



## TEST AND EVALUATION INDUSTRY WEBINAR MAY 2025

### FAQs raised in webinar and post meeting

A number of questions were fielded by the panel on the day of the webinar; those responses are not reproduced here as they can be seen on the recording. What follows are responses to questions not answered during the session which have been loosely grouped by theme.

Is the T&E Strategy on track?

*We are in the horizon 2 modernising period which runs through to 2026. The team have recently published an online catalogue of Defence T&E infrastructure and overhauled the T&E competency framework. Their work remains relevant and we will continue on the scripted course of action for now. If our proposed model is adopted and implemented in full, it is reasonable to think that the Strategy will also be critically reviewed and updated.*

*If you have T&E infrastructure including ranges, test facilities or instrumentation which you wish to let Defence know about contact T&E Coord Office [tecoord.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:tecoord.office@defence.gov.au).*

Are there any plans to establish a panel for T&E suppliers?

*Defence panels arrangements are undergoing refresh within Defence and Defence T&E have provided input to the DCSP (DSS replacement) skill sets as part of the update. We will remain engaged to ensure we can access T&E capability of suitable skills and experience on terms which are satisfactory to Defence and our partners.*

*We are not planning new panels specific for T&E in the short term – but we think SDIP7 does support us if we need to propose a different procurement method. We reserve the option of forming our own panel but won't know if that is needed until the DCSP panel is finalised.*

Does the model include an audit function?

*The Directorate of Defence Test and Evaluation has an assurance function (of which audit is one element). The scope and structure of the Directorate will change to accommodate the proposed model, but audit is expected to be retained as a Commonwealth function.*

Who will be on the T&E Advisory Board – is it just for the big players?

*The board composition should reflect industry and we want every Industry participant to see someone on the Board that could represent their interests. Therefore we will curate a Board that is fit for purpose and offers a range of perspectives from small to large T&E providers, prime integrators, academia, allied industries, and possibly international participants. We*

*will review its effectiveness continuously and membership will change over time to ensure it does not become a sheltered/stale workshop. There is also provision for invited members for specific topics (in addition to the permanent members) It is envisaged that the board will meet between 2-4 times per year and members will be remunerated.*

Will the competency framework be aligned with Certificate IV and Diploma qualifications? Will Training be provided by an RTO, or leverage Defence's RTO status?

*The range and depth of specific T&E skills required by Defence and Industry is very broad and our proposal cannot serve all segments. We will directly sponsor a foundational training course for practitioners and develop short courses for key T&E Manager roles to uplift capability and awareness. Consequently there will remain significant opportunity for the market to offer T&E training courses which address specific needs and other parts of the training continuum. Defence is obliged to pursue Value for Money outcomes and alignment with nationally recognised training standards would be considered as part of any tender evaluation. We will also explore if we can increase the Value for Money by using Defence assets (infrastructure or status) as part of the training partnership.*

What is the size of the in house expertise?

*Within the T&E Directorate we are planning a small focussed team to provide support and guidance to Groups and Services with T&E responsibilities, and to build awareness of current industry capability. This will include deep specialisation for each of the 5 warfighting domains and enablers which span the domains for which specialisation may be warranted (eg, autonomy, AI/ML, integrated logistics, data, design of experiments, modelling and simulation). The aim is not to replace the role of capability and delivery managers in execution of T&E but support them to effectively plan and resource T&E workload and empower them with knowledge on how to optimise T&E to support the acceleration of capability delivery. We will approach the market with greater detail but we do not want to limit possible solution architectures by defining a specific headcount.*

The in house expertise - will it be one company or a conglomerate of individuals SMEs? They will gain an unfair commercial advantage by seeing and influencing Defence T&E decisions from above the line!

*That team will have access to privileged information and may influence the planning of T&E. For that reason we would prefer that they didn't also compete with companies performing T&E. The conflict of interest / NDA requirements might mean that the typical T&E suppliers avoid the in-house expertise role so as to preserve freedom to participate in the much more significant range of opportunities to support the execution of T&E by the Services and Delivery agencies. The structure of the in house team is being examined by commercial and business experts right now - but the market might propose a solution that we hadn't considered – so please engage with the approach to market process.*

Will the in-house experts be **doing** T&E?

*No. Collectively they will possess knowledge of testing requirements & methods across the 5 domains and supporting functions. They will help Capability Managers (through the T&E*

*Principals) to set the preconditions for good T&E data collection in any given project/program. They can contribute to Integrated Capability Directives, Smart buyer workshops, T&E Working Groups, T&E Master Plans, review of test reports, development of Statements of work, etc. Importantly they can share their observations from “the coalface” when they return to the centre. This will achieve the aim of illuminating and sharing best practices, plus aggregating demand for human and physical resources across the portfolio. Working adjacent to the T&E directorate will allow related policy and committees to be immediately and fully informed.*

*\* Capability Managers will remain responsible for T&E of their assigned capabilities.*

How and when will the T&E **demand** be communicated to industry?

*The intelligence about total system demand will take time to accumulate. Sending the signal to Industry too frequently risks unwanted bull whip effects. Official changes to the IIP are communicated to Government in the Bi-annual update – so ours won’t be any more frequent than that. The Defence T&E Conference is likely to continue and will be an excellent vehicle for discussing the future demands with Industry. Other mechanisms to transmit demand may emerge once the model is bedded down. We will work with the Industry Advisor to develop the content and cadence.*

The Industry Study said you need to make investments in **instrumentation, networks, facilities** and **synthetic environments** – How does the proposal solve that?

*The establishment of an in house T&E advisory capability within VCDF Group in the centre of Defence and an industry advisory board will provide multiple additional avenues to inform defence of overarching T&E demand, capability gaps that span multiple delivery programs as well as better insight into industry’s challenges supporting Defence’s T&E needs. The establishment of these bodies will enable defence to better identify and prioritise investment in T&E capability as well as incorporate broad industry perspective on potential solutions or co-investment. The need for investment should become clear and we will sponsor relevant business cases for T&E capability from the centre with the support of the Domain T&E principals who will be consulted on the need. .*

Will there be innovation in practices (agile methodologies, modelling & simulation, etc)?

*The in-house expertise, Industry advisor and T&E Advisory Board will identify emerging methods & best practice approaches to T&E which could find application in Defence. This discovery process is in addition to the standard request for proposal process which invites Industry to bring forward novel solutions. The in-house experts will have cross-portfolio visibility of where and what new methods are successfully applied (and indeed those that overpromise and under-deliver). These will increase the quality of each and every subsequent Statement of Work.*

Who can we contact to piloting or validating digital tools particularly in relation to TECSA, DCSP, or workforce development initiatives?

*The focus of Defence T&E currently is on establishing the new industry partnership and advisory arrangements. We note industry's interest in the piloting of digital tools and will discuss further with T&E Principals and the Advisory Board when established. Along with stakeholders such as Defence Digital Group and the Defence Digital Engineering implementation team as to whether a pilot exercise can be a future initiative, noting the challenge in doing this with realistic data that is cyber secure.*

What changes are needed in the Defence acquisition process to ensure test and evaluation is integrated early and continuously throughout the capability lifecycle?

*With the release of v2.0 of the updated One Defence Capability System Manual. T&E is remains integrated within capability decision making to provide credible information on the safety, effectiveness, risk and suitability of capabilities. Defence T&E is working closely with Groups and Services to ensure T&E is effectively and efficiently planned and applied at a product, project, program and integrated Joint Force Level.*

Will there be any DISP membership requirements?

*The Industry Advisor and T&E Advisory Board members as expert advisors to Defence, will be engaged as nominated individuals through a registered business or academic entity via an Expert Engagement Agreement Contract. As these will be employed directly by Defence the industry advisor will hold as a minimum an NV1 Security Clearance and would have experience in dealing with ITAR controlled information. Advisory Board members are expected to hold or be capable of holding an NV1 Security Clearance or 5 eyes equivalent.*

*DISP membership requirements are currently being considered for both the in house expertise and training partners.*

Can Industry personnel be involved in the Defence T&E Community of Practice?

*Yes, the T&E Community of Practice events are generally open for external attendees and are accessible via GovTeams by external attendees. Please contact the [tecoord.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:tecoord.office@defence.gov.au) to be added to the T&E COP Mailing List.*

How do we find out more information on Defence Industry Development Grants?

*These are an initiative of the Defence Industry Development Strategy 2024, with applications opened to industry on 18 June 2024 and up to \$170m available up to 30 June 2028.*

*Fact Sheet – [www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au) search for “grants”*

*[www.defence.gov.au/business-industry/resources-support/industry-grants](http://www.defence.gov.au/business-industry/resources-support/industry-grants)*

*Grant Opportunity Guidelines – [www.business.gov.au/DIDgrants](http://www.business.gov.au/DIDgrants)*

*GrantConnect – [www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)*

*Enquiries by email – [industry.grants@defence.gov.au](mailto:industry.grants@defence.gov.au)*