

Research Project Investment Criteria

1. PURPOSE

- SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre (SmartSat CRC) conducts research, education and training through a number of programs and projects aligned to its R&D Strategic Plan, and as described under the Commonwealth Agreement. The purpose of this guidance is to define the criteria for evaluating research project proposals.

2. SCOPE

- This policy applies to all research project activities within the SmartSat CRC.

3. REFERENCES

- This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:
 - RP: Procedure – Project Formulation and Approval of Proposals.

4. STATEMENT AND GUIDANCE

- Each research project proposal will undergo a review. The evaluation of each project proposal will be against the assessment criteria (below), and will also consider:
 - The need to retain flexibility over future years to strike out in new directions, to take in new participants and to respond to new market drivers; and
 - The need to have a balanced project investment portfolio that considers:
 - Short term outcomes versus medium- and longer-term achievements; and
 - An appropriate mix of research outcomes, education outcomes, capability demonstration and industry adoption.
 - The level of additional co-investment from project participants that acts as leverage for the SmartSat funds.
 - The strategic balance between fundamental infrastructure and capability building (that grows the overall economy from which everyone can benefit) and specific project investments.
- In making investment decisions, the SmartSat CRC Board, the Research Program Leadership Group (RPLG), and the Research Investment Committee will ensure that new research projects meet the following assessment criteria:
 - Strategic Alignment
 - Produce outcomes and impacts that align with the strategic objectives of SmartSat CRC; and
 - Meet well-articulated end-user needs
 - Impacts
 - Make a substantive contribution toward achieving impacts from the SmartSat CRC Impact Tool; and
 - Make a substantive contribution toward achieving outputs and associated

milestones from the SmartSat CRC Commonwealth Agreement; and

- Utilisation
 - Have a key industry or end-user champion;
 - Have a clear pathway for the adoption of the research outputs; and
 - Have an appropriate and viable utilisation and/or commercialisation strategy.
- Research
 - Have a high probability of producing world class science outcomes where this is required to maximise the impact of the research when adopted for use;
 - Articulate a competitive position in relation to relevant research activities on an international basis;
 - Bring together a high quality research team;
 - Demonstrate meaningful inter-relationships with other SmartSat CRC programs;
 - Avoiding duplicating existing research unless there is a clear intention to do so (e.g. to ensure the development of a sovereign capability)
- Project Management
 - Have a well-developed project methodology;
 - Have a well-developed risk and opportunity assessment; and
 - Make a budget claim consistent with the objectives and scope of the project that represents value for money, leveraged with additional investment by project partners.