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Challenge 1: Alternative methods for Drug Destruction

Problem Statement

How might we leverage alternative commercially available methods of drug destruction to incineration?

Research Topic Description

A significant issue facing law enforcement authorities is alternative methods for drug destruction. The AFP and other law enforcement agencies currently use incineration to destroy various quantities of a range of seized illicit drugs, their chemical precursors and associated paraphernalia.

There are a variety of factors influencing this issue, ranging from commercial furnace availability to changing public policy and legislation. Incineration is the only current method in use for the destruction of drugs, chemicals and drug paraphernalia though incineration, and even when meeting current environmental laws, may still cause pollution and risk environmental damage. Given furnace availability, and environmental and public policy risks, the AFP is seeking alternate methods for destroying seized illicit drugs, their chemical precursors and associated paraphernalia.

Applicants should approach the topic with the intent to examine and identify alternative innovative or commercial methods for the destruction of illicit drugs, their chemical precursors and associated paraphernalia.

Applicants are encouraged to liaise with the AFP (research-innovation@afp.gov.au) during preparation of their application.

This research will inform the AFP by exploring alternative methods, understanding options available and enhancing AFP drug destruction capabilities.

Successful students will be partnered with an AFP subject matter expert for the duration of the challenge to foster collaboration and engagement between the AFP and the academic community. The student will undertake the research at their home Australian University as

part of an existing course requirement, with support from their academic advisor to ensure that the requirements of their unit/degree are met.

Please note: the research challenge is not an internship or student placement program.

Instructions for Application

The AFP proposes this project for academic research students to undertake as part of their academic studies, with AFP providing guidance and direction as an industry partner. This project will ideally suit a student undertaking a final year Undergraduate Research Project Unit (or equivalent) or an Honours Degree and be completed within 12 months. The student's academic advisor will be responsible for supervising the student and ensuring the requirements of the unit/degree are met.

Applications must be submitted to research-innovation@afp.gov.au with all required documentation by **31 March 2023**

1. Student CV – 2-page max
2. Student Academic Transcript
3. Research Advisor CV and publications list – 2-page max
4. Completed [challenge application form \(DOCX, 50KB\)](#), including
 - Application Cover Page
 - Research proposal
 - Signed Research Advisor Confirmation of Commitment Form

Applications will be assessed by the AFP. Incomplete applications will be returned with a request to supply missing information.

Proposals will be assessed on the suitability of the student and academic advisor to undertake the research and the proposed research proposal.

Eligibility

- To be an eligible student you must be enrolled at an accredited Australian University.
- To be an eligible Research Advisor you must be engaged as a full-time staff member of the sponsoring accredited Australian University.

About the AFP's External Research Innovation Challenge

The AFP is pleased to launch the first AFP Research Innovation Challenge which provides topics for unclassified academic research designed to achieve AFP objectives for research

and innovation against a specific policing challenge. The AFP Research Innovation Challenge aims to build research collaboration to deliver innovative solutions for policing challenges by:

- Creating connections between researchers, industry and the AFP.
- Fostering AFP-relevant collaborations to address operational/policing challenges.
- Supporting the translation of academic and industry research and development to policing and national security.
- Stimulating transdisciplinary conversations to address complex police and national security challenges.

The AFP is looking to leverage effective and innovative solutions that can make a difference for the AFP and policing more broadly. The AFP Research Innovation Challenge is an important opportunity for students to undertake academic policing-relevant research in relation to real police challenges of interest to the AFP and get feedback on their solutions from the AFP. Through the AFP Research Innovation Challenge, participants contribute to accelerating transformational, state of the art solutions in support of improving AFP processes, capabilities and operational outcomes.