

Dear Defence Council Member

In June 2015, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) published the Special Report [Defence Science and Innovation - An Affordable Strategic Advantage](#).

The speed and extent of disruption associated with technological change over the last three years, coupled with a number of significant policy and administrative changes in Australia in the Defence, Security and Intelligence fields, has warranted ASPI to commission the authors to update their assessment and to expand their consideration, to also capture technological changes taking place in the security sector.

An important finding of the 2015 Report was the decline in Australian business defence R&D investment from \$259.4 m in 2008-09 to \$197.1 m in 2011-12. The latest Bureau of Statistics data shows that both business and higher education investment in defence R&D has continued to fall. As such, an additional aspect of this year's special report will be to gain insight into private sector and higher education R&D behaviour in the defence and security domains.

In particular, ASPI is seeking to understand whether the Government's defence industry and innovation policies are fostering increased R&D investment and engagement and whether additional adjustments might be required, from a policy perspective, to assist firms and higher education institutions to optimise their R&D investment, and to strengthen R&D engagement between firms, higher education institutions, investors and government.

To inform the next special report, ASPI is looking to you for assistance in understanding the key drivers behind your investments in defence, security and intelligence R&D. Understanding what is driving firms and higher education institutions to reduce or to increase their R&D will assist ASPI in providing an informed view to influence future public policy discussion in this important area. An aim of ASPI's report is to focus on constructive suggestions based on data for the purpose of achieving a strategic advantage through effective R&D.

Ai Group is pleased to support this important work of ASPI. The work will help inform decision makers within the Defence, Intelligence and Security fields as well as Members of Parliament and Ministers.

A short survey to inform development of the 2018 Report follows. ASPI and Ai Group encourage you to complete the survey electronically, with the assurance that all data will be received and treated in the strictest of confidence and used only for the purpose of the survey in accordance with applicable privacy requirements. Completed surveys should be emailed to alangr4@gmail.com by COB 4 June 2018.

If you are also prepared to participate in a more focussed follow-up discussion with the authors, we would encourage you to indicate that in your response. One of the authors will be in contact with you.

Yours sincerely



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