

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: FY19 Global Nuclear Security Engagement
Activities
Funding Opportunity Number: SFOP0005484
Deadline for Applications: February 1, 2019
CFDA 19.033

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), part of the Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN), sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating proliferation risk in frontline states and regions where the terrorist threat is on the rise, such as South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.

ISN/CTR administers the Partnership for Nuclear Threat Reduction (PNTR) which works to prevent states and terrorist groups from diverting, acquiring, or proliferating nuclear material, technology, or expertise that could be used to attack the United States. In particular, PNTR works to strengthen nuclear security practices and mitigating threats from radicalized or coerced personnel at sensitive nuclear facilities. All known cases of theft involving nuclear material have been led or abetted by insiders. To address this threat, PNTR focuses efforts to prevent radicalized, disgruntled, or coerced insiders from diverting nuclear material, technology, and expertise. PNTR does not provide physical security upgrades or guard force training.

Objectives

PNTR partners with nuclear scientists, technicians, and engineers, security personnel, institutional trainers, and technical organization decision-makers to promote technical cooperation and enhance nuclear security best practices. PNTR projects broadly fall into one of three categories, listed in no particular order:

- **Insider Threat Mitigation:** Activities to develop and implement trustworthiness programs and related regulatory guidance (i.e. human reliability program, fitness-for-duty, etc.) at a facility, organizational, or national level and/or mitigate the risk of an insider threat.
- **Nuclear Security Culture in Practice:** Activities that strengthen security practices and procedures, and reinforce personal responsibility of nuclear technical organizations' personnel for keeping nuclear material secure. Examples include, but are not limited to, the IAEA's nuclear security culture self-assessment methodology and the development of workforce training programs for nuclear operators and regulators.

- **Countering Violent Extremism in the Nuclear Sector:** Activities that identify threats or mitigate risks from radicalized or coerced personnel to sabotage or divert nuclear material, technology, or expertise. Examples include, but are not limited to, trainings that raise awareness of radicalization indicators or provide training on behavioral observation techniques that can mitigate these risks.

PNTR is also willing to consider innovative activities that address emerging and unanticipated nuclear and radiological threats.

Funding Priorities

While global in scope, PNTR directs its efforts towards individual countries to maximize its programmatic impact. PNTR is specifically interested in proposals which engage the following countries, listed roughly in order of priority: India, Egypt, South Africa, Jordan, UAE, Turkey, Libya.

PNTR is primarily interested in engaging partner countries' government operators and regulators, and technical organization decision makers. However, PNTR is also willing to engage industry, academia, and NGOs on topics related to nuclear security culture, as appropriate. Audiences for these activities may include:

- **Government Operators, Regulators, and Security Personnel:** PNTR engages operators, regulators and security personnel to implement trustworthiness programs and insider threat mitigation activities, and improve nuclear security practices. These projects will train technical personnel, develop guidance documents and standard-operating-procedures, and establish training programs for the technical workforce.
- **Technical Organization Decision Makers:** To ensure the sustainability and success of PNTR engagement with operators, regulators, and security personnel, PNTR engages relevant decision makers and nuclear industry officials. These activities will provide decision makers with appropriate information to obtain the necessary support to institutionalize efforts to enhance nuclear security practices and culture, mitigate insider threats, and establish trustworthiness programs

Tailored Engagement Strategies: PNTR sponsors projects that are relevant to each partner country's needs, capabilities, infrastructure, and regulatory environment. Rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach, PNTR trainings are based on an understanding of technical and human capacity in each partner country, take cultural considerations into account, and build off of past PNTR trainings. Tailored engagement strategies may include such elements as:

- **Utilizing Innovative Technology:** To sustain developments made during in-country trainings and to provide consistent, regular support throughout project implementation, PNTR utilizes online training modules and virtual communication for capacity building.
- **Concrete Impact:** PNTR seeks to move beyond awareness-raising and toward actual adoption, implementation, and sustainment of best practices. To accomplish this, PNTR is open to a variety of approaches, including leveraging

private sector capabilities. Utilizing experienced international partners as trainers or subject matter experts is another possible approach. PNTR may provide specialized training, such as fellowships, study tours or consultative visits, for key individuals with the ability to promote PNTR goals in key institutions.

- **Leveraging Technical and Other Expertise:** PNTR incorporates relevant experts from U.S. and international technical organizations in its training activities. While PNTR does not actively seek to promote nuclear power development, it does seek to incorporate lessons learned and best procedural practices from the nuclear industry.

Additional engagement mechanisms and tools which advance nuclear security culture for technical experts are welcome, as this listing is not exhaustive.

PNTR believes that engagement with our partners on nuclear security is an ongoing endeavor. To this end, ISN/CTR will evaluate the project based on the strength of its ongoing engagement activities and established milestones, seeking work that will continue throughout the period of the project and utilize in-country activities where necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the ongoing training effort.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: *twelve months*

Number of awards anticipated: *TBD* (dependent on amounts)

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

Type of Funding: FY19/20 Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Activities Funds under the Foreign Assistance Act

Anticipated project start date: *October 1, 2019*

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements are different from grants in that bureau/embassy staff are more actively involved in the grant implementation.

Project Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed in *12 months* or less.

Optional: The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

C. ELIGIBILITY 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*
- *Public International Organizations*

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

This program does not require cost sharing, however proposals which 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.

The organization that submits an application in response to this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) announcement acknowledges and accepts all of the requirements contained herein. The submission in response to this announcement is voluntary and does not obligate the Department of State to fund the proposal or proposal preparation costs.

Applicants should submit one proposal package per organization/or PI. If more than one proposal package is submitted from an organization/or PI, all proposals from that institution will be considered ineligible for funding.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Section 1 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):

This form is part of the NOFO proposal package.

Section 2 – Project Proposal(s):

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.

Section 3 - Budget:

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:

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 project, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the project.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this project, for both program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the project 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 project, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the project), 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 project. 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 project activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the project, 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.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the project 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.

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

Applicants must adhere to the requirements of the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR), including Fly America Act requirements, when proposing and conducting travel. For further information and current foreign per diem rates, please visit:

http://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=184&menu_id=78b

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.

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.

Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be submitted on or before February 1, 2019 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.

Funding Restrictions

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

V. AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

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:** Applications should be responsive to the program framework and policy objectives identified in the solicitation, appropriate in the country/regional and organizational context, and 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 these objectives will advance ISN/CTR's 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. (30)
- **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. (25)
- **Budget:** Proposed costs will be evaluated for realism, 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. (15)
- **Past Performance:** In reviewing proposals, ISN/CTR will evaluate the organization's past performance on other federal and non-federal grants and cooperative agreements. This will include a review of whether objectives for past

awards were met; whether the organization complied with the terms of conditions of past awards, including reporting and financial management requirements; and the timeliness of project implementation. (30)

- **Cyber Security:** Recipients and subcontractors are required to maintain NIST 800 IT Security Standards – (e.g. protective measures that are commensurate with the consequences and probability of loss, misuse, or unauthorized access to, or modification of information) on all covered information systems, and to report cyber incidents directly to the grantor within 48 hours of the incident. Proposals must describe the applicants computer and cyber security practices and capabilities.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The grant award or 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 30 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 which 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 administered by ISN/CTR. 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) and to the following email 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 90 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](#).

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

G. FEDERAL AWARDDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions about this solicitation, contact:

Scott Bruce, Team Chief
Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction
U.S. Department of State
Email: BruceST2@state.gov (*Preferred method of communication*)
Phone: (202) 647 9735

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:
Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction Management & Special Projects Team
U.S. Department of State
Email: ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov