

# AGO LABS ROUND 2 BRIEFING WEBINAR

20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

## Q&A SESSION

For further queries please email: [agolabs@frontiersi.com.au](mailto:agolabs@frontiersi.com.au)  
Applications close COB Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2021

### 1. General Questions

**Q:** Can participants involved in Round 1 apply again for any of the challenges in Round 2?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Can a company apply to more than one challenge topic?

**A:** Yes, please submit separate application forms for each challenge topic.

**Q:** Are responses limited to the application template only? (found here: <https://frontiersi.com.au/agolabs/>)

**A:** Yes, we require you to use the template provided. This ensures an even playing field for all applicants.

**Q:** Can international companies participate in partnership with local Australian or New Zealand companies?

**A:** An Australian or New Zealand company needs to be the lead applicant on an application. The lead applicant can partner with an international company to address the challenge topic, if a collaboration is intended this should be recorded on the application form.

**Q:** How are projects evaluated?

**A:** Projects are evaluated on a merit basis. Assessment criteria are based on each of the sections in the proposal application template – addressing the specific challenge topic, technology/innovative approach taken, project management approach, engagement with AGO and planned outputs.

**Q:** How can we demonstrate engagement with AGO in our application?

**A:** Identify what the communication paths will be. Outline how you would engage subject matter experts on a regular basis and how you intend to contribute to upskilling of AGO staff through workshops or demonstrations.

**Q:** Who were the successful applicants for Round 1?

**A:** Orbica, NGIS and Xerra.

## 2. CHALLENGE TOPIC FOUR (What Vessel Is That?) QUESTIONS

**Q:** Can AGO provide a high-resolution SAR dataset for the successful applicant?

**A:** AGO is keen to understand what SAR datasets are currently being used by potential project participants in industry. For past AGO Labs challenge topics AGO has assisted with access to datasets however this hasn't been arranged for SAR data yet. If you are already using SAR data please state in your application, if you require data please provide a recommendation as to which dataset you would recommend to address the challenge topic.

**Q:** Can participants be linked with existing SAR providers?

**A:** If you don't have access to a SAR provider please outline this in your proposal response. We may be able to suggest some potential contacts. Note, that we are not endeavouring to link partners together ourselves in this program and our preference would be if you had data or could recommend a data provider.

**Q:** If participants have access to SAR imagery would the cost need to be covered by the \$100,000 funding or could AGO potentially cover the cost of acquisition?

**A:** If this is required please indicate on your proposal. Funding to cover data acquisition would be considered on a case-by-case basis, AGO is open to discussing this.

## 3. CHALLENGE TOPIC FIVE (Made You Look) QUESTIONS

**Q:** Is AGO looking for a review of existing approaches to address the challenge topic or a working demonstration of an approach?

**A:** This topic is a research-focused topic. Ideally, AGO would like to see a demonstration of an approach in action but for this particular topic an academic exercise would also be considered.

**Q:** Does AGO need to understand how imagery can be corrupted as well as how the models react to such corruptions?

**A:** AGO needs to be able to detect if imagery has been modified in some way (ie. has an image been 'poisoned' so that follow on processes such as automated object detection won't work). Ideally, an understanding of how models react to such corruptions would be included but is not essential. Note that this challenge is not focussed on assuring security of the image supply chain, AGO has an understanding of best security practices so is not after a security assessment of its supply chain or how to protect assets.

## 4. CHALLENGE TOPIC SEVEN (Detections from Geometry) QUESTIONS

**Q:** Is there any prioritisation to the objects listed in the proposal briefing document? What areas/geographies should be focused on?

**A:** There is no prioritisation of listed objects. Canberra airport has been identified as a potential area of interest for this challenge topic (semi-urban/urban environment). AGO is open to considering proposals that consider more highly built up or more sparse areas also.

**Q:** Is AGO open to suggestions of additional objects or should the focus be only on those in the briefing document?

**A:** Yes, other objects can be considered. AGO is mostly interested in larger structures for this challenge topic (ie. not looking for a plane but rather the ability to run algorithms based on a geometric input to try and detect larger structures across a wider area). If participants have a structure type that they would like to suggest please include in your application.

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