any time during the project activity period.



Personnel Citizenship Requirements

- Special requirements to note for ALL participants:
 - If you are awarded a grant, all named personnel, and also staff and students (i.e. non-named personnel), receiving salaries or stipends from the grant must meet the citizenship eligibility criteria.
 - Individuals working on the project who would be named in publications or would otherwise link their association with the Government funded project must comply with the citizenship eligibility criteria.
- **Citizenship Eligibility Criteria** - Must be Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents or New Zealand Special Category Visa holder.



Other Matters

- Security briefing
- Grantees required to develop Key Performance Indicators for projects
- Reporting Requirements:
 - Six-monthly progress reports
 - Annual End of Year Reporting
 - Final Report at end of the project
- Regular outreach



Common Questions

- There are no grant limits that apply to NISDRG
- The ARC National Interest Test and Medical Research Policy do **not** apply to NISDRG.
- Passport/Visa details are captured in RMS.
- ONI and Defence have different RMS portals
- All information accessible through www.researchgrants.gov.au
- One login permits access to ARC, ONI and Defence RMS Portals
 - You may need to create an account if you do not have an RMS login
- Review FAQs on GrantConnect.



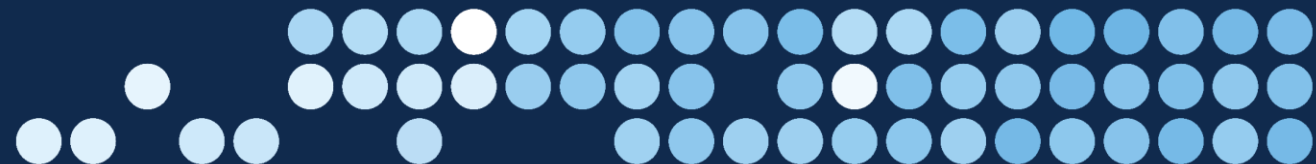
More Details

Check the Grant Guidelines, the draft Grant Agreement, Instructions to Applicants and Frequently Asked Questions

- All relevant documentation is on GrantConnect – www.grants.gov.au

Researchers:

- Contact the Research Office of an Eligible Administering Organisation in the first instance
- Expressions of Interest Applications in RMS are managed by the Research Office
- RMS contacts within Research Offices are on the ARC website: [Explore University Partner | Australian Research Council](#)
- Research Offices:
- Clarification may be sought from ARC-NISDRG@arc.gov.au



Thank you and Questions

