



Platforms Open Call 1 - Involvement of ARDC staff

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Background

Context

The first Platforms Open Call (POC1) will be carried out as the major activity for 2019/20 in support of the Software and Platforms Strategy (exposure summary [available here](#)). ARDC anticipates running three Open Calls (in 2019, 2020, and 2021). This document describes the process to be followed for Call 1 (2019). As noted in the Software and Platforms Strategy, ARDC will be guided in its investment decisions by the [NCRIS Principles](#) and the [Principles from the ARDC Strategic Plan](#).

Audience

This document is intended for both an internal and an external audience. For ARDC staff it provides guidance on how they can be involved in the Open Call process. For those external to ARDC, it provides clarity about how ARDC staff could be involved.

Process desiderata

The process described below has been designed to achieve a number of strategic goals:

- Provide as much transparency as possible, both internally and externally
- Reward collaboration over competition
- Run a defensible selection process

Call Process and ARDC Involvement

As [described on the ARDC website](#), the solicitation of proposals will take place in two phases: Expression of Interest (EOI) and Request for Proposal (RFP). In between these, there will be a proposal facilitation phase.

Expression of Interest phase: 19 Aug - 20 Sep

The expression of interest (EOI) phase is intended to facilitate collaboration between researchers, research groups, research organisations and communities around a proposed Platform investment, with the aim of investing in projects that will deliver improved outcomes. As such, all EOIs will be made public upon submission.

Because the EOI is not going to be the submission that will be considered for funding, ARDC staff **can be consulted as needed and can help to shape EOIs**. Andrew Treloar and Kerry Levett will also be able to answer questions about the process being followed, and these questions and their answers will be entered into a publicly available FAQ page on the ARDC website.

Proposal facilitation phase: 19 Aug - 27 Sep

As EOIs are made available, ARDC staff will examine them looking for possible synergies and overlaps. **Any ARDC staff can be consulted as needed during this phase**, and are also expected to play an active role in looking for ways to ensure greater collaboration between proposing groups and to improve the viability of proposed projects.

Request for Proposal phase: 7 Oct - 1 Nov

The request for proposal (RFP) phase is an opportunity for ARDC to enter into investment partnerships with organisations who are successful at the conclusion of the RFP process. This phase is likely to be oversubscribed, and will only be open to those who submitted an EOI, and their collaborators. This phase will be governed by RFP documentation (similar to that [made available for the Storage and Compute call](#)), and **ARDC staff will not be able to be consulted or involved at this stage, beyond providing answers to general questions**. In addition, a conflict of interest register will be maintained for all ARDC staff involved in the Platforms Open Call process in any way, as well as external representatives on the evaluation panel.