

Defence and Security Conference – AI Fest 2 – call for expression of interest

This is a call for expressions of interest for participation in a Dstl run Defence and Security Conference – AI Fest 2 on the **5th June 2019 in Basingstoke**.

The conference is a government only event sponsored by Air Marshal Stringer, Director General Joint Force Development, and aims to bring together the Defence and Security S&T, procurement and end user community. The theme of this event is 'Applied AI' and is aimed at exposing delegates to examples of how AI has been applied to Defence and Security challenges. The event will combine a variety of speakers from across the Defence and Security domain with a number of key external speakers to provide perspectives from outside this domain. This event is being supported by a number of Dstl's S&T Programmes including: Autonomy, Information Systems, Emerging Technologies for Defence & Future Threat Understanding and Disruption.

Although attendance in the main conference session is government only, there will be a large supplier exhibition area with demonstrations and stands from what we hope will be, a wide variety of suppliers (academia, SMEs and larger defence contractors). There will be approximately 400 attendees including military end users, MOD capability planners & acquisition staff, Dstl scientists and engineers and international partners. The conference will run in two halves, the morning session will be the main conference session with a number of presentations. The afternoon session will be broken out into 8 separate syndicates to cover a wide variety of topics at greater depth – attendees will be signing up to these in advance of the conference.

The supplier exhibition area will be the focus for the lunchtime session, and there will be an option for attendees to spend more time in the exhibition instead of the afternoon syndicate session slots. We are looking for industry/academia/supplier participation in three ways –

1. Stand / Exhibition area

- a. If you are a company or institute that works in AI, machine learning or data science and would like to attend and host a stand to demonstrate and promote your products, skills and experience then please send us a short email covering:
 - i. Your business/product overview
 - ii. Why you think this conference would be of relevance (how your offering relates to Defence and Security)
 - iii. What requirements you would have of the venue (infrastructure, space etc.)
 - iv. It would also be useful if you could indicate whether you have worked with Defence and Security previously

2. Industry Lightning Talk – syndicate session

- a. One of the afternoon syndicate sessions will be lightning talks (very short presentations, <5mins) by suppliers.
- b. This session will run twice, 1400-1500 and 1510-1610 and attendees will have the option to sign up to this session in advance.
- c. There will be other suppliers in the room and this may impact on what you would be willing to present. If you would like to be considered for this session, please indicate that in your response

3. Interest in attending **supplier focussed events** in the morning session

- a. There will be a series of morning sessions at the venue aimed at the suppliers bringing stands and briefing in the syndicate sessions in the afternoon. These will likely cover:
 - i. Bid writing
 - ii. DASA update on calls of relevance
 - iii. Overview of the Dstl commercial frameworks, and government contracting
 - iv. 1-2-1s with programme managers
 - v. Ethics – Defence and Security principles around the use of AI
 - vi. AI for Policing and Security workshop

In addition, if you would like to send us a one pager covering your business area, skills and experience we would be happy to make it available internally to those working in this area across Dstl.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the AI Lab team – ai_lab@dstl.gov.uk - Please mark your email response as **AI FEST – SUPPLIER** so that it is picked up by the correct member of the team. We are looking to confirm attendance shortly after submission deadline 3rd May.