



Defence Teaming Centre
Connecting • Developing • Advocating

2026 DEFENCE INDUSTRY DINNER AND AWARDS INNOVATION AWARD GUIDEBOOK

Winner Announced: Thursday 3 December 2026
6.00pm - 11.00pm
Adelaide Convention Centre



2025 Award Winner: Shoal Group



Defence Teaming Centre - Defence Industry Dinner and Awards Innovation Award

The DTC Innovation Award recognises members who have designed an innovative product or service which addresses a Defence capability gap or enhances Defence capability. The category includes domestic defence or export defence markets.

Innovation Scope

The nominated product or service can include:

- Tangible or intangible
- Physical products (equipment, systems, materials)
- Digital / software solutions
- Professional services, processes, programs or capability

At the time of application The Innovation Project must be active in the past 12 months but may have commenced within the past three years.

Must demonstrate progress toward a commercial or operational outcome (e.g. contracts, deployments, trials, customer adoption, or validated pathway to market).

Projects that are still in active bidding stages without demonstrated validation or deployment are not eligible.

Eligibility Criteria

- The nominee must be a financial DTC member. Non-members may submit a nomination on behalf of a DTC member.
- The award is open to individual organisations or collaborative teams (including primes, SMEs, academia).

Stage of Maturity

- Innovation must be:
 - Demonstrated (prototype, deployed, or operational), OR
 - Proven concept with clear pathway to deployment
- Evidence of real-world application or validation required

Compliance & Ethics

- Must comply with:
 - Defence regulations (export controls, security)
 - Ethical and responsible design principles (where applicable)

For queries in relation to entries, contact Melanie Read or Philip Smart
business@dtc.org.au | (08) 7320 1000 | www.dtc.org.au

Evaluation Criteria

- The company has innovated and introduced new products or services into the Defence market in the last three years,
- The innovation is superior to similar products from competitors / has provided value to Defence/ Defence industry; and
- The company has demonstrated growth in its turnover in the Defence market based on the innovated products or services.

Nominations will be assessed on:

- The degree of innovation and differentiation compared with existing solutions
- Contribution to addressing a Defence capability gap or enhancing capability
- Demonstrated development progress, validation, and pathway to deployment
- Evidence of measurable benefits delivered to Defence or Defence industry
- Positive impact on the applicant organisation (e.g. growth, capability, workforce, export success)

Innovation Award Questions

- Q1 Provide a brief overview of your business, including your key products, services, and areas of expertise.**
This helps contextualise the innovation within your organisation's broader operations.
Max 150 Words
- Q2 What challenge, opportunity, or Defence capability gap led to this innovation?**
Describe the environment, opportunity, or problem that initiated the innovation, including any relevant context from within the defence sector
Max 300 Words
- Q3 Describe the innovation, how it works, and what makes it unique.**
Explain:
- How it differs from existing solutions
 - Whether it represents a breakthrough or significant improvement
 - How it aligns with Defence capability priorities, industry needs or capability development objectives.
- Q4 Describe the development journey of the innovation including key milestones, testing, validation and current stage of maturity.**
Highlight the process undertaken to develop the innovation, any trials, successes and/or setbacks and what you learned along the way.
Max 300 Words
- Q5 Describe the benefits the innovation has delivered to Defence or the broader defence industry.**
Include examples such as:
- Capability uplift
 - Efficiency gains
 - Interoperability improvements
 - Operational readiness outcome
 - Other relevant outcomes
- Max 300 words
- Q6 Describe the positive impact the innovation has had on your business.**
This may include increased revenue, new contracts, job creation or workforce capability uplift, new skills development, export success, or strategic growth.
Max 300 words



Supporting Material (Optional)

Applicants are encouraged to provide evidence to support claims, such as:

- Images, diagrams, or charts
- Testimonials or endorsements
- Performance data or reports

Key Dates

Sunday 16 August - Applications Close

Friday 28 August - Awards finalists and non-finalist notified

Thursday December 3 - Winners presented with awards at Defence Teaming Centre Defence Industry Dinner and Awards Ceremony.

When your Application is Complete

Email the completed application to:
business@dtc.org.au

Innovation Award Terms and Conditions

By submitting your nomination online, you hereby agree to and accept the following terms and conditions.

1. Finalists for the Defence Teaming Centre Awards will be required to have at least one representative attend the 2026 Defence Industry Dinner & Awards Ceremony at the Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide South Australia, on Thursday 3 December 2026, where the winner will be announced. The identified representative will accept the award on behalf of the team.
2. All finalists will provide details of the nominated representative(s) attending the 2026 Defence Industry Dinner & Awards Ceremony to the Defence Teaming Centre Head of Events two weeks prior to the event.
3. Selected finalists for the Innovation Award will be required to allow a representative(s) from Adelaide Film Works onto their facility to obtain video footage of the workplace to feature in the 2026 Innovation Award Finalists video. The video will be published on the Defence Teaming Centre website and social media channels and will be shown at the 2026 Defence Industry Dinner & Awards Ceremony.
4. Each finalist will also need to have representative available for an interview with representative(s) from Adelaide Film Works for use in the 2026 Innovation Award Finalist video.
5. The Defence Teaming Centre reserve the right to use any entries, photographs, video, media and / or articles of the finalists and winners of the Awards for promotional purposes.
6. Nominators agree to be contacted by a representative of the Defence Teaming Centre to verify any information submitted and the eligibility of the nominee.
7. All nominees will be advised if they have made it to a finalist status by phone or email after the judging has closed by a representative of the Defence Teaming Centre.
8. Award nominees retain responsibility to not engage in conduct which brings or has the potential to bring the Defence Teaming Centre into disrepute.
9. Award finalists will be responsible for all costs involved in attending the dinner and award ceremony and travelling to and from filming locations.
10. The Defence Teaming Centre reserves the right to, at any time, verify a nomination and disqualify any nominee who the Defence Teaming Centre believes has submitted an entry not in accordance with these terms and conditions.
11. All nominations will be reviewed by an independent external Judging Panel made up of respected defence industry experts and peers. The Panel retains full discretion in determining Award recipients. All decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the selection process or results.