

**AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT
For
CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP SUPPORT**

I. OVERVIEW INFORMATION

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), hereafter generally referred to as “we”, “us”, “our”, or “AFOSR,” manages the basic research investment for the Department of the Air Force (DAF). Conferences and workshops constitute key forums for research and technology interchange. We provide partial support for conferences and workshops as defined in the Department of War (DoW) Joint Travel Regulations in special areas of science that bring experts together to discuss recent research or educational findings, or to expose other researchers or advanced graduate students to new research and educational techniques in our areas of research interest. Our research interests are described in the most recent version of our general Broad Agency Announcement titled, “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research” posted on Grants.gov.

AFOSR support for a workshop or conference is not an endorsement of any organization.

AFOSR financial support through grants for conferences and workshops is dependent on the availability of funds, Program Officer’s discretion, and certain other restrictions as described in the full announcement.

II. BASIC INFORMATION

1. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY NAME

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

2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE

Air Force Basic Research Sciences Conference and Workshop Support

3. ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE

Initial Announcement

4. ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER

FA955026S0002

5. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER

12.800 Air Force Defense Research Sciences Program

6. FUNDING

Approximately \$2 million per year is anticipated to be available for support of actions awarded under this announcement, subject to availability of funds. Research proposals funded between \$5,000 and \$100,000 are encouraged. Most conference and workshop awards are limited to a

maximum one year duration. AFOSR funding of a conference or workshop is limited to 50% of the total cost estimate of the event. AFOSR anticipates that the applicants will have other funding sources, including but not limited to University co-funding, funding from other US government science and engineering grant agencies (e.g., National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research or similar) or private foundations. AFOSR will not consider any request for exception above \$500,000.

7. KEY DATES

Proposals must be **submitted at least six (6) months** prior to the conference or workshop start date to be considered. This announcement remains open until superseded or closed. We review and evaluate proposals as they are received. You may submit proposals at any time.

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

IAW Executive Order 14332 (EO 14332), all program descriptions contained in this BAA reflect the basic research priorities for the Department of the Air Force and are defined to advance the administration and agency priorities (c.f., OMB memo M-25-34 “Fiscal Year 2027 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities and Cross-Cutting Actions”). More information about the Department of the Air Force priorities can be found at www.af.mil.

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research manages the basic research investment for the Department of the Air Force. Conferences and workshops constitute key forums for research and technology interchange. We provide partial support for conferences and workshops as defined in the DoW Joint Travel Regulations in special areas of science that bring experts together to discuss recent research or educational findings, or to expose other researchers or advanced graduate students to new research and educational techniques in our areas of research interest. Our research interests are described in the most recent version of our general Broad Agency Announcement titled, “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research” posted on Grants.gov.

We can only consider funding requests from U.S. institutions of higher education (IHE) or nonprofit organizations as described in 2 CFR 200.1, including foreign public entities and foreign organizations operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest. We do not award grants to organizations with a for-profit organization type.

Our support for a workshop or conference is not an endorsement of any organization.

Our financial support through grants for conferences and workshops is dependent on the availability of funds, Program Officer’s discretion, and certain other restrictions including:

- Conference or workshop subject matter must be scientific, technical, or involve professional issues that are relevant to our mission of managing the Department of the Air Force basic research program.
- Dissemination of research results from work we fund to relevant scientific and technical audiences.
- Transfer of Federally-developed technology or technology developed using Federal funding to the private sector or to stimulate wider interest and inquiry into the relevant scientific, technical, or professional issues relevant to our mission.

Conference or workshop support is limited to a maximum 50% of the total budget for the event.

Proposals for conference or workshop support should be submitted a minimum of six (6) months prior to the date of the conference or workshop. We cannot make an award after the conference start date, even if you submitted your proposal earlier.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

All applications received under this announcement will be considered applications for new awards, including any application marked renewal. Awards may start any time during the year, and **most awards have a maximum performance duration of one (1) year**. The actual start date is determined at the time of award and may be different than the date you propose. We cannot award a grant for conference or workshop support after the event has started. We may not be able to consider an application submitted less than six months prior to the start date of the conference or workshop.

Awards are made under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 4001 in the form of grants, cooperative

agreements, or contracts. We rely on discretionary appropriated funds for this program. We can only make awards if enough funds are made available. We select what kind of award instrument we can use based on requirements in the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act 31 U.S.C. 6301 – 31 U.S.C. 6308. Awards may take the form of contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, technology investment agreements and other transaction agreements as appropriate.

A grant or cooperative agreement award may be made to U.S. institutions of higher education (IHE) or nonprofit organizations as described in 2 CFR 200.1, including foreign public entities and foreign organizations operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest.

We will only consider providing support for conferences or workshops in our areas of research interest. We reserve the right to select and fund for award all, some, part, or none of the proposals received in response to this announcement. AFOSR will prioritize institutions that have demonstrated success in implementing Gold Standard Science, IAW Executive Orders 14303 and 14332. There is no guarantee of an award. **NOTE: AFOSR will not consider any request for exception above \$500,000. Any proposal over \$500,000 will not be considered.**

C. ELIGIBILITY

C.1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

C.1.a. General

Only some organizations are eligible to submit proposals for conference or workshop support. We can consider conference or workshop funding requests from U.S. institutions of higher education (IHE) or nonprofit organizations, including foreign public entities and foreign organizations operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest. However, no funds under this announcement are reserved or otherwise set-aside for any specific entity type.

C.1.b. HBCU/MSI and Tribal College and University, Applicants Encouraged

Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-serving Institutions (HBCU/MSI), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU), and HBCU/MSI/TCU-affiliated research entities are encouraged to submit conference or workshop proposals and join others in submitting proposals.

C.1.c. 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 are qualified and responsible, you are not eligible to receive an award.

C.1.d. Ineligible Entities

None of the following entity types are eligible to submit proposals as primary award recipients under this announcement.

- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)
- Individual persons or people

- Federal agencies
- For-profit organization

C.2. COST SHARING

We do not require mandatory or committed cost sharing for proposals under this announcement. Cost sharing is not an evaluation or selection criterion. However, our funding is limited to partial support only. You must document estimates of sources of voluntary uncommitted cost share for conference or workshop costs as described further in section Project Narrative.

C.3. GOLD STANDARD SCIENCE AND OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL GRANT MAKING

C.3.a. Definition of Gold Standard Science

IAW Executive Order 14303, Gold Standard Science (GSS) is science conducted in a manner that is:

- (1) reproducible;
- (2) transparent;
- (3) communicative of error and uncertainty;
- (4) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
- (5) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
- (6) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses;
- (7) subject to unbiased peer review;
- (8) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
- (9) without conflicts of interest.

C.3.b. Expectation of Adherence to Gold Standard Science and EO 14332

AFOSR expects the highest standards of scientific rigor, integrity and adherence to appropriate tenets of Gold Standard Science (GSS). For more on these standards and DoW expectations, see <https://www.cto.mil/gold-standard-science-implementation-plan/>. AFOSR will prioritize institutions that have demonstrated success in implementing GSS, IAW EO 14303 and EO 14332.

To meet EO 14332, applications/proposals shall:

- 1) Include clear benchmarks for measuring success and progress towards relevant goals;
- 2) Include a commitment to achieving GSS and complying with administration policies, procedures, and guidance respecting GSS.

By responding to this BAA, you explicitly agree to the following statements:

- 1) Your institution understands the definition of Gold Standard Science as outlined in Executive Order 14303.
- 2) Your institution and all personnel involved in the proposed project will adhere to all administration policies, procedures, and guidance respecting Gold Standard Science in the execution of this project, if funded.

C.4. OTHER

C.4.a. Acknowledgement of Support and Disclaimer Requirements

You must include the G.2.h. **Acknowledgement of Research Support** on all materials

created or produced under our awards.

You must include the G.2.i. **Disclaimer Language** on materials as required.

Our award document may provide additional instructions about specific distribution statements to use when you provide research materials to us.

You must not use our agency logo without our advance permission. If you would like to use our logo, the Grants Officer can forward your request to our public affairs department. If use is approved, you will receive additional instructions and image files as necessary.

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

C.4.b. Expectation of Public Dissemination of Research Results

We expect research-related activities funded by this announcement will be fundamental. If our funding contributes to the generation of research-related products through the proposed conference or workshop activity, we expect public dissemination of research results if you receive an award. This is a basic requirement for unclassified research results.

We intend, 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 DoW as described in the OUSD AT&L Memorandum, “[Public Access to Department of Defense-Funded Research](#)” dated 09 Jul 2014 as well as in Executive Order 14303 and relevant DoW policies implementing GSS requirements .

We follow [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 the Program Officer gives you an explicit, written exclusion to these policies with the Grants or Contracting Officer’s advice and consent. 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, and by your submission, you agree to the terms set forth herein.

C.4.c. Disclosure of Conflict of Commitment and Conflict of Interest

This announcement requires that all current and pending research support, as defined by 42 U.S.C. 6605 must be disclosed at the time of proposal, for all covered individuals. 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 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 and their related conferences and workshops 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.

C.5. AFOSR-SPECIFIC FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH SECURITY REVIEW(FRSR) INFORMATION

- (1) **Security Risk Review.** Each proposal submission will be subject to a risk-based Security Review (FRSR) prior to selection for award. The FRSR 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, including AFOSR, will follow all policies 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*. The FRSR will be conducted in accordance with OUSD(R&E)'s *Policy for Risk Based Security Reviews of Fundamental Research*, dated 8 June 2023, and OUSD(R&E)'s *Fundamental Research Security Initiatives and Implementation*, dated 7 January 2026.
- (2) **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. AFOSR further defines that all positions identified in the proposal are Covered Individuals and thereby subject to disclosure requirements and should have a corresponding Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile Senior/Biosketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support, and Collaborators and Other Affiliations. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 6605, Definitions. (Note: For purposes of a

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) solicitation, “covered individuals” are all Senior/Key Personnel.)

- (3) **Security risk review for these subject proposals will be developed for all proposed “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, and publicly available information, will be utilized in risk reviews. Nationality or citizenship is not a factor in the security risk reviews.
- (4) **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 Authority (RAA) 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 looks at the risk factors indicated in the most up to date DoW Decision Matrix.

C.5.a. 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:

- (1) Standard Form 424, “Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile (Expanded) (Included in Application Package for all Covered Individuals);
- (2) Common Disclosure Forms: Biosketch, Current and Pending (Other) Support, and Collaborators and Other Affiliations (to be submitted with SF-424);
- (3) Security Program Questionnaire (*See Appendix 1*);
- (4) “Privacy Act Statement” consent form for each Covered Individual that is also signed by the Applicants/Recipients as the Individual’s Sponsors (*See “Covered Individual” section below and Appendix 2*);
- (5) Certification(s) of Covered Individual’s Research Security Training. AFOSR accepts and recommends the Research Security Training module on [National Science Foundation \(NSF\) SECURE website](#); however, Universities may submit certifications from substantially similar training(s). AFOSR requires all Covered Individuals listed on the application for a research and development award to take the training in the 12 months prior to proposal submission. Upon acceptance of proposal, Covered Individuals must submit and maintain annual certifications showing this course was taken yearly.
- (6) Compliance Attestation. You must certify your institution’s compliance with OUSW’s Research Protection policies as articulated in the most up to date OUSW DoD Component Decision Matrix to Inform Research Proposal Mitigation Decisions on official university letterhead, and attest for the duration of the grant that the recipient confirms that the Covered Individuals participating in the grant are:
 - (1) not actively participating in a malign foreign talent recruitment program (MFTRP); and,

- (2) not involved in active collaboration on fundamental research with a Section 1286 Prohibited Entity or employee of a Prohibited Entity.

For example: *[The University] certifies that the information provided is current, accurate, and complete. This includes, but is not limited to, information related to current, pending, and other support (both foreign and domestic) as defined in 42 U.S.C. §6605.*

[The University] also certifies that, at the time of submission, no Covered Individual listed is a party in a [malign foreign talent recruitment program](#).

[The University] understands that misrepresentations and/or omissions 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.

Signature³: [Business Office, Provost, Dean, or someone with the authority to legally obligate the University]

Date:

In the event a security risk is identified, and the Government has determined the security risk exceeds the acceptable threshold and cannot be mitigated, the Applicant/Recipient will be notified and informed of the decision to decline to award. The Government will provide an unclassified rationale for any rejection of a proposal due to security risks.

By submission of the required forms, the Applicant/Recipient agrees to comply with the following: 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)

C.5.b. Actions Required by Covered Individuals. 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.

- (1) Research and Related Senior/Key Personnel Profile (Expanded) to include:
- Biosketch Form; and,
 - **Current and Pending (Other) Support.** AFOSR requires information on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals, including other current and pending support for the proposed conference or workshop. AFOSR accepts NSF's Current and Pending (Other) Support, <https://www.nsf.gov/policies/nspm-33/common-form-cps>. This document contains a list of an

individual's proposed and active projects and sources of support. It is used by AFOSR to assess:

- The capacity of the individual to carry out the proposed activity;
- Any potential scientific and budgetary overlap or duplication across projects; and
- The potential the individual is overcommitting themselves with the proposed activity.

What to include in your Current and Pending (Other) Support document: A brief outline of the information you will need to include is provided below.

- Identifying information.
- Organization and location.
- Projects/proposals, including the following:
 - Project/proposal title.
 - Status of support.
 - Source of support.
 - Primary place of performance.
 - Start date.
 - End date.
 - Total award amount.
 - Person-months (or partial person-months) per year committed to the project/proposed project.
 - Overall objectives.
 - Statement of potential overlap.
 - In-kind contributions.
- Certification that the information you've provided is current, accurate and complete.
- Senior/key personnel are required to certify that the information is current, accurate and complete. This includes, but is not limited to, information related to current, pending and other support (both foreign and domestic).

- (2) **Collaborators and Other Affiliations.** AFOSR accepts the template format required by [NSF applicants](#) for identifying this information. AFOSR uses Collaborators and Other Affiliations information during the merit review process to help manage reviewer selection. To expedite identification of potential reviewers, having a standard, searchable format for this information is essential. If you are using a Microsoft Excel document, you must submit it as a PDF document through Grants.gov. A brief outline of the information you will need to include is provided below.

- Your name and organizational affiliation.
 - The names of anyone whose relationship to you precludes their service as a reviewer — including personal, family or business relationships — and what type of relationship you have with them.
 - Names and organizational affiliations of your Ph.D. advisor and Ph.D. thesis advisees.
 - Names and organizational affiliations of any co-authors or project collaborators in the last 48 months. Names of editorial boards, editors-in-chief and co-editors you have interacted with in the last 24 months. Do not list editors or reviewers you have interacted with because of a paper submission.
- (3) Certification(s) of Research Security Training. *See above, C.5.a.*
 - (4) The Government will require an updated disclosure whenever Covered Individuals are added or identified as performing under the funded project. **The Government may require an updated disclosure during the performance of any research project selected for funding.**
 - (5) 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*).

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.

C.5.c. Actions required by Applicants/Recipients during period of performance

- (1) Applicant/Recipient will utilize a section of the Research Progress Performance Report (RPPR) to provide disclosure updates for Senior/Key Research Personnel. 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.
- (2) If, at any time, during performance of this award, the Applicant/Recipient learns that its Senior/Key Research Personnel and or Covered Individual 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 five (5) business days of awareness. Foreign Component is defined as performing any significant scientific aspect of a project outside the United States. This applies whether the activity is conducted by the recipient or a researcher at a foreign organization, regardless of whether grant funds are used.
- (3) 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.

The Applicant/Recipient will be required to flow down this provision to all sub-awardees who have personnel designated as Senior/Key Research Personnel or Covered Individuals as a result of their involvement in the performance of the research.

Type of activity	Documents requiring information
Professional preparation (e.g., education and training).	Biographical Sketch
Academic, professional or institutional appointments and positions, whether or not remuneration is received, and whether full-time, part-time or voluntary.	Biographical Sketch
A list of products that demonstrate the individual's qualifications to carry out the project as proposed.	Biographical Sketch
Current and pending (other) support: a. All resources made available, or expected to be made available, to an individual in support of the individual's research and development efforts, regardless of 1. whether the source is foreign or domestic; 2. whether the resource is made available through the entity applying for a research and development award or directly to the individual; or 3. whether the resource has monetary value; and b. includes in-kind contributions requiring a commitment of time and directly supporting the individual's research and development efforts, such as the provision of office or laboratory space, equipment, supplies, employees or students.	Current and Pending (Other) Support
In-kind contributions with an estimated dollar value of \$5,000 or more that support the research, conference or workshop activity for use on the project/proposal being proposed.	Current and Pending (Other) Support
In-kind contributions: i. with an estimated dollar value of \$5,000 or more, ii. not intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed, and iii. have an associated time commitment.	Current and Pending (Other) Support
Current or pending participation in, or applications to, programs sponsored by foreign governments, instrumentalities, or entities, including foreign government sponsored talent recruitment programs.	Biographical Sketch

Type of activity	Documents requiring information
	Current and Pending (Other) Support <i>(Appropriate placement in each document may be contract dependent)</i>
Consulting activities under the proposals and active projects section of the form when any of the following scenarios apply: 1. The consulting activity will require the senior/key person to perform research as part of the consulting activity; 2. The consulting activity does not involve performing research, but is related to the senior/key person's research portfolio and may have the ability to impact funding, alter time or effort commitments, or otherwise impact scientific integrity; or 3. The consulting entity has provided a contract that requires the senior/key person to conceal or withhold confidential financial or other ties between the senior/key person and the entity, irrespective of the duration of the engagement.	Current and Pending (Other) Support
Postdoctoral scholars, students or visiting scholars who are supported by an external entity, whose research activities are not intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed and have an associated time commitment.	Current and Pending (Other) Support
Travel supported/paid by an external entity to perform research activities with an associated time commitment.	Current and Pending (Other) Support
Startup company based on non-organization-licensed intellectual property (IP).	Current and Pending (Other) Support
Startup packages from other than the proposing organization.	Current and Pending (Other) Support

D. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

D.1. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE

All the application forms you need are available electronically on [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov). From the “View Grant Opportunity” page, you can click on the “Package” tab to download the application package.

You can find the electronic application package on [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) by searching for the announcement number shown on page one. We will not issue paper copies of this announcement.

Please contact us at afosr.baa@us.af.mil to request a reasonable accommodation for any accessibility requirements you may have.

D.2. APPLICATION CONTENTS

D.2.a. Pre-proposal Inquiries and Questions

You should submit your technical questions and inquiries in writing by electronic mail to the Program Officer listed for your topic of interest in our most recent general Broad Agency Announcement titled, “[Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research](#)” posted on Grants.gov. You may access this announcement at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/362681>.

You should include the announcement number in the subject line.

If you have general questions about this announcement or administrative matters, you must submit your question in writing by email to the contact listed in section [I.1.General Inquiries and Questions](#).

The Program Officer does not have the authority to make commitments for us. Grants and Contracting Officers acting within their warranted capacity are the only people authorized to make commitments for the Government.

D.2.b. The Application as a Whole

You must submit your proposal electronically through Grants.gov. We will not accept or evaluate any proposal submitted by any means other than through Grants.gov.

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 *italics*
- We provide more instructions in D.4. 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	18.	<i>If applicable, SF- LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Per instructions in G.2.a.</i>
R&R Other Project Information Form	7.	Project Summary / Abstract
	8.	Project Narrative
	9.	Bibliography & References Cited
	12.	Other Attachments
R&R Senior / Key Person Profile Form (Expanded) for all Covered Individuals		Biographical Sketch
		Current & Pending Support
		Collaborators and Other Affiliations
		Training Certification(s)
		Compliance Attestation
		Privacy Act Disclosure Form (See Appendix 2)
R&R Personal Data Form		None
R&R Budget Form		Budget Justification
R&R Project / Performance Site Locations Form		None

Note: Other Attachments Form on Grants.gov can be used as needed.

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. You are still required to submit any documentation, including disclosure of any unpaid delinquent tax liability or a felony conviction under any Federal law (see FAR 52.209-11).

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

D.2.c. Proposal Format

- i. Paper Size – 8.5 x 11-inch paper
- ii. Margins – 1 inch
- iii. Spacing – Single, 1.5, or 2.0-line spacing

- iv. Font – Times New Roman or Garamond, 10, 11, or 12point
- v. Page Limitation – None. However, unnecessarily elaborate or lengthy proposals are not desirable
- vi. Attachments – Electronic Portable Document Format (PDF)
- vii. Content – As described below

D.2.d. Proposal Length

We do not limit the length of your proposal for this competition; however, you must not include elaborate brochures, reprints, or presentations beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective proposal.

D.2.e. No Confidential or Proprietary Information Allowed

D.2.f. You must not include any confidential or proprietary information in your proposal. We will not evaluate any proposal for conference or workshop support that includes any confidential or proprietary information. 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 website [Adobe Software Compatibility | Grants.gov](#) provides additional important instructions.

D.2.g. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) Tools

While the use of GenAI Tools is not prohibited, AFOSR strongly encourages disclosure of the use of such tools in your proposal.

Any use of GenAI tools is at your own risk, and you are responsible for ensuring the use of GenAI tools in your proposal does not result in plagiarism, unauthorized use of intellectual property, or presentation of misinformation. Please note that external reviewers are prohibited from using GenAI tools in the review process, and AFOSR Program Officers (POs) are prohibited from sharing proposal information with external GenAI tools. AFOSR POs have access to an approved firewalled internal GenAI tool (e.g., GenAI.mil) which they may use for internal proposal processing.

D.3. GRANTS.GOV APPLICATION SUBMISSION

This section provides the application submission and receipt instructions for AFOSR program applications. Please read the following instructions carefully and completely.

D.3.a. Electronic Delivery

AFOSR is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. AFOSR encourages applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

D.3.b. 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.

If individual applicants are eligible to apply for this grant funding opportunity, refer to:

[Applicant Registration | Grants.gov](#)

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here: [Organization Registration | Grants.gov](#)

(1) ***Obtain and Maintain ORCID for all key personnel***

All individuals listed on the Senior/Key Person form must have an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) with the most up to date information updated and available.

As of September of 2024, the DoW is requiring all proposers to include a digital persistent identifier (DPI) for each senior or key person listed in a proposal. The DoW will require proposers to include the ORCID number for each Covered Individual 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). 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: [Entity Registration | SAM](#)

(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 to apply online. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov.

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

[Entity Registration | SAM](#)

(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: [Add Profile | Grants.gov](#)

(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: [Add Profile | Grants.gov](#)

(6) ***Track Role Status***

To track your role request, refer to: [Track Profile Role Status | Grants.gov](#)

(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.**

D.3.c. 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 funding opportunity announcement (FOA), 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: [Submit Application | Grants.gov](#)

(1) **Create a Workspace**

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

(2) **Complete a Workspace**

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

- 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: [Adobe Software Compatibility | Grants.gov](#)

- 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.
- Complete SF-424 Fields First: The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant 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. **Note: The applicant name is the Entity that is registered with SAM.gov.**

(3) **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.

(4) **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: [Applicant Training | Grants.gov](#)

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.

D.4. COMPONENT PIECES OF THE APPLICATION

D.4.a. SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form

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.

We have special instructions for completion of several SF 424 (R&R) form fields in your application.

Our instructions are:

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 Federal Agency if Grants.gov has not pre-populated this answer
16.	You should check “No.” and “Program is Not Covered by Executive Order 12372”
17	Select “I Agree” to: Certify that all statements in the proposal, your, and Internal Confidentiality Agreements are true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge. <i>See section G.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements for more information and links to the full text of these items.</i>
18	You must attach the completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities if your grant amount exceeds \$100,000 and have lobbying activity to disclose. <i>See section G.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements for more information and links to the full text of these items.</i>

D.4.b. R&R Other Project Information Form

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 Space Force standards is required for all proposals with human use research or involvement.

2, 2a.	You must address all prospective animal research and/or recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (rDNA) involvement by answering these questions. Additional documentation pursuant to National Policy and U.S. Air Force standards is required for all proposals with animal or rDNA research or involvement.
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 Space Force standards is required for any proposal with an actual or potential impact on the environment.
7.	Attach your <u>D.4.c. Publicly Releasable Abstract</u>
8.	Attach your <u>D.4.d. Project Narrative</u>
9.	Attach your <u>D.4.e. Bibliography and References Cited</u>
10.	Attach a Facilities and Other Resources description document here if you need to supplement your <u>D.4.d. Proposal Narrative</u> facilities and resources section.
12.	<u>Attach your</u> <u>D.4.i. Data Management Plan here if applicable</u>

D.4.c. Publicly Releasable Project Summary / Abstract

You must attach the Project Summary / Abstract to field 7 of the R&R Other Project Information form.

You must submit the “AFOSR Abstract” as an attachment with the proposal submission, this form’s located on the “Related Documents” tab of grants.gov. You must provide a concise abstract of 300 words or less with your proposal (no more than 2000 characters). You must mark this abstract publicly releasable. We will deem your abstract publicly releasable even if you do not mark it publicly releasable. 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 Summary / Abstract 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 , $\&$, $;$, $/$, $\backslash$, “, or ?.

Your abstract header should include the *Program Officer's name and office symbol*. See section I.1. Technical Inquiries and Questions below.

If you receive an award, we must publish your abstract to a searchable website available to the general public in accordance with [Public Law 113-235](#). The website address is

<https://discover.dtic.mil/submit-documents/>

D.4.d. Project Narrative

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.

There are special requirements for conference and workshop funding proposals, as detailed herein. The cost information section supplements section D.4. Component Pieces of the Application.

Your proposal must contain the following elements:

(1) Technical Information

- (a) Summary and objective(s) of the conference or workshop;
- (b) Topic(s) covered and your description of how these topic(s) are relevant to our mission of managing the Department of the Air Force basic research program;
- (c) Explanation of relationship to one or more research topics identified in our most recent general Broad Agency Announcement titled, “[Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research](#)” posted on Grants.gov. You may access this announcement at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=BAA-AFRL-AFOSR*;
- (d) Chairperson or principal investigator, including biographical information on the [D.4.f. R&R Senior / Key Person Profile Form](#); and
- (e) List of proposed participants and method or copies of the announcement or invitation.
- (f) The plan for workshop or conference location and logistics.

(2) Cost Information

Not having enough information in your conference or workshop support proposal to understand if your costs are [allowable, allocable, reasonable](#), and realistic is the most common reason awards are delayed. We encourage you to take special care in developing your cost proposal to minimize processing delays.

- (a) Section [D.4.g. R&R Budget Form](#)
- (b) Section [D.4.h. Budget Justification](#) that breaks down and explains how AFOSR funds will be spent in enough detail for us to determine your costs are allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Costs must be itemized.
- (c) Narrative and tabular description of total conference or workshop cost by major cost element
- (d) Anticipated sources of conference or workshop income, and an estimated amount from each source

The [2 CFR 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles](#) and General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost in [2 CFR 200.420 through 2 CFR 200.475](#) may be helpful as you prepare your proposal.

D.4.e. Bibliography and References Cited

D.4.f. *You may attach your narrative Bibliography and References to field 9 of the R&R Other Project Information Form as necessary to support your proposal. If you are not sure if you need to include this attachment, please contact the Program Officer for the research area to make sure. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form*

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, Collaborators and Other Affiliations, Training Certification(s), and Compliance Attestation as discussed in [Principal Investigator \(PI\) and Senior Personnel Time](#).

You must list all personnel proposed for the conference or workshop on the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form. Key persons in the past were considered the PI, any Co-PIs, and senior staff. However, due to DoW expanding research security requirements we require all persons working on the proposal or being funded by the grant to be included. We use this information to evaluate your qualifications with respect to the conference or workshop topic area.

The Credential, e.g., “agency login” field will be used by DoW 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 DoW 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.

D.4.g. R&R Budget Form

You must provide all information requested. You must estimate the total research project cost. You must categorize funds by year and provide separate annual budgets for projects lasting more than one year. A budget justification must be included.

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

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

D.4.h. Budget Justification

You must provide a detailed budget justification for your proposed conference or workshop that clearly explains the need for each item.

AFOSR conference and workshop support is limited to a maximum of 50% of the overall estimated conference or workshop budget. Please provide the overall budget, and clearly indicate the items for which you are requesting AFOSR support.

Please explain each calculation and provide a narrative that supports each budget category. This detailed budget justification must match the proposed budget categories. A lump sum budget justification is not allowed.

Your budget must include the following details:

- (1) All cost elements you request support for must be itemized.
- (2) Indicate what your costs are based on, such as vendor quotes, historical data and/or estimates. You should include vendor quotes, catalog pricing data, or other documentation to support all costs you ask us to fund.
- (3) If you use a Government rate agreement to propose indirect cost rates and/or fringe benefit rates, you should attach a copy of the agreement you used.
- (4) Helpful Cost Principle Reference Information
 - (a) Grant Applicants
 - (i) 2 CFR 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles
 - (ii) General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost in 2 CFR 200.420 through 2 CFR 200.475

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. The budget narrative submitted with the application must match the dollar amounts on all required forms.

D.4.i. 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.

D.4.j. Data Management Plan

If your effort generates scientific data, you must 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 be two (2) pages or less in length and discuss:

- (1) The types of data, software, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project, and include annotation marking items that are publicly releasable;
- (2) How the data will be acquired;
- (3) Time and location of data acquisition if they are scientifically pertinent;
- (4) How the data will be processed;
- (5) The file formats and the naming conventions that will be used;
- (6) A description of the quality assurance and quality control measures during collection, analysis, and processing;
- (7) If existing data are to be used, a description of their origins;
- (8) A description of the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content;

- (9) Plans and justifications for archiving the data;
- (10) The timeframe for preservation; and,
- (11) If for legitimate reasons the data cannot be preserved, the plan must include a justification citing such reasons.

D.5. INFORMATION YOU MUST SUBMIT IF SELECTED FOR POSSIBLE AWARD

We may request additional necessary information from you during negotiations, or as required for award considerations. You must respond promptly, providing enough time for us to evaluate your responses and make an award decision.

If you do not fully comply with our information requests by the time we are ready to make an award, we 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.

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

Foreign recipients must complete a payment information form to receive wire transfer payments.

If selected for a contract award, a [Section K Representations, certifications, and other statements of offerors or respondents](#) will be provided for your completion, signature, and return. The document will include representations and certifications that your organization has not completed as part of the SAM registration, representations and certifications required by DoW Class Deviation(s), or that must be requested with each acquisition. The completed Section K will be incorporated into any resultant contract.

D.6. UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER (UEI), CAGE, AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

D.6.a. SAM Registration Required

As required in [2 CFR 25.110](#) all applicants, unless exempted, must:

- (1) Be registered in [SAM.gov](#) before submitting its application;
- (2) Provide a valid UEI; and
- (3) 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.

D.6.b. SAM Exemption or Exceptions Not Available Under This Announcement

We will not issue an Agency level exemption to SAM registration under [2 CFR 25.110\(b\)](#) for applicants under this announcement.

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

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 and telephone at (866) 606-8220.

D.6.c.. Consequences of Non-Compliance with SAM Registration Requirements

We cannot make an award to you unless you comply with SAM requirements. If you are non-compliant, we 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.

E. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

E.1. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

This announcement remains open until superseded or closed. We review and evaluate proposals as they are received. You may submit proposals at any time; however, you must submit your proposal at least six (6) months prior to the start date of the conference or workshop. Funding is limited.

E.1.a. How Proposal Submission Time is Determined

We use the system-generated Grants.gov time stamp to determine when you submitted your successfully validated proposal and the announcement your submission was associated with. Grants.gov policies and procedures for application submission and processing apply. *We will only accept applications submitted electronically through Grants.gov.*

E.1.b. 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.

The 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 [Track My Application | Grants.gov](#)

E.1.c. Effect of Superseding Announcement

This announcement is open until superseded. We generally allow approximately thirty (30) days for you to submit a proposal started under the announcement that is superseded before we close the previous announcement.

Grants.gov will not accept your proposal after we close a superseded announcement.

E.1.d. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

N/A - This program is excluded from coverage under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372.

E.2. FUNDING RESTRICTION

E.2.a. Proposal Preparation Costs

Your proposal or application preparation costs are not considered an allowable direct charge

to any award under this announcement. Your costs are, however, an allowable expense to the normal bid and proposal indirect cost as specified in [2 CFR 200.460](#) Proposal costs if you receive a grant or cooperative agreement, or [RFO 31.205-18](#) Independent Research and Development and Bid and Proposal Costs for contracts.

E.2.b. Pre-Award Costs for Grants

You must request our approval prior if you need more than ninety (90) days pre-award cost authorization as described in [2 CFR 200.308\(g\)\(1\)](#) and [2 CFR 200.458](#). **Your business office must provide this request in writing.** You must document why pre-award costs are necessary and essential for the research in the request, and identify a specific date for our Grants Officer to consider. We will only consider approval of a specific date of more than ninety days pre-award costs before an award is made.

Our grants include up to ninety (90) calendar days pre-award costs; however, the actual date costs become allowable is not final until an award is made. We recommend you ask for a specific date as described above to prevent misunderstandings.

All costs incurred before a grant or cooperative agreement award are at the recipient's risk as described in [2 CFR 200.308\(g\)\(2\)](#). We are under no obligation to reimburse your costs if for any reason you do not receive an award, or if your award is less than anticipated and inadequate to your pre-award costs.

E.2.c. Pre-Contract Costs under FAR Cost-Reimbursement Contract Awards Not Available

You will not get reimbursed for any costs you incur before the effective date of a contract award.

E.2.d. Air Force Office of Scientific Research No-Cost Extension (NCE) Guidance

We require prior written approval to extend the period of performance, whether with or 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 at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the grant's period of performance.

All Principal Investigators (PIs) business offices must submit NCE requests through the following website: https://afosr.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4UcsVbwxSaoic8S [SV_4UcsVbwxSaoic8S](https://afosr.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4UcsVbwxSaoic8S). 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:

- (1) Request letter from the business office on University's or Institute's letterhead;
- (2) Compelling reason(s) for the extension beyond using unexpended balances;
- (3) Original end date and requested extension length;
- (4) SF 425 Federal Financial report showing the unexpended funds remaining or the most recent SF 270 Request for Advance or Reimbursement; and
- (5) Statement indicating all required previous annual reports have been provided to AFOSR.

In no event will the period of performance be extended merely for the purpose of using unexpended balances. Every effort should be made to ensure work is completed on time.

E.2.e. Equipment Vesting

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.313 and the DoW Terms and Conditions PROP Article I. Section A, 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. If a contract is awarded the applicable FAR Property Clauses will apply.

E.3. OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

If Grants.gov rejects your electronic application submission for any reason, you must correct all errors and resubmit your application.

F. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

F.1. CRITERIA

Our overriding purpose in supporting research is to advance the state of the art in areas related to the technical problems the Department of the Air Force encounters in developing and maintaining a superior U.S. Air Force and Space Force; lowering cost and improving the performance, maintainability, and supportability of U.S. Air Force and Space Force weapon systems; and creating and preventing technological surprise.

You should show strength in as many of the evaluation and selection areas as practicable to demonstrate maximum competitiveness. Merit-based, competitive procedures will be used, in accordance with RFO 35.102(e) and [32 CFR 22.315](#).

All proposals will be evaluated according to the weight of scientific evidence. “Weight of scientific evidence” means an approach to scientific evaluation in which each piece of relevant information is considered based on its quality and relevance, and then transparently integrated with other relevant information to inform the scientific evaluation prior to making a judgment about the scientific evaluation. Quality and relevance determinations, at a minimum, should include consideration of study design, fitness for purpose, replicability, peer review, and transparency and reliability of data (cf. Executive Order 14303, “Restoring Gold Standard Science”).

F.2. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

F.2.a. Merit-based, Competitive Procedures

Proposals will be subjected to programmatic and peer reviews.

F.2.a.1 Programmatic Review

The programmatic review will use AFOSR Program Officers and subject matter experts to assess the technical quality of the proposal, relevance of the proposed research to the portfolio descriptions in this BAA, relevance of the work to Air Force, Space Force and DoW needs, consistency with administration priorities, and the potential of the research balanced against the available funding resources of a given portfolio.

Programmatic review includes review for compliance with BAA requirements, with regulatory requirements, and with EO 14303 and EO 14332.

Programmatic review evaluates that the proposal does not promote, encourage subsidize, or facilitate: (a) racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the grant recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; (b) denial by the grant recipient of the sex binary in humans or the notion that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; (c) illegal immigration; or (d) any other initiatives that compromise public safety or promote anti-American values.

F.2.a.2 Peer Review

The peer review will use external reviewers to assess technical merit and Air Force and Space Force relevance of the proposal.

Selection for award consideration will be made based on the outcome of these reviews. We select proposals for possible funding on a competitive basis according to Public Law 98-369, the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, 10 U.S.C. 4141, and 10 U.S.C. 4023 using the merit-based, competitive procedures described in 32 CFR 22.315, incorporated here by reference. AFOSR will prioritize institutions that have demonstrated success in implementing GSS, IAW EO 14303 and EO 14332.

F.2.b. Principal Evaluation and Selection Criteria

F.2.b.1 Programmatic Requirements Review Criteria (Initial Screening – Go/No-Go Criteria)

1. Proposal includes all documents and elements required by the BAA.
2. Proposal incorporates all elements required for adherence to Gold Standard Science (EO 14303) and EO 14332, including making a commitment to complying with administration policies, procedures, and guidance respecting Gold Standard Science.
3. Proposal does not promote, encourage subsidize, or facilitate: (a) racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the grant recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; (b) denial by the grant recipient of the sex binary in humans or the notion that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; (c) illegal immigration; or (d) any other initiatives that compromise public safety or promote anti-American values.
4. Proposal is (1) relevant to the purpose of this BAA and to the research portfolio descriptions in the AFOSR Open BAA “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research” available on Grants.gov, (2) relevant to Air Force, Space Force and DoW needs, and (3) consistent with administration priorities, to include the EO 14332 requirement: Proposal demonstrably advances the President’s policy priorities.

If the application/proposal meets programmatic review requirements, it will proceed to the Full Evaluation; if it does not, it will be removed from consideration. The Full Evaluation will encompass the full evaluation consistent with RFO 35.102(e) and DODGARS 22.315.

F.2.b.2 Full Evaluation

- **Primary Selection Criteria:** Criteria listed below, which are of equal importance. These evaluations will entail a “weight of scientific evidence” approach (EO 14303):
 1. Technical merits of the proposed conference or workshop activity to the research and development goals of AFOSR.
 2. Potential relationship of the proposed conference or workshop activity to DoW missions.

Note: Technical merits include the following considerations, consistent with the requirements of EO 14303 and 14332:

- i. The proposal is likely to produce immediately demonstrable results. This includes the possibility for potentially longer-term, breakthrough results, in a manner consistent with the funding opportunity announcement.
 - ii. The inclusion of clear benchmarks for measuring success and progress towards relevant proposal goals.
- **Additional Evaluation & Selection Criteria:** Less important than the primary criteria but of equal importance to each other:
 1. The qualifications of the principal investigator(s) or conference chair(s).
 2. Strength of the Data Management Plan, if applicable.

F.2.c. Cost Analysis for Reasonableness and Realism

While of less importance to the Primary and Additional Evaluation criteria above, the realism of the proposed cost (to include cost sharing, if applicable, consideration of proposed budgets, and funding profiles), will be evaluated. We must make sure the costs you propose are reasonable, realistic, and allocable to this work before we can make an award. All costs must be allowable to be reasonable. We may analyze your technical and cost information at the same time.

F.2.d. Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are performed prior to award with regards to Science & Technology (S&T) Protection and assessments IAW 2 CFR 200.206.

No further evaluation criteria or criterion will be used for proposal selection.

F.3. DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING BY CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL

We use support contractor personnel to help us with administrative proposal processing. Our contractor personnel are employees of commercial firms that have a contract with us. We make sure all our support contracts include nondisclosure agreements that prohibit disclosure of any information you submit to other parties.

F.4. NO GUARANTEED AWARD

We do not guarantee that any award will be made under this competition.

G. AWARD NOTICES

G.1. SELECTION NOTICES

G.1.a. Electronic Notification

If your proposal is selected for possible award, an email will be sent to the principal investigator.

G.1.b. Selection for Possible Award Does Not Authorize Work

Our selection notice **is not** an authorization to start work and **is not** an award guarantee. We will contact your business office to get answers to any questions we have about your proposal and negotiate specific award terms.

G.1.c. Federal Award Document

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

G.1.d. Electronic Federal Award Distribution

We send award documents to your business office by email. This is called award distribution. We always ask your business office to forward the award to the Principal Investigator indicated on the award document.

G.2. ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENT

G.2.a. Certification to 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 DoW in 32 CFR Part 28 you must attach the completed [SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](#). You can find instructions for completing this form at [Forms | Grants.gov](#).

G.2.b. Unpaid Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under Any Federal Law – DoW 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.

G.2.c. 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 42 U.S.C. 6605, 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 42 U.S.C. 6605. 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)."

G.2.d. Certification of Gold Standard Science

By checking "I Agree" on the SF 424 (R&R) block 17, you agree to full comply with the administration policies, procedures, and guidance respecting Gold Standard Science, as specified in Executive Order 14303 "Restoring Gold Standard Science" and Executive Order 14332 "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking."

G.2.e. 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 Terms and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters, incorporated here 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>.

G.2.f. Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants

- (1) We 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. Contract applicants must be responsible based on the requirements in [RFO subpart 9.1](#) Responsible Prospective Contractors.
- (2) We must consider the non-public segment of the [SAM.gov Responsibility/Qualification Reports to include the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System \(CPARS\) past performance evaluations](#) for all awards exceeding the current simplified acquisition threshold.
- (3) 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.

- (a) We 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.
- (4) We must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment described in [2 CFR 200.213](#), 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.

G.2.g. 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 [Grant Terms and Conditions | Office of Naval Research](#) and [2 CFR Part 1122 - NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS: GENERAL AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS](#)

G.2.h. Acknowledgement of Research Support

In accordance with the COST Act, 10 U.S.C. 4027, you must acknowledge support provided by the Department of War in all materials based on or developed under our awards, including the conference or workshop website and program supporting the event, and provide a clear statement indicating the dollar amount of funds received from the Department of War. The requirement extends to copyrighted and non-copyrighted materials published or displayed in any medium above 280 characters.

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 FAXXXX-XX-X-XXXX, in the amount of [\$ Value].”

You must require any sub-recipients or sub-contractors under your award to include this acknowledgement too. You may apply for a waiver of the acknowledgement requirement through your Grants Officer and requests for waiver will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

G.2.i. 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 War.”

You must require any sub-recipients or sub-contractors under your award to include this

acknowledgement too.

G.2.j. Grants and Cooperative Agreements - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

Our grants are governed by OMB guidance, codified at 2 CFR 200 "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

These regulations are incorporated by reference into this announcement.

G.2.k. Domestic Grants and Cooperative Agreements - DoW Research and Development General Terms and Conditions

Our domestic grants are subject to the current (at time of award) "DoW Research and Development General Terms and Conditions" (DoW T&C) found at [Grant Terms and Conditions | Office of Naval Research](#).

These terms and conditions are incorporated by reference into this announcement. We can provide a generic model grant or cooperative agreement upon request.

Any resulting awards will be subject to the DoD Research and Development (R&D) General Terms and Conditions (Ts&Cs), located at: <https://www.nre.navy.mil/work-with-us/manage-your-award/manage-grant-award/grants-terms-conditions>.

In addition, the AFRL Addendum to the DoD R&D General Ts&Cs and AFRL Award-Specific Ts&Cs (attached to this BAA) include additional Ts&Cs that may be applicable to any resulting awards. This AFRL document is a supplement to the DoD R&D General Ts&Cs. To understand the entire AFRL requirement for a given article, the DoD R&D General Ts&Cs must be read in tandem with this document.

G.2.l. Foreign Grants and Cooperative Agreements – Terms and Conditions

Our foreign grants and cooperative agreements are governed by award-specific terms and conditions that implement and supplement the section 2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. We can provide a generic model grant or cooperative agreement upon request.

G.2.m. Contract Award Terms and Conditions

Our cost reimbursement contracts incorporate [RFO and applicable DoW Deviations](#) plus descriptive text tailored to the particulars of each procurement that combine as the terms and conditions of the contract. We can provide a generic model contract upon request.

G.2.n. 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.

G.2.o. Contract Solicitation Provisions and Clauses Incorporated by Reference

The full text of RFO and associated DoW Deviations, provisions and clauses may be accessed using the website at <https://www.acquisition.gov>. The full text of DoW Deviations may be accessed at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide>. **Any contract award will include all clauses required by RFO and associated DoW Deviations at the time of award.**

We include the full text of DEVIATION 2026-00036, 252.227-7992, *Identification and*

Assertion of Use, Release, or Disclosure Restrictions, in your Section K. We have to understand any data restrictions before negotiations. You should read the full text of this provision now at https://www.acquisition.gov/sites/default/files/page_file_uploads/DoD_RFO_Deviation_Part-27.pdf

For purposes of illustration, the following provisions and clauses may be applicable to AFOSR contracts:

- **52.209-6** Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting With Contractors Debarred, Suspended, Proposed for Debarment, or Voluntarily Excluded. (DEVIATION FEB 2026)
- **52.219-8** Utilization of Small Business Concerns (DEVIATION FEB 2026)
- **52.222-90** Addressing DEI Discrimination by Federal Contractors (APR 2026)
- **252.204-7012** Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting (DEVIATION 2024-O0013 REVISION 1)
- **252.204-7025** Notice of Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements (DEVIATION 2026-O0025 REVISION 2)
- **252.204-7998 Alternate A**, Annual Representations and Certifications (DEVIATION FEB 2026)
- **252.209-7004** Subcontracting with Firms that are Owned or Controlled by the Government of a Country that is a State Sponsor of Terrorism (DEVIATION 2026-O0002 REVISION 1)
- **252.227-7996** Technical Data--Withholding of Payment (DEVIATION 2026-O0036)
- **252.235-7011** Final Scientific or Technical Report (DEVIATION 2026-O0014)
- **252.240-7997** NIST SP 800-171 DoD Assessment Requirements (DEVIATION 2026-O0025)

G.2.p. Minimum Record Retention Requirements

You must keep records related to our awards for at least three (3) years after completion and the final Federal Financial Report is submitted. This requirement is described further in [2 CFR 200.334](#), incorporated here by reference. Contract awards have similar requirements.

H. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

H.1. MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

All of our awards require at least annual and final technical performance reports as required in [2 CFR 200.328](#). The DoW T&C REP Article I. Performance reporting will apply to grant or cooperative agreement awards. 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 required reports, or providing reports after required due dates, could lead to being considered ineligible for future awards.

You may use a SF 298 Report Documentation Page for interim progress reports.

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.gsa.gov/reference/forms/report-documentation-page>

H.2. REPORTS

H.2.a. Technical Performance Report Format

Federal-wide Research Progress Performance Report (RPPR) Format (All grant awards)

We now use the [Federal-wide Research Progress Performance Report \(RPPR\)](#) for annual and final research performance reports. The reporting requirements will be detailed in the grant award documents. The annual RPPR must provide a summary of work accomplished, including positive and negative results, in accordance with Gold Standard Science, pursuant to Executive Order 14303 and Executive Order 14332.

H.2.b. Standard Form (SF) 425 Federal Financial Report

Our awards require a final SF 425 Federal Financial Report. You can get the form at <https://www.gsa.gov/forms-library/federal-financial-report#>.

- (1) If you request any advance payment(s) under your award or have scheduled payments, you must submit quarterly SF 425 reports for the life of the award. Our awards include specific instructions.
- (2) You do not have to submit quarterly SF 425 reports if you only request payments by reimbursement.

H.2.c. 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.

To submit electronic payment requests you must register to use iRAPT in the Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) e-Business Suite at <https://piee.eb.mil/>. The website includes registration instructions.

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

H.2.d. Other Reports

AFOSR Program Officers may ask for informal technical reports as needed. We use these informal reports for program purposes, such as preparation for meetings and other technical purposes. We highly recommend you provide this information in a timely manner by electronic mail directly to the Program Officer.

H.2.e. Electronic Submission of Reports

You must plan on submitting reports electronically. **You must 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.

I. OTHER INFORMATION

I.1. TECHNICAL INQUIRES AND QUESTIONS

You should submit your technical questions and inquiries in writing by electronic mail to the Program Officer listed for your topic of interest in our most recent general Broad Agency Announcement titled, “[Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research](#)” posted on Grants.gov. You may access this announcement at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/362681>.

You should include the announcement number in the subject line.

If you submit a question by telephone call, fax message, or other means you may not receive a response.

I.2. GENERAL INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS

You must send all general questions about this announcement to us by email. Your questions will generally be consolidated with other questions and posted on Grants.gov so everyone gets the same information. We may provide an individual response by email if your question does not apply to anyone else.

AGENCY CONTACT:

JENNIFER BROWN, AFRL/AFOSR/REZH

Procurement Analyst

Email : afosr.baa@us.af.mil

I.3. OMBUDSMAN

- (1) An ombudsman has been appointed to hear and facilitate the resolution of concerns from offerors, potential offerors, and others for this acquisition. 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, contracting 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 or contract disputes. The ombudsman may refer the party to another official who can resolve the concern.
- (2) Before consulting with an ombudsman, interested parties must first address their concerns, issues, disagreements, and/or recommendations to the grants or contracting 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).

- (3) If resolution cannot be made by the GO, concerned parties may contact the AFRL Ombudsman, Technical Director, 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".
- (4) The ombudsman has no authority to render a decision that binds the agency.
- (5) 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 or contracting officer.

I.4. GRANTS AND CONTRACTING OFFICERS AUTHORITY

- (1) Grants and Contracting Officers acting within their warranted capacity are the only individuals legally authorized to make commitments or bind the Government.
- (2) No other individuals are authorized to make commitments or otherwise bind us.

I.5. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We post new funding opportunities throughout the year looking for today's breakthrough science for tomorrow's Air Force and Space 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.