

The Defence and Security Accelerator

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) has been established under the 2015 SDSR as the cross-Government mechanism to support supplier and Government engagement in the defence and security domains in order to accelerate the development of solutions to real world problems. DASA staff are security cleared, civil servants funded by MOD and co-located with DSTL. Our mission is to help enable Government access innovative solutions more quickly to best maintain the strategic advantage over our adversaries and support suppliers to the defence and security sectors generate economic value for the UK.

The UK's security is reliant on the partnership between Government and security suppliers (industry and academia) - in today's fast-evolving threat environment there is a need to combine the complementary capabilities of Government and security suppliers to formulate rapid and effective responses.

DASA's cross-Government mandate provides a point of coherence in a fragmented and complex landscape which suppliers find challenging to engage. DASA is uniquely positioned to leverage both the defence and the security eco-systems, ensuring cross-fertilisation of Government challenges as well as supplier concepts and proposals.

DASA went live in December 2016, in our first year we assessed nearly 1000 proposals and funded 155 projects, to the sum of £19.2m. A third of this funding was spent directly supporting security stakeholder capability challenges.

DASA supports suppliers get their solutions in front of the right end-users: We enable suppliers to propose any innovative concept of any maturity which provides a step-change in capability. These ideas can relate to any type of science and technology, including behavioural and social sciences. Proposals are exposed to a cross-government community of 750 assessors for consideration, leveraging the technical skill-set of DSTL colleagues for input, which includes the expertise formerly held in CAST. We are open to anyone with a good idea and work with suppliers to explore all avenues to position their solution into the marketplace.

DASA provides Government stakeholders with an end-to-end innovation service, from S&T to exploitation: Our services have been designed to facilitate and support cross-Government collaboration in both leveraging funds to maximise the value of investment by the public purse, and rapid engagement with suppliers to address operational challenges.

DASA is working to improve routes to commercialisation: We are supporting suppliers overcome barriers to exploitation, from working with commercial teams to facilitating access to third party finance and business mentoring. We are also implementing novel partnering solutions to support innovation in the supply chain.

DASA promotes a healthy eco-system: Through rigorous protection of supplier IP and a commitment to work in an open and transparent manner. DASA is committed to engaging with widest pool of suppliers possible, leveraging both our national Outreach team, who identify and engage with non-traditional suppliers, as well as existing supplier networks.

DASA is a free resource available to Government and wider public sector stakeholders in supporting the development of a more coherent approach to transformative innovation in the security sector.