

FRONTIER S I >

DEA LABS – ROUND 1

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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Australian Government
Geoscience Australia



Digital Earth
AUSTRALIA

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Objective

The Digital Earth Australia Labs program (DEA Labs), coordinated through Geoscience Australia (GA) and FrontierSI, is seeking small scale demonstrator proposals that will use Digital Earth Australia data and/or infrastructure to deliver new earth observation data and derived products or services to users in Australia. Projects may be either by individual organisations, or collaborative partnerships, but must be led by a private company.

This call is being coordinated and funded by FrontierSI. The outcomes from this call will help test and improve the DEA infrastructure, the DEA strategy, and provide use cases for promotion by the successful companies and GA.

Round 1 projects will allow FrontierSI and GA to test the DEA Labs program and derive insights to improve the overall DEA Labs program for the future.

What is DEA Labs?

DEA Labs will be a small scale, targetted incubator program for the private sector. DEA Labs will help Australian businesses use satellite data and DEA technologies to solve real world problems through collaboration, and the provision of funding and support. It will bring together end-users and the private sector to innovate and solve challenging real-world problems, while helping the DEA program better align areas of focus, gather data on impact and closely monitor and measure success.

In order to better tailor DEA Labs to the needs of the private sector, the DEA program will test a challenge-based incubation approach. To do this, we are accepting expressions of interest for applications using DEA technologies and/or data to address a real-world use case. Projects will must be completed within six months and allocation of funding will be decided on an application basis. The selected participants, the outputs of the funded projects and learning from these projects will help inform the design of the DEA Labs program.

The DEA Labs program is still evolving, but is likely to be based around the following characteristics::

- small, targetted incubator program;
- accessed via an application process open to any company regardless of size;
- projects target real end-user problems and current industry challenges;
- project outcomes result in real, measurable benefits;
- participants agree to publicly share knowledge and information resulting from the project;
- collaboration and support provided by DEA;
- IP is owned by funding recipients;
- DEA Labs program is part of an ecosystem of collaborators, investors, SMEs, industry; and
- DEA Labs learnings help influence the overall DEA Program direction.

Timeline

Interested parties are asked to register their interest in conducting a DEA Labs Demonstrator project by submission of a two page summary, [using the template downloaded from the DEA Industry page](#), to the FrontierSI Projects and Strategy Manager, Eva Rodriguez Rodriguez, at dea@frontiersi.com.au **by 5.00pm (AEDST) Friday 26 April 2019.**

We will be shortlisting projects in April. All shortlisted projects will be required to submit a [funding proposal](#) to FrontierSI in May. We intend the demonstrator projects to begin in June 2019 and take 3–6 months.

Budget

Up to three projects will be funded through this round of DEA Labs, with a budget of up to \$50,000. There is no requirement that additional cash will be provided by applicants however, the addition of cash or in-kind support from applicants and their customers will help to demonstrate the market demand for the project.

As this activity will help companies develop internal capability and new IP, it is expected that applicants will not operate with full commercial rates, but instead will budget the project at cost plus 30 per cent overhead.

Intellectual Property

Any project created intellectual property will be owned by the funding recipient, or by an organisation nominated by the funding recipient. FrontierSI and GA expect no ownership or rights over project IP.

Technical and Data Support

GA will provide access to technology and scientific specialists from the DEA team to help successful companies find, deploy and analyse data through the list of the labs project.

The full archive of Landsat, and Sentinel 1 and 2 satellites, as well as some derivative products are hosted on the National Computational Infrastructure (NCI). GA can help facilitate conversations with the NCI to determine appropriate access and compute costs for the project.

Derivative datasets (for example water observations from space and fractional cover) are all hosted on Amazon Web Services, as well as near real time data from Sentinel 2 covering a rolling 90-day window.

Costs for cloud computing and storage of new data products is expected to be paid for by companies either as an in-kind contribution or by using the labs funding.

Additional useful technical links:

- DEA and Open Data Cube technical information
 - DEA First Look and DEA Deep Dive slide packs and webinars
<https://frontiersi.com.au/opportunities/dea/#Resources>
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEmvU71m0q6cTN1J87fP-jaZBnyeUh7AY>
- DEA technical questions
 - Open Data Cube Slack Channel – <http://slack.opendatacube.org/>
- Webinars, Workshops and DEA Industry Consultation questions
 - Contact FrontierSI – dea@frontiersi.com.au
- DEA Product Descriptions
 - <http://www.ga.gov.au/dea/products>
- Digital Earth Australia Github Account
 - <https://github.com/GeoscienceAustralia/digitalearthau>

Evaluation Criteria

Projects that meet the following criteria will be considered and projects should use the [DEA Labs template](#) found at the [DEA Industry Strategy](#) website.

Required

- Uses DEA data or infrastructure;
- Will be trialled or tested by customer and end users during the project;
- Strong alignment with the [DEA Industry Strategy Outcomes, Principles and Activities](#) ([read the DEA Industry Strategy here](#)); and
- Outcomes that can be sustained beyond the life of the project.

Desired

- Cash co-funding from project partners; and
- In-kind contributions from project partners (e.g. staff time, equipment, IP).

Constraints and Requirements

- FrontierSI cash contribution will be limited to \$50,000 per project;
- Projects should be completed in approximately a 3-6-month period; and
- A project report is required at the end of the DEA Labs project which outlines key findings and recommendations by the funding recipient for FrontierSI and GA regarding lessons learned and suggested improvements to DEA data and infrastructure, the DEA Industry Strategy and the DEA Labs program.
- Project participants are expected to participate in or contribute to promotional events (such as the GEO Ministerial event) and publicly available reports and/or press releases.