<u>News story: Don't Blow It! Safely</u> <u>eliminating munitions on the</u> <u>battlefield</u>

Updated: Text updated to reflect competition is now active and addition of closing date for submission of proposals

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) has launched a new competition aimed at the private sector and academia, to seek innovative solutions and approaches to accessing, disabling and/or irreversibly destroying chemical and biological weapons munitions, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and bulk agents in challenging environments.

The competition is aimed an non-traditional defence and security innovators. DASA will be particularly interested to hear from those in allied technology areas such as the oil and gas, mining sectors as well as those which have experience in handling hazardous materials.

With an initial £500,000 to fund multiple proof-of-concept proposals at low Technology Readiness Levels (TRL), it is anticipated that an additional funding of £1.5 million may be available depending on the outcome of the initial funding phase.

It is joint funded by the UK Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defense, and will operate under an existing memorandum of understanding between both nations.

The competition launched at an event in London on 26 September 2018 and will close for submission of proposals on the 19 November 2018 at 5 pm (UK time).

Competition Document

Details about the competition can be found here.

Any queries regarding this competition, should be sent to accelerator@dstl.gov.uk