**ANNEX B: GUIDANCE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Proposals will be assessed in line with the following criteria. We reserve the right to amend this criteria:

1. **Strategic alignment.** Alignment with the Programme’s stated outcomes and broader MoD and UK government strategic objectives.
2. **Intellectual contribution.** Contribution to the advancement or generation of new knowledge, ideas, tools, and/or methodologies.   The integration of interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches are strongly encouraged.
3. **Capacity-building.** Evidence of how the project will support the development of a community of practice within the United Kingdom. Collaborations at the international level will also be considered. We strongly encourage applications from experienced researchers to include a learning and development offer for at least one early- or mid-career expert; these applications should provide an L&D plan in their project proposal.
4. **Knowledge exchange.** Evidence of how implementers will share the knowledge and insights generated from the project with wider stakeholders.
5. **Suitability.** The implementer’s track record, networks, and expertise and evidence of how they will leverage these to support project objectives. Applications from early- and mid-career researchers are strongly encouraged; these applicants will be expected to demonstrate their capacity for research independence and ability to deliver high quality, policy-relevant research and analysis.
6. **Diversity.** Evidence of how the project will leverage diverse perspectives, activities, and skills into project design and implementation.
7. **Value for money.** Fully justified and appropriate resources aligned with activities that demonstrate value for money and maximise project outcomes.
8. **Feasibility.** Realistic project outcomes achievable within the specified timeframe and with measurable impact, sustainability and scalability.
9. **Monitoring and evaluation**: Clear baselines and opportunities for beneficiary input, and transparent and robust processes in place
10. **Risk assessment**: Comprehensive identification of risks to delivery and mitigation plan.