



Australian Research Data Commons

# Platforms Open Call: EOI Briefing

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PRESENTED BY

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# Coordination and Coherence

People  
and  
Policy

Software  
and  
Platforms

Data and  
Services

Storage  
and  
Compute

# Definitions are always fraught

“For the purposes of this call we define a Platform as a set of services, often with associated integration and/or orchestration functions, as well as connections to specific data resources, that are intended to enable researchers to carry out some of their research activities”

<https://ardc.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Platforms-Open-Call-1-Public-Overview.pdf>

# Platforms Objectives

To enable the development of e-research platforms that are more sustainable

This will improve the likelihood that these platforms will continue after the initial co-investment

To enable new platform entrants to be successful in attracting ARDC co-investment

This will expand the range of disciplines and research approaches that contribute to the Australian e-research ecosystem

To enable an expanded pool of Australian researchers to have access to platforms technologies in carrying out their work

This will spread the impacts of the ARDC co-investment more widely

To bring together the community of Australian platform developers/adapters

This will improve the return on investment by ensuring more supported (and thus productive) developers, as well as effective transmission of good practice approaches

## In Scope

- Adoption of existing platform used by a research community (e.g. interstate or overseas) and implementation by a new or expanded community in Australia.
- Adaptation of an existing platform to a new community in a different area of research (with associated work on additional integrations to data sources and tools).
- Support for adoption of a relatively generic platform solution.
- Re-engineering of an existing solution to make it more sustainable (i.e. adoption of shared services, move to micro-services architecture).
- Instantiation and operation of specific services/micro-services that could be integrated into platforms.

## Out of Scope

- Development of a new platform technology.
- Purchase of a Commercial Off the Shelf Solution (COTS).
- Development of significant additional new functionality, such as development of brand new tools or applications for management/analysis/visualisation of data in a specific/narrow field of research.

## ARDC wants to run a process that will

- Provide as much transparency as possible
- Reward collaboration over competition
- Enable new entrants to the eResearch sector to take part

# Dimensions

- 1-4 years project duration (1-3 for 2020 call, etc)
- Less than \$3M/year of ARDC co-investment/project
- Mandatory 1:1 cash co-investment from partners
- Legal entity as lead (because contracts)

## Three phases:

- EOI phase (focus of this webinar)
  - Collaborative, lightweight documentation
- Coordination phase
  - Proposer-initiated and/or ARDC-initiated
- RFP phase
  - Competitive, detailed documentation



# Coordination opportunities

- Similar/relevant discipline groupings
- Similar instruments
- Similar software tools
- Similar platform technologies
- Opportunities for use of shared services

# Timings:

- 19 August - EOI opens
- ? August – Facilitation starts
- 20 September – EOI closes
- 23 September - RFP Template and Final Weighted Selection Criteria made available
- 27 September – Facilitation ends
- 7 October – RFP opens
- 1 November – RFP closes



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