

Funding Opportunity Announcement

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

Under the authority of 10 U.S.C. § 2358, the Air Force Research Laboratory's Munitions Directorate seeks unclassified proposals for basic research to provide an assistance mechanism to fulfill the Air Force vision to dominate time, space, and complexity in future conflicts across all operating domains, the ability to operate at unrivaled speeds, achieve unparalleled global awareness, enhance the reach and effect, and harness the power of complexity for the primary benefit of the public. These capabilities require leveraging and advancing development of revolutionary technology and enhanced collaboration between Research Centers, other DoD organizations, public entities, academia, private industry, and our operational stakeholders. The Regional Advancement and Capability Enhancement (RACE) program supports the Air Force Research Laboratory, Munitions Directorate (AFRL/RW) and, potentially, its corresponding weapons enterprise organizations (i.e. AFLCMC/EB) to achieve these objectives by ensuring the appropriate resources and infrastructure are in place to support the mission.

SUMMARY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION

1. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY NAME

Air Force Research Laboratory
101 West Eglin Blvd.
Eglin AFB, FL 32542

2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE

Regional Advancement and Capability Enhancement (RACE)

3. ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE

Funding Opportunity Announcement

4. ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER

FOA-AFRL-RW-2020-0001

5. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER

12.800

6. KEY DATES

Interested parties must e-mail ashley.haslauer@us.af.mil with their intent to propose NLT 25 October 2019 with the subject line "Intent to Propose FOA-AFRL-RW-2020-0001". CAGE Code, Entity Name and Main Point of Contact shall be noted in the body of the e-mail. Oral proposals will be scheduled with each interested party by 1 November 2019. Oral proposals will occur the week of 4 November 2019. Based on the outcome of the Oral Proposals, final cost and technical proposals will be due 29 November 2019.

A) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

a. SCHEDULE

The anticipated Government schedule for the initial RACE effort is 5 years after receipt of award. This schedule is for planning purposes only. The planning schedule dates may

deviate based on requirements. You should consider the table below as initial guidance as you develop a detailed schedule for your proposal which demonstrates feasibility of execution.

Requirement	Need Timeline
Provide Classified Research and Processing Space Within 15 miles of Bldg 349, Eglin AFB FL (10 people/1500 sq. ft.)	Immediate
Provide Classified Research and Processing Space co-located with initial Classified Research and Processing Space (30 people/6000 sq. ft.)	Summer 2021
Potential Plan for Adding Classified Research and Processing Space Within 15 miles of Bldg 349, Eglin AFB FL of 30,000 to 140,000 sq. ft. (Co-location with above requirements preferred, but not required)	Over the next several years

Notes to consider:

1. One approach for the network is to leverage existing Eglin fiber that is already in place at an off-base location such as at the REEF or AFAA at Jackson Guard. This approach would provide seamless, high speed access to Eglin network resources exactly as on-base users experience in various buildings and at remote Eglin ranges (e.g. AWEF Facility). Cost for utilizing existing fiber would be minimal and would include such things as making the connections to the RACE location at that site. Capabilities would be provided just as though the personnel were sitting on base.
2. The proposal may include an alternative approach such as a location where there is no Eglin fiber and no path to get it, resulting in the site being considered a GSU (Geographically Separated Unit). As a GSU, the network capabilities for Government NIPRNet/SIPRNet (networks) would have to be purchased from DISA (with annual recurring costs) and a mini network control center being required. The Government networks require multiple layers of encryption, negatively impacting bandwidth and access. Discuss how you'd provide direct access to Eglin resources such as shared drives.

b. POTENTIAL PROJECT TASKS

- i. **Task 1:** Launching an initial phased capability that facilitates collaboration, development, and implementation of concepts to foster transformational, multidisciplinary, technology solutions, the initial phase of RACE consists of providing the research and processing collaborative space requirements and schedule shown above
- ii. **Task 2:** Creating seamless interaction with educational institutions to leverage academic-driven innovation and enhance defense-critical science and engineering disciplines
- iii. **Task 3:** Growing economic opportunities for the Northwest Florida region to include state and local government, academia, private industry, and other DoD partners
- iv. **Task 4:** Identifying and supporting opportunities for multi-service or multi-agency research opportunities and initiatives to create new synergies while leveraging resources and technical talent
- v. **Task 5:** Encouraging information sharing and implementation of best practices across multiple partnerships and disciplines to streamline operations and mission execution

c. REVIEWS AND MEETINGS

Requirements and status meetings as needed.

d. TRAVEL

Predominately local meetings on Eglin AFB FL and surrounding areas as needed.

B) FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

This award is expected on or about 3 January 2020, subject to the availability of funds. The actual date the RACE project starts will be determined during negotiations.

We anticipate the initial award of no more than \$4,500,000 in total funding will be made available for one (1) award of five (5) years duration in the form of a cooperative agreement to an eligible Non-Federal entity under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2358. Applicants must be eligible to receive International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR) restricted data and must support this eligibility and capability in the proposal. Applicants from academia, the non-profit sector, and industry are anticipated.

We reserve the right to select and fund for award all, some, part, or none of the proposals received in response to this announcement. There is no guarantee of an award.

C) ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

a. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

i. General

All qualified, responsible organizational applicants eligible to receive International Trafficking in Arms Regulation (ITAR) restricted data from academia, the non-profit sector and industry are eligible to submit research proposals.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged to submit proposals and join others in submitting proposals. Small businesses are encouraged to submit proposals and join others in submitting proposals. Only one award is anticipated. Competition among all qualified, responsible, and eligible applicants is necessary to ensure a variety of meaningful proposals with varying technical and scientific approaches. As a result, it is not practical to reserve or otherwise set-aside any portion of the competition for any specific entity type.

ii. Eligibility Notice for All Applicants

We will 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 is qualified and responsible, you are not eligible to receive an award.

We must be able to determine you are eligible to receive International Trafficking in Arms Regulation (ITAR) restricted hardware when we review your proposal. You are responsible for ensuring compliance with all International Trafficking in Arms Regulation (ITAR) (22 CFR 120 et. seq.) requirements as applicable. If we cannot determine you and your organization are eligible to receive ITAR restricted hardware and comply with ITAR requirements, you are not eligible to receive an award.

iii. Ineligible Entities

Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), individual persons or people, and U.S. Federal agencies are not eligible to submit proposals as prime applicants under this announcement.

b. COST SHARING

Cost sharing is highly encouraged. No guidelines will be given for the cost sharing portion of the proposal. Each interested party will develop its concept of cost sharing and include that concept as part of the oral proposal. Cost sharing is negotiable with the cost and technical portion of the proposal.

c. OTHER

i. Acknowledgement of Support Disclaimer Requirements

To be noted on individual award.

ii. Dissemination of Research Results

We expect public dissemination of research results if you receive an award to the extent practical. This is a basic requirement for unclassified research results. Some data and information acquired under this competition may be subject to International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) restrictions. Any award made may include special terms and conditions to assure compliance with data disclosure restrictions.

iii. Representation for Tax Delinquency, Felony, Conviction, and Internal Confidentiality Agreements

You must complete the “Representation for Tax Delinquency, Felony Conviction, and Internal Confidentiality Agreements” provided with the Grants.gov package.

We cannot determine you are eligible for funding unless we receive this form.

iv. Conflict of Interest

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 or subcontractor 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 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.

v. Information Regarding Non-US Citizens Assigned to this Project

No Foreign Participation Allowed.

vi. International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR)

Your team must be eligible to receive International Trafficking in Arms Regulation (ITAR) restricted hardware, and must support this eligibility in the proposal. You and your team are responsible for compliance with all ITAR regulations and requirements.

D) APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

a. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE

Application forms are available electronically on Grants.gov. Go to the “View Grant Opportunity” page, click on the “Application Package” tab to download the application package.

You can find the electronic application package on Grants.gov by searching for the announcement number shown on page one (1). We will not issue paper copies of this announcement. Please contact ashley.haslauer@us.af.mil to request a reasonable accommodation for any accessibility requirements you may have.

b. CONTENT AND FORM APPLICATION SUBMISSION

i. Pre-proposal Inquiries and Questions

If you have questions or need help with technical matters, please contact mary.ward@us.af.mil. If you have general questions about this announcement or administrative matters, please submit your questions to ashley.haslauer@us.af.mil.

The Program Office does not have the authority to make commitments on behalf of the Government. Grants/Agreements/Contracting Officers acting within their warrant capacity are the only people authorized to make commitments for the Government.

ii. The Application as a Whole

You must submit your intent to propose to ashley.haslauer@us.af.mil NLT the date specified above.

Oral Proposal Format:

Charts/Presentation Material for oral proposals shall be submitted to ashley.haslauer@us.af.mil NLT 4 November 2019. There is no specified formatting for charts or presentation material. Oral proposals will be scheduled for one (1) hour increments with the first 30 minutes for the presentation and the second 30 minutes for the questions and answers segment.

You should not include confidential or proprietary information in your oral proposal. We will consider your entire oral proposal voluntarily furnished to us without restriction; however, we may authorize inclusion of confidential or proprietary information if notified in advance of scheduling the oral proposal. If you need to include confidential or proprietary information in your proposal, you must contact us five (5) days prior to the closing date of this announcement. You are responsible for providing a justification for your request. If approved, we will provide a written approval and marking instructions.

Your final technical and cost proposal must be submitted electronically through grants.gov. Your organization must complete several one-time actions before electronic submission. Registration with grants.gov may take up to twenty-one (21) days.

c. COMPONENT PIECES OF THE APPLICATION

i. SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance

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.

ii. Representation for Tax Delinquency, Felony Conviction, and Internal Confidentiality Agreements

You must attach this representation to field 18 of the SF 424 (R&R).

You must complete and attach the “Representation for Tax Delinquency, Felony Conviction, and Internal Confidentiality Agreements” provided with the Grants.gov package. We cannot fund an award if this information is not provided.

If you answer “is” a corporation with a felony conviction and/or “is” a corporation with a felony conviction on this representation, you may not be eligible for an award.

iii. Lobbying Certification & SFLLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

All applicants must provide Grants.gov Lobbying Form certification, and disclose any lobbying as applicable. These forms are attached to field 18 of the R&R Other Project Information Form.

d. 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. Your responses will be required NLT one week after such request is made.

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.

e. DUNS UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER, CAGE, AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT

i. SAM Registration Required

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

Be registered in [SAM.gov](#) before submitting its application;

Provide a valid DUNS unique entity identifier; and

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. Failure to comply with SAM Requirements will make you ineligible for award.

f. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

Interested parties must e-mail ashley.haslauer@us.af.mil with their intent to propose NLT 25 October 2019. Oral proposals will be scheduled with each interested party by 1 November 2019. Oral proposals will occur the week of 4 November 2019. Based on the outcome of the Oral Proposals, final cost and technical proposals will be due 29 November 2019.

g. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

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

h. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

i. 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.

ii. Pre-Award Costs under Cooperative Agreement Award

You must request our prior approval if your research requires a specific date pre- award costs become allowable, or if you need more than ninety (90) days pre-award cost authorization as described in 2 CFR 200.308(d)(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. This effort includes known long lead time parts; therefore, we highly encourage you to work with your business office in advance to determine the date you wish to request.

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. We will only consider approval of a specific date or more than ninety days pre-award costs before an award is made.

All costs incurred before a grant or cooperative agreement award are at your risk as described in 2 CFR 200.308(d)(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) APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

a. CRITERIA

Each offeror must present a feasible plan to execute all “Project Tasks”, a plan for collaboration with AFRL/RW, a realistic schedule, and cost sharing opportunities. Your application must demonstrate your competency in the tasks noted above. We recommend you identify any support recognition received by the peer community for previous contributions in similar efforts.

Our principal evaluation and selection criteria are:

- 1) The feasibility of the proposed research and development (i.e. meeting objectives noted above).
- 2) The applicant, key personnel qualifications, capabilities, related experience, facilities, and research techniques considered individually and in combination that are integral to achieving AFRL/RW objectives for this program.

b. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

i. Merit-Based, Competitive Procedures

We select proposals for possible funding on a competitive basis according to Public Law 98-369, the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, 10 USC 2361, and 10 USC 2374 using the merit-based, competitive procedures described in 32 CFR 22.315, incorporated here by reference.

We anticipate use of both peer and programmatic review of proposals. Peer review is conducted by external reviewers. Program review is conducted by Government employees. The evaluation criteria listed above are used to conduct peer and programmatic review. Selection is made based on the results of these reviews.

ii. Cost Analysis

If your proposal is selected for possible award, we will analyze the cost of the work for realism and reasonableness. The cost of your proposal is considered, but is not an evaluation factor or criterion.

We must make sure the costs you propose reasonable, realistic, and allocable to this work before we can make an award. All costs must be allowable to be reasonable.

c. DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTER 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 of our support contracts include nondisclosure

agreements that prohibit disclosure of any information you submit to other parties.

d. NO GUARANTEED AWARD

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

F) FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

a. SELECTION NOTICES

i. Electronic Notification

If your proposal is selected for possible award, an e-mail will be sent to your Point of Contact listed on the notice of intent. Our selection notice is NOT an authorization to start work, and is NOT an award guarantee.

b. AWARD NOTICES

- i. A cooperative agreement signed by a warranted Agreements Officer is the only official notice that an award has been made.

c. ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

See Attachment

d. REPORTING

All of our awards require at least annual and final technical performance reports as required in 2 CFR 200.328. All other reports will be as required. A Department of Defense (DD) 882 Report of Inventions and Subcontracts is required with the final report.

G) AGENCY CONTACTS

a. Technical Point of Contact

Mary "Missy" E Ward
Business Advisor AFRL/RWO
Mary.ward@us.af.mil
850-883-4803

b. Contracting Point of Contact

Ashley M. Haslauer
Contracting and Agreements Officer
Ashley.haslauer@us.af.mil
850-883-2682

H) OTHER INFORMATION

a. OMBUDSMAN

- i. 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.

- ii. 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).
- iii. If resolution cannot be made by the grants or contracting officer, concerned parties may contact the AFRL Ombudsman: Mr. Steven Ewers, HQ AFRL/PK, Wright- Patterson AFB OH. Email: steven.ewers@us.af.mil.
- iv. Concerns, issues, disagreements, and recommendations that cannot be resolved at the MAJCOM/DRU or AFISRA level, may be brought by the concerned party for further consideration to the U.S. Air Force ombudsman, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary (ADAS) (Contracting), SAF/AQC, 1060 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1060, phone number (571) 256-2397, facsimile number (571) 256-2431.
- v. The ombudsman has no authority to render a decision that binds the agency.
- vi. 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.