

DMTC Approach to Intellectual Property

Innovation and the application of new technologies is a key force multiplier for the Australian Defence Force, provides enhanced capabilities for the warfighter and platform operators, and contributes to a stronger and more internationally competitive Australian defence industry.

The Australian Government's 2016 Defence Industry Policy Statement calls for

"closer collaboration between Defence, industry and research organisations to jointly develop game-changing innovation and commercialisation opportunities".

Ownership and access to Intellectual Property (IP) is a key issue in collaborative projects, particularly in the Defence sector.

The Defence Innovation Hub has developed a principles-based IP framework which will underpin relevant collaborative activities.

DMTC's IP policy is aligned with the Defence Innovation Hub IP policy. The prime objective of the DMTC policy is that all IP generated under DMTC projects should be commercially exploited by the Industry partners involved in the project, in order to maximise the creation of a sustainable industry base in Australia, whilst protecting Defence's rights.

DMTC has structured collaborative arrangements that facilitate innovation and allow joint industry, researcher and Defence engagement in projects without probity risks for future Defence procurements.

DMTC's IP approach streamlines adoption and utilisation of technology developed under DMTC program activities. Participants' rights for utilisation of the IP created in projects are articulated in the engagement agreements, removing the need for negotiation of usage licenses after the IP has been developed.

Agreements outline the IP framework for each project, including a detailed strategy for IP ownership and protection, an inventory of Background IP provided by project participants and licensing details for commercial exploitation by industry partners of Project IP.

This model drives effective engagement with multiple partners across a supply chain, ensuring supply chain participants collaborate and not compete within a project as the use of project outcomes by each project partner are clearly articulated and defined.

DMTC participants at all times retain ownership of the intellectual property they bring to a project. As most DMTC projects involve multiple industry participants, DMTC's IP policy follows the Innovation Hub's Principle 5, whereby DMTC assumes the coordination role, and provide licences to each Participant.

Participants are encouraged to apply IP across dual use target applications. For industry participants, this offers benefits beyond the DMTC project including greater competitiveness and supply chain integration.

KEY POINTS

- > Aligned with Defence Innovation Hub policies
- > Robust but flexible system
- > Supports rapid utilisation and adoption of technology
- > Controlled at the individual project level
- > Defence and industrial access to IP is assured

About DMTC

DMTC is a public, not for profit company limited by guarantee. Project funding is drawn from several sources including the Australian Government, State Governments and program participants (industry and research institutions).

DMTC offers a strong track record of performance and an operating model that works for the Defence customer. Keys to our success include established relationships with Australian research institutions and with many defence sector companies, large and small, a mature system of Intellectual Property controls and a consistent program management model.

DMTC's programs are developed and tracked against clearly defined milestones and outcomes, enabling the delivery of applied research outcomes and technological gains for Defence, industry and the research community. Supporting activities include technology transfer, supply chain best practice and capability benchmarking programs, professional development workshops and scholarship investments for postgraduate studies.



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