



Broad Agency Announcement
Muons for Science and Security (MuS2)
Defense Sciences Office

HR001122S0049

Amendment 1

September 29, 2022

Table of Contents

I. Funding Opportunity Description.....5

 A. Introduction.....5

 B. Background.....5

 C. Program Description/Scope.....6

 D. Technical Description.....7

 E. Program Structure.....8

 F. Schedule/Milestones.....10

 G. Deliverables.....12

 H. Government-furnished Property/Equipment/Information.....12

 I. Other Program Objectives and Considerations.....12

II. Award Information.....13

 A. General Award Information.....13

 B. Fundamental Research.....14

III. Eligibility Information.....19

 A. Eligible Applicants.....19

 B. Organizational Conflicts of Interest.....20

 C. Cost Sharing/Matching.....21

IV. Application and Submission Information.....21

 A. Address to Request Application Package.....22

 B. Content and Form of Application Submission.....22

 C. Submission Dates and Times.....27

 D. Funding Restrictions.....28

 E. Other Submission Requirements.....28

V. Application Review Information.....32

 A. Evaluation Criteria.....32

 B. Review and Selection Process.....33

 C. Countering Foreign Influence Program (CFIP).....34

 D. Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information (FAPIIS).....34

VI. Award Administration Information.....34

 A. Selection Notices.....34

 B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....34

 C. Reporting.....39

VII. Agency Contacts.....39

VIII. Other Information.....40

 A. Proposers Day.....40

 B. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).....40

 C. Collaborative Efforts/Teaming.....40

BAA Attachments:

- Attachment A: ABSTRACT SUMMARY SLIDE TEMPLATE
- Attachment B: ABSTRACT TEMPLATE
- Attachment C: PROPOSAL SUMMARY SLIDE TEMPLATE
- Attachment D: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 1: TECHNICAL & MANAGEMENT
- Attachment E: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 2: COST
- Attachment F: MS Excel™ DARPA COST PROPOSAL SPREADSHEET
- Attachment G: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

PART I: OVERVIEW INFORMATION

- **Federal Agency Name:** Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Defense Sciences Office (DSO)
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Muons for Science and Security (MuS2)
- **Announcement Type:** Amendment
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** HR001122S0049
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):** 12.910 Research and Technology Development
- **Dates** (All times listed herein are Eastern Time.)
 - **Posting Dates**
 - BAA published: July 29, 2022
 - Amendment 1: September 29, 2022
 - Proposers Day: August 5, 2022. See Section VIII.A.
 - Abstract Due Date: October 7, 2022, 4:00 p.m.
 - FAQ Submission Deadline: October 19, 2022, 4:00 p.m. See Section VIII.B.
 - Full Proposal Due Date: October 31, 2022, 4:00 p.m.
- **Anticipated Individual Awards:** DARPA anticipates multiple awards
- **Types of Instruments that May be Awarded:** Procurement contracts, cooperative agreements, or Other Transactions for Prototypes. Award instruments will be limited to procurement contracts and Other Transactions for Proposers whose proposed solution includes Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).
- **Agency contacts**
 - **Technical POC:** Mark Wrobel, Program Manager, DARPA/DSO
 - **BAA Email:** MuS2@darpa.mil
 - **BAA Mailing Address:**

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Arlington, VA 22203-2114
 - **DARPA/DSO Opportunities Website:** <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities>
- **Teaming Information:** See Section VIII.C for information on teaming opportunities.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):** FAQs for this solicitation may be viewed on the DARPA/DSO Opportunities Website. See Section VIII.B for further information.

- **Security:** DARPA anticipates that submissions received under this BAA will be unclassified. See section (IV.B.5) for more details.

PART II: FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

This Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) constitutes a public notice of a competitive funding opportunity as described in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2) and 35.016 as well as 2 C.F.R. § 200.203. Any resultant negotiations and/or awards will follow all laws and regulations applicable to the specific award instrument(s) available under this BAA, e.g., FAR 15.4 for procurement contracts.

A. Introduction

The Defense Sciences Office (DSO) at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting innovative research proposals for a directional source of muons produced at relevant energies and in sufficient quantities to support demonstrations of national security and scientific applications. Proposed research shall investigate the generation of directional muon beams with 10 GeV to 100 GeV energies and produce 10^6 to 10^8 muons while showing a clear path to a practical design for a transportable system. Proposed research should investigate innovative approaches that enable revolutionary advances in science, devices, or systems. Specifically excluded is research that primarily results in evolutionary improvements to the existing state of practice.

B. Background

The utility of muons for varied national security and scientific applications has been researched for many years, effectively since their discovery as a constituent of cosmic-ray particle “showers” in 1936.¹ However, no practical, active sources of muons currently exist due to the high energies required to create them. Muons are charged elementary particles about 200 times heavier than electrons, with a mean lifetime of 2.2 microseconds.² They are created naturally through high-energy ($>10^9$ eV, or GeV) cosmic-ray interactions in the upper atmosphere or synthetically at high-energy physics experimental facilities such as Fermilab and CERN. Muons are very penetrative, with ranges of tens to hundreds of meters through water or rock, highly detectable, sensitive to density variations, and generally impart low doses to people and objects. Applications to date have relied on muons generated naturally and include finding hidden chambers in Egyptian pyramids,³ volcano eruption prediction,⁴ detecting contraband in cargo,⁵ and nuclear reactor inspection, including the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.⁶ Unfortunately, cosmic sources of muons are very dim, with only about one passing through the area of a human hand per second, which then requires integration times on the order of hours to months, depending on the application. Muons are also produced at a wide range of angles in the atmosphere, impacting resolving power for imaging applications.

¹ <https://timeline.web.cern.ch/anderson-and-neddermeyer-discover-muon#:~:text=The%20muon%20was%20discovered%20as,Anderson%20and%20Seth%20Neddermeyer.>

² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muon#>

³ Morishima, K., Kuno, M., Nishio, A. et al. Discovery of a big void in Khufu’s Pyramid by observation of cosmic-ray muons. *Nature* 552, 386–390 (2017)

⁴ <https://phys.org/news/2021-11-combining-muography-technology-volcanic-eruption.html>

⁵ <https://decisionciences.com/our-product/#technology>

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muon_tomography

Developing a path to a transportable source of high-intensity muons could enable a range of new applications. Such a source could be applied to screen large objects and search structures such as buildings for high atomic number materials (e.g., special nuclear material). Muon imaging could provide a much-needed capability for tunnel or chamber detection, a critical security and defense mission, since muons can penetrate 20-180 m of heavy soil.⁷ An intense muon source could be an enabler for various geoscientific investigations, including volcanology, glaciology, cave and tunnel investigation, fault zone characterization, and geophysical exploration of ore bodies.⁸ In addition, a muon source could provide a stepping stone to muon catalyzed fusion.⁹ In this approach to low-temperature fusion, a muon replaces one of the electrons in a target of deuterium and tritium and modifies the coulomb barrier, increasing the probability of reaction.¹⁰ Research supporting such capabilities may support the energy-efficient generation of muons that could enable these types of fusion reactions and open up an entirely new field of fusion research.

C. Program Description/Scope

The MuS2 program will explore the requisite technologies and subsystems necessary to realize a compact, transportable source of directional muons with operationally relevant energies and fluences. The overall program goals are to:

1. Define high-energy laser or other particle driver characteristics and complete exploratory studies needed to produce a credible, transportable, directional muon source system design at technology readiness level 6
2. Produce and validate scaling models for 10 to 100 GeV muon generation
3. Demonstrate high-energy particle production supporting 10 to 100 GeV muon generation
4. Generate 10^6 to 10^8 muons at energies from 10 to 100 GeV and demonstrate a national security or scientific application

The directional muon source system design will make use of typical design review elements and ultimately be progressed through a critical design review. The overall system design will be supported by modeling and simulation results, experiments, and exploratory studies. For this opportunity an operationally relevant, transportable system design for producing directional muons can be considered to have the following high-level metrics:

Parameter	Threshold	Objective
Muon Energy (GeV)	10	100
Muon Intensity (muons/s)	10^6	10^8
Size	40' Conex	Van
Weight (kg)	< 15,000	< 3,000
Power (MW)	< 1	< 0.2

Threshold metrics indicate minimum acceptable characteristics, while objective metrics are highly desired. It is anticipated that not all objective metrics may be met simultaneously, and

⁷ J. Bevelacqua, “Health Physics in the 21st Century”, first published: 17 March 2008

⁸ A. Lechmann, et. al., Muon tomography in geoscientific research – A guide to best practice, Earth-Science Reviews, Volume 222, Nov 2021, 103842

⁹ R. Spencer Kelly, et. al., An investigation of efficient μ production in μ catalyzed fusion, J. Phys. Energy 3 (2021)

¹⁰ W. H. Breunlich, et al., Muon-Catalyzed Fusion, Annu Rev Nucl Part Sci, 1989.39: 311-56

developing a thorough understanding of the trade space is expected as part of the system design effort. It is expected that rigorous studies of high-energy laser or other particle drivers, muon generation targets, and muon beam characteristics will be completed as part of the effort while addressing practical engineering aspects of the system such as radiation fields, shielding, thermal management, and wall-plug efficiency.

Note: a transportable system will *not* be constructed as part of this program; however, the design, costs, technical risks, etc., of fabricating such a system are clear outputs of this program. Further, the high-energy laser or other particle driver capable of producing intensities of 10^6 to 10^8 muons/s will *not* be constructed as part of this program.

To credibly support the system design, relevant numbers of muons at energies of interest must be produced. This could make use of existing facilities or existing facilities with upgrades. MuS2 will produce muon beams with 10 GeV to 100 GeV energies and produce 10^6 to 10^8 muons on a per experiment basis¹¹ as it is recognized that currently available high-energy laser or other particle drivers have limited repetition rates. Experimental data obtained will be used to develop scaling and benchmarking of models needed to define new driver characteristics. Additional exploratory efforts in new high-energy laser or other particle drivers are anticipated to support a viable transportable system design.

Production of 10^6 to 10^8 muons is sufficient to demonstrate applications of interest. Proposers are required to include a suitable demonstration that would achieve DoD and broader national security and scientific interests, including the detectors or imaging arrays needed to conduct such a demonstration. Proposed demonstrations should be included in the initial proposal as part of the Phase 2 draft statement of work and costs included in the rough order of magnitude (ROM) Phase 2 budget. An example would be penetrative tomography and special nuclear materials detection. Proposers should consider demonstrations that not only indicate the potential of their technical approach to meet BAA goals but also enable technical transition within DoD and to other Federal and potential commercial stakeholders.

It is critical that technical approaches include a description of all key risks and mitigation strategies for both major components as well as system integration aspects of the project. Proposals that do not include a detailed risk register as part of their technical proposal (Attachment D: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 1: TECHNICAL & MANAGEMENT, Section 4) may be deemed non-conforming and may not be evaluated.

D. Technical Description

An exemplar approach for producing directional muons involves impacting GeV-level electrons on a target such as tungsten and using bremsstrahlung radiation to initiate Bethe-Heitler pair production.^{12,13} **The efficiency for this process scales with increasing electron energy and could**

¹¹ Experiments could last for minutes or hours to generate the requisite total number of muons.

¹² T. Yamamoto, Muon Pair Creation by a High Energy Electron, Progress of Theoretical Physics, Volume 27, Issue 2, February 1962, Pages 233–240, (<https://doi.org/10.1143/PTP.27.233>)

¹³ B. S. Rao, J. H. Jeon, H. T. Kim, C. Nam, Bright Muon Source Driven by GeV Electron Beams from a Compact Laser Wakefield Accelerator, Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion; ISSN 0741-3335 (2018)

reach ~0.02% at 100 GeV, i.e. 1 in ~5000 electrons will create a muon. Producing relevant numbers of GeV-level electrons is possible using new laser wakefield plasma accelerator (LWPA) regimes that have demonstrated 8 GeV electrons¹⁴ and gradients up to several hundred GeV/m.¹⁵ LWPA can potentially create 10 GeV electrons in tens of centimeters compared to hundreds of meters for state-of-the-art radiofrequency linear accelerators. The LWPA parameter space is vast, but a state of the art particle-in-cell simulation tools¹⁶ could allow for computational exploration and scaling studies while suggesting promising regimes to examine in experiments. Existing laser experimental facilities^{17,18} can be used to demonstrate muon production, validate scaling, and provide accelerator architectures for transportable muon sources. In addition, modeling and empirical study results can help define the optimal laser driver characteristics for muon production. Muon generation targets will be developed using the unique properties of LWPA electrons and could use Monte Carlo¹⁹ and multi-physics simulations for design and then be tested at existing petawatt laser facilities. Such LWPA and target architectures could then be paired with anticipated advances in laser technology^{20, 21, 22} to make a practical, compact, transportable, and directional muon source.

Note: Other directional muon generation methods will be considered if they can meet program goals. Such methods will require analogous simulation and experimental work for the exemplar approach and must show a clear path to a practical and transportable system.

E. Program Structure

MuS2 is a four-year program with two 24-month phases covering broad topics of experiment, simulation, and system studies. DARPA is seeking integrated teams that can holistically address all topics and achieve overall program goals. If needed, an option can be included in proposals during Phase 1 for the purchase of any long lead time items required to meet Phase 2 metrics and schedule. Funding for the Phase 2 effort will be based on Phase 1 progress and funding availability. The overall program structure and timeline are shown below and illustrated using the exemplar approach described above.

¹⁴ Gonsalves et al., Phys. Rev. Letters 122 (2019)

¹⁵ Tajima, T., Yan, X.Q. & Ebisuzaki, T. Wakefield acceleration. Rev. Mod. Plasma Phys. 4, 7 (2020)

¹⁶ <https://warpX.readthedocs.io/en/latest/theory/intro.html>

¹⁷ <https://zeus.engin.umich.edu/>

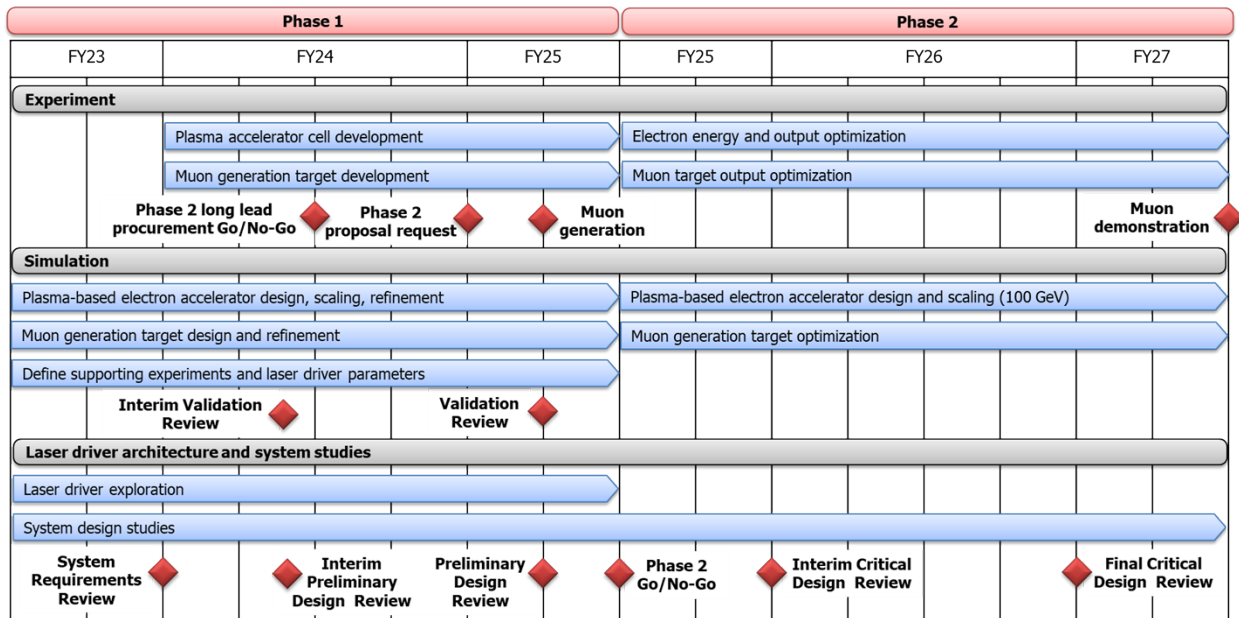
¹⁸ <https://bella.lbl.gov/>

¹⁹ <https://geant4.web.cern.ch/node/1>

²⁰ Sistrunk, E., et al. (2019) Laser Technology Development for High Peak Power Lasers Achieving Kilowatt Average Power and Beyond, Proc. SPIE 11034, Short-pulse High-energy Lasers and Ultrafast Optical Technologies, 1103407

²¹ Wang, Y., et al. (2020) 1.1 J Yb:YAG picosecond laser at 1 kHz repetition rate (2020) Vol. 45, No. 24 Optics Letters

²² Du, Q., et al. (2021) 81-beam coherent combination using a programmable array generator, Opt. Express 29



MuS2 Phase 1 activities will examine the feasibility of muon production, including modeling and preliminary experimental work to validate the presented technical approach and transportable system design. During Phase 1, teams will demonstrate accelerating electrons to 10 GeV or greater (at an existing laser facility, if the exemplar approach is used) and the unambiguous generation and detection of muons using an appropriate target. Teams will explore designs for an advanced laser driver that would enable a transportable system capable of producing 100 GeV muons and intensities up to 10^8 muons/s. System design progress shall be documented through design reviews, including a System Requirements Review and Preliminary Design Review, which are expected to contain detailed treatment of needed laser driver pulse characteristics. Design reviews are expected to include test plans, supporting experiments, and tracking of progress towards identified sub-system metrics.

Phase 2 will emphasize more applied research leading ultimately to proof-of-concept studies at high energy. At the end of Phase 2, teams will demonstrate accelerating electrons to 100 GeV or greater and production of a minimum of 10^6 muons and with a desired 10^8 muons per experiment. Such studies could be completed at an existing high-peak-power laser user facility or user facility with modifications. These muons will be used to demonstrate an application of interest to science or national security. The transportable system design will be refined through these studies and matured to a Critical Design Review at a technology readiness level of 6.

The metrics for Phase 1 and Phase 2 (notional) tied to these goals are shown in the following table:

Parameter	Phase 1	Phase 2 (notional)
Electron Energy Range (GeV)	>10	>100
Muon Energy (GeV)	10	100
Muon Production	Yes	$10^6 - 10^8$ /experiment

Proposers must provide detailed empirical, analytical, and/or modeling and simulation evidence of how their approach could achieve or exceed Phase 1 performance goals and show feasibility that the notional technical approach could meet Phase 2 goals. Although Phase 2 isn't being solicited at this time and the notional technical approach will not be evaluated, it is being requested for planning purposes.

There will be two go/no-go decision points during program execution. The first go/no-go point occurs about one year into Phase 1, when the decision will be made regarding whether to exercise potential long lead time item procurement options required for a Phase 2 effort. This decision point applies only to performers that require long lead item procurements in Phase 1 to maintain the overall program schedule for Phase 2 experimental studies. This procurement go/no-go decision will be supported by interim reviews of modeling with experimental validation as well as the transportable system preliminary design.

Near the end of Phase 1, a second go/no-go decision will be made for the program to enter Phase 2. Phase 1 results will guide this decision.

The Government will use a phased acquisition approach for the MuS2 program under this BAA. At this time, DARPA is soliciting detailed proposals for Phase 1 and, if needed, a separately-priced option to procure long lead items for Phase 2. Phase 1 proposals must also provide a plan to meet the final program goals during Phase 2. For Phase 2, proposers are required to submit a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) cost proposal, a draft statement of work, and any additional information on anticipated program plans. Phase 1 proposals that do not address these aspects of Phase 2 may be deemed non-conforming. (Note – the Phase 2 draft statement of work and ROM is requested for planning purposes only and will not be evaluated.)

DARPA intends to issue Phase 2 proposal instructions requesting technical and cost proposals for Phase 2 approximately six months prior to the completion of Phase 1. Competition for Phase 2 will be limited to Phase 1 performers. Participation in Phase 2 will be optional. Associated proposal preparation costs for Phase 2 will not be reimbursed under Phase 1 awards.

The Government reserves the right to change the award instrument or issue a new solicitation (follow-on BAA or alternate solicitation type) for Phase 2 if programmatic circumstances dictate. Program continuation beyond Phase 1 will be at the discretion of the Government. Phase 2 proposals will be evaluated against criteria presented in the Phase 2 solicitation, and proposal evaluations will be conducted through a scientific and technical review process in accordance with Section V.B.

F. Schedule/Milestones

Subject to the availability of funding, the program is intended to run for 48 months. Proposers should specify the research and technology development schedule for the full performance period, split between Phase 1 (24 months) and Phase 2 (24 months). Phase 1 should receive rigorous treatment within the proposal, and a nominal Phase 2 plan detailing major activities, risks, and mitigation strategies likely to be addressed in Phase 2 should also be included.

Assuming the exemplar approach, the minimum required milestones and deliverables for Phase 1 include:

- Successful completion of a sub-system requirements review; an integrated master schedule that encompasses all major tasks, sub-tasks, metrics, milestones, and deliverables; and updated risk register
- Transportable system System Requirements Review (SRR)
- Transportable system Preliminary Design Review (PDR)
- Interim and final reports on modeling studies of plasma-based electron accelerator design, scaling, and refinement to >10 GeV: interim report due at SRR; final report due at PDR
- Interim and final reports on modeling of muon generation target design and refinement to 10 GeV: interim report due at SRR; final report due at PDR
- Interim and final reports on modeling to define supporting experiments and laser driver parameters: interim report due 3 months after award; final report due at PDR
- If needed, Phase 2 long lead time item procurement option go/no-go
- Initial and final reports on experiments of plasma accelerator cells, muon generation targets, and muon detection: initial report due at PDR; final report due at the end of Phase 1 and shall include results demonstrating Phase 1 metrics with an unambiguous observation of muon generation
- Interim and final reports of exploratory laser driver studies, to include architecture designs that support transportable form factors: interim report due at SRR; final report due at the end of Phase 1

Assuming the exemplar approach, the minimum required notional milestones and deliverables for Phase 2 include:

- Transportable system Interim Critical Design Review (Interim CDR)
- Transportable system Final Critical Design Review (Final CDR)
- Interim and final reports on modeling studies of plasma-based electron accelerator design and scaling to >100 GeV: interim report due at Interim CDR; final report due at Final CDR
- Interim and final reports on modeling and optimization of muon generation targets to >100 GeV: interim report due at Interim CDR; final report due at Final CDR
- Final test and demonstration plan: due at Final CDR
- Initial and final reports on experiments of electron production, muon generation, and optimization scaling to >100 GeV: initial report due at Final CDR; final report due end of Phase 2
- A final report detailing test results that demonstrate program objectives and include related artifacts (i.e., images and/or other metrology results depending on demonstrations selected) is due at the end of Phase 2

Proposers should provide a technical and programmatic strategy that conforms to the entire program schedule and presents an aggressive plan to fully address all program goals, metrics, milestones, and deliverables. The task structure must be consistent across the proposed schedule,

statement of work, and cost volume. A target start date of March 2023 may be assumed for planning purposes.

All proposals must include the following meetings and travel in the proposed schedule and costs:

- A virtual kick-off meeting will be held at the start of the program, followed by a one-day site visit by the DARPA Program Manager at the proposer's facility.
- Regular teleconference meetings will be scheduled with the Government team for progress reporting, problem identification, and mitigation.
- Proposers should anticipate at least one site visit per phase by the DARPA Program Manager, usually in association with major milestones, during which they will have the opportunity to demonstrate progress towards agreed-upon milestones.
- Any additional proposed travel should be limited to critical activities only.

G. Deliverables

Performers will be expected to provide, at a minimum, the following deliverables:

- Comprehensive quarterly technical reports due within ten days of the end of the given quarter, describing progress made on the specific milestones as laid out in the SOW
- A phase completion report submitted within 30 days of the end of each phase, summarizing the research done
- Other negotiated deliverables specific to the objectives of the individual efforts. These may include registered reports; experimental protocols; publications; data management plans; intermediate and final versions of software libraries, code, and APIs, including documentation and user manuals; and/or a comprehensive assemblage of design documents, models, modeling data and results, and model validation data
- Reporting as outlined in Section VI.C

H. Government-furnished Property/Equipment/Information

No Government-furnished property/equipment/information will be provided or required by performers.

I. Other Program Objectives and Considerations

1. Teaming

The capabilities sought under this program are expected to require multi-disciplinary teams to accomplish the full range of research, design, development, integration, and testing necessary to reach program goals. As such, teams bringing together requisite expertise from academia, the National Laboratories, and the defense industry are expected to be important to overall program success.

Given the fundamental nature of this work, data sharing between teams is anticipated. In particular, modeling and experimental data regarding high-energy particle generation, muon generation, and accelerator design results are expected to be shared.

2. Intellectual Property

Proposers should clearly indicate claimed IP or patents claimed on designs and concepts presented in their proposals. See Section VI.B.4 for more information related to intellectual property.

II. Award Information

A. General Award Information

DARPA anticipates multiple awards.

The level of funding for individual awards made under this BAA will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the availability of funds. Awards will be made to proposers²³ whose proposals are determined to be the most advantageous to the Government, all evaluation factors considered. See Section V for further information.

The Government reserves the right to:

- select for negotiation all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this solicitation;
- make awards without discussions with proposers;
- conduct discussions with proposers if it is later determined to be necessary;
- segregate portions of resulting awards into pre-priced options;
- accept proposals in their entirety or select only portions of proposals for award;
- fund awards in increments with options for continued work at the end of one or more phases;
- request additional documentation once the award instrument has been determined (e.g., representations and certifications); and
- remove proposers from award consideration should the parties fail to reach an agreement on award terms within a reasonable time or the proposer fails to provide requested additional information in a timely manner.

Proposals identified for negotiation may result in a procurement contract or Other Transaction (OT), depending upon the nature of the work proposed the required degree of interaction between parties, and other factors.

Proposers looking for innovative, commercial-like contractual arrangements are encouraged to consider requesting Other Transactions. To understand the flexibility and options associated with Other Transactions, consult <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/contract-management#OtherTransactions>.

²³ As used throughout this BAA, “proposer” refers to the lead organization on a submission to this BAA. The proposer is responsible for ensuring that all information required by a BAA--from all team members--is submitted in accordance with the BAA. “Awardee” refers to anyone who might receive a prime award from the Government, including recipients of procurement contracts, cooperative agreements, or Other Transactions. “Subawardee” refers to anyone who might receive a subaward from a prime awardee (e.g., subawardee, consultant, etc.).

In accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 4022(f), the Government may award a follow-on production contract or Other Transaction (OT) for any OT awarded under this solicitation if: (1) that participant in the OT, or a recognized successor in interest to the OT, successfully completed the entire prototype project provided for in the OT, as modified; and (2) the OT provides for the award of a follow-on production contract or OT to the participant, or a recognized successor in interest to the OT.

In all cases, the Government contracting officer shall have sole discretion to select award instrument type, regardless of instrument type proposed, and to negotiate all instrument terms and conditions with selectees. DARPA will apply publication or other restrictions, as necessary, if it determines that the research resulting from the proposed effort will present a high likelihood of disclosing performance characteristics of military systems or manufacturing technologies that are unique and critical to defense. Any award resulting from such a determination will include a requirement for DARPA permission before publishing any information or results on the program. For more information on publication restrictions, see the section below on Fundamental Research

B. Fundamental Research

It is DoD policy that the publication of products of fundamental research will remain unrestricted to the maximum extent possible. National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) 189 defines fundamental research as follows:

‘Fundamental research’ means basic and applied research in science and engineering, the results of which ordinarily are published and shared broadly within the scientific community, as distinguished from proprietary research and from industrial development, design, production, and product utilization, the results of which ordinarily are restricted for proprietary or national security reasons.

As of the date of publication of this solicitation, the Government expects that program goals as described herein may be met by proposers intending to perform fundamental research and does not anticipate applying publication restrictions of any kind to individual awards for fundamental research that may result from this solicitation. Notwithstanding this statement of expectation, the Government is not prohibited from considering and selecting research proposals that, while perhaps not qualifying as fundamental research under the foregoing definition, still meet the solicitation criteria for submissions. If proposals are selected for award that offer other than a fundamental research solution, the Government will either work with the proposer to modify the proposed statement of work to bring the research back into line with fundamental research or else the proposer will agree to restrictions in order to receive an award.

University or non-profit research institution performance under this solicitation will include effort categorized as fundamental research. In addition to Government support for free and open scientific exchanges and dissemination of research results in a broad and unrestricted manner, the academic or non-profit research performer or recipient, regardless of tier, acknowledges that such research may have implications that are important to U.S. national interests and must be protected against foreign influence and exploitation. As such, the academic or non-profit research performer or recipient agrees to comply with the following requirements:

- (a) The University or non-profit research institution performer or recipient must establish and maintain an internal process or procedure to address foreign talent programs,

conflicts of commitment, conflicts of interest, and research integrity. The academic or non-profit research performer or recipient must also utilize due diligence to identify Foreign Components or participation by Senior/Key Personnel in Foreign Government Talent Recruitment Programs and agree to share such information with the Government upon request.

- i. The above described information will be provided to the Government as part of the proposal response to the solicitation and will be reviewed and assessed prior to award. Generally, this information will be included in the Research and Related Senior/Key Personnel Profile (Expanded) form (SF-424) required as part the proposer's submission through Grants.gov.
 1. Instructions regarding how to fill out the SF-424 and its biographical sketch can be found through Grants.gov.
- ii. In accordance with USD(R&E) direction to mitigate undue foreign influence in DoD-funded science and technology, DARPA will assess all Senior/Key Personnel proposed to support DARPA grants and cooperative agreements for potential undue foreign influence risk factors relating to professional and financial activities. This will be done by evaluating information provided via the SF-424, and any accompanying or referenced documents, in order to identify and assess any associations or affiliations the Senior/Key Personnel may have with foreign strategic competitors or countries that have a history of intellectual property theft, research misconduct, or history of targeting U.S. technology for unauthorized transfer. DARPA's evaluation takes into consideration the entirety of the Senior/Key Personnel's SF-424, current and pending support, and biographical sketch, placing the most weight on the Senior/Key Person's professional and financial activities over the last 4 years. The majority of foreign entities lists used to make these determinations are publicly available. The DARPA Countering Foreign Influence Program (CFIP) "Senior/Key Personnel Foreign Influence Risk Rubric" details the various risk ratings and factors. The rubric can be seen at the following link:
<https://www.darpa.mil/attachments/092021DARPACFIPRubric.pdf>
- iii. Examples of lists that DARPA leverages to assess potential undue foreign influence factors include, but are not limited to:
 1. Executive Order 13959 "Addressing the Threat From Securities Investments That Finance Communist Chinese Military Companies":
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-11-17/pdf/2020-25459.pdf>
 2. The U.S. Department of Education's College Foreign Gift and Contract Report: [College Foreign Gift Reporting \(ed.gov\)](https://www.ed.gov/college-foreign-gift-reporting)
 3. The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security, List of Parties of Concern: <https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/policy-guidance/lists-of-parties-of-concern>
 4. Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET) Chinese Talent Program Tracker:
<https://chinatalenttracker.cset.tech>

5. Director of National Intelligence (DNI) “World Wide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community”: [2021 Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community \(dni.gov\)](#)
6. Various Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) products regarding targeting of US technologies, adversary targeting of academia, and the exploitation of academic experts: <https://www.dcsa.mil/>

DARPA’s analysis and assessment of affiliations and associations of Senior/Key Personnel is compliant with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Information regarding race, color, or national origin is not collected and does not have bearing in DARPA’s assessment.

University or non-profit research institutions with proposals selected for negotiation that have been assessed as having high or very high undue foreign influence risk, will be given an opportunity during the negotiation process to mitigate the risk. DARPA reserves the right to request any follow-up information needed to assess risk or mitigation strategies.

- iv. Upon conclusion of the negotiations, if DARPA determines, despite any proposed mitigation terms (e.g. mitigation plan, alternative research personnel), the participation of any Senior/Key Research Personnel still represents high risk to the program, or proposed mitigation affects the Government’s confidence in proposer’s capability to successfully complete the research (e.g., less qualified Senior/Key Research Personnel) the Government may determine not to award the proposed effort. Any decision not to award will be predicated upon reasonable disclosure of the pertinent facts and reasonable discussion of any possible alternatives while balancing program award timeline requirements.
- (b) Failure of the academic or non-profit research performer or recipient to reasonably exercise due diligence to discover or ensure that neither it nor any of its Senior/Key Research Personnel involved in the subject award are participating in a Foreign Government Talent Program or have a Foreign Component with an a strategic competitor or country with a history of targeting U.S. technology for unauthorized transfer may result in the Government exercising remedies in accordance with federal law and regulation.
- i. If, at any time, during performance of this research award, the academic or non-profit research performer or recipient should learn that it, its Senior/Key Research Personnel, or applicable team members or subtier performers on this award are or are believed to be participants in a Foreign Government Talent Program or have Foreign Components with a strategic competitor or country with a history of targeting U.S. technology for unauthorized transfer , the performer or recipient will notify the Government Contracting Officer or Agreements Officer within 5 business days.
 1. This disclosure must include specific information as to the personnel involved and the nature of the situation and relationship. The Government will have 30 business days to review this information and conduct any necessary fact-finding or discussion with the performer or recipient.

2. The Government's timely determination and response to this disclosure may range anywhere from acceptance, to mitigation, to termination of this award at the Government's discretion.
 3. If the University receives no response from the Government to its disclosure within 30 business days, it may presume that the Government has determined the disclosure does not represent a threat.
- ii. The performer or recipient must flow down this provision to any subtier contracts or agreements involving direct participation in the performance of the research.

(c) Definitions

i. Senior/Key Research Personnel

1. This definition would include the Principal Investigator or Program/Project Director and other individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of a project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not they receive salaries or compensation under the award. These include individuals whose absence from the project would be expected to impact the approved scope of the project.
2. Most often, these individuals will have a doctorate or other professional degrees, although other individuals may be included within this definition on occasion.

ii. Foreign Associations/Affiliations

1. Association is defined as collaboration, coordination or interrelation, professionally or personally, with a foreign government-connected entity where no direct monetary or non-monetary reward is involved.
2. Affiliation is defined as collaboration, coordination, or interrelation, professionally or personally, with a foreign government-connected entity where direct monetary or non-monetary reward is involved.

iii. Foreign Government Talent Recruitment Programs

1. In general, these programs will include any foreign-state-sponsored attempt to acquire U.S. scientific-funded research or technology through foreign government-run or funded recruitment programs that target scientists, engineers, academics, researchers, and entrepreneurs of all nationalities working and educated in the U.S.
2. Distinguishing features of a Foreign Government Talent Recruitment Program may include:
 - a. Compensation, either monetary or in-kind, provided by the foreign state to the targeted individual in exchange for the individual transferring their knowledge and expertise to the foreign country.
 - b. In-kind compensation may include honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, promised future compensation or other types of remuneration or compensation.

- c. Recruitment, in this context, refers to the foreign-state-sponsor's active engagement in attracting the targeted individual to join the foreign-sponsored program and transfer their knowledge and expertise to the foreign state. The targeted individual may be employed and located in the U.S. or in the foreign state.
 - d. Contracts for participation in some programs that create conflicts of commitment and/or conflicts of interest for researchers. These contracts include, but are not limited to, requirements to attribute awards, patents, and projects to the foreign institution, even if conducted under U.S. funding, to recruit or train other talent recruitment plan members, circumventing merit-based processes, and to replicate or transfer U.S.-funded work in another country.
 - e. Many, but not all, of these programs aim to incentivize the targeted individual to physically relocate to the foreign state. Of particular concern are those programs that allow for continued employment at U.S. research facilities or receipt of U.S. Government research funding while concurrently receiving compensation from the foreign state.
- 3. Foreign Government Talent Recruitment Programs DO NOT include:
 - a. Research agreements between the University and a foreign entity, unless that agreement includes provisions that create situations of concern addressed elsewhere in this section,
 - b. Agreements for the provision of goods or services by commercial vendors, or
 - c. Invitations to attend or present at conferences.
- iv. Conflict of Interest
 - 1. A situation in which an individual, or the individual's spouse or dependent children, has a financial interest or financial relationship that could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, reporting, or funding of research.
- v. Conflict of Commitment
 - 1. A situation in which an individual accepts or incurs conflicting obligations between or among multiple employers or other entities.
 - 2. Common conflicts of commitment involve conflicting commitments of time and effort, including obligations to dedicate time in excess of institutional or funding agency policies or commitments. Other types of conflicting obligations, including obligations to improperly share information with, or withhold information from, an employer or funding agency, can also threaten research security and integrity and are an element of a broader concept of conflicts of commitment.
- vi. Foreign Component

1. Performance of any significant scientific element or segment of a program or project outside of the U.S., either by the University or by a researcher employed by a foreign organization, whether or not U.S. government funds are expended.
2. Activities that would meet this definition include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Involvement of human subjects or animals;
 - b. Extensive foreign travel by University research program or project staff for the purpose of data collection, surveying, sampling, and similar activities;
 - c. Collaborations with investigators at a foreign site anticipated to result in co-authorship;
 - d. Use of facilities or instrumentation at a foreign site;
 - e. Receipt of financial support or resources from a foreign entity; or
 - f. Any activity of the University that may have an impact on U.S. foreign policy through involvement in the affairs or environment of a foreign country.
3. Foreign travel is not considered a Foreign Component.

vii. Strategic Competitor

1. A nation, or nation-state, that engages in diplomatic, economic or technological rivalry with the United States where the fundamental strategic interests of the U.S are under threat.

Proposers should indicate in their proposal whether they believe the scope of the research included in their proposal is fundamental or not. While proposers should clearly explain the intended results of their research, the Government shall have sole discretion to determine whether the proposed research shall be considered fundamental and to select the award instrument type. Appropriate language will be included in resultant awards for non-fundamental research to prescribe publication requirements and other restrictions, as appropriate. This language can be found at <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/additional-baa>.

For certain research projects, it may be possible that although the research to be performed by a potential awardee is non-fundamental research, its proposed subawardee's effort may be fundamental research. It is also possible that the research performed by a potential awardee is fundamental research while its proposed subawardee's effort may be non-fundamental research. In all cases, it is the potential awardee's responsibility to explain in its proposal which proposed efforts are fundamental research and why the proposed efforts should be considered fundamental research.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

All responsible sources capable of satisfying the Government's needs may submit a proposal for

DARPA's consideration.

1. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and Government Entities

a. FFRDCs

FFRDCs are subject to applicable direct competition limitations and cannot propose to this solicitation in any capacity unless they meet the following conditions. (1) FFRDCs must clearly demonstrate that the proposed work is not otherwise available from the private sector. FFRDC proposers must include specific details showing that expertise and facilities do not exist in the private sector. (2) FFRDCs must provide a letter, on official letterhead from their sponsoring organization, that (a) cites the specific authority establishing their eligibility to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry, and (b) certifies the FFRDC's compliance with the associated FFRDC sponsor agreement's terms and conditions. These conditions are a requirement for FFRDCs proposing to be awardees or subawardees. FFRDC proposals that do not include these elements may be deemed non-conforming and removed from consideration.

b. Government Entities

Government Entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) are subject to applicable direct competition limitations. Government Entities must clearly demonstrate that the work is not otherwise available from the private sector and provide written documentation citing the specific statutory authority and contractual authority, if relevant, establishing their ability to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry. This information is required for Government Entities proposing to be awardees or subawardees.

c. Authority and Eligibility

At the present time, DARPA does not consider 15 U.S.C. § 3710a to be sufficient legal authority to show eligibility. While 10 U.S.C. § 4892 may be the appropriate statutory starting point for some entities, specific supporting regulatory guidance, together with evidence of agency approval, will still be required to fully establish eligibility. DARPA will consider FFRDC and Government Entity eligibility submissions on a case-by-case basis; however, the burden to prove eligibility for all team members rests solely with the proposer.

2. Other Applicants

Non-U.S. organizations and/or individuals may participate to the extent that such participants comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances.

B. Organizational Conflicts of Interest

FAR 9.5 Requirements

In accordance with FAR 9.5, proposers are required to identify and disclose all facts relevant to potential OCIs involving the proposer's organization and *any* proposed team member (subawardee, consultant). Under this Section, the proposer is responsible for providing this disclosure with each proposal submitted to the solicitation. The disclosure must include the proposer's, and as applicable, proposed team member's OCI mitigation plan. The OCI mitigation

plan must include a description of the actions the proposer has taken, or intends to take, to prevent the existence of conflicting roles that might bias the proposer's judgment and to prevent the proposer from having unfair competitive advantage. The OCI mitigation plan will specifically discuss the disclosed OCI in the context of each of the OCI limitations outlined in FAR 9.505-1 through FAR 9.505-4.

Agency Supplemental OCI Policy

In addition, DARPA has a supplemental OCI policy that prohibits contractors/performers from concurrently providing Scientific Engineering Technical Assistance (SETA), Advisory and Assistance Services (A&AS) or similar support services and being a technical performer. Therefore, as part of the FAR 9.5 disclosure requirement above, a proposer must affirm whether the proposer or *any* proposed team member (subawardee, consultant) is providing SETA, A&AS, or similar support to any DARPA office(s) under: (a) a current award or subaward; or (b) a past award or subaward that ended within one calendar year prior to the proposal's submission date. If SETA, A&AS, or similar support is being or was provided to any DARPA office(s), the proposal must include:

- The name of the DARPA office receiving the support;
- The prime contract number;
- Identification of proposed team member (subawardee, consultant) providing the support; and
- An OCI mitigation plan in accordance with FAR 9.5.

Government Procedures

In accordance with FAR 9.503, 9.504 and 9.506, the Government will evaluate OCI mitigation plans to avoid, neutralize or mitigate potential OCI issues before award and to determine whether it is in the Government's interest to grant a waiver. The Government will only evaluate OCI mitigation plans for proposals that are determined selectable under the solicitation evaluation criteria and funding availability.

The Government may require proposers to provide additional information to assist the Government in evaluating the proposer's OCI mitigation plan.

If the Government determines that a proposer failed to fully disclose an OCI; or failed to provide the affirmation of DARPA support as described above; or failed to reasonably provide additional information requested by the Government to assist in evaluating the proposer's OCI mitigation plan, the Government may reject the proposal and withdraw it from consideration for award.

Include any OCIs affirmations and disclosures in Attachment G: VOLUME 3:

ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS.

C. Cost Sharing/Matching

Cost sharing is not required; however, it will be carefully considered where there is an applicable statutory condition relating to the selected funding instrument (e.g., OTs under the authority of 10 U.S.C. § 4021). Cost sharing is encouraged where there is a reasonable probability of a potential commercial application related to the proposed research and development effort.

For more information on potential cost sharing requirements for Other Transactions for Prototype, see <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/contract-management#OtherTransactions>.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Prior to submitting a full proposal, proposers are *strongly encouraged* to first submit an abstract as described below. This process allows a proposer to ascertain whether the

proposed concept is (1) applicable to the MuS2 BAA and (2) currently of interest. For the purposes of this BAA, applicability is defined as follows:

- The proposed concept is applicable to the program goals described herein.
- The proposed concept is important to DSO's current investment portfolio.
- The proposed concept investigates an innovative approach that enables revolutionary advances, i.e., will not primarily result in evolutionary improvements to the existing state of practice.
- The proposed work has not already been completed (i.e., the research element is complete but manufacturing/fabrication funds are required).
- The proposer has not already received funding or a positive funding decision for the proposed concept (whether from DARPA or another Government agency).

Abstracts and full proposals that are not found to be applicable to the MuS2 BAA as defined above may be deemed non-conforming²⁴ and removed from consideration. All abstracts and full proposals must provide sufficient information to assess the validity/feasibility of their claims as well as comply with the requirements outlined herein for submission formatting, content and transmission to DARPA. Abstracts and full proposals that fail to do so may be deemed non-conforming and removed from consideration. Proposers will be notified of non-conforming determinations via letter.

A. Address to Request Application Package

This document contains all information required to submit a response to this solicitation. No additional forms, kits, or other materials are needed except as referenced herein. No request for proposal or additional solicitation regarding this opportunity will be issued, nor is additional information available except as provided at the SAM.gov website (<https://sam.gov/>), the Grants.gov website (<http://www.grants.gov/>), or referenced herein.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

1. Abstract Information and Formatting

As stated above, proposers are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract in advance of a full proposal to minimize effort and reduce the potential expense of preparing an out of scope proposal. All proposers are required to use Attachment A: ABSTRACT SUMMARY SLIDE TEMPLATE and Attachment B: ABSTRACT TEMPLATE provided with this solicitation on <https://sam.gov/> and <http://www.grants.gov/>. Attachment A: ABSTRACT SUMMARY SLIDE TEMPLATE described herein must be in .ppt, .pptx or .pdf format and should be attached as a separate file to this document.

The abstract provides a synopsis of the proposed project by including the following information:

- The proposed technical approach
- The technical rationale supporting the ability to achieve the metrics
- The technical and programmatic risks

²⁴ "Conforming" is defined as having been submitted in accordance with the requirements outlined herein

- The makeup of the technical team (including the facilities and any proposed subcontractors)
- High-level cost and schedule
- Availability of proposed staff

DARPA will respond to abstracts with a statement as to whether DARPA is interested in the idea. If DARPA does not recommend the proposer submit a full proposal, DARPA will provide feedback to the proposer regarding the rationale for this decision. Regardless of DARPA's response to an abstract, proposers may submit a full proposal. DARPA will review all conforming full proposals using the published evaluation criteria and without regard to any comments resulting from the review of an abstract.

Proposers should note that a favorable response to an abstract is not a guarantee that a proposal based on the abstract will ultimately be selected for award negotiation.

While it is DARPA policy to attempt to reply to abstracts within thirty calendar days, proposers to this solicitation may anticipate a response within approximately three weeks. These official notifications will be sent via email to the Technical POC and/or Administrative POC identified on the abstract coversheet.

2. Full Proposal Information and Formatting

a. Proposal Volumes

Full proposals must consist of all 3 volumes described below. To assist in proposal development, templates for these volumes are posted as attachments to this solicitation on <https://sam.gov/>. The templates are specific to each volume, as outlined below.

Full proposals requesting a procurement contract or Other Transaction (OT) must use the following attachments in each volume:

- **Volume 1**
 - Attachment C: PROPOSAL SUMMARY SLIDE TEMPLATE
 - Attachment D: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 1: TECHNICAL & MANAGEMENT
- **Volume 2²⁵**
 - Attachment E: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 2: COST
 - Attachment F: MS Excel™ DARPA COST PROPOSAL SPREADSHEET
- **Volume 3**
 - Attachment G: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Full proposals requesting a cooperative agreement must use the following attachments in

²⁵ All costs included in Volume 2 Attachments E and F or those submitted in Section L of the SF 424 Research & Related Budget form via Grants.gov must be expressed in US Dollars (USD).

addition to the Grants.gov application package:

- **Volume 1**
 - Attachment C: PROPOSAL SUMMARY SLIDE TEMPLATE
 - Attachment D: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 1: TECHNICAL & MANAGEMENT
- **Volume 2*²⁵**
 - Attachment F: MS Excel™ DARPA COST PROPOSAL SPREADSHEET
- **Volume 3**
 - Attachment G: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

* Full proposals requesting a cooperative agreement do not need to include Attachment E. Instead, Budget Justification should be provided as Section L of the SF 424 Research & Related Budget form provided via <http://www.grants.gov> (see section IV.E.1.c for additional details). The Budget Justification should include the following information for the recipient and all subawardees:

- **Direct Labor (sections A and B)** - Detail the total number of persons and their level of commitment for each position listed as well as which specific tasks (as described in the SOW) they will support.
- **Equipment (section C)** - Provide an explanation for listed requested equipment exceeding \$5,000, properly justifying why it is required to meet the objectives of the program.
- **Travel (section D)** - Provide the purpose of the trip, number of trips, number of days per trip, departure and arrival destinations, number of people, etc. Only travel required to achieve the program goals and metrics will be allowed.
- **Other Direct Costs (section F)** - Provide a justification for the items requested and an explanation of how the estimates were obtained.
- **Participant/Trainee Support Costs (section E)** - Provide details on Tuition/ Fees/ Health Insurance, Stipends, Travel and Subsistence costs.

The Government requires that proposers use the provided MS Excel™ DARPA Standard Cost Proposal Spreadsheet in the development of their cost proposals. A customized cost proposal spreadsheet may be an attachment to this solicitation. If not, the spreadsheet can be found on the DARPA website at <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/contract-management> (under “Resources” on the right-hand side of the webpage). All tabs and tables in the cost proposal spreadsheet should be developed in an editable format with calculation formulas intact to allow traceability of the cost proposal. This cost proposal spreadsheet should be used by the prime organization and all subcontractors. In addition to using the cost proposal spreadsheet, the cost proposal still must include all other items required in this announcement that are not covered by the editable spreadsheet. Subcontractor cost proposal spreadsheets may be submitted directly to the Government by the proposed subcontractor via e-mail to the address in Part I of this

solicitation. Using the provided cost proposal spreadsheet will assist the Government in a rapid analysis of your proposed costs and, if your proposal is selected for a potential award, speed up the negotiation and award execution process.

All proposers are required to use the appropriate templates based on the type of award requested. Templates are provided as attachments to this solicitation on <https://sam.gov/> and <http://www.grants.gov>. Full Proposals that do not include the appropriate attachments as detailed here may be deemed non-conforming and may not be evaluated.

b. DARPA Embedded Entrepreneur Initiative (EEI)

Awardees pursuant to this solicitation may be eligible to participate in the DARPA Embedded Entrepreneurship Initiative (EEI) during the award's period of performance. EEI is a limited scope program offered by DARPA, at DARPA's discretion, to a small subset of awardees. The goal of DARPA's EEI is to increase the likelihood that DARPA-funded technologies take root in the U.S. and provide new capabilities for national defense. EEI supports DARPA's mission "to make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies and capabilities for national security" by accelerating the transition of innovations out of the lab and into new capabilities for the Department of Defense (DoD). EEI investment supports development of a robust and deliberate Go-to-Market strategy for selling technology product to the government and commercial markets and positions DARPA awardees to attract U.S. investment. The following is for informational and planning purposes only and does not constitute solicitation of proposals to the EEI.

There are three elements to DARPA's EEI: (1) A Senior Commercialization Advisor (SCA) from DARPA who works with the Program Manager (PM) to examine the business case for the awardee's technology and uses commercial methodologies to identify steps toward achieving a successful transition of technology to the government and commercial markets; (2) Connections to potential industry and investor partners via EEI's Investor Working Groups; and (3) Additional funding on an awardee's contract for the awardee to hire an embedded entrepreneur to achieve specific milestones in a Go-to-Market strategy for transitioning the technology to products that serve both defense and commercial markets. This embedded entrepreneur's qualifications should include business experience within the target industries of interest, experience in commercializing early stage technology, and the ability to communicate and interact with technical and non-technical stakeholders. Funding for EEI is typically no more than \$250,000 per awardee over the duration of the award. An awardee may apportion EEI funding to hire more than one embedded entrepreneur, if achieving the milestones requires different expertise that can be obtained without exceeding the awardee's total EEI funding. The EEI effort is intended to be conducted concurrent with the research program without extending the period of performance.

EEI Application Process:

After receiving an award under the solicitation, awardees interested in being considered for EEI should notify their DARPA Program Manager (PM) during the period of performance. Timing of such notification should ideally allow sufficient time for DARPA and the awardee to review the awardee's initial transition plan, identify milestones to achieve under EEI, modify the award, and conduct the work required to achieve such milestones within the original award period of performance. These steps may take 18-24 months to complete, depending on the technology. If

the DARPA PM determines that EEI could be of benefit to transition the technology to product(s) the Government needs, the PM will refer the performer to DARPA Commercial Strategy.

DARPA Commercial Strategy will then contact the performer, assess fitness for EEI, and in consultation with the DARPA technical office, determine whether to invite the performer to participate in the EEI. Factors that are considered in determining fitness for EEI include DoD/Government need for the technology; competitive approaches to enable a similar capability or product; risks and impact of the Government's being unable to access the technology from a sustainable source; Government and commercial markets for the technology; cost and affordability; manufacturability and scalability; supply chain requirements and barriers; regulatory requirements and timelines; Intellectual Property and Government Use Rights, and available funding.

Invitation to participate in EEI is at the sole discretion of DARPA and subject to program balance and the availability of funding. EEI participants' awards may be subsequently modified bilaterally to amend the statement of work to add negotiated EEI tasks, provide funding, and specify a milestone schedule which will include measurable steps necessary to build, refine, and execute a Go-to-Market strategy aimed at delivering new capabilities for national defense. Milestone examples are available at: <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/contract-management>.

Awardees under this solicitation are eligible to be considered for participation in EEI, but selection for award under this solicitation does not imply or guarantee participation in EEI.

3. Proprietary Information

Proposers are responsible for clearly identifying proprietary information. Submissions containing proprietary information must have the cover page and each page containing such information clearly marked with a label such as "Proprietary" or "Company Proprietary." NOTE: "Confidential" is a classification marking used to control the dissemination of U.S. Government National Security Information as dictated in Executive Order 13526 and should not be used to identify proprietary business information.

4. Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and Controlled Technical Information (CTI) on Non-DoD Information Systems

Proposers and awardees are subject to the DoD requirements related to protection of CUI and CTI IAW Executive Order 13556, *Controlled Unclassified Information*, DFARS 252.204-7000, *Disclosure of Information*, DFARS 252.204-7012, *Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting*, DoD Instruction 5200.48, *Controlled Unclassified Information*, DoD Instruction 8582.01, *Security of Non-DoD Information Systems Processing Unclassified Nonpublic DoD Information*. See <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/additional-baa> for additional guidance on protecting CUI on Non-DoD Information Systems.

CUI is defined as unclassified information that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls, pursuant to and consistent with applicable law, regulations, and Government-wide policies.

Controlled Technical Information (CTI) is defined as technical information with military or space application that is subject to controls on its access, use, reproduction, modification, performance, display, release, disclosure, or dissemination. The term CTI does not include

information that is lawfully publicly available without restrictions.

DoD considers “technical information” to be technical data or computer software, as those terms are defined in Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement clause 252.227-7013, "Rights in Technical Data - Noncommercial Items" (48 CFR 252.227-7013). Examples of technical information include research and engineering data; engineering drawings and associated lists; specifications, standards, process sheets, manuals, technical reports, technical orders, catalog-item identifications, data sets, studies and analyses and related information; and computer software code. Note that such technical information may or may not be controlled (i.e., CTI), depending on whether it has military or space application.

Proposers should indicate in their proposal if their proposed solution includes CUI. All proposals indicating CUI requirements must include a draft CUI protection plan in Attachment G, PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS detailing how CUI will be protected at performance sites as well as sub-contractor locations. The draft CUI protection plan is not a source selection criterion, and there is no page limit. During selection and negotiation, DARPA will determine additional requirements and clarification required of the CUI protection plan.

As part of Attachment D: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 1: TECHNICAL & MANAGEMENT, the proposer should include a statement of work with a breakdown of all research tasks and subtasks and indicate the proposed classification for each. For all tasks and subtasks proposed to be unclassified, proposers should distinguish between work proposed to be Fundamental Research versus work proposed to be CUI. Proposers will provide a short explanation for why each subtask should be categorized as Fundamental Research or CUI.

If CUI tasks are proposed in the statement of work, proposers must provide a plan for protecting Controlled Unclassified Information as part of Attachment G: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS, Section 8.

CTI is to be marked “DISTRIBUTION C. Distribution authorized to U.S. Government agencies and their contractors; Critical Technology; [current date]. Other requests for this document shall be referred to DARPA, DSO” in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 5203.24, “Distribution of Statements on Technical Documents.”

5. Security Information

DARPA anticipates that submissions received under this BAA will be unclassified. However, should a proposer wish to submit classified information, an *unclassified* email must be sent to the BAA mailbox requesting submission instructions from the DARPA/DSO Program Security Officer (PSO).

Security classification guidance and direction via a Security Classification Guide (SCG) and/or DD Form 254, “DoD Contract Security Classification Specification,” will not be provided at this time, since DARPA is soliciting ideas only. If a determination is made that the award instrument may result in access to classified information, a SCG and/or DD Form 254 will be issued by DARPA and attached as part of the award.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Proposers are warned that submission deadlines as outlined herein are in Eastern Time and will be strictly enforced. When planning a response to this solicitation, proposers should take into account that some parts of the submission process may take from one business day to one month to complete (e.g., registering for a SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)).

DARPA will acknowledge receipt of *complete* submissions via email and assign identifying numbers that should be used in all further correspondence regarding those submissions. If no confirmation is received within two business days, please contact the BAA Administrator at MuS2@darpa.mil to verify receipt.

1. Abstracts

Abstracts must be submitted per the instructions outlined herein *and received by DARPA* no later than the due date and time listed in Part One: Overview Information. Abstracts received after this time and date may not be reviewed.

2. Full Proposals

Full proposal packages as detailed in Section IV.B.2 above, and, as applicable, proprietary subawardee cost proposals and classified appendices to unclassified proposals, must be submitted per the instructions outlined herein *and received by DARPA* no later than the due date and time listed in Part One: Overview Information. Proposals received after this time and date may not be reviewed.

D. Funding Restrictions

Not applicable.

E. Other Submission Requirements

1. Unclassified Submission Instructions

Proposers must submit all parts of their submission package using the same method; submissions cannot be sent in part by one method and in part by another method nor should duplicate submissions be sent by multiple methods. Email submissions will not be accepted. Failure to comply with the submission procedures outlined herein may result in the submission being deemed non-conforming and withdrawn from consideration.

a. Abstracts

DARPA/DSO will employ an electronic upload submission system (<https://baa.darpa.mil/>) for all UNCLASSIFIED abstracts sent in response to this solicitation. *Abstracts must not be submitted via Grants.gov or email.* Note: If an account has recently been created for the DARPA BAA Website, this account may be reused. Accounts are typically disabled and eventually deleted following 75-90 days of inactivity – if you are unsure when the account was last used, it is recommended that you create a new account. If no account currently exists for the DARPA BAA Website, visit the website to complete the two-step registration process. Submitters will need to register for an Extranet account (by clicking “Create New Account” at the URL listed above) and

wait for two separate e-mails containing a username and temporary password. After accessing the Extranet, submitters may then create an account for the DARPA BAA website (via the “Register your Organization” link along the left side of the homepage), view submission instructions, and upload/finalize the proposal. Note: Even if a submitter’s organization has an existing registration, each user submitting a proposal must create their own Organization Registration.

All abstracts submitted electronically through DARPA’s BAA Website must be uploaded as zip archives (i.e., files with a .zip or .zipx extension). The final zip archive should be no greater than 100 MB in size. Only one zip archive will be accepted per submission - subsequent uploads for the same submission will overwrite previous uploads, and submissions not uploaded as zip archives will be rejected by DARPA.

Proposers using the DARPA BAA Website may encounter heavy traffic on the submission deadline date; proposers should start this process as early as possible. Technical support for the DARPA BAA Submission website is available during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Requests for technical support must be emailed to BAAT_Support@darpa.mil with a copy to MuS2@darpa.mil. Questions regarding submission contents, format, deadlines, etc. should be emailed to MuS2@darpa.mil. Questions/requests for support sent to any other email address may result in delayed/no response.

b. Proposals Requesting a Procurement Contract or Other Transaction

Proposers requesting procurement contracts or Other Transactions may submit full proposals through ONE of the following methods: (1) electronic upload (DARPA-preferred); or (2) direct mail/hand-carry.

i. Electronic Upload

DARPA/DSO encourages proposers to submit UNCLASSIFIED proposals via the DARPA BAA Submission website at <https://baa.darpa.mil>. Note: If an account has recently been created for the DARPA BAA Website, this account may be reused. Accounts are typically disabled and eventually deleted following 75-90 days of inactivity – if you are unsure when the account was last used, it is recommended that you create a new account. If no account currently exists for the DARPA BAA Website, visit the website to complete the two-step registration process. Submitters will need to register for an Extranet account (by clicking “Create New Account” at the URL listed above) and wait for two separate e-mails containing a username and temporary password. After accessing the Extranet, submitters may then create an account for the DARPA BAA website (via the “Register your Organization” link along the left side of the homepage), view submission instructions, and upload/finalize the proposal. Note: Even if a submitter’s organization has an existing registration, each user submitting a proposal must create their own Organization Registration.

All unclassified proposals submitted electronically through DARPA’s BAA Website must be uploaded as zip archives (i.e., files with a .zip or .zipx extension). The final zip archive should be no greater than 100 MB in size. Only one zip archive will be accepted per submission - subsequent uploads for the same submission will overwrite previous uploads, and submissions not uploaded as zip archives will be rejected by DARPA.

Proposers using the DARPA BAA Website may encounter heavy traffic on the submission deadline date; proposers should start this process as early as possible. Technical support for the DARPA BAA Submission website is available during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Requests for technical support must be emailed to BAAT_Support@darpa.mil with a copy to MuS2@darpa.mil. Questions regarding submission contents, format, deadlines, etc. should be emailed to MuS2@darpa.mil. Questions/requests for support sent to any other email address may result in delayed/no response.

ii. Direct Mail/Hand-carry

Proposers electing to submit procurement contract or Other Transaction proposals via direct mail or hand-carried must provide one paper copy and one electronic copy on CD or DVD of the full proposal package. All parts of the proposal package must be mailed or hand-carried in a single delivery to the address noted in Section VII below.

a. Proposals Requesting a Cooperative Agreement

Proposers requesting cooperative agreements must submit proposals through one of the following methods: (1) electronic upload per the instructions at <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply-for-grants.html> (DARPA-preferred); or (2) hard-copy mailed directly to DARPA. If proposers intend to use Grants.gov as their means of submission, then they must submit their entire proposal through Grants.gov; applications cannot be submitted in part to Grants.gov and in part as a hard-copy. Proposers using Grants.gov do not submit hard-copy proposals in addition to the Grants.gov electronic submission.

Submissions: In addition to the volumes and corresponding attachments requested elsewhere in this solicitation, proposers must also submit the three forms listed below.

Form 1: SF 424 Research and Related (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance, available on the Grants.gov website at https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/RR_SF424_2_0-V2.0.pdf. *This form must be completed and submitted.*

To evaluate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et.seq.), the Department of Defense (DoD) is collecting certain demographic and career information to be able to assess the success rates of women who are proposed for key roles in applications in science, technology, engineering or mathematics disciplines. In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2019, Section 1286, directs the Secretary of Defense to protect intellectual property, controlled information, key personnel, and information about critical technologies relevant to national security and limit undue influence, including foreign talent programs by countries that desire to exploit United States' technology within the DoD research, science and technology, and innovation enterprise. This requirement is necessary for all research and research-related educational activities. The DoD is using the two forms below to collect the necessary information to satisfy these requirements. Detailed instructions for each form are available on Grants.gov.

Form 2: The Research and Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) form, available on the Grants.gov website at https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/RR_KeyPersonExpanded_3_0-V3.0.pdf, will be used to collect the following information for all senior/key personnel, including Project Director/Principal Investigator and Co-Project Director/Co-Principal Investigator, whether or not

the individuals' efforts under the project are funded by the DoD. The form includes 3 parts: the main form administrative information, including the Project Role, Degree Type and Degree Year; the biographical sketch; and the current and pending support. The biographical sketch and current and pending support are to be provided as attachments:

- Biographical Sketch: Mandatory for Project Directors (PD) and Principal Investigators (PI), optional, but desired, for all other Senior/Key Personnel. The biographical sketch should include information pertaining to the researchers:
 - Education and Training.
 - Research and Professional Experience.
 - Collaborations and Affiliations (for conflict of interest).
 - Publications and Synergistic Activities.
- Current and Pending Support: Mandatory for all Senior/Key Personnel including the PD/PI. This attachment should include the following information:
 - A list of all current projects the individual is working on, in addition to any future support the individual has applied to receive, regardless of the source.
 - Title and objectives of the other research projects.
 - The percentage per year to be devoted to the other projects.
 - The total amount of support the individual is receiving in connection to each of the other research projects or will receive if other proposals are awarded.
 - Name and address of the agencies and/or other parties supporting the other research projects
 - Period of performance for the other research projects.

Additional senior/key persons can be added by selecting the “Next Person” button at the bottom of the form. Note that, although applications without this information completed may pass Grants.gov edit checks, if DARPA receives an application without the required information, DARPA may determine that the application is incomplete and may cause your submission to be rejected and eliminated from further review and consideration under the solicitation. DARPA reserves the right to request further details from the applicant before making a final determination on funding the effort.

Form 3: [Research and Related Personal Data](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/RR_PersonalData_1_2-V1.2.pdf), available on the Grants.gov website at https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/RR_PersonalData_1_2-V1.2.pdf. *Each applicant must complete the name field of this form, however, provision of the demographic information is voluntary. Regardless of whether the demographic fields are completed or not, this form must be submitted with at least the applicant’s name completed.*

i. Electronic Upload

DARPA encourages cooperative agreement proposers to submit their proposals via electronic upload at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>. Proposers electing to use this method must complete a one-time registration process on Grants.gov before a proposal can be electronically submitted. *If proposers have not previously registered, this*

process can take up to four weeks so registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact a proposer's ability to meet required submission deadlines. Registration requirements and instructions are outlined at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

Carefully follow the DARPA submission instructions provided with the solicitation application package on Grants.gov. Only the required forms listed therein (e.g., SF-424 and Attachments form) should be included in the submission. *NOTE: Grants.gov does not accept zipped or encrypted proposals.*

Once Grants.gov has received an uploaded proposal submission, Grants.gov will send two email messages to notify proposers that: (1) the proposal has been received by Grants.gov; and (2) the proposal has been either validated or rejected by the system. *It may take up to two business days to receive these emails.* If the proposal is validated, then the proposer has successfully submitted their proposal. If the proposal is rejected, the submission must be corrected, resubmitted and revalidated before DARPA can retrieve it. If the solicitation is no longer open, the rejected proposal cannot be resubmitted. Once the proposal is retrieved by DARPA, Grants.gov will send a third email to notify the proposer. DARPA will send a final confirmation email as described in Section IV.C.

To avoid missing deadlines, Grants.gov recommends that proposers submit their proposals to Grants.gov 24-48 hours in advance of the proposal due date to provide sufficient time to complete the registration and submission process, receive email notifications and correct errors, as applicable.

Technical support for Grants.gov submissions may be reached at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

ii. Direct Mail/Hand-carry

Proposers electing to submit cooperative agreement proposals via direct mail or hand-carried must provide one paper copy and one electronic copy on CD or DVD of the full proposal package. Proposers must complete the SF 424 R&R form (Application for Federal Assistance, Research and Related) provided at Grants.gov as part of the opportunity application package for this BAA and include it in the proposal submission. All parts of the proposal package must be mailed or hand-carried to the address noted in Section VII below.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria listed in descending order of importance: Overall Scientific and Technical Merit; Potential Contribution and Relevance to the DARPA Mission; and Cost and Schedule Realism.

- **Overall Scientific and Technical Merit**

[The proposed technical approach is innovative, feasible, achievable, and complete.](#)

The proposed technical team has the expertise and experience to accomplish the proposed tasks. Task descriptions and associated technical elements provided are complete and in a logical

sequence with all proposed deliverables clearly defined such that a final outcome that achieves the goal can be expected as a result of award. The proposal identifies major technical risks, and planned mitigation efforts are clearly defined and feasible. The proposed schedule aggressively pursues performance metrics in an efficient time frame that accurately accounts for the anticipated workload.

- **Potential Contribution and Relevance to the DARPA Mission**

The potential contributions of the proposed effort bolster the national security technology base and support DARPA's mission to make pivotal early technology investments that create or prevent technological surprise. The proposed intellectual property restrictions (if any) will not significantly impact the Government's ability to transition the technology.

- **Cost and Schedule Realism**

The proposed costs and schedule are realistic for the technical and management approach and accurately reflect the technical goals and objectives of the solicitation. All proposed labor, material, and travel costs are necessary to achieve the program metrics, consistent with the proposer's statement of work and reflect a sufficient understanding of the costs and level of effort needed to successfully accomplish the proposed technical approach. The costs for the prime proposer and proposed subawardees are substantiated by the details provided in the proposal (e.g., the type and number of labor hours proposed per task, the types and quantities of materials, equipment and fabrication costs, travel and any other applicable costs and the basis for the estimates). Note: The Phase 2 ROM is for planning purposes only and will not be evaluated for cost realism. The proposed schedule aggressively pursues performance metrics in an efficient time frame that accurately accounts for the anticipated workload. The proposed schedule identifies and mitigates any potential schedule risk.

B. Review and Selection Process

DARPA will conduct a scientific/technical review of each conforming proposal. Conforming proposals comply with all requirements detailed in this solicitation; proposals that fail to do so may be deemed non-conforming and may be removed from consideration. Proposals will not be evaluated against each other since they are not submitted in accordance with a common work statement. DARPA's intent is to review proposals as soon as possible after they arrive; however, proposals may be reviewed periodically for administrative reasons.

The review process identifies proposals that meet the evaluation criteria described above and are, therefore, selectable for negotiation of awards by the Government. DARPA policy is to ensure impartial, equitable, comprehensive proposal evaluations and to select proposals that meet DARPA technical, policy, and programmatic goals. Proposals that are determined selectable will not necessarily receive awards (see Section II). Selections may be made at any time during the period of solicitation. For evaluation purposes, a proposal is defined to be the document and supporting materials as described in Section IV.

1. Handling of Source Selection Information

DARPA policy is to treat all submissions as source selection information (FAR 2.101 and 3.104), and to only disclose their contents to authorized personnel. Restrictive notices

notwithstanding, submissions may be handled by support contractors for administrative purposes and/or to assist with technical evaluation. All DARPA support contractors performing this role are expressly prohibited from performing DARPA-sponsored technical research and are bound by appropriate nondisclosure agreements. Subject to the restrictions set forth in FAR 37.203(d), DARPA may also request input on technical aspects of the proposals from other non-Government consultants/experts who are strictly bound by the appropriate non-disclosure requirements.

Submissions will not be returned. The original of each submission received will be retained at DARPA and all other non-required copies destroyed. A certification of destruction may be requested via email to the BAA mailbox, provided the formal request is received within 5 days after being notified of submission status.

C. Countering Foreign Influence Program (CFIP)

DARPA's CFIP is an adaptive risk management security program designed to help protect the critical technology and performer intellectual property associated with DARPA's research projects by identifying the possible vectors of undue foreign influence. The CFIP team will create risk assessments of all proposed Senior/Key Personnel selected for negotiation of a fundamental research grant or cooperative agreement award. The CFIP risk assessment process will be conducted separately from the DARPA scientific review process and adjudicated prior to final award.

See section II. B. (a) – (c) for additional information on the CFIP process.

D. Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information (FAPIS)

Following the review and selection process described above, but prior to making an award above the simplified acquisition threshold (FAR 2.101), DARPA is required²⁶ to review and consider any information available through the designated integrity and performance system (currently FAPIS). Selectees have the opportunity to comment on any information about themselves entered in the database. DARPA will consider any comments and other information in FAPIS or other systems prior to making an award.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Selection Notices

After proposal evaluations are complete, proposers will be notified as to whether their proposal was selected for award negotiation as a result of the review process. Notification will be sent by email to the Technical and Administrative POCs identified on the proposal cover sheet. If a proposal has been selected for award negotiation, the Government will initiate those negotiations following the notification.

²⁶ Per 41 U.S.C. § 2313, as implemented by FAR 9.103 and 2 CFR § 200.205.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Solicitation Provisions and Award Clauses, Terms and Conditions

Solicitation provisions relevant to DARPA BAAs are listed on the Additional BAA Content page on DARPA's website at www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/additional-baa. This page also lists award clauses that, depending on their applicability, may be included in the terms and conditions of awards resultant from DARPA solicitations. This list is not exhaustive and the clauses, terms and conditions included in a resultant award will depend on the nature of the research effort, the specific award instrument, the type of awardee, and any applicable security or publication restrictions.

For terms and conditions specific to grants and/or cooperative agreements, see the DoD General Research Terms and Conditions (latest version) at <http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/submit-proposal/grants-proposal/grants-terms-conditions> and the supplemental DARPA-specific terms and conditions at <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/contract-management#GrantsCooperativeAgreements>.

The above information serves to put potential proposers and awardees on notice of proposal requirements and award terms and conditions to which they may have to adhere.

2. System for Award Management (SAM) and Universal Identifier Requirements

All proposers must be registered in SAM unless exempt per FAR 4.1102. FAR 52.204-7, "System for Award Management" and FAR 52.204-13, "System for Award Management Maintenance" are incorporated into this solicitation. See <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/additional-baa> for further information.

International entities can register in SAM by following the instructions in this link: https://www.fsd.gov/sys_attachment.do?sys_id=c08b64ab1b4434109ac5ddb6bc4bcbb8.

NOTE: New registrations can take an average of 7-10 business days to process in SAM. SAM registration requires the following information:

- SAM Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- TIN
- Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code. If a proposer does not already have a CAGE code, one will be assigned during SAM registration.
- Electronic Funds Transfer information (e.g., proposer's bank account number, routing number, and bank phone or fax number).

3. Representations and Certifications

In accordance with FAR 4.1102 and 4.1201, proposers requesting a procurement contract must complete electronic annual representations and certifications at <https://www.sam.gov/>.

In addition, all proposers are required to submit for all award instrument types supplementary DARPA-specific representations and certifications at the time of proposal submission. See <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/ reps-certs> for further information on required representation and certification depending on your requested award instrument.

4. Intellectual Property

Proposers should note that the Government does not own the intellectual property or technical data/computer software developed under Government contracts. The Government acquires the right to use the technical data/computer software. Regardless of the scope of the Government's rights, awardees may freely use their same data/software for their own commercial purposes (unless restricted by U.S. export control laws or security classification). Therefore, technical data and computer software developed under this solicitation will remain the property of the awardees, though DARPA will have, at a minimum, Government Purpose Rights (GPR) to technical data and computer software developed through DARPA sponsorship.

If proposers desire to use proprietary computer software or technical data or both as the basis of their proposed approach, in whole or in part, they should: (1) clearly identify such software/data and its proposed particular use(s); (2) explain how the Government will be able to reach its program goals (including transition) within the proprietary model offered; and (3) provide possible nonproprietary alternatives in any area that might present transition difficulties or increased risk or cost to the Government under the proposed proprietary solution. Proposers expecting to use, but not to deliver, commercial open source tools or other materials in implementing their approach may be required to indemnify the Government against legal liability arising from such use.

All references to "Unlimited Rights" or "Government Purpose Rights" are intended to refer to the definitions of those terms as set forth in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 227.

a. Intellectual Property Representations

All proposers must provide a good faith representation of either ownership or possession of appropriate licensing rights to all other intellectual property to be used for the proposed project. Proposers must provide a short summary for each item asserted with less than unlimited rights that describes the nature of the restriction and the intended use of the intellectual property in the conduct of the proposed research. See Attachment G: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS, Section 4.

b. Patents

All proposers must include documentation proving ownership or possession of appropriate licensing rights to all patented inventions to be used for the proposed project. If a patent application has been filed for an invention, but it includes proprietary information and is not publicly available, a proposer must provide documentation that includes: the patent number, inventor name(s), assignee names (if any), filing date, filing date of any related provisional application, and summary of the patent title, with either: (1) a representation of invention ownership; or (2) proof of possession of appropriate licensing rights in the invention (i.e., an agreement from the owner of the patent granting license to the proposer).

c. Procurement Contracts

i. Noncommercial Items (Technical Data and Computer Software)

Proposers requesting a procurement contract must list all noncommercial technical data and

computer software that it plans to generate, develop, and/or deliver, in which the Government will acquire less than unlimited rights and to assert specific restrictions on those deliverables. In the event a proposer does not submit the list, the Government will assume that it has unlimited rights to all noncommercial technical data and computer software generated, developed, and/or delivered, unless it is substantiated that development of the noncommercial technical data and computer software occurred with mixed funding. If mixed funding is anticipated in the development of noncommercial technical data and computer software generated, developed, and/or delivered, proposers should identify the data and software in question as subject to GPR. In accordance with DFARS 252.227-7013, “Rights in Technical Data - Noncommercial Items,” and DFARS 252.227-7014, “Rights in Noncommercial Computer Software and Noncommercial Computer Software Documentation,” the Government will automatically assume that any such GPR restriction is limited to a period of 5 years, at which time the Government will acquire unlimited rights unless the parties agree otherwise. The Government may use the list during the evaluation process to evaluate the impact of any identified restrictions and may request additional information from the proposer, as may be necessary, to evaluate the proposer’s assertions. Failure to provide full information may result in a determination that the proposal is non-conforming. A template for complying with this request is provided in Attachment G: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS, Section 4.

ii. Commercial Items (Technical Data and Computer Software)

Proposers requesting a procurement contract must list all commercial technical data and commercial computer software that may be included in any noncommercial deliverables contemplated under the research project and assert any applicable restrictions on the Government’s use of such commercial technical data and/or computer software. In the event a proposer does not submit the list, the Government will assume there are no restrictions on the Government’s use of such commercial items. The Government may use the list during the evaluation process to evaluate the impact of any identified restrictions and may request additional information from the proposer to evaluate the proposer’s assertions. Failure to provide full information may result in a determination that the proposal is non-conforming. A template for complying with this request is provided in Attachment G: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS, Section 4.

d. Other Types of Awards

Proposers requesting an award instrument other than a procurement contract shall follow the applicable rules and regulations governing those award instruments, but in all cases should appropriately identify any potential restrictions on the Government’s use of any intellectual property contemplated under those award instruments. This includes both noncommercial items and commercial items. The Government may use the list as part of the evaluation process to assess the impact of any identified restrictions and may request additional information from the proposer, to evaluate the proposer’s assertions. Failure to provide full information may result in a determination that the proposal is non-conforming. A template for complying with this request is provided in Attachment G: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE VOLUME 3: ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS, Section 4.

Program-generated Data

Data are increasingly the key product of research and engineering endeavors. To ensure the reproducibility of results and access to source data for future research, awardees will be required to maintain and deliver any data generated during award performance (“program-generated data”) that is needed to accomplish these goals. Awardees shall be expected to document both the proprietary and non-proprietary products of their research to ensure the retention and potential reusability of this information. This may include:

- Raw unprocessed data, software source code and executables, build scripts, process sequence, programmatic communication and other collaboration activities
- Data sets: rarified, experimental, test and measurement data
- Design of experiments and simulations
- Models or simulations (computational or mathematical)
- Recordings of various physical phenomena (including images, videos, sensor data, etc.)
- Access to and use of institutional, organizational or scientific community repositories and archives

When possible, DARPA may share some or all of the program-generated data with the broader research community as open data (with permission to access, reuse, and redistribute under appropriate licensing terms where required) to the extent permitted by applicable law and regulations (e.g., privacy, security, rights in data, and export control). DARPA plans to enable reproducibility of results through data sharing and to establish (or contribute to) digital collections that can advance this and other scientific fields.

5. Human Subjects Research (HSR)/Animal Use

Proposers that anticipate involving human subjects or animals in the proposed research must comply with the approval procedures detailed at <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/additional-baa>, to include providing the information specified therein as required for proposal submission.

6. Electronic Invoicing and Payments

Awardees will be required to submit invoices for payment electronically via Wide Area Work Flow (WAWF), accessed through the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment at <https://piee.eb.mil/>, unless an exception applies. Registration in WAWF is required prior to any award under this BAA.

7. Electronic and Information Technology

All electronic and information technology acquired or created through this BAA must satisfy the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 749d) and FAR 39.2.

8. Disclosure of Information and Compliance with Safeguarding Covered Defense Information Controls

The following provisions and clause apply to all solicitations and contracts; however, the definition of “controlled technical information” clearly exempts work considered fundamental research and therefore, even though included in the contract, will not apply if the work is fundamental research.

DFARS 252.204-7000, “Disclosure of Information”

DFARS 252.204-7008, “Compliance with Safeguarding Covered Defense Information Controls”

DFARS 252.204-7012, “Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting”

The full text of the above solicitation provision and contract clauses can be found at <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/additional-baa#NPRPAC>.

Compliance with the above requirements includes the mandate for proposers to implement the security requirements specified by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-171, “Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Information Systems and Organizations” (see <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-171r2.pdf>) and DoDI 8582.01 that are in effect at the time the solicitation is issued.

For awards where the work is considered fundamental research, the contractor will not have to implement the aforementioned requirements and safeguards. However, should the nature of the work change during performance of the award, work not considered fundamental research will be subject to these requirements.

C. Reporting

1. Technical and Financial Reports

The number and types of technical and financial reports required under the award will be specified in the award document and may include monthly financial reports, monthly technical reports and/or a yearly status summary. A final report that summarizes the project and tasks will be required at the conclusion of the performance period for the award. The reports shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the procedures contained in the award document.

2. Patent Reports and Notifications

All resultant awards will contain a mandatory requirement for patent reports and notifications to be submitted electronically through i-Edison (<https://public.era.nih.gov/iedison>).

VII. Agency Contacts

DARPA will use email for all technical and administrative correspondence regarding this solicitation.

- **Technical POC:** Mark Wrobel, Program Manager, DARPA/DSO
- **BAA Email:** MuS2@darpa.mil
- **BAA Mailing Address:**

DARPA/DSO
ATTN: HR001122S0049
675 North Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203-2114

- **DARPA/DSO Opportunities Website:** <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities>

For information concerning agency level protests see <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/additional-baa#NPRPAC>.

VIII. Other Information

A. Proposers Day

The MuS2 Proposers Day will be webcast on August 5, 2022. Advance registration is required for the webcast. See DARPA-SN-22-39 posted at <https://sam.gov/> for all details. Participation in the MuS2 Proposers Day or viewing the webcast is voluntary and is not required to propose to this solicitation.

B. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Administrative, technical, and contractual questions should be emailed to MuS2@darpa.mil. All questions must be in English and must include the name, email address, and the telephone number of a point of contact.

DARPA will attempt to answer questions in a timely manner; however, questions submitted within 10 days of the proposal due date may not be answered. DARPA will post an FAQ list at: <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities>. The list will be updated on an ongoing basis until the BAA expiration date as stated in Part I.

C. Collaborative Efforts/Teaming

DARPA highly encourages teaming before proposal submission and, as such, will facilitate the formation of teams with the necessary expertise. Interested parties will submit a one-page profile consisting of their contact information (name, organization, email, telephone number, mailing address, and, if applicable, organization website), a brief description of their technical competencies, and, if applicable, their desired expertise from other teams/organizations. All profiles must be emailed to MuS2@darpa.mil no later than 4:00 PM on August 10, 2022. Following the deadline, the consolidated teaming profiles will be sent via email to the proposers who submitted a valid profile. Specific content, communications, networking, and team formation are the sole responsibility of the participants. Neither DARPA nor DoD endorses the information and organizations contained in the consolidated teaming profile document, nor does DARPA or DoD exercise any responsibility for improper dissemination of the teaming profiles. Teams need not be finalized at the time of abstract submission.