

THE HUNT LABORATORY FOR INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH

# HUNT CHALLENGE 2020

Doing Intelligence Differently

**In February-March 2020, the University of Melbourne's Hunt Laboratory for Intelligence Research will hold an international analytic tournament.**

Teams of analysts from major intelligence organisations will compete to solve complex, realistic, intelligence-type problems and produce reports to be rated by panel of trained judges.

## THE PROBLEMS

Challenge problems pose a range of cognitive challenges and call for a variety of analytic methods. In 2018, problem settings included counter-terrorism, strategic assessment and operational planning.

To ensure that teams are assessed only on the quality of their analytic reasoning, they will only need the information provided, or readily accessible open-source information.

Teams submit their findings and supporting reasoning in an intelligence-type report, that will be evaluated by a panel of trained raters using a version of the Office of the Director National Intelligence's Analytic Tradecraft Rating Scale.

Each problem has components with objectively known answers, so teams can be evaluated on accuracy as well as overall tradecraft.

## THE PARTICIPANTS

The Hunt Challenge 2020 is intended for major intelligence organisations across the Five Eyes countries, but is open to other government or private organisations with intelligence functions. We will also be recruiting teams from the public via social media. In 2018, public teams showed they could compete at a very high standard.

Participating organisations usually field one full team of 10-20 analysts. Some field multiple teams, and we can accommodate smaller groups of analysts in combined teams from peer organisations.

[www.huntlab.science.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.huntlab.science.unimelb.edu.au)



## THE PLATFORM

The Challenge takes place on the Hunt Lab's experimental cloud-based Hunt Platform. Previously known as SWARM, this platform was developed with funding from the US Intelligence Advanced Research Project Activity, and successfully trialled in a Challenge tournament in 2018.

The Hunt Platform is designed to support Contending Analyses, a new analytic method that helps groups generate and synthesize a variety of analytic perspectives on a problem. The Platform integrates with the Lens Kit, an extensive curated suite of analytical concepts, tools and methods.

## THE PROCEDURE

The Challenge has two phases of two weeks each, with a one-week break.

**Phase 1: The Challenge.** Teams solve one problem each week. After completion, the Challenge winner will be announced.

**Phase 2: Super Teams.** Top performers from across the professional and public teams will be invited to complete the final two problems in reallocated, mixed "Super Teams". Note: this is an optional round and organisations can also elect to compete with their team intact.

## THE BENEFITS

For **individual analysts**, the Challenge will be a powerful professional development experience. They will:

- » develop core analytic thinking skills;
- » expand their repertoire of methods and techniques, including learning how to deploy the new Contending Analyses method;
- » develop capability in evaluating analytic quality, and report drafting;
- » build teamwork and online collaboration skills.

Competing in a Super Team will also be an opportunity for analysts to experience working with high-performing individuals bringing diverse forms of analytical expertise and perspectives.

For **managers and senior leadership**, participation is a unique opportunity to benchmark their teams' analytical performance against teams from similar organisations around the world. The Challenge will also provide

- » tailored feedback on their team performance;
- » examples of top quality analytic reports;
- » insights into new tools and methods deployable in the workplace;
- » a better understanding of high performing analytic teams.

## SECURITY AND PRIVACY

Appropriate procedures and measures will be in place to ensure security and the privacy of participating organisations and individuals. These include:

- » Individuals can participate without revealing their identity or any sensitive information to Hunt Lab staff or anyone else;
- » The Hunt Lab will not reveal the identities of participating organisations.
- » Individuals can interact only with members of their own team and Hunt Lab staff.

## THE DETAILS

**Registration and onboarding will commence 1 December and close 30 January.**

**Registration:** Email us at [Hunt-Lab@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:Hunt-Lab@unimelb.edu.au) providing contact details for the liaison within your organisation and how many teams (or individuals) you wish to register. Note, we do not require participant names or emails. We can discuss process details and any specific concerns, or requirements.

**Challenge Dates:** The Challenge will commence in the week of 12th February and continue for five weeks (four problem weeks, with a one-week break).

**Team size:** Recommended 12-15. Min 10, max 20. Multiple teams are permitted. Contact us for options for smaller groups of analysts.

**Commitment:** We recommend 5 to 8 hours per week per team member. The Hunt Platform is designed for asynchronous work, enabling analysts to flexibly schedule participation around other commitments.

**Cost:** The fee per full team is \$9,990 (plus GST).

**Research:** The Challenge is a University of Melbourne research project, conducted with research ethics approval and in accordance with its requirements. It will observe principles of Open Science ([www.osf.io](http://www.osf.io)). Anonymized research results will be shared with participating organisations.

**Contact:** If you want to know more, contact the Hunt Challenge Project Director, Virginia Proud at [virginia.proud@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:virginia.proud@unimelb.edu.au). Or visit [www.huntlab.science.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.huntlab.science.unimelb.edu.au)

## THE HUNT LAB

The Hunt Lab's mission is to be a trusted, flexible and cost-effective research partner for intelligence organisations aiming to improve their analytical performance. We engage in grant-funded research, contract research, and professional development activities.

For more information about Hunt Lab, or to discuss a bespoke version of the Challenge to suit your organisation please contact the Hunt Lab's Director, Dr Tim van Gelder at [t.gelder@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:t.gelder@unimelb.edu.au)

Note revised dates:

Registration available until the official start date, February 12<sup>th</sup>

The first problem opens on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent problems open on

- February 26<sup>th</sup>
- March 11<sup>th</sup>
- March 18<sup>th</sup>