



Expression of Interest EOI 2018-19

Part 1- General Details

		EOI ID	1819-EOI-0188	
EOI Title: (max 80 char)	Digital strategy for the Australian Cotton Industry			
Type of Research	Applied			
Proposed Start Date:	01/03/2018	Proposed Cease Date:	30/06/2019	
<i>Please refer to CRDC's Strategic R&D Plan 2013-2018 for the following.</i>				
CRDC Program	1. Farmers			
CRDC Theme	1.3 Profitable Futures			
CRDC Strategy	1.3.1 Investigating the application of new technologies and different scientific approaches which have the potential returns to the cotton farming system.to deliver significant improvements and economic			
<i>Please identify the relevant Measure of Success as outlined in the CRDC Strategic R&D Plan.</i>				
CRDC Measure of Success:	1.3.1 Investigating the application of new technologies and different scientific approaches which have the potential to deliver significant improvements and economic returns to the cotton farming system.			
Science and Research Priorities	Food(3i) enhanced food production through: novel technologies, such as sensors, robotics, real-time data systems and traceability, all integrated into the full production chain.	50 %	Soil and Water(3) minimising damage to, and developing solutions for restoration and remediation of, soil, fresh and potable water, urban catchments and marine systems.	50 %
Rural R&D Priorities	Advanced technology, to enhance innovation of products, processes and practices across the food and fibre supply chains through technologies such as robotics, digitisation, big data, genetics and precision agriculture;			
R&D Manager:	Jane Trindall	EOI Due Date:	21 January 2018	

Part 2 –Expression of Interest Requirements

<p>Issue: The Rural R&D for Profit Accelerating Precision to Decision (P2D) project has investigated current and future needs of Australian agriculture in relation to data sources, governance, architectures, communications and will make recommendations for the sector to realise economic benefits, including business models, made possible by digital agriculture. This project has focused on the cross-sectoral data needs, and does not preclude the need for each sector to evaluate their specific needs and take action to realise unique advantages within their sector. The P2D producer survey has highlighted the differences in technology and its adoption within each agricultural industry. This project will explore the current and future state of data within the cotton industry and will develop a Digital Strategy and implementation plan to assist the Australian cotton industry realise the economic benefits of digital agriculture, to complement the implementation of the P2D cross-sectoral recommendations for the Australian agricultural sector.</p>
<p>Outcomes: The Australian cotton industry is able to realise economic benefits from digital technology.</p>

Project description:

This project will deliver three main objectives:

1. Develop a Digital strategy and implementation plan for the Australian cotton industry.

This project will explore the current and future state of data within the cotton industry and will develop a Digital Strategy and implementation plan to assist the Australian cotton industry realise economic gains from digital agriculture.

The key milestones of the project will be:

A. Identify the current state of the digital maturity of the Australian cotton industry, including: leadership and strategy, culture, data governance, reference architecture, data connectivity, data sources and analytics, digital literacy and data competency (data analysts, scientists, engineers, including CRDC research partners). This will involve an assessment of key industry organisations including CRDC.

B. Define the possible future state of the digital maturity of the Australian cotton industry, including the analysis of the value of a common platform solution for the storage, access, usage of data sets, an economic assessment and evidence of best practise in other industries and countries.

C. Provide a Digital strategy and implementation plan for the Australian cotton industry to realise the economic gains from digital agriculture. This will align with a whole of agriculture effort to increase digital maturity (As recommended by P2D) This may include:

- a recommended data competency framework,
- a reference architecture for the cotton industry and / or the development of good structures for data sharing; facilitation of flow of data across industry, growers and providing data to multiple parties and
- data policy
- digital literacy capacity building / professional development
- how to connect data producers, data analysts and data consumers to enable them to exchange information about needs for data outputs and inputs
- Identification of the future data sources and applications likely to be required
- Identify and prioritise digital transformation projects.

Project Management

CRDC is one stakeholder in the Australian cotton industry. A digital strategy for the industry, therefore will necessarily require the input and involvement of other key industry organisations and leadership forums, such as the Australian Cotton Industry Forum and the Cotton Innovation Network, for example. There will be a requirement for the successful tenderer to engage in industry forums and potentially with organisations one on one.

Project Investment:

The budget indicated is the maximum available. CRDC is prepared to invest between \$150,000 and \$225,000, for delivery of this important strategic project. The final budget allocated will be negotiated with the provider that best meets the criteria for developing the digital strategy and implementation plan. Where the tender document only seeks to address some of the outcomes, the budget will need to reflect this. Overseas travel is not to be included in the tender document budget unless it directly relates to a project output and is an explicit milestone. Otherwise overseas travel must be made as a separate travel application.

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	
Indicative budget (up to)	\$ 150,000	\$75,000	\$ 0	

Part 3 –Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used by the CRDC to assess the full research proposals (FRPs) received for each Expression of Interest.

<p>1. A sound understanding of the nature and importance of the outcome to the Australian cotton industry: The research applicant must address the Issue, Outcome and Project Description in terms of the CRDC Strategic Plan and demonstrate understanding of the impact on the Australian cotton industry.</p>
<p>2. Soundness and clarity of the proposed R&D methods to address project deliverable outcomes: The research applicant must describe how the research methodology employed will enable the project outcomes to be delivered</p>
<p>3. Demonstrated capacity of the nominated researcher/s to provide project coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation for the timely delivery of high quality outputs: The research applicant must describe the research team's project management skills and experience and may include a recent example of a completed project. They must detail the monitoring and evaluation strategy which should include any steering committees to co-ordinate collaborative research, links with CottonInfo, CGAs, Cotton Australia, etc. and any additional reporting outside the 6 monthly Progress Reports.</p>
<p>4. Demonstrated track record, technical knowledge and experience of all key personnel in the research area: The research applicant must describe the project research team's technical skill and experience relevant to the project and methodologies proposed.</p>
<p>5. A demonstrated capacity to effectively communicate project outcomes to diverse stakeholders within the Australian cotton industry: The research applicant must describe the communication skills and existing communication channels that the research team use to communicate project outcomes to the Australian cotton industry. The new applicants to the cotton industry should provide an example of industry communication from a recent project.</p>
<p>6. Demonstrated ability of the project team to form productive networks and links to build on national and international research already undertaken in related areas: The research applicant must describe existing networks that the research team use for collaboration with other researchers and an ability to develop new networks as research knowledge increases.</p>
<p>7. The cost effectiveness of this project including cash and in-kind commitments from the applicants and leverage through domestic or international linkages that are useful if not essential to progress the project: The research applicant should demonstrate market value and market fairness for the proposed budget and comment on the leverage achieved through collaboration and in-kind support.</p>
<p>8. Project demonstrates collaboration between organisations or research groups: The research applicant must describe the existing or proposed collaboration with other researchers, research groups or committees and the Australian cotton industry.</p>

