



MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

DMTC creates and enhances Australian industrial capability by leading and facilitating collaborative technology development and innovation work in defence and related sectors. DMTC has a strong track record in manufacturing, engineering and applied research and development.

The [Medical Countermeasures \(MCM\)](#) activity led by DMTC began in 2016 and builds on extensive work carried out by the Defence Science and Technology (DST) Group, the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and industry and academic partners committed to establishing a national capability for advancing the development and manufacture of MCMs.

To date there has been AUD \$9 million investment from the Australian Government in applied and translational MCM research projects being delivered through DMTC. The DMTC co-investment model means each dollar invested in a project is matched by \$2 to \$3 of cash or in-kind contributions from partners.

[Medical Countermeasures include vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for the protection of military and civilian personnel against Chemical Biological and Radiological \(CBR\) threats, emerging infectious diseases and pandemics.](#)

DMTC is creating an integrated, multidisciplinary network focused on MCM product development activities.

The MCM program is focused on advancing the development of technologies relevant to Australia's national preparedness strategy. It includes the development of an integrated capability to reduce reliance on non-Australian sources for MCM products.

Australia has a dispersed and relatively small, but highly experienced, discovery and development community with regard to MCM product development. Combined with our geographic position, it offers the potential for Australia to become a regional leader in MCM development.

The DMTC MCM program is the first attempt in Australia to be proactive and harness this expertise, capability and capacity to support in-country, end-to-end MCM solutions. It is marrying best-practice industry product development and commercial expertise with other relevant public capabilities in universities, public agencies and medical research institutes. This will enable the network to leverage skills, prioritise effort and expedite MCM delivery. There will also be the opportunity to inform national regulatory requirements for pharmaceutical, biotechnology and diagnostic products.

To date DMTC has received project submissions from all over the country and currently has project teams across four states working collaboratively to achieve their product development objectives.

In the first two years of the MCM program, DMTC has brought together three government research agencies, six Universities and eight industrial partners (many of whom are new to the defence or national security sector). The number of partners will continue to grow as the program expands.

KEY POINTS

- **Strategically focused**
- **Enhancing national MCM preparedness**
- **Building Australian industrial capability & capacity**



MCM PROGRAM

The overarching aim of the DMTC MCM Program is to develop leading edge advanced development capabilities and to deploy those skills into activities that support Australian defence, health and national security.

It is the only program that brings together key national stakeholders including:

- the Department of Defence represented by Joint Health Command and the Defence Science and Technology Group;
- the Department of Health represented by the Office of Health Protection;
- the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science represented by the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Medical Technology and Pharmaceutical Growth Centre (MTP Connect); and
- the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade represented by the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security.

The DMTC MCM program is creating a coordinated, multi-stakeholder MCM community that can effectively collaborate to achieve advances relevant to a range of priority technology targets.

DEFENCE CAPABILITY THROUGH COLLABORATION

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MCM GOVERNANCE



Australian Government
Department of Health



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Science and Technology



Australian Government

