U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (ISN/CTR)

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title: Countering Iran's Ballistic Missile Capability
Funding Opportunity Number: SFOP0008430
Deadline for Applications: January 31, 2022, 11:59PM EST
CFDA Number: 19.033
Total Amount Available: $3,000,000

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of State's Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (ISN/CTR) sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating weapons of mass destruction (WMD), related delivery systems, and advanced conventional weapons proliferation and security threats from proliferator states and non-state actors.

ISN/CTR is pleased to announce an open competition for assistance awards through this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). ISN/CTR invites non-profit organizations, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), non-governmental organizations, international organizations, educational institutions, and for-profit organizations to submit proposals for projects that will advance the mission of the Department's Counter-Proliferation Program.

ISN/CTR prefers projects that cost less than $250,000 including overhead, though awards may involve multiple projects that cumulatively exceed $250,000.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to develop ballistic missile capabilities that threaten U.S. national security interests and are in violation of certain United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs), including UNSCR 2231. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) solicits proposals specifically aimed at countering the development of, and the advancements in, Iran's ballistic missile program and at improving international adherence to the relevant UNSCRs and other multilateral and bilateral sanctions.

Priority Regions: ISN/CTR's UN Sanctions Compliance Program prioritizes capacity-building efforts for countries that face a range of sanctions-evasion threats, with partner states across the Middle East/North Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, selected countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean, and in Europe. ISN/CTR encourages proposal submissions that address vulnerabilities associated with the threat environments in each country. Some priority countries can benefit from programmatic efforts highlighted within multiple categories. Importantly, with extremely limited exceptions, ISN/CTR will not provide foreign assistance to developed or high-income countries (e.g., Republic of Korea, The United Kingdom, or Saudi Arabia).

FY22 Objectives

ISN/CTR seeks proposals that are designed to counter or curtail the following activities related to Iran's effort to advance its ballistic missile development programs:

Illicit Shipping: Iran's continuous efforts to indigenize its ballistic missile capabilities have led the regime to intensify and diversify its pursuit of revenue, relevant materials, and resources. To evade sanctions, Iranian vessels operating under the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) have been known to engage in ship-to-ship transfers and conduct "dark voyages" by turning off their Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders when approaching and leaving ports to transport WMD materials. Iran has also registered some commercial ships under false flags to further obscure their illicit maritime activities and to more freely transport personnel and procure technology directly related to the country's ballistic missile program. In order to counter Iran's malign maritime activity and disrupt trade and procurement networks for its ballistic missile program, ISN/CTR seeks proposals targeting maritime service providers and port authority officials in the regions where IRISL operates to ensure that these foreign partners understand their obligations under UNSCRs 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835, 1929, and 2231 with regard to Iran's ballistic missile program.

ISN/CTR is seeking proposals that undertake the following activities:

- Train port authorities on proper sanctions compliance and vessel inspection practices, with the aim to prevent the sale or transfer of sanctioned or missile-related, proliferation-sensitive technology;
- Train partner countries on identifying ships that are associated with IRISL and that may be associated with the Iranian regime but sail under false flags. The target audience for this line of effort will primarily include maritime officials, port authorities, sanctions officials, Ministries/Departments of Trade and/or Commerce, and ship registries; and,
- Engage other entities not described above that can play a role in identifying and disrupting illicit Iranian shipping activity in support of their ballistic missile program, or in violation of related US and UN sanctions.

For Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), ISN/CTR's priority countries for this line of effort lie in the following geographic regions, as defined by the U.S. Department of State: Middle East/North Africa (NEA), Europe and Eurasia (EUR), and select countries in East Asia and Pacific (EAP), South and Central Asia (SCA), and Sub-Saharan Africa (AF).

Proliferation Finance: Iran continues to employ shell companies, foreign facilitators, informal financial systems, cyber-enabled fraud, and cross-border bulk cash smuggling to move funds that support the development and indigenization of its ballistic missile program and the acquisition of proliferation sensitive technologies. ISN/CTR seeks project proposals that will enhance the abilities of partner governments and the private sector to identify, report on, and disrupt Iranian-linked proliferation finance activities. Proposals should focus on training government entities such as financial intelligence units, financial supervisors, and regulators of designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) to identify Iranian-linked proliferation finance activity, improve public-private information sharing, and implement national counterproliferation finance controls in line with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations pertaining to proliferation finance.

ISN/CTR is seeking proposals that undertake the following activities:

- Train relevant government officials on implementing oversight mechanisms to ensure that effective counterproliferation finance controls are adopted at financial institutions and cryptocurrency exchanges operating within their jurisdictions; and,
- Instruct financial institutions, DNFBPs, money services businesses, and other relevant private sector stakeholders on how to conduct enhanced due diligence to identify entities and activities associated with Iran's ballistic missile program, understand the legal and reputational risks associated with wittingly or unwittingly transacting with those entities, and report suspicious transactions and customers to national authorities and international partners.

For FY22, ISN/CTR's priority countries for this line of effort lie in the following geographic regions, as defined by the U.S. Department of State: Middle East/North Africa (NEA), Europe and Eurasia (EUR), and select countries in East Asia and Pacific (EAP), South and Central Asia (SCA), Sub-Saharan Africa (AF), and South America (WHA).

Transfer of Proliferation-Sensitive Ballistic Missile-Related Technology and Materials: Iran seeks to import proliferation-sensitive, dual-use technology and certain commodities of exacting quality standards, with the goal of indigenizing its ballistic missile production. It relies on trusted procurement agents and networks in and outside Iran to obfuscate its procurement activities.

ISN/CTR is seeking proposals that undertake the following activities:

- Assist partner country governments in raising awareness of national and international regulations concerning Iranian ballistic missile technologies and components, including UNSCR 2231;
- Engage relevant stakeholders on public-private sector cooperation, information sharing, Know-Your-Customer (KYC) best practices, suspicious transaction reporting, and characteristics of sanctions evasion techniques that Iran could employ to advance its ballistic missile capabilities; stakeholders could include enterprises and regulators that trade or oversee transactions involving dual-use materials and research; and,
- Sensitize manufacturers to detect and prevent sanctions-defying procurement for benefit of Iran's missile efforts by market actors in third countries, including prominently procurements that are initiated in the People's Republic of China.

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Cyber-Enabled Theft of Proliferation Sensitive Technology: To evade international sanctions on its acquisition of proliferation-sensitive technology, such as components and materials that could be used to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Iran uses cyber activities to acquire data on the development of key weapons systems. ISN/CTR is seeking proposals to train suppliers of key technologies to enhance their systems to protect sensitive data; identify gaps in their cybersecurity; improve their ability to detect and mitigate early-stage network intrusion attempts; and, secure their networks against Iranian cyber actors.

For FY22, ISN/CTR's priority countries for this line of effort lie in the following geographic regions, as defined by the U.S. Department of State: Middle East/North Africa (NEA), Europe and Eurasia (EUR), and select countries in East Asia and Pacific (EAP), South and Central Asia (SCA), Sub-Saharan Africa (AF), and South America (WHA).

Open-Source Research: To support its effort to indigenize its ballistic missile programs, Iran operates a diverse procurement network involving procurement agents, brokers, and front companies, exploits the international financial system, and utilizes vessels and aircraft to move the raw and manufactured materials, items, and commodities it acquires to Iran. ISN/CTR seeks proposals to identify and provide in-depth insight into these activities, as well as to provide quick-turn, actionable, unclassified data for capacity-building purposes in response to CTR request. ISN/CTR also seeks proposals that identify and map ownership networks, structures, and investment personnel involved with known or suspected front companies and procurement activities for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). CTR does not seek to build an in-house open-source analytical capability and does not seek to fund the development of new analytical tools, nor does CTR seek for its time-constrained staff to be trained in the use of such tools.

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In addition to these categories, ISN/CTR is willing to consider innovative activities that address emerging and unanticipated Iranian missile-proliferation threats.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: Twelve (12) Months
Award amounts: awards should range between $50,000 to a maximum of $250,000 per project
Total available funding: *$3,000,000*
Type of Funding: FY22/23 Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Activities Funds under the Foreign Assistance Act.
Anticipated project start date: October 1, 2022
Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements are different from grants in that bureau staff are more significantly involved in the grant implementation. The CTR office will play an active role in developing and shaping the materials developed and implanted during this award.
Project Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed in 12 months or less.

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

C. ELIGILIBTY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply (both domestic and international):

- Not-for-profit organizations
- Public and private educational institutions
- For-profit organizations
- Federally funded research and development centers
- Public International Organizations

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

This program does not require cost sharing, however proposals that demonstrate cost sharing will be welcomed.

The recipient is required to maintain written records to support all allowable costs that are claimed as its contribution to cost-share, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. In the event the recipient does not meet the minimum amount of cost-sharing as stipulated in the recipient's budget, the Bureau's contribution may be reduced in proportion to the recipient's contribution.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a unique entity identifier (Data Universal Numbering System/DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet), as well as a valid registration on www.SAM.gov. Please see Section D.3 for information on how to obtain these registrations. Individuals are not required to have a unique entity identifier or be registered in SAM.gov.

Applicants are only allowed to submit one proposal per organization. If more than one proposal is submitted from an organization, all proposals from that institution will be considered ineligible for funding.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Address to Request Application Package

Application forms required below are available at grants.gov

Please follow all instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be ineligible.

2. Content of Application

Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars
- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **<u>required</u>**:

<u>Section 1 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):</u>
This form is part of the NOFO proposal package.

<u>Section 2 – Project Proposal(s):</u>
Using the provided template, the applicant must provide a completed project proposal. The proposal form must be completed in its entirety and clearly specify the proposed scope, deliverables, and timeline. Applicants must specify a point of contact for each project that is proposed.

<u>Section 3 - Budget:</u>
Also using the provided project proposal template, applicants must provide a budget for each project. The budget must identify the total amount of funding requested, with a breakdown of amounts to be spent in the following budget categories:

Application Submission Process: Applicants should submit project proposals electronically using Grants.gov. Thorough instructions on the Grants.gov application process are available at http://www.grants.gov. For questions relating to Grants.gov, please call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726.

3. Required Registrations:

Any applicant listed on the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in the System for Award Management (SAM) is not eligible to apply for an assistance award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 235), “Debarment and Suspension.” Additionally, no entity listed on the EPLS can participate in any activities under an award. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the EPLS in SAM to ensure that no ineligible entity is included.

All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

- Unique entity identifier from Dun & Bradstreet (DUNS number)
- NCAGE/CAGE code
- www.SAM.gov registration

Step 1: Apply for a DUNS number and an NCAGE number (these can be completed simultaneously)
DUNS application: Organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet. If your organization does not have one already, you may obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or visiting http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform
NCAGE application: Application page here:
https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx
Instructions for the NCAGE application process:
https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/Docs/US%20Instructions%20for%20NSPA%20NCAGE.pdf
For NCAGE help from within the U.S., call 1-888-227-2423
For NCAGE help from outside the U.S., call 1-269-961-7766
Email NCAGE@dlis.dla.mil for any problems in getting an NCAGE code.
Step 2: After receiving the NCAGE Code, proceed to register in SAM.gov by logging onto: https://www.sam.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Please note that your CCR registration must be annually renewed.

4. Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be submitted on or before January 31, 2022, 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. Applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. will be ineligible for consideration. Begin the application process early, as this will allow time to address any technical difficulties that may arise in advance of the deadline. There will be no exceptions to this application deadline.

5. Funding Restrictions

Of note, legal restrictions prevent ISN/CTR from providing assistance to Burma, China, Iran, North Korea, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria.

6. Other Submission Requirements

All application materials must be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Applicants should note that the following criteria serve as a standard against which all project proposals will be evaluated and identify significant considerations that should be addressed in all proposals. ISN/CTR will award a cooperative agreement to the applicant(s) whose offer represents the best overall value to the government from both a technical and cost perspective.

ISN/CTR will evaluate proposals against the stated criteria. Criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

- **Proposed Activity or Activities:** Applicants should clearly describe what they propose to do and how they will do it. The proposed project(s) must directly relate to meeting the specified objectives and applicants should include specific information on how they will systematically meet ISN/CTR's global threat reduction mission. ISN/CTR will evaluate the project proposal in terms of how well it addresses the issues at hand, relevance and feasibility of the proposed activities, the timeline for completion, and the extent to which the impact of the project will continue beyond the conclusion of the period of performance.

- **Organizational Capability:** Applicants must demonstrate how their resources, capabilities, and experience will enable them to achieve the stated goals and objectives in an international technical context. The proposal(s) must identify all key partners and organizations that will be involved in implementation of this project including approaches to participant recruitment.

- **Budget:** Proposed costs will be evaluated for feasibility, fiscal control practices, and efficiency. ISN/CTR must be able to determine that proposed costs are reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the proposed project activities. ISN/CTR will evaluate the budget to determine if the overall costs are realistic for the work to be performed, if the costs reflect the applicant's understanding of the allowable cost principles established by 2CFR200, and if the costs are consistent with the program narrative.

- **Impactful and Measurable Engagements:** Although complex nonproliferation objectives demand persistent engagement with partner countries, discrete projects should individually advance progress toward a particular objective. Proposals should describe the end-state the project aims to achieve, along with specific, measurable, and realistic benchmarks by which to gauge progress toward that end-state. Compelling project proposals will establish milestones to be met during the training period, and describe observable progress in the adoption, implementation, or enhancement of nonproliferation or sanctions enforcement and compliance best practices

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** CTR values collaboration and promotes diversity, equity and inclusion with all stakeholders by creating an environment that is open to equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran or disabled status. Implementers are welcome but not required to submit with their proposal a plan for how the implementer intends to further CTR's diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) objectives through their programming. Submitted plans will be evaluated separate to the overall evaluation of projects, to ensure that submissions with DEIA plans will not result in the higher evaluation of any proposal package over one that did not submit a DEIA plan.

- **Cyber Security:** Implementer shall be required to establish and follow policy and procedures for an effective implementation of security controls using NIST 800-53 (Rev. 4 or higher), System and Information Integrity Policy (SI-1) as follows:
  1. Identification and Authentication: Implement multifactor authentication for network access and local access.

  2. Identification and Authentication: Implement multifactor authentication for network access and local access.
  3. Access Controls: Implement security controls for information sharing, remote access and wireless access including:
     a. Monitoring, controlling, and protecting remote and wireless access to information by auditing information systems components (e.g. workstations, notebook computers, smartphones, and tablets).
  4. Incident Handling: Monitor and report any and all security incidents including breaches to ISN/CTR directly within 48 hours of the incident and include a risk assessment of the security access controls.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. <u>Federal Award Notices</u>

The cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only start incurring project expenses beginning on the start date shown on the grant award document signed by the Grants Officer.

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of State.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Anticipated Time to Award: Applicants should expect to be notified of the *recommended* concepts within 90 days after the submission deadline. Following this initial notification, **selected applicants will be expected to submit a full application within 30 days**. ISN/CTR staff will provide information at the point of notification about the requirements for the full application, which may include revisions to the activities. The full applications will not be subject to further competition, but must incorporate any suggested changes made by ISN/CTR.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Project Implementation Meeting: The recipient should expect to have a pre-project implementation meeting with ISN/CTR within thirty days after the cooperative agreement is awarded and before any work is performed for the award.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Terms and Conditions: Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications that will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include: 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, Certifications and Assurances, and the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

3. Reporting

Reporting Requirements: As a cooperative agreement, reporting and deliverable requirements for this project exceed those of typical grants. Applicants should pay special attention to these enhanced reporting and deliverable requirements. Specifically:
Using a template provided by ISN/CTR, the Recipient shall submit quarterly progress reports to the designated Grants Officer Representative (GOR), program distribution list, and to the following email address ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov detailing:

- Assistance activities conducted during the reporting period;
- Milestones and successes achieved to date;
- Key assistance activities remaining to be implemented with a projected timetable;
- Details of any problems encountered with proposed solutions; and
- Any other pertinent information requested by ISN/CTR.
- The Recipient shall provide the GOR with copies of all materials developed under this cooperative agreement.
- In addition to regular quarterly reports, the Recipient shall furnish the GOR with ad hoc reports as requested from time to time.
- In addition to the above, the Recipient shall submit quarterly financial reports throughout the project period. Financial reports are due 30 days after the reporting period. Final programmatic and financial reports are due 120 days after the close of the project period

Applicants should be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR 200 Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

If you have any programmatic questions about the grant application process, please contact: isn-ctr-ir@state.gov

For interagency agreement (IAA) submissions, directly submit application to the relevant program team and copy the budget team ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov

Direct any NOFO submission (non-programmatic) questions to:
ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov

H. OTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines for Budget Justification

Personnel and Fringe Benefits: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program, for program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the program involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), and costs at least $5,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the program. If an item costs more than $5,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All “Other” or “Miscellaneous” expenses must be itemized and explained.

Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the program activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

"Cost Sharing" refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy.   It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers' time and donated venues.