



**NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) #
NOFOAFRLAFOSR20250003**

for the

**AFRL FY25 Compositional Optimization, Dynamical Systems and Control
(CODAC) UNIVERSITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

Hyperlinks have been embedded within this document and appear as underlined, and or blue-colored words in the midst of paragraphs. The reader may “jump” to the linked section within this document by “clicking” (CTRL + CLICK, or CLICK).

Reference [Key Dates](#)

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) describes a newly proposed initiative of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) concerning standing up a University Center of Excellence (uCoE) for “Compositional Optimization, Dynamical Systems and Control (CODAC)” with educational institutions in the United States. The uCoE is defined as a joint effort among multiple technical directorates (TDs) of the Air Force Research Laboratory to include: the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), Information Directorate (RI), Autonomy Capability Team (ACT3), and Munitions Directorate (RW), referred to collectively as “we, our, or us,” in this NOFO, and an outstanding university or team of universities that will perform high priority unclassified and collaborative basic / applied (6.1/ 6.2) research which addresses the United States Air Force (USAF) and United States Space Force (USSF) research needs in the CODAC area with relevance to joint optimization and decision making.

AFOSR anticipates making at least one grant award of up to **\$1,150,000** per year per award, for a maximum of five years. The base period is for three years, which the AFOSR intends to incrementally fund, followed by an option to extend an additional

two years provided the uCoE passes a midterm “go/no-go” review at the 2.5-year point. By agreement, AFOSR and the participants AFRL/RI, AFRL/ACT3, and AFRL/RW can ramp-up funding in beginning years or ramp-down funding in the final years to a uCoE. All funding decisions are at the Government’s discretion and are subject to the availability of funds.

AFOSR will evaluate proposals using a peer review panel and the criteria specified in Section E: “Application Review Information.” While AFOSR reserves the right to select and fund all, some, or none of the proposals, AFOSR anticipates making one grant award under this announcement. AFOSR will not provide funding for reimbursement of proposal or application costs associated with responding to this NOFO.

White Papers briefly summarizing the proposing institution’s ideas are required. The AFOSR program officer will coordinate with the sponsoring Information Directorate (AFRL/RI), Autonomy Capability Team (AFRL/ACT3) and Munitions Directorate (AFRL/RW) leads to provide feedback to white papers and will share responsibility for ensuring the success of a uCoE.

Proposals may choose to include a data management plan that outlines how samples and data collected in the program will be stored and managed. This includes, but is not restricted to, issues such as: standards for data and metadata collection, content and format, data archiving, database management, and data sharing within and outside the uCoE. This is modeled on the National Science Foundation Data Management Plan. This uCoE will focus on the interactions between several technical elements that form the foundations of compositional optimization, dynamics, and control.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

No direct communications with AFOSR and AFRL TD personnel related to this announcement will be permitted. All questions must be submitted in writing as per the instructions and cut off dates in the [Key Dates table](#).

Applicants should be alert for any amendments that may modify this announcement. Amendments to this original funding opportunity announcement (NOFO) will be posted to the Grants.gov Webpage: <https://www.grants.gov/>.

SUMMARY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION

FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY NAME

Air Force Office of Scientific Research
875 North Randolph Street, Suite 325, Room 3112
Arlington VA 22203

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE: Compositional Optimization, Dynamical Systems and Control (CODAC)

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This is the initial announcement.

NOFO NUMBER

NOFOAFRLAFOSR20250003

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER(S)

12.800 – Air Force Defense Research Sciences Program

KEY DATES

Event	Date	Eastern Time
Solicitation Posted by Government on Grants.gov	Tuesday, 21 January 2025	No Later Than (NLT) 11:59 PM
Cut-Off Date for Q&A's to AFRL Technical personnel Submit questions by email to: Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil Please include in the subject line "CODAC uCoE Pre-White Paper Inquiry" Your questions will generally be consolidated with other questions and posted on Grants.gov so everyone gets the same information. AFOSR may provide an individual response by email if your question does not apply to anyone else.	Friday, 07 February 2025	(NLT) 11:59 PM

<p>Pre-White Paper Q&As published as an amendment to the solicitation on Grants.gov</p> <p>(No direct communications with AFRL Technical personnel related to this announcement will be permitted until award selection and non-selection notices are issued.)</p>	<p>Monday, 24 February 2025</p>	<p>(NLT) 11:59 PM</p>
<p>White Paper Due Date.</p> <p>Submit White Papers to: https://community.apan.org/wg/afosr/p/submitawhitepaper</p> <p>White paper submissions should clearly articulate the logic and key elements of the proposed approach as per the instructions set forth in Section D.II.2.</p> <p>(White papers shall have a four (4) page limit, single-sided)</p>	<p>Monday, 03 March 2025</p>	<p>(NLT) 11:59 PM</p>
<p>White Paper Feedback provided and Notice of Selection or Non-Selection of White Paper for a Proposal Submission Invitation.</p> <p>Provided by email from the Grants Officer to the Applicant email addresses cited in the White Paper submission</p>	<p>Monday, 24 March 2025</p>	<p>Approximately</p>
<p>Cut-Off Date for Pre-proposal Q&As prior to Submission</p> <p>Submit questions by email to: Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil</p> <p>Please include in the subject line “CODAC uCoE Pre-proposal Inquiry”</p> <p>Your questions will generally be consolidated with other questions and posted on Grants.gov so everyone gets the same information. AFOSR may provide an individual response by email if your question does not apply to anyone else.</p>	<p>Monday, 31 March 2025</p>	<p>(NLT) 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Proposal Submission Q&As published as an amendment to the solicitation on Grants.gov</p>	<p>Monday, 07 April 2025</p>	<p>(NLT) 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Proposal Submission Due Date (by invitation only from White Paper Selection notice)</p> <p>Submitted electronically on the Grants.gov website</p>	<p>Monday, 21 April 2025</p>	<p>(NLT) 11:59 PM</p>

<p>Notification of Selection or Non-Selection for Award</p> <p>Provided by email from the Grants Officer to the Applicant email addresses cited in the Proposal Submission SF 424.</p>	<p>Monday, 19 May 2025</p>	<p>Approximately</p>
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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I. SUMMARY

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) seeks unclassified research proposals from educational institutions in the United States for a University Center of Excellence (uCoE) for “Compositional Optimization, Dynamical Systems and Control (CODAC).” Proposals must not contain any confidential, or proprietary / privileged information.

This uCoE is a joint project among multiple technical directorates (TDs) of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL): Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), Information Directorate (RI), Autonomy Capability Team (ACT3), and Munitions Directorate (RW), referred to collectively as “we, our, or us” in this funding opportunity announcement (FOA), and an outstanding university or team of universities to perform basic / applied (6.1 / 6.2) research in nature to address the needs of United States Air Force and United States Space Forces in the CODAC area with relevance to joint optimization and decision making.

II. BACKGROUND

This uCoE is to conduct fundamental research into Compositional Optimization, Dynamical systems, and Control (CODAC). We are motivated by the difficulty of making many decisions with non-trivial interdependencies in a dynamic, contested environment, such that some cohesive set of objectives or desirable steady states can be reached. Despite the difficulty, the US Department of the Air Force (DAF), including both the US Air Force and US Space Force, is tasked with such problems daily. It must decide what tasks are worth doing, how to allocate resources to tasks, how to optimally complete tasks with given resources, how to control platforms during the execution of tasks, and so on. Underlying each decision there is typically some optimization problem, potentially with governing dynamics, that would yield an acceptable decision if solved in isolation.

Even so, every decision the DAF makes should be in support of the mission of the DoD: “deter war and ensure our nation’s security.” Automated tools that assist in this overarching goal necessarily focus on small components. As a result, the solutions produced by such tools are not expected to optimally support the DoD’s mission. For example, a tool used to generate an Air Tasking Order, i.e. to assign tasks to platforms, possibly does not interface with a tool used to plan the mission for a participating platform. Such disconnects introduce suboptimality into the plans generated (sometimes even infeasibility), and necessitate heavy human involvement in the planning process, thereby limiting the speed, scale, contingencies, and analysis that can be done in a finite planning

window.

Our goal with this uCoE is to rectify the situation described above. Using what is currently known about optimization, dynamical systems, and optimal control, let us assume that one could construct a single large optimization problem that approximates all the decisions that the DAF makes daily. This is an extremely dubious proposition, as even writing such a problem down without making mistakes seems a daunting task. But further, such an artifact is difficult to manage and understand. Properties of the problem such as structure, conditioning, tractability, applicability of approximation schemes, are potentially difficult to recover. We therefore seek fundamental scientific advances at the intersection of the fields of optimization, dynamical systems, and optimal control that focus on flexible **compositionality**: an understanding of the coupling of the properties of a composite artifact with the properties of the dynamic components and the means by which they are composed.

To further understand the nature of the problems faced, consider an autonomous UAV. The controllers on this UAV adjust components like ailerons and rudders to drive the system towards some objective state. Perhaps the objective state is chosen by a higher-level optimization problem that is governing the actions of multiple UAVs, leading to composite optimization problems where higher-level decisions are made in conjunction with lower-level problems. Such a pattern continues up the echelons of the military, with flight level problems governing element problems, squadron level problems governing flights, and on until one reaches a joint force or coalition problem. Even the structure of the composite problem itself is something that could be optimized, for example to allow for maximal decentralization. Such optimal problem structure could be context dependent; for example, depending on the communications available between platforms, the UAVs may be operating truly autonomously, in concert with one another, or somewhere in between. Depending on the mission the UAVs may need to be highly reactive, necessitating that a fast approximate solver or learned controller be used in place of a more exact solver. They are more continuous in nature than those solved at an AOC, where discrete decisions such as task assignments are made at a slower time scale. Differences in temporal resolution also lead to some decisions being made before their effect on a larger composite system can be considered. Individual solvers and models of dynamical systems have associated error bounds and uncertainties that compound as more platforms work together. We believe that effectively modeling, understanding, and solving composite problems arising from patterns like those described above will require significant advances in the study of optimization problems and dynamical systems.

III. OBJECTIVES AND KEY SCIENTIFIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESEARCH CONCENTRATION AREAS, WHITE PAPER, AND FULL PROPOSAL EVALUATION

The desiderata of the CODAC CoE are as follows. We seek a fundamental, fresh formulation of dynamical systems and optimization that is inherently hierarchical/heterarchical and modular, addressing how approximation error, measures of optimality, robustness, uncertainty, and more propagate across problem composition, distribution, and decentralization. Moreover, we require implemented solvers capable of exploiting the structure given by problems built in pieces and resulting in an understanding of the properties of composite problems from properties of their constituents. Therefore, formalisms should be developed with computational tractability in mind. These advances shall be developed so as to enable the capability to deploy problems and solvers in distributed and decentralized schemes, considering robustness to platform attrition, communications failures, adversarial actions, and unexpected threats.

Proposed compositional formalisms should address all of the following challenges:

(C1) Scale – The problems faced by the DAF have an extreme number of decision variables. In addition to traditional challenges posed by large scale optimization problems such as the need for approximation and heuristic algorithms, distributed solving, leveraging high performance computing, we face a challenge of being modeler friendly. A proposed formalism should help not only to facilitate the exploitation of problem structure and properties for faster solving, but also aid modelers in the construction of composite problems. Even further, perhaps problems can be re-written or automatically generated as one might do in implementation theory, to facilitate maximal decentralization, robustness, or some combination of desirable properties.

(C2) Heterogeneity – Composite problems are going to mix sub-problems that are heterogenous in many ways, for example a mixed integer program and a linear one, problems with differing temporal resolutions, multi-objective and scalarized, and so on. In addition to making sense of how to compose such problems in the first place, we seek to understand how approaches suited for solving subproblems can be made into a composite approach. For example, what information can a non-gradient based algorithm share with a gradient based one? And further, how can one describe properties like convergence rates or stability of such a composite algorithm? How can we structure algorithms from various disciplines (e.g., guidance, navigation, control etc.) in a hierarchical and modular fashion to enable greater autonomy solutions.

(C3) Partial Specifications and Solutions – In cases where the full problem structure

is not modeled before decisions need to be made, how can we leverage partial problem specifications to make decisions with confidence, or provide options that will stand up to new information arriving? How do we reuse partial solutions in new problems in a principled way to mitigate the need to re-solve a composite problem when local changes occur? How do we determine the most relevant information for autonomy-driven systems? How can we make system-wide decisions based on partial information? How can we update models with sparse data?

(C4) Distribution / Decentralization – The nature of contested DoD operations dictates that a centralized decision-making process cannot be assumed. Real-time human/machine execution of optimized plans frequently entails diversions from the plan due to differences in local information, unanticipated environmental conditions, or adversarial actions. Communications constraints and different clock rates for controllers make perfect, instantaneous syncing infeasible, so techniques are needed to provide decentralized optimization with inconsistent syncing. Modular, decentralized optimization strategies that are robust to frequent inconsistencies and syncing errors are needed. What representations and algorithms are required to ensure, within bounded levels of uncertainty, that local solutions are still composable for globally acceptable solutions? How do we implement new or improve existing problem structure for decentralized decision-making in a communication constrained environment?

(C5) Context Dependence – The best choice of problem formulation, solver, controller, model of dynamics, and so on can depend on a number of factors including uncertainty, adversarial models, status of communications, availability of data, problem scale, and so on. We seek a formulation that enables context dependent employment of different solvers and models. A “corollary” would be a formalism for meta-optimization, i.e. some governing algorithm that decides what other algorithms to use given some context or provides context-dependent constraints, invariants, or symmetries. For example, how can we formalize a principled controller that switches from data-driven solutions that are more computationally expensive to analytic/robust solutions that are faster to compute, depending on situational context? How does such a controller integrate with other pieces of the holistic puzzle?

IV. UNIVERSITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Proposals for this uCoE are sought that articulate the technical details of the proposed research as well as the planned mechanisms to enable collaboration. Below, we outline what a strong proposal must provide.

1. Technical Details

A strong proposal should outline, as specifically as possible, the technical details of the proposed research. In addition, proposals should articulate how research goals address each of the five challenges C1-C5, outlined in the previous section. Make sure to address not only how the team is interdisciplinary but also how each member will holistically contribute to the project.

Because of the breadth of research that spans our challenge categories, it is expected that groups that submit proposals will include researchers of diverse technical perspectives and technical backgrounds. Computational tractability needs to be considered in addition to rigor. Finally, efforts integrating a variety of approaches, with a spectrum ranging from basic to applied are preferred to those using a single approach, especially as these may provide increased opportunities for technology transfer to AFRL.

2. Planned Mechanisms for Collaboration

A strong proposal should outline specific activities that enable proposers to work with each other and to work with AFRL scientists. Examples include student internships and faculty visits at AFRL sites, hosting AFRL scientists at university sites, development of joint papers and workshops, etc. We encourage proposers to define activities that provide learning opportunities for AFRL researchers, specifically those that facilitate the translation of advances made under this uCoE to the applied problems in AFRL. Proposers should specify how data, code, and other artifacts of the project will be shared with AFRL. As will be noted elsewhere in this document, a primary goal of uCoEs is to recruit new government researchers from the academic teams: proposers should offer mechanisms and activities that are organized specifically for this purpose. Given all of the above, proposals should highlight any history of collaboration with AFRL or other government research labs.

3. Access to DoD Resources

Proposals may request access to AFRL facilities or DOD high performance computing resources in order to conduct the proposed research. Proposals should make this request in accordance with the instructions given in [Section D.V.5.iv](#) of the proposal narrative section of this announcement.

Applicants are advised that routine access of educational institution researchers to AFRL buildings and facilities is limited to U.S. citizens. Individuals eligible for access are subject to background checks. [Section C.I.5 - Research Personnel Facility Access Requirements and Restrictions](#) provides more information.

Award(s) under this announcement are not restricted to U.S. citizens, but access to DoD facilities is limited for non-U.S. citizens, which could add coordination challenges. An objective of this uCoE is to establish relationships between researchers at the performing universities, AFOSR, and the relevant AFRL Directorates. If relevant, proposals should include information on U.S. and non-U.S. personnel, describing their roles in the research effort.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

I. AWARD INFORMATION

AFOSR anticipates making at least one grant award, though potentially two grant awards, based on proposal quality and funding availability from this announcement. Any award(s) made under this competition will support a University Center of Excellence (uCoE) in “Compositional Optimization, Dynamical Systems and Control (CODAC)” and is subject to the availability of funds. AFOSR executes discretionary research and development funds appropriated to the USAF and the USSF for awards. AFOSR can only make award(s) if sufficient funds are available.

AFOSR anticipates the grant award(s) will be to a team(s) comprising of about 5 - 7 members, with an award value not to exceed \$1,150,000 per year, for a maximum of five years. The grant award will consist of a three-year basic funding period and a two-year optional funding period depending upon the success of the basic period, with a potential total funded ceiling on the grant award(s) of \$5,750,000. The determination whether to exercise the two-year option will be dependent upon the uCoE passing a midterm “go / no-go” review at the 2.5-year point. All funding decisions are at the Government’s discretion and are subject to the availability of funds.

The AFOSR reserves the right to fund all, some, a portion of a proposal, or none of the proposals received under this announcement. The total amount of funding and the number of teams funded may vary based on the quality of the proposals received, and the availability of funds. AFOSR will provide no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs.

The award start date is determined at the time of the award but is most likely projected for an **early September 2025** start date.

Authority for award under this competition is established at [10 U.S.C. 2192\(b\)\(1\)\(B\)](#) for improvement of education in technical fields, and [10 U.S.C. 4001](#) for basic and applied research.

Technical and budget proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to this announcement will not be returned. It is the policy of AFOSR to treat all white papers and proposals submitted under this announcement as sensitive competitive information and to disclose their contents only for the purposes of evaluation.

II. KEY DATES

Reference the [key dates table](#) in the Summary Funding Opportunity Information section.

C. ELIGIBILITY

I. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

1. Qualified and Responsible United States Educational Institutions

You are eligible to submit an application if you are a qualified and responsible educational institution in the United States as defined at 10 U.S.C. 2194.

Educational institution means a local educational agency, college, university, or any other nonprofit institution dedicated to improving science, mathematics, and engineering education. No other entities are eligible to submit applications under this competition. Any entities receiving subawards must meet these same criteria.

2. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) / Minority Institutions (MI), Tribal College and University Applicants Encouraged

Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges and Universities are encouraged to submit research proposals and join others in submitting proposals. However, no funds under this announcement are reserved or otherwise set-aside for any specific entity type.

3. Eligibility Notice for All Applicants

We review your application, proposal, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designated repositories of government-wide public and non-public data, including comments you have made, as required by 31 U.S.C. 3321 and 41 U.S.C. 2313 and described in 2 CFR 200.205 and 32 CFR 22.410 to assess risk posed by applicants, and confirm applicants are qualified, responsible, and eligible to receive an award. If we cannot determine you or your organization qualified and responsible, you are not eligible to receive an award.

4. Ineligible Entities

None of the following entity types are eligible to submit proposals as primary or subaward recipients under this announcement:

- i. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)
- ii. Individual persons or people
- iii. Foreign entities.
- iv. Military universities, warfare centers, and DoD and civilian agency laboratories are not eligible to receive an award under this announcement and must not submit either white papers or applications in response to this announcement.
- v. For-profit institutions.
- vi. Federal agencies

Ineligible entities may collaborate on the research but may not receive CODAC uCoE funds directly or via subaward.

5. Research Personnel Facility Access Requirements and Restrictions

A key aspect of this uCoE is workforce development. It is envisioned that students and post-docs working under this uCoE be able to collaborate with AFRL personnel at AFRL laboratories and facilities. As such, we require that any students and post-docs funded by this uCoE be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Additionally, AFRL contains facilities and equipment that could be useful to the uCoE. Access to these facilities is restricted to U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

6. Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants

- i. AFOSR must review information available about you and entities included in your proposal through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification and financial integrity information. Our risk review is required by [31 U.S.C. 3321](#) and [41 U.S.C. 2313](#) and includes both public and non-public information.

You must be qualified and responsible as described at [32 CFR 22.415 Standards](#) to receive a grant award.

- ii. AFOSR must consider the non-public segment of the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) within the System for Award Management (SAM) for all awards exceeding the current simplified acquisition threshold of \$250,000.
- iii. At a minimum, the information in the system for a prior Federal award recipient must demonstrate a satisfactory record of executing programs or activities under Federal grants, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards; and integrity and business ethics. We will consider any comments you provide, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, when making our risk judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards.

AFOSR may make an award to a recipient who does not fully meet our standards as described at [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)\(2\)](#) if it is determined that the information is not relevant to the current Federal award under consideration or there are specific conditions that can appropriately mitigate the effects of the non-Federal entity's risk in accordance with [2 CFR 200.208](#) Specific conditions.

- iv. AFOSR must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment described in [2 CFR 200.214](#) and must require you to comply with these provisions for all work we fund.

These provisions restrict Federal awards, sub-awards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal programs or activities.

II. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) / CONFLICT OF COMMITMENT (COC)

1. Disclosure of COI / COC for covered individuals

This announcement requires that all current and pending research support, as defined by Section 223 of the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act must be disclosed at the time of proposal, for all covered individuals. Such disclosure will be updated annually during the performance of any research project selected for funding, and whenever covered individual are added or identified as performing

under this project. Covered Individuals are those who are listed as key personnel on proposals including but not restricted to the principal investigator or co-principal investigator.

Any decision to accept a proposal for funding under this announcement will include full reliance on the applicant's statements. Failure to report fully and completely all sources of project support and outside positions and affiliations may be considered a materials statement within the meaning of the federal False Claims Act, and constitute a violation of law.

The funding agency may conduct a pre-award conflict of interest/conflict of commitment review of any proposal selected for funding, as defined in the National Security Strategy for United States Government-Supported Research and Development (NSPM-33). Offerors are advised that any significant conflict of interest/conflict of commitment identified may be a basis for the rejection of an otherwise awardable proposal.

(1) General Requirement for Disclosure

You and your organization must disclose any potential or actual scientific or non-scientific Conflict of Interest(s) to us. You must also disclose any potential or actual conflict(s) of interest for any subrecipient you include in your proposal.

You must provide enough information for us to evaluate your disclosure. We may have to ask you more questions if we need more information.

At our discretion, we may ask you for a conflict of interest/conflict-of-interest mitigation plan after you submit your proposal. Your plan is subject to our approval.

(2) Scientific Conflict of Interest

Scientific collaborations on research and development projects are generally the result of close collaboration prior to the submission of applications for support. Accordingly, virtually all of these collaborations might be considered to include a potential conflict of interest. The potential conflict is mitigated by the disclosure of these collaborations, and the list of current and pending support you provide for senior and key researchers.

2. Codes of Conduct

Applicants for assistance are required to comply with [2 CFR 200.318\(c\)](#), to prevent real or apparent conflicts of interest in the award and administration of any contracts by which a recipient or subrecipient purchases property or services, supported by federal funds.

III. COST SHARING OR MATCHING

Cost sharing or matching is neither required nor an evaluation criterion for proposals under this announcement.

IV. OTHER

1. Acknowledgment of Support and Disclaimer Requirements

You must acknowledge support provided by the Government in all materials based on or developed under our awards. The requirement extends to copyrighted and non-copyrighted materials published or displayed in any medium.

The following language must be used unless the award document provides different instructions:

“This material is based upon work supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research under award number FA9550-25-X-XXXX”.

Some materials based on or developed under our awards must include special disclaimer language. You must include this language in all materials except scientific articles or papers published in scientific journals unless your award document provides different instructions:

“Any opinions, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Defense.”

You must require any sub-recipients or subcontractors under a resultant award from this announcement to include this acknowledgment, too.

You are not eligible to submit a proposal if you cannot accept these terms.

2. Expectation of Public Dissemination of Research Results

AFOSR expects public dissemination of research results if you receive an award. This is a basic requirement for unclassified research results.

AFOSR intends, to the fullest extent possible, to make available to the public all unclassified, unlimited peer-reviewed scholarly publications and digitally formatted scientific data arising from research and programs funded wholly or in part by the DoD as described in the OUSD, AT&L Memorandum, ["Public Access to Department of Defense-Funded Research"](#) dated 9 July 2014.

AFOSR follows [DoD Instruction 5230.24](#) and [DoD Instruction 5230.27](#) policies and procedures to ensure broad dissemination of unclassified research results to the public and within the Government. The [DoD Instruction 5230.27](#) policy and procedures allowing publication and public presentation of unclassified fundamental research results will apply to all research proposed under this competition unless you are given an explicit, written exclusion to these policies from the AFOSR Program Officer and Grants Officer. All exclusions must be authorized or required by law and must cite a valid legal authority.

You must provide a copy of all peer-reviewed publications developed or produced from research conducted with Air Force and Space Force funds to our Program Officer.

You are not eligible to submit a proposal if you cannot accept these terms.

3. Security Risk Review

- (1) **Security Risk Review.** Each proposal submission will be subject to a Security Risk Review prior to selection for award. The Security Risk Review is applied to federally funded research designed to help protect Department of the Air Force Science and Technology (S&T) by identifying possible vectors of undue foreign influence. AFRL will follow all policy and procedures outlined in Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Instruction AFRLI 61-113, Science and Technology Protection for the Air Force Research Laboratory and Department of the Air Force Instruction DAFI 63-101/20-101, Integrated Lifecycle Management or as otherwise required by the Department of the Air Force or the Department of Defense. Those submitting proposals are advised that any significant conflict of interest/conflict of commitment identified may be a basis for the rejection of an otherwise awardable proposal. The funding agency may also conduct subsequent conflict of interest/conflict of commitment reviews of proposals after their selection for funding. Offerors are advised that any significant conflict of interest/conflict of commitment identified may be a basis for the termination of an awarded proposal. Submission of a proposal constitutes consent by the submitter to the initial and any subsequent reviews.
- (2) **Security risk review for these subject proposals will be developed for all proposed Senior/Key personnel and “Covered Individuals”.** These risk reviews will be based on information disclosed in a Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile and Security Questionnaire. In addition, any accompanying or referenced documents, publicly available information, and information contained in internal U.S. Government databases will be utilized in risk reviews. Nationality or citizenship is not a factor in the security risk reviews.
- (3) **External Engagements.** When considering all external engagements, AFRL incorporates a holistic decision-making process that encompasses technical and security factors. The security review method implemented by AFRL measures risk factors to identify the appropriate Risk Acceptance Level (RAL) within the organization. The objective analysis of the security risk factors is conducted to empower AFRL’s S&T leaders to make risk-informed decisions. The review process generally looks at five factors, or risk areas, but with authority for expanded review as noted in OSD R&E Memorandum dated 6 Jun 2023. The potential security risk factors are set forth below:

Potential security risk factors:

(1) Foreign Talent Program	(2) Funding	(3) Foreign Institutions	(4) Denied Entities	(5) U.S. Government Systems
Indicators of active and past participation or sponsorship in a strategic competitor Foreign Talent Program with history of targeting U.S. research or technology.	Indicators of active, historical, or pattern of conflict of interest, conflict of commitment, or pattern of direct funding from a strategic competitor or country with history of targeting U.S. research or technology.	Indicators of active, historical, or pattern of association with direct affiliation, collaboration with a foreign institution, person, or entity associated with a strategic competitor or country with history of targeting U.S. research or technology.	Indicators of an active affiliation or past affiliation or present association with an entity on the U.S. Gov't denied entity or person list or EO 13959 or subsequent similar issuances	Indicators that may reside in safeguarded U.S. government environments, according to its ascribed classification and not releasable for public consumption.

(4) Actions Required by Applicants/Recipients at Proposal Submission.

In accordance with AFRLI 61-113, S&T Protection, Applicants/Recipients are required to submit the following documentation with their proposal:

- (a) Standard Form 424, "Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile (Expanded) AND;
 - (b) Security Program Questionnaire (See **Appendix 1**) AND;
 - (c) "Privacy Act Statement" consent form for each Covered Individual that is also signed by the Applicants/Recipients as that Individual's Sponsor. (See "Covered Individual" section below, and **Appendix 2**)
- (i) In the event a security risk is identified, and the Government has determined the security risk exceeds the acceptable threshold, the Applicant/Recipient will be notified and informed of the decline of award. **The Government will only provide a general statement of the reasoning due to Government OPSEC measures.**
 - (ii) By submission of the Research and Related Senior Key Person Profile and Security Program Questionnaire, the Applicant/Recipient agrees to comply with the following:
 - (a) To certify that each covered individual who is listed on the application has been made aware: 1) of all relevant disclosure requirements, including the requirements of 42 U.S.C. § 6605; and 2) that false representations may be subject to prosecution and liability pursuant to, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. §§287, 1001, 1031 and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3802. See National Science and Technology Council Guidance for Implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33) on National Security Strategy for United States Government-Supported Research and Development (January 2022).
 - (b) To establish and maintain an internal process or procedure to

address foreign talent programs, conflicts of commitment, conflicts of interest, and research integrity.

(c) To exercise 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.

(5) Action Required by Covered Individuals

- (i) Covered Individual. An individual who contributes to a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of a research and development project proposed to be carried out with a research and development award from a federal research agency; and is designated as a covered individual by the federal research agency concerned. See 42 U.S.C. § 6605, Definitions. (Note: For purposes of a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) solicitation, “covered individuals” are all Senior/Key Personnel.)
- (ii) Federal law requires that all current and pending research support, as defined by 42 U.S.C. §6605, must be disclosed at the time of proposal submission, for all covered individuals. The Government may require an updated disclosure during the performance of any research project selected for funding. The Government will require an updated disclosure whenever covered individuals are added or identified as performing under the funded project.
- (iii) Covered Individuals are also required to sign the “Privacy Act Statement” and provide such signed statement to the Applicant/Recipient for submission with the proposal. (See **Appendix 2**)
- (iv) Any decision to accept a proposal for funding under this announcement will include full reliance on the individual’s statements. Failure to report fully and completely all sources of project support and outside positions and affiliations may be considered a material statement within the meaning of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. 3729, and constitute a violation of Federal law.

(6) Actions required by Applicants/Recipients during period of performance

- (i) Applicant/Recipient will be required to re-submit the Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile as an annual requirement. In

addition, whenever a new covered individual(s) is to be added or identified as performing under the funded project, a new Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile will be required prior to continued performance.

- (ii) If, at any time, during performance of this award, the Applicant/Recipient learns that its Senior/Key Research Personnel (including any sub awardee personnel who receive this designation) 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 Applicant/Recipient will notify the Contracting/Grants/Agreements Officer within 5 business days of awareness.
- (iii) This disclosure must include specific information as to the personnel involved and the nature of the situation and relationship. The Government will review this information and conduct any necessary fact-finding or discussion with the Applicant/Recipient. The Government's determination on disclosure may include acceptance, mitigation, or termination of the award.
- (iv) Failure of the Applicant/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 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.
- (v) The Applicant/Recipient will be required to flow down this provision to all sub awardees who have personnel designated as Senior/Key Research Personnel as a result of their involvement in the performance of the research.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

I. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

The application and submission process are completed **in two-stages**:

1. White Paper submission by email to <https://community.apan.org/wg/afosr/p/submitawhitepaper>. **(Required)**
2. Proposal Submission Package via grants.gov. **(Required)**

(This is by invitation only)

II. WHITE PAPER TECHNICAL Q&A'S AND WHITE PAPER SUBMISSION

1. Pre-white paper Inquiries

All pre-white paper Q&A's related to the technical requirements of this announcement shall be submitted in writing only to the following email address: Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil by the cut off date listed in the [Key Dates table](#). Please include in the subject line "CODAC uCoE Pre-White Paper Inquiry".

Please note: No direct communications with AFRL Technical personnel related to this announcement will be permitted until award selection and non-selection notices are issued. All questions and inquiries shall be submitted in writing to the email address: Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil by the cut off dates listed in [Key Dates table](#).

Your questions will generally be consolidated with other questions and posted on Grants.gov so everyone gets the same information. AFOSR may provide an individual response by email if your question does not apply to anyone else. Pre-White Paper Q&A's will be posted/emailed per the date identified in the [Key Dates table](#).

AFRL technical personnel do not have the authority to make commitments for the government. Only Grants and Contracting Officers acting within their warranted capacity are the people authorized to make commitments for the Government.

2. White Paper Content

White Papers summarizing the proposing team's scientific approaches are required to be eligible for the next stage in this two-stage solicitation, are limited to a four (4) page limit, single-sided, and shall contain:

- i. What – the scientific objective is;
- ii. Why – what is being proposed is scientifically interesting and relevant to the uCoE objectives, and;
- iii. How – the scientific approaches will be investigated with the supporting logic and key elements of the proposed scientific approaches identified.

3. White Paper Evaluation Criteria

White Papers will be evaluated in accordance with all evaluation criteria in [Section E.I](#) (Principal Evaluation Criteria and Additional Evaluation Criteria).

4. White Paper Submission

White papers are a **MANDATORY** component for this two-stage application and submission process to minimize the labor and costs associated with the production of detailed Proposal Submission Packages that have very little chance of being selected for funding.

If you do not submit a White Paper before the due date and time, you will not be eligible to participate in the remaining Proposal submission process and are not eligible for funding.

White Papers shall be submitted via <https://community.apan.org/wg/afosr/p/submitawhitepaper> by the cutoff date listed in the [Key Dates table](#).

AFOSR and the AFRL TDs will provide feedback on white papers reviewed and will share responsibility for ensuring the success of the uCoE.

White Paper Feedback and Notice of Selection or Non-Selection for a Proposal Submission Invitation will be provided by email from the Grants Officer to the Applicant email addresses cited in the White Paper submission by the date listed in the [Key Dates table](#).

III. PROPOSAL APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Address to Request Application Package

All the application forms you need are available electronically on [Grants.gov](#). From the “View Grant Opportunity” page, select the “Application Package” tab to download the application package.

You can find the electronic application package on [Grants.gov](#) by searching for the announcement number shown on page one. Paper copies of this announcement will not be issued.

2. Pre-proposal Inquiries

All pre-proposal Q&A's related to this announcement shall be submitted in writing only to the following email address: Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil by the cutoff date listed in the [Key Dates table](#). Please include in the subject line "CODAC uCoE Pre-Proposal Inquiry".

3. The Proposal Application as a Whole

You must submit your proposal electronically through Grants.gov. AFOSR will not accept or evaluate any proposal submitted by any means other than through Grants.gov. AFOSR must receive your proposal electronically through Grants.gov by the cutoff date listed in the [Key Dates table](#) to be considered for selection. This is the final due date. We recommend you submit your application early.

You must use the electronic Standard Form (SF) 424 Research and Related (R&R) Form Family, OMB Number 4040-0001. The SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal assistance form must be your cover page. No pages may precede the SF 424 (R&R).

You must mark your application with the announcement number.

A summary of what is required for a complete proposal is summarized below:

- We require the forms and attachments in **bold text** with all applications.
- *Some applications* require the attachments in *italic if applicable*.
- More instructions are provided in the Section titled [Component Pieces of the Application](#).

R&R FORM, OMB No. 4040-0001	FIELD	ATTACHMENT
SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance, including an authorized Signature (Required)	18.	SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities per instructions in Section D.V.2. (If Applicable)
R&R Other Project Information Form (Required)	7.	Project Abstract Summary (Required)
	8.	Project Narrative (Required)
	9.	Bibliography & References Cited (Required)
	10.	<i>Facilities and Other Resources (If Applicable)</i>

	11.	<i>Equipment (If Applicable)</i>
	12.	<i>Other Attachments (If Applicable)</i>
<u>R&R Senior / Key Person Profile Form (Expanded) (Required)</u>		Biographical Sketch (Required)
		Current & Pending Support (Required)
<u>R&R Personal Data Form (Optional)</u>		None
<u>R&R Budget Form (Required)</u>		<u>Budget Justification (Required)</u>
<i>R&R Subaward Budget Attachments Form (If Applicable)</i>		<u>Subaward Budget & Justification (If Applicable)</u>
<u>R&R Project / Performance Site Locations Form (Required)</u>		None

The SF 424 (R&R) must include the signature of an authorized representative from your organization. The signature is affixed electronically by [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) upon submission.

This signature is considered the signature for the application as a whole.

4. Proposal Format

- i. Paper Size – 8.5 X 11-inch paper
- ii. Margins – 1 inch
- iii. Spacing – 1.5 line spacing
- iv. Font – Times New Roman, 12 point
- v. Page Limitations – Reference [table below](#).
- vi. Attachments – Electronic Portable Document Format (PDF)
- vii. Content – As described below

5. Proposal Length / Page Limitations

You must not include elaborate brochures, reprints, or presentations beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective proposal.

We created this table to help you understand how to calculate your page count.

INCLUDED IN PAGE COUNT	NOT INCLUDED IN PAGE COUNT
<u>Publicly Releasable Project Abstract Summary (Required)</u> <u>must not exceed 300 words</u> <u>Project Narrative (Required)</u> <u>As a whole, must not exceed thirty-five (35) single-sided pages</u> <u>Within the Project Narrative – the Statement of Objectives (Required)</u> <u>Must not exceed one (1) single-sided page</u> <u>Data Management Plan (Optional)</u> <u>must not exceed two (2) single-sided pages</u>	Everything else

6. No Confidential or Proprietary / Privileged Information

You **must not** include confidential or proprietary / privileged information in your proposal. AFOSR will not consider your proposal if you include confidential or proprietary / privileged information, or place restrictive markings on any part of your proposal.

7. Electronic Form and Proposal Attachments

Your application and proposal attachments must be in electronic file formats. You should use the Portable Document Format (PDF) for your attachments. DO NOT password protect any attachments. The following website <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility> provides additional important instructions.

IV. GRANTS.GOV APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND RECEIPT PROCEDURES

1. How to Register to Apply through Grants.gov

Instructions: Read the instructions below about registering to apply for AFOSR funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration

process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here:

<https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration>

(1) Obtain an ORCID for all key personnel. All individuals listed on the Senior/Key Person form must have an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID). As of September of 2024, the DoD is requiring all proposers to include a digital persistent identifier (DPI) for each senior or key person listed in a proposal. The DoD will require proposers to include the ORCID number for each senior or key person listed in a proposal for an assistance award for R&D. ORCID numbers will be used since ORCID is currently the only DPI provider that meets the requirements for DPI common or core standards in the NSTC NSPM-33 implementation guidance.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining an ORCID number, refer to: [How do I register for an ORCID ID? | ORCID](#)

(2) Obtain a UEI Number: All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

As of April of 2022, the federal government stopped using the DUNS number to uniquely identify entities registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). At that point, entities doing business with the federal government will use a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) created in SAM.gov. They will no longer have to go to a third-party website to obtain their identifier. Active registrants will have their UEI assigned and viewable within SAM.gov; there is no action for registered entities to take at this time.

This transition allows Federal Agencies to streamline the entity identification and validation process, making it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the federal government.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number, refer to:

<https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>.

(3) Register with SAM

In addition to having a UEI number, organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). All organizations must register with SAM in order to apply online. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>.

(4) Create a Grants.gov Account

The next step in the registration process is to create an account with Grants.gov. Applicants must know their organization's UEI number to complete this process. Completing this process automatically triggers an email request for applicant roles to the organization's E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) for review. The EBiz POC is a representative from your organization who is the contact listed for SAM. To apply for grants on behalf of your organization, you will need the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) role.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration>

(5) Authorize Grants.gov Roles

After creating an account on Grants.gov, the EBiz POC receives an email notifying them of your registration and request for roles. The EBiz POC will then log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been approved as an AOR.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://apply07.grants.gov/help/html/help/index.htm?callingApp=custom#callingApp=custom&t=Register%2FAddProfile.htm>

(6) Track Role Status

To track your role request, refer to: <https://grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration>

(7) Electronic Signature

When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization's AOR that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize individuals who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as an AOR; this step is often missed, and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.

2. How to Submit an Application to AFOSR via Grants.gov

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different web forms within an application. For each broad agency announcement (BAA) or notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), you can create individual instances of a workspace.

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to:

<https://grants.gov/applicants/grant-applications/how-to-apply-for-grants>.

Create a Workspace

Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.

Complete a Workspace

Add participants to the workspace, complete all the required forms, and check for errors before submission.

- i. Adobe Reader: If you decide not to apply by filling out web forms you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace so that they will appear similar to other Standard or administering agency forms. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drives, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at:

<https://www.grants.gov/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility>

- ii. **Mandatory Fields in Forms:** In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.
- iii. **Complete SF-424 Fields First:** The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant's name, address, and UEI number. To trigger this feature, an applicant must complete the SF-424 information first. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.

Submit a Workspace

An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

Track a Workspace

After successfully submitting a workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to:
<https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-training>.

Applicant Support

Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist the administering agency with tracking your issue and understanding background information on the issue.

V. COMPONENT PIECES OF THE APPLICATION

1. SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form (Required)

The SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal assistance form must be your cover page. No pages may precede the SF 424 (R&R).

Complete all required fields in accordance with the “pop-up” instructions on the SF 424 (R&R) form. The completion of most fields is self-explanatory. You can turn on Grants.gov “Help Mode” to provide additional instructions for forms. “Help Mode” is turned on by the icon with the pointer and question mark at the top of the form.

Below are AFOSR special instructions for completion of several SF 424 (R&R) form fields in your application:

FIELD	INSTRUCTION
2.	You may leave “Applicant Identifier” blank
3.	You may leave “Date Received by State” and “State Application Identifier” blank
9.	You must list Air Force Office of Scientific Research as the reviewing agency if Grants.gov has not pre-populated this answer
10.	You must list the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number as 12.800 - Air Force Defense Research Sciences Program
16.	You should check “No” and “Program is Not Covered by Executive Order 12372”
17.	By selecting “I Agree” on the SF 424 (R&R) block 17 you agree to abide by the following statement: “By signing this application, I certify that all statements in the proposal and Internal Confidentiality Agreements are true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge, and certify to comply with all Section F.III. Administrative & National Policy Requirements . I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001. ”
18.	If applicable, you must attach the SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form if your grant amount exceeds \$100,000 and have lobbying activity that you must disclose.
20.	Pre-application attachment - Attach a copy of the invitation to submit full proposal email received in response to your white paper submission.

2. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Form (If Applicable)

If you have lobbying activity that you must disclose under [31 U.S.C. 1352](#) as implemented by the DoD at [32 CFR Part 28](#), you must attach the completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Form to *field 18 of the R&R Other Project Information Form*. *This attachment is not included in your page count.* You can find instructions for completing this form at: <https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/r-r-family>.

3. R&R Other Project Information Form (Required)

Complete this form as indicated. You must include all necessary attachments.

FIELD	INSTRUCTION
1, 1a.	You must address all prospective human subject involvement by answering these questions. Additional documentation pursuant to National Policy and U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force standards is required for all proposals with human use research or involvement.
2, 2a	You must address all prospective animal subject and/or recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (rDNA) involvement by answering these questions. Additional documentation pursuant to National Policy and U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force standards is required for all proposals with animal or rDNA research or involvement.
3.	You must not include confidential, or proprietary/privileged information in your proposal. AFOSR will not consider your proposal if you include confidential or proprietary/privileged information, or place restrictive markings on any part of your proposal.
4a.	For any proposal that has an actual or potential impact on the environment, answer yes and provide the answers and attachments required for fields 4b, 4c, and 4d. Additional documentation in accordance with National Policy and U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force standards is required for any proposal with an actual or potential impact on the environment.
5.	Is the research performance site designated, or eligible to be designated, as a historic place? Select "Yes" or "No".
5.a.	If you checked the "Yes" box indicating any performance site is designated, or eligible to be designated, as a historic place, provide the explanation in Block 5.a.
6.	Does this project involve activities outside of the United States or partnerships with international collaborators? Select "Yes" or "No".

6.a.	If you checked the “Yes” box identify the countries with which international cooperative activities are involved.
6.b.	Enter an explanation for involvement with outside entities (optional).
7.	Attach your Section D.V.4 R&R Publicly Releasable Project Abstract Summary
8.	Attach your Section D.V.5 Project Narrative
9.	Attach your Section D.V.6 Bibliography and References Cited
10.	Attach a Facilities and Other Resources description document here if you need to supplement Section D.V.5.iv Project Narrative – Your Facilities and Resources .
11.	You may supplement your Section D.V.11. Budget Justification by attaching an Equipment Justification here. Do not duplicate information included on your budget justification. If you attach an Equipment Justification, make sure you reference the attachment in your budget justification.
12.	Attach the Section D.V.11. R&R Subaward Budget Attachments Form if applicable and not attached elsewhere. You should have budgets for all subawards proposed attached within this form before attachment. Attach all Section D.V.10. Subaward Budget Justifications as applicable, and attach your Section D.V.14. Data Management Plan here if applicable.

4. R&R Publicly Releasable Project Abstract Summary (Required)

You must attach the publicly releasable Project Abstract Summary to field 7 of the R&R Other Project Information form. This attachment is included in your page count.

- i. You **must** submit a concise Project Abstract Summary of your research as an attachment to your proposal submission, this form is located on the “Related Documents” tab of grants.gov. The abstract must be 300 words or less. **You must mark this abstract publicly releasable.** Your abstract must be a version that is releasable under the Freedom of Information Act without changes. Your abstract should use terms the public can understand to describe the research objective, technical approach, anticipated outcome, and potential impact of the specific research.

Enter the Project Abstract Summary on the form as a single block of plain text. Do not use special formatting such as line breaks, tables, or superscript/subscript. Do not use special characters or symbols such

as μ , λ , γ , π , $\&$, \therefore , $/$, \backslash , $"$, or $?$.

- ii. If you receive an award, AFOSR must publish your abstract to a searchable website available to the general public in accordance with in the OUSD, AT&L Memorandum, [“Public Access to Department of Defense-Funded Research”](#) dated 9 July 2014. The website address is <https://discover.dtic.mil/products-services/>.

5. Project Narrative (Required)

*Your project narrative **must not** be longer than thirty-five (35) single-side pages. We will not consider any pages beyond the maximum in our evaluation. You must attach the Project Narrative to field 8 of the R&R Other Project Information Form. The narrative must be complete and self-contained to qualify for review. This attachment is included in your page count.*

You must clearly describe the research, including the research objective and approach. Your project narrative will be evaluated [per the evaluation criteria in Section E.I](#). You should show strength in as many of the evaluation and selection areas as practicable to demonstrate maximum competitiveness.

You shall describe any environmental impacts of your research outside the laboratory in any appropriate narrative section, including how you will ensure compliance with environmental statutes and regulations.

Your project narrative shall include the following elements:

i. Project Narrative - Statement of Objectives

You must summarize your proposed research on no more than one (1) single-sided page titled “Statement of Objectives.” AFOSR may decide to incorporate your statement of objectives into the award instead of incorporating the whole technical proposal. It should not contain confidential, or proprietary/privileged information.

You should use active verbs when you prepare the statement of objectives, e.g., “conduct” research in a subject area, “investigate” a problem, “determine” to test a hypothesis.

ii. Project Narrative - Research Effort

You should describe in detail the research you plan to perform. State the research objectives and approach, and the relationship and comparable objectives to research progress elsewhere. Describe your research team's knowledge in the field and provide a bibliography and list of literature citations. Discuss the nature of the expected results. The adequacy of this information will influence the overall evaluation in accordance with the criteria [in Section E.I.](#)

iii. Project Narrative - Principal Investigator (PI) and Senior Personnel Time

- (a) You must provide an estimate of the time the principal investigator and other senior professional personnel will devote to the research; this information is required on the budget pages. Your estimate must include information pertaining to the proportion of time that is anticipated to be devoted to this research. You must also include information pertaining to other commitments of time such as other research, sabbatical, extended leave, and teaching duties.
- (b) State the number of graduate students for whom each senior staff member is responsible.
- (c) If your principal investigator or other key personnel have current, pending, or expected research supported by other sponsors or agencies during the period you seek our support provide a short abstract to include: the title of the other research, the objectives, the approach, the proportion of time to be devoted to it, the amount of support, the budget, the name of agency, dates, etc. Send any changes in this information as soon as they are known.

You must attach a list of Current and Pending Support for each person listed on the [Section D.V.7 R&R Senior / Key Person Profile Form](#). Each abstract should include the title of the other research, the objectives, the approach, the proportion of time to be devoted to it, the amount of support, the budget, the name of the agency, dates, etc. for both present and pending research projects.

We should be notified of any changes to this information as soon as they become known.

iv. Project Narrative - Your Facilities & Resources

- (a) Describe the facilities and resources available for performing the proposed research, and any additional facilities or equipment the organization proposes to acquire at its own expense for the work.
- (b) Indicate any government-owned facilities that will be used. Indicate any government-owned equipment possessed presently that will be used. The facilities contract number, or in absence of a facilities contract, the specifics of the facilities or equipment, and the number of the award under which they are accountable are required.

v. Project Narrative - Government Furnished Equipment

You may list any special Government-owned property or test equipment required to complete the research. When possible and practicable, give a description or title for each item, the current location, and an estimated cost as applicable. If you do not have information about individual items, group items you require by class and provide an estimate of values.

vi. Project Narrative - High-Performance Computing Requirements

You may be eligible to use DOD high-performance computing resources at no cost to your research. You should address utilization of this program if you need high-performance computing cycles to meet the needs of your research. This program provides access to a range of state-of-the-art high-performance computing assets and user training opportunities that can be used in some of our awards; special terms and conditions apply. You can review the details, capabilities, and requirements of the program at <http://www.hpc.mil/>.

The AFOSR Program Officer or an AFRL Technical Representative will help you establish an account if your proposal is selected for an award. Any questions related to this topic shall be submitted in writing prior to your proposal submission to the following email address:

Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil. Pre-proposal submission questions should be received by the cutoff date listed in the [Key Dates table](#). Please include in the subject line "CODAC uCoE Pre-proposal Inquiry".

vii. Disclosure of Foreign National and Dual Citizenship Personnel

As described in [Section C.I.5. Research Personnel Facility Access Requirements and Restrictions](#), you must identify any planned foreign national personnel, including information to support permanent resident status with work authorization. The following foreign national personal data must be included:

- (a) Full name and any other names used;
- (b) Country or countries of citizenship;
- (c) Date and place of birth;
- (d) Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) type; and
- (e) Green Card issue and expiration date.

6. Bibliography and References Cited (Required)

You must attach your narrative Bibliography and References to field 9 of the R&R Other Project Information Form. This attachment is not included in your page count.

7. R&R Senior / Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form (Required)

You must attach a short biographical sketch and list of significant publications (vitae) for each Senior/Key Person. You must also attach a list of current and pending support as discussed in Principal Investigator (PI) and Senior Personnel Time.

You must list all key persons proposed for the research on the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form. Key persons are generally the PI, any Co-PIs, and senior staff. We use this information to evaluate the qualifications of you and your research team.

To evaluate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. A subsection 1681 Et. Seq.), the 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 STEM disciplines. To enable this assessment, each applicant must include this form completed as indicated.

The Credential, e.g., agency login field will be used by DoD to track ORCID for each researcher. In addition to the required fields on the form, applicants must complete this field for all individuals that are identified on the form.

The Degree Type and Degree Year Fields will be used by DoD as the source for career information. In addition to the required fields on the form, applicants must complete these two fields for all individuals that are identified as having the project role of PD/PI or Co- PD/PI on the form. Additional senior/key persons can be added by selecting the “Next Person” button.

8. R&R Personal Data Form (Optional)

You can decide if you want to include the R&R Personal Data Form with your proposal. We use this form to understand demographic information about senior and key persons identified in applications. We do not consider information on this form as part of our evaluation or selection process.

9. R&R Prime (Applicant) Budget Form (Required)

This form is not included in your page count.

You shall provide all information requested. You **must** estimate the total research project cost / price.

You **must** categorize funds by year and provide separate annual budgets for projects lasting more than one year.

A budget justification **must** be attached.

You **must** include enough budget related information in your proposal [to support your cost / pricing as allowable, reasonable, allocable, and realistic, and in compliance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles.](#)

Not having enough information in your proposal to understand if your cost / pricing is reasonable and realistic is the most common reason awards are delayed.

10. R&R Subaward Budget Form & Subaward Budget Justification (If Applicable)

This form is not included in your page count. Attachments to this form are not

included in your page count.

If you plan any subaward(s), you must provide a budget and budget justification using the same requirements established for your prime (applicant) budget and budget justification.

AFOSR cannot make an award to you unless we can determine the subaward cost / pricing is [allowable, reasonable, allocable, and realistic, and in compliance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles](#).

Not having enough information in your subaward budget(s) or budget justification(s) can cause significant delays for awards.

11. R&R Subaward Budget Attachments Form (If Applicable)

You must attach all subaward budgets to the R&R Subaward Budget Attachments Form.

You must provide a budget at the same level of detail as your [Section D.V.9 Prime \(Applicant\) Budget](#) for each proposed subaward.

You must attach the R&R Subaward Budget Attachments Form to field 12 of the R&R Other Project Information Form.

12. Prime (Applicant) Budget Justification (Required)

This attachment is not included in your page count.

You must provide a detailed budget justification for each year that clearly explains the need for each item. The entire budget justification and supporting documentation must be combined into a single file and attached to field L of the R&R Budget Form.

(a) You should identify how salary compensation for research labor proposed was determined necessary and fair and reasonable for the budget proposed. An explanation of what each labor category will contribute towards the project should be provided. If wages proposed are based on current and actual salaries this should be stated in the budget justification.

(b) If fringe benefits are proposed, you must justify this cost, identify

what is encompassed in this cost, and identify how this cost was determined. If based on a DHHS / ONR Rate Agreement, you must include this in your budget justification.

- (c) You must justify the need for and itemize all materials, supplies, and equipment. List all material, supplies, and equipment by type and kind with associated cost / pricing. Indicate what your cost / pricing is based on, such as vendor quotes, historical data, and/or engineering estimates. Vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data, and historical data must be included if that is the basis of estimate.
- (d) You must justify and itemize all travel. State the purpose of each trip proposed, the number of trips, the number of travelers, the destination, the duration, and the basis for calculating cost / pricing such as airlines and hotels.

Below is an example table of itemized travel costs:

Purpose of Trip: PI attendance at a domestic scientific conference to disseminate research results									
TRAVEL	Unit	Trips	Travelers	Nights	Days	Proposed Unit Cost	Basis of Estimate (Provide supporting Vendor Quote)	Allowable GSA Per Diem at Destination	Total Travel
Airfare Origin (Insert Location) – Destination (Insert Location)	roundtrip	1	1			\$900	Market Vendor Quote [provide a copy in budget justification]		\$900
Lodging	day	1	1	3		\$75			\$225
Per Diem	day	1	1		3	\$40			\$120
Automobile Rental	day	1	1		3	\$45	Market Vendor Quote [provide a copy in budget justification]		\$135
Conference Fee	per person		1			\$300	Rate is as published on the Conference Website [provide		\$300

						a copy of website pricing in budget justification]	
SUBTOTAL TRAVEL	1	1	3	3			\$1,680

- (e) If tuition, student fees, or student health insurance is proposed, you must justify this cost and clearly indicate and breakdown how this cost was determined. If based on published rates on the University website, a direct link to these rates should be provided.
- (f) If publication costs are proposed, you must justify this cost. Identify the number of anticipated publications per year and which journals publications are anticipated in. Indicate what your cost / pricing is based on, such as publishing quotes, historical data, etc. Publishing quotes and historical data must be included if that is the basis of estimate.
- (g) If facility rental fees or computer services costs are proposed, you must justify this cost, indicate what your cost / pricing is based on. If based on a published rates on the University website, a direct link to these rates should be provided.
- (h) If consultant services are proposed, you must justify this cost and indicate what your cost / pricing is based on. If based on a current consulting agreement, provide a supporting copy which supports cost / pricing information proposed.
- (i) If you have any subaward(s), you must describe how you determined subaward cost / pricing as fair and reasonable. Your business office usually makes this determination.
- (j) If you use a government rate agreement to propose indirect cost rates and / or fringe benefit rates, you must attach a copy of the DHHS / ONR Rate Agreement(s) you used.
- (k) Helpful Cost Principle Reference Information

(1) [2 CFR 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles](#)

(2) General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost in [2 CFR](#)

13. R&R Project / Performance Site Locations Form (Required)

You shall complete all information as requested. You must include the ZIP+4 for each performance location you list.

14. Data Management Plan (Optional)

You can decide if you want to include a Data Management Plan with your application. If you do, attach your Data Management Plan to field 12 of the R&R Other Project Information Form.

Your “Data Management Plan” should not exceed two (2) single-sided pages in length and should discuss:

- (a) The types of data, software, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project, and include a notation marking items that are publicly releasable;
- (b) How the data will be acquired;
- (c) Time and location of data acquisition if they are scientifically pertinent;
- (d) How the data will be processed;
- (e) The file formats and the naming conventions that will be used;
- (f) A description of the quality assurance and quality control measures during collection, analysis, and processing;
- (g) If existing data are to be used, a description of their origins;
- (h) A description of the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content;
- (i) Plans and justifications for archiving the data;
- (j) The timeframe for preservation; and

- (k) If for legitimate reasons the data cannot be preserved, the plan must include a justification citing such reasons.

VI. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The AFOSR Grants Officer may request additional necessary information from you during negotiations, or as required to inform their consideration for award.

You must respond promptly.

If you do not fully comply with our information requests by the time AFOSR is ready to make an award, AFOSR may determine that you are not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Foreign national personnel may be asked to provide a copy of the front and back of their green card by secure means such as <https://safe.apps.mil/>.

If your proposal includes human, animal, or rDNA use or involvement, you must submit all documentation requested during negotiations or you may not receive an award.

VII. UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER (UEI), CAGE, and SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

1. SAM Registration Required

As required in [2 CFR Part 25 Subpart A](#) all applicants, unless exempted, must:

- (a) Be registered in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) before submitting its application;
- (b) Provide a valid unique entity identifier; and
- (c) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times any Federal award is active, or any application is under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

A Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code is obtained or specified as part of the SAM registration process. A CAGE code is required.

2. SAM Exemption or Exceptions Not Available Under This Announcement

An exemption will not be issued to SAM registration under [2 CFR 25.110\(a\)\(1\)](#) for applicants under this announcement.

You must comply with SAM registration requirements and include a UEI and CAGE code on your application or AFOSR cannot make an award.

3. Questions about SAM Registrations and Updates

You can get questions about SAM registration and entity updates answered by live chat at https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp, or by telephone at (866) 606-8220 or +1 (334) 206-7828, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time. Top help topics for SAM.gov are available at https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp.

4. Consequences of Non-Compliance with SAM Registration Requirements

AFOSR cannot make an award to you unless you comply with SAM requirements. If you are non-compliant, AFOSR may determine you are not qualified to receive an award and use that determination to make an award to someone else as authorized by [2 CFR 25.205\(b\)](#). You cannot receive payments without an active SAM record and CAGE code.

VIII. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE AND TIME DETERMINATION

You are responsible for making sure your application is submitted, received, and validated by [Grants.gov](#) before the application deadline. If you submit your application late, your proposal is not eligible for consideration.

1. Pre-proposal Inquiries Deadline

All pre-proposal inquiries related to this announcement shall be submitted in writing only, to the following email address: Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil by the cutoff date listed in the [Key Dates table](#). Please include in the subject line "CODAC uCoE Pre-proposal Inquiry".

2. How Submission Time for Pre-proposal Inquiries is Determined

AFOSR uses the date and time stamp on your email to determine when you submitted pre-proposal correspondence.

3. Effect of Missing Pre-Proposal Inquiries Deadline

AFOSR may not be able to provide responses or answers to late inquiries or questions.

4. Proposal Submission Deadline

AFOSR must receive your proposal via Grants.gov in an online submission **by the cutoff date listed in the [Key Dates table](#).**

Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an acknowledgment of receipt and a tracking number GRANTXXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date / time stamp and Grants.gov tracking number in an email.

A second confirmation is provided by email when your application has passed Grants.gov validation and the status is updated from received to validated.

Your application is not complete until you receive the validation confirmation. Your submission must be validated before the submission deadline.

When the administering agency successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role.

Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date will be counted as late and will not be considered.

Applicants using slow internet, should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email to the applicant with the AOR role. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. *Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.*

5. How Proposal Submission Time is Determined

AFOSR uses the system generated Grants.gov time stamp to determine when you submitted your successfully validated proposal. Grants.gov policies and procedures for application submission and processing apply.

6. Grants.gov Tracking Number is Application Receipt

Grants.gov generates a confirmation page when you submit your application. A second confirmation is provided by email when your application has passed Grants.gov validations and the status is updated from received to validated. Your application is not complete until you receive the validation confirmation.

The validation confirmation page includes a system generated Grants.gov tracking number; this serves as your receipt. You should keep a copy of all confirmations.

You can verify the submission time and application status with your tracking number through Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/grant-applications/track-my-application>.

7. Other Submission Requirements

If Grants.gov [rejects](#) your electronic application submission for any reason, you must correct all errors and resubmit your application before the Proposal submission deadline as outlined in this announcement.

8. Effect of Missing the Proposal Submission Deadline

Grants.gov will not accept your proposal after the submission deadline. AFOSR will not accept proposals submitted other than electronically through Grants.gov.

IX. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Not Applicable – This program is excluded from coverage under [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#).

X. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

1. Proposal Preparation Costs

AFOSR will not reimburse proposal or application costs under this announcement.

Your proposal or application preparation costs are not considered an allowable direct charge to any awards resulting from this announcement.

2. Air Force Office of Scientific Research No Cost Extension (NCE) Policy

We require prior written approval to extend the period of performance, without additional funds, beyond the expiration date of the grant. We only grant no cost extensions when they are truly warranted and properly documented.

For an extension to be granted, all NCE requests must be received from the Principal Investigator (PI), and *at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the grant's period of performance*.

All PIs must submit NCE requests through the following website:
https://community.apan.org/wg/afosr/p/nce_request. AFOSR will no longer accept NCE requests via email. All requests that are submitted through other avenues will have to be re-routed through the above website.

The NCE request must include:

- i. Compelling reason(s) for the extension beyond the use of unexpended balances.
- ii. The original end date and requested extension length.
- iii. An SF 425 showing the unexpended funds remaining.
- iv. A request letter from the business office on the University's letterhead.
- v. Confirmation that all required previous annual reports have been received by AFOSR.

In no event will the period of performance be extended merely for the purpose of using unobligated balances.

3. Air Force Office of Scientific Research Additional Funding Request

Recipients are required to receive written approval for Additional Funding requests to a grant to pay for essential items or activities that fall within the scope of the grant award but were unanticipated at the time of award. Supplemental funds can be requested for emergencies or other situations which result in unforeseen costs. For an additional funding request to be granted, you must provide notice in writing to the Program Officer listed on the grant award, at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the award or prior to the desired start date of the additional work to be performed. You must include a detailed budget justification for all additional work to be

performed containing a breakout of the proposed cost / pricing. You should itemize all additional cost / pricing proposed to include labor, materials, supplies, travel, and equipment (and include supporting quotes).

Additionally, there may be an opportunity for short-term efforts called "Sprints", to be held at AFRL or other DoD facilities. If Sprints are proposed, there should be a Sprint Phase section to include specifics as to what would be accomplished during the "Sprint Phase" and a specific travel duration / location explicitly stated in the proposal. "Sprints" are defined as an opportunity to showcase basic research impact performing grant relevant research and development activities within the context of DoD or sub-component experiments and initiatives at AFRL or other DoD facilities. Sprints will be evaluated the same as an additional funding action, in that they must fall within the scope of the award but were unanticipated at the time of award.

Be advised that the inclusion of the Sprint Phase in a proposal does not guarantee that the Government will award it. Notification of incorporating the Sprint Phase will occur within 30 days to the start of the Sprint.

4. Equipment Vesting

In accordance with [2 CFR 200.313](#) and PROP Article I. Section A. of the [DoD R&D Terms and Conditions](#) incorporated into a subsequent award, equipment title will be vested with the non-Federal entity upon purchase without further obligation to the government unless the terms and conditions of your award specify otherwise.

5. Prohibition on Contracting with Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements – Representation

i. *Definition.* As used in this provision—

"Internal confidentiality agreement or statement", "subcontract", and "subcontractor", are defined in [FAR 52.203-19, Prohibition on Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements.](#)

ii. In accordance with section 743 of Division E, Title VII, of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235) and its successor provisions in subsequent appropriations acts (and as extended in continuing resolutions), Government agencies are not permitted to use funds appropriated (or otherwise

made available) for agreements with an entity that requires employees or sub recipients of such entity seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees or sub recipients from lawfully reporting fraud, waste, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

- iii. The prohibition in paragraph (b) of this provision does not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, (Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement), Form 4414 (Sensitive Compartmented Information Nondisclosure Agreement), or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.
- iv. Representation. By submission of its offer, the Grantor represents that it will not require its employees or subrecipients to sign or comply with internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees or subrecipients from lawfully reporting fraud, waste, or abuse related to the performance of a Government agreement to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information (e.g., agency Office of the Inspector General).
- v. Agreement with the representation above will be affirmed by checking the “I agree” box in block 17 of the SF424 as part of the electronic proposal submitted via Grants.gov.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

I. EVALUATION CRITERIA

You should show strength in as many of the evaluation areas as practicable to demonstrate maximum competitiveness in your proposal submission.

1. Principal Evaluation Criteria

The two (2) principal evaluation criteria are specified in [32 CFR 22.315\(c\)](#). The principal evaluation criteria are of equal importance to each other. The combined principal evaluation criteria are more important than the additional evaluation

criterion. The principal evaluation criteria are:

- i. The technical merits of the proposed research and development based on key scientific considerations as stated in [Section A.III.](#) above. This will be evaluated based on the merits of the scientific objectives and approaches of the proposal and its relevance to addressing the CODAC uCoE scientific objectives stated in Section A.III of the CODAC uCoE NOFO, how well the proposal is logically constructed and connected with proper scientific foundations, the likelihood of the proposed research to advance fundamental basic research understanding and its significance towards potential advancements, the novelty and game-changing potentials of the proposed effort and its potential to opening up new research topics & sub-topics and/or leading to new approaches & concepts of doing things, the feasibility of the proposed research scope and schedule, and the writing quality of the proposal and level of due diligence.
- ii. Relevance of the proposed research and development to Air Force, Space Force, and Department of Defense missions. This will be evaluated based on the merits of the proposed collaboration plan and the potential for transition to AFRL (AFOSR, RI, ACT3 and RW) development efforts and the “targeted engineering problems” listed in [Section A.III.](#) of the CODAC uCoE NOFO.

2. Additional Evaluation Criteria

Our sole additional evaluation criterion for research proposals, which is of lesser importance than the principal evaluation criteria combined is:

- iii. Key personnel qualifications, capabilities, related experience, facilities, demonstrated willingness to engage with DOD entities, or techniques or a combination of these factors that are integral to achieving DOD objectives.

No further technical evaluation criteria will be used for proposal selection.

II. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. Merit-based, Competitive Procedures

Proposals will be subjected to peer or programmatic reviews. These reviews will

use internal and external reviewers to assess proposals against the evaluation criteria balanced against available funding resources. Award selection consideration will be made based on the outcome of these reviews.

AFOSR anticipates selecting one proposal for possible funding, potentially two based on proposal quality and funding availability from this announcement, on a competitive basis according to [10 U.S.C. 4141](#), and [10 U.S.C. 4024](#) using the merit-based, competitive procedures described in [32 CFR 22.315](#), incorporated herein by reference.

You should show strength in as many of the evaluation areas as practicable to demonstrate maximum competitiveness.

2. Cost / Price Analysis

If your proposal is selected for possible award, AFOSR will analyze the cost / price of the budget proposed to determine if the cost / pricing is [allowable, reasonable, allocable, and realistic, and in compliance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles](#). Proposed cost / pricing must meet these criteria before AFOSR can make an award. The cost / price of your proposal is considered but is not an evaluation factor or criterion. AFOSR may analyze your technical and cost information at the same time.

III. DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING BY CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL

AFOSR uses support contractor personnel to help it with administrative proposal processing. The contractor personnel are employees of commercial firms that have a contract with AFOSR. AFOSR makes sure all its support contracts include nondisclosure agreements that prohibit disclosure of any information you submit to other parties.

IV. NO GUARANTEED AWARD

AFOSR does not guarantee that any award will be made under this competition.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

I. SELECTION NOTICES

1. Electronic Notification

If your proposal is selected for possible award, an email will be sent to the principal investigator and university business office point of contact listed in the application.

2. Selection for Possible Award Does Not Authorize Work

Our selection notice **is not** an authorization to start work and **is not** an award guarantee. An authorized AFOSR business representative will contact your business office to get answers to any questions it has about your proposal and negotiate specific award terms. Negotiations may result in funding levels that are less than those in the proposal.

II. AWARD NOTICES

1. Federal Award Document

A grant signed by a warranted Grants Officer is the only official notice that an award has been made.

2. Electronic Federal Award Distribution

AFOSR issues award documents by email to the principal investigator and to the university business office point of contact listed in the application. This is called award distribution.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

1. Certification Regarding Disclosure of Funding Sources (Supplement to SF424 (R&R), block 17, Financial Assistance Certifications and Representations)

By checking "I Agree" on the SF 424 (R&R) block 17 you agree to abide by the following statement: "By signing this application, I certify the proposing entity is in compliance with Section 223(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 which requires that: (a) the PI and other key personnel certify that the current and pending support provided on the proposal is current, accurate and complete; (b) agree to update such disclosure at the request of the agency prior to the award of support and at any subsequent time the agency determines appropriate during the term of the award; and (c) the PI and other key personnel have been made aware of the requirements under Section 223(a)(1) of this Act. I am aware that any false,

fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. ([U.S. code, Title 18, Section 1001](#))."

2. Certification on Lobbying Activity

By checking "I Agree" on the SF 424 (R&R) block 17 you agree to fully comply with the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, 2 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq. If your grant amount exceeds \$100,000 you are certifying that you do not have lobbying activity to disclose. If you **have lobbying activity** that you must disclose under [31 U.S.C. 1352](#) as implemented by the DoD at [32 CFR Part 28](#), you must attach the completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Form. You can find instructions for completing this form at: <https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/r-r-family>.

3. Unpaid Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under Any Federal Law – DoD Appropriations

By checking "I Agree" on the SF 424 (R&R) block 17 you represent that you are not a corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability; AND that you represent that you are not a corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months.

Note: If you do not represent to this you are ineligible to receive an award unless a Federal agency suspension and debarment official (SDO) has considered suspension or debarment and determined that further action is not required to protect the Government's interests. The applicant therefore should provide information about its tax liability or conviction to the agency's SDO as soon as it can do so, to facilitate completion of the required consideration before award decisions are made.

4. Reporting of Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

You must report recipient integrity and performance information as required by [Appendix XII to 2 CFR Part 200 – Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters](#), incorporated herein by reference. You should read the full text of this award term now using the link above to make sure you understand our requirements. You can also find this term at <http://www.ecfr.gov>.

5. Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants

- i. AFOSR must review information available about you and entities included in your proposal through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designated repositories of government- wide eligibility qualification and financial integrity information. Our risk review is required by [41 U.S.C. 2313](#) and includes both public and non-public information. You must be qualified as described at [32 CFR 22.415](#) Standards to receive an award.
- ii. AFOSR must consider [System for Award Management Responsibility / Qualification records](#) for all awards exceeding the current simplified acquisition threshold of \$250,000.
- iii. At a minimum, the information in the system for a prior Federal award recipient must demonstrate a satisfactory record of executing programs or activities under Federal grants, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards; and integrity and business ethics. We will consider any comments you provide, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, when making our risk judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards.
- iv. AFOSR may make an award to a recipient who does not fully meet our standards as described at [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)\(2\)](#) if it is determined that the information is not relevant to the current Federal award under consideration or there are specific conditions that can appropriately mitigate the effects of the non-Federal entity's risk in accordance with [2 CFR 200.208 Specific conditions](#).
- v. We must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment described in [2 CFR 200.214](#) and must require you to comply with these provisions for all work that we fund.
- vi. These provisions restrict Federal awards, subawards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal programs or activities.

6. Cross-Cutting National Policy Requirements

You must comply with all applicable national policy requirements as a condition of award. Key national policy requirements may be found in the current [DoD Research and Development \(R&D\) General Terms and Conditions](#), and [2 CFR Part 1122 – National Policy Requirements: General Award Terms and Conditions](#) incorporated herein by reference.

7. Acknowledgement of Research Support

You must acknowledge support provided by the Government in all materials based on or developed under our awards. The requirement extends to copyrighted and non-copyrighted materials published or displayed in any medium.

The following language must be used unless the award document provides different instructions:

“This material is based upon work supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research under award number FA9550-25-1-XXXX”.

You must require any sub-recipients or subcontractors under your award to include this acknowledgment, too.

8. Disclaimer Language for Research Materials and Publications

Some materials based on or developed under our awards must include special disclaimer language. You must include this language in all materials except scientific articles or papers published in scientific journals unless your award document provides different instructions:

“Any opinions, findings and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Defense.”

9. Grants - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

Our grants are governed by the guidance in [Title 2, Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Part 200](#), “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” as modified and supplemented by DoD’s interim implementation found in [2 CFR part 1104](#). Provisions of [Chapter 1, Subchapter C of Title 32, CFR, “DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations”](#) other

than parts 34 and 37 continue to be in effect and apply as stated.

These regulations are incorporated by reference into this announcement.

10. Grants - DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions

Our domestic grants are subject to the current (at time of award) “DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions” (DoD T&C) found on the Office of Naval Research website [here](#). These terms and conditions are incorporated by reference into this announcement.

11. Conditions of Award for Recipients Other Than Individuals

You must agree to comply with the requirements at [2 CFR Part 182, Subpart B “Requirements for Recipients Other Than Individuals” as a condition of award.](#)

12. Minimum Record Retention Requirements

You must keep records related to our awards for at least three years after completion and the final Federal Financial Report is submitted. This requirement is described further in [2 CFR 200.334](#) incorporated herein by reference. OAR Article II of the current “DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions” (DoD T&C) found on the Office of Naval Research website [here](#) describes additional records retention and access requirements. Sometimes records must be retained for more than three years.

IV. REPORTING & OTHER DELIVERABLES

1. Monitoring and Reporting Program Performance

All of our awards require at least annual and final technical performance reports as required in [2 CFR 200.329](#). REP Article I. Financial, Programmatic, and Property reporting of the current “DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions” (DoD T&C) found on the Office of Naval Research website [here](#) will apply to all grant awards issued under this announcement. Some of our awards require more frequent technical reports.

You must provide your reports on time. Our awards include a schedule specifying the latest date for submission of each required report. Failure to provide reports, or providing reports after required due dates, could lead to being

considered ineligible for future awards.

2. Standard Form (SF) 298 Report Documentation Page

You must use a completed SF 298 Report Documentation Page as the first page of the final report. You can download an electronic SF 298 from <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/afpmb/docs/dwfp/sf298.pdf>.

3. Technical Performance Report Format

The [Federal-wide Research Progress Performance Report \(RPPR\) Format](#) is used for interim, annual, and final research performance reports. Reporting requirements will be detailed in the grant award documents.

4. Department of Defense (DD) Form 882 Report of Inventions and Subcontracts

You must use the DD Form 882 to inform us of any inventions, subawards, or subcontracts. Your award will provide specific instructions and will specify the due date. You can get a copy of the form at: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/forms/dd/dd0882.pdf>

5. Standard Form (SF) 425 Federal Financial Report

Our awards require a final SF 425 Federal Financial Report. You can get the form at <https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/post-award-reporting-forms>.

If you request any advance payment(s) under your award, you must submit quarterly SF 425 reports for the life of the grant. Our awards include specific instructions.

You do not have to submit quarterly SF 425 reports if you only request payments by reimbursement.

6. Scientific Publications

The grant award recipient(s) shall submit by email all scientific publications related to the research funded under the uCoE award(s) to the AFOSR PO and AFRL Technical Lead 30 days before they are submitted to journals, and at least 5 business days before presentations. The grant award recipient(s) shall also post these publications to a uCoE “working” website to be maintained at the PI’s

institution with access granted to uCoE team members and AFRL collaborators.

7. Research Computer Codes

The grant award recipient(s) shall provide research computer codes related to the work performed under the uCoE award by email to the AFRL Technical Lead as they become usable & available.

8. uCoE “working” website

The uCoE grant award recipient shall maintain a website which contains: research highlights, prepublication manuscripts, published papers, and links to team members research groups.

9. Electronic Payment Requests and Electronic Payment

You must register to use Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) for payment. Payment requests shall be made electronically using an SF270 through the WAWF application in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE) e-Business Suite at <https://piee.eb.mil>. The website includes registration instructions. All payments must be made using the electronic funds transfer (EFT) method.

If you have WAWF or iRAPT questions or problems, you can get help by telephone at (866) 618-5988 or through the website <https://piee.eb.mil/xhtml/unauth/web/homepage/vendorCustomerSupport.xhtml>.

10. Property Reports

If AFOSR furnishes any property owned by the Government under an award, you must submit periodic property status reports as described in [2 CFR 200.330](#) and as further implemented by REP Article III. Reporting on Property incorporated herein from the current “DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions” (DoD T&C) found on the Office of Naval Research website [here](#).

11. Other Reports

The Program Officer listed in any subsequent award issued from this announcement, may ask for informal technical reports as needed. AFOSR uses these informal reports for program purposes, such as preparation for meetings and

other technical purposes. AFOSR highly recommends you provide this information in a timely manner by electronic mail directly to the Program Officer listed in the award.

12. Electronic Submission of Reports

You must plan on submitting reports electronically. **You can submit most reports through the internet application detailed in the grant award document.** Some reports must be sent using electronic mail. Our award documents provide specific instructions that you must follow.

G. AGENCY CONTACT

I. TECHNICAL INQUIRIES

No direct communications with AFRL Technical personnel related to this announcement will be permitted until award selection and non-selection notices are issued. All questions and inquiries shall be submitted in writing to the email address Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil by the cut off dates listed in the [Key Dates table](#).

II. GENERAL INQUIRIES

You must send all general questions about this announcement in writing to the Grants Officer by the cut off dates listed in the [Key Dates table](#):

GRANTS OFFICER
Elizabeth Burzenski
Elizabeth.Burzenski@us.af.mil

Your questions will generally be consolidated with other questions and posted on Grants.gov so everyone gets the same information. AFOSR may provide an individual response by email if your question does not apply to anyone else.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

I. OMBUDSMAN

An ombudsman has been appointed to hear and facilitate the resolution of concerns from offerors, potential offerors, and others for this procurement. When requested, the ombudsman will maintain strict confidentiality as to the source of

the concern. The existence of the ombudsman does not affect the authority of the program officer, grants officer, or source selection official. Further, the ombudsman does not participate in the evaluation of proposals, the source selection process, or the adjudication of protests or formal grant disputes. The ombudsman may refer the party to another official who can resolve the concern.

Before consulting with an ombudsman, interested parties must first address their concerns, issues, disagreements, and/or recommendations to the grants officer for resolution. Consulting an ombudsman does not alter or postpone the timelines for any other processes (e.g., agency level bid protests, GAO bid protests, requests for debriefings, employee-employer actions, contests of OMB Circular A-76 competition performance decisions).

If resolution cannot be made by the grants officer, concerned parties may contact the AFRL Ombudsman, Director of Contracting, HQ AFRL/PK. The AFRL Alternate Ombudsman is the Deputy Director of Contracting, HQ AFRL/PK. Please send an email to afrl.pk.workflow@us.af.mil with the subject of "Ombudsman".

The ombudsman has no authority to render a decision that binds the agency.

Do not contact the ombudsman to request copies of the solicitation, verify offer due date, or clarify technical requirements. Such inquiries shall be directed to the grants officer.

II. GRANTS AND CONTRACTING OFFICER AUTHORITY

Grants and Contracting Officers acting within their warranted capacity are the only individuals legally authorized to make commitments or bind the Government.

No other individuals are authorized to make commitments or otherwise bind us.

III. ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

AFOSR posts new funding opportunities throughout the year looking for today's breakthrough science for tomorrow's Air Force. You can find more information about Air Force Office of Scientific Research interests and funding opportunities on our website at <https://www.afrl.af.mil/AFOSR/>.

Thank you for your interest in this announcement.