

USD(R&E)

Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) – FY23 Funding Opportunity Announcements



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DEPSCoR Program Manager
Basic Research Office
DEPSCoR Webinar

5 April 2023



Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) Team

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Scientific Advisors

Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA)

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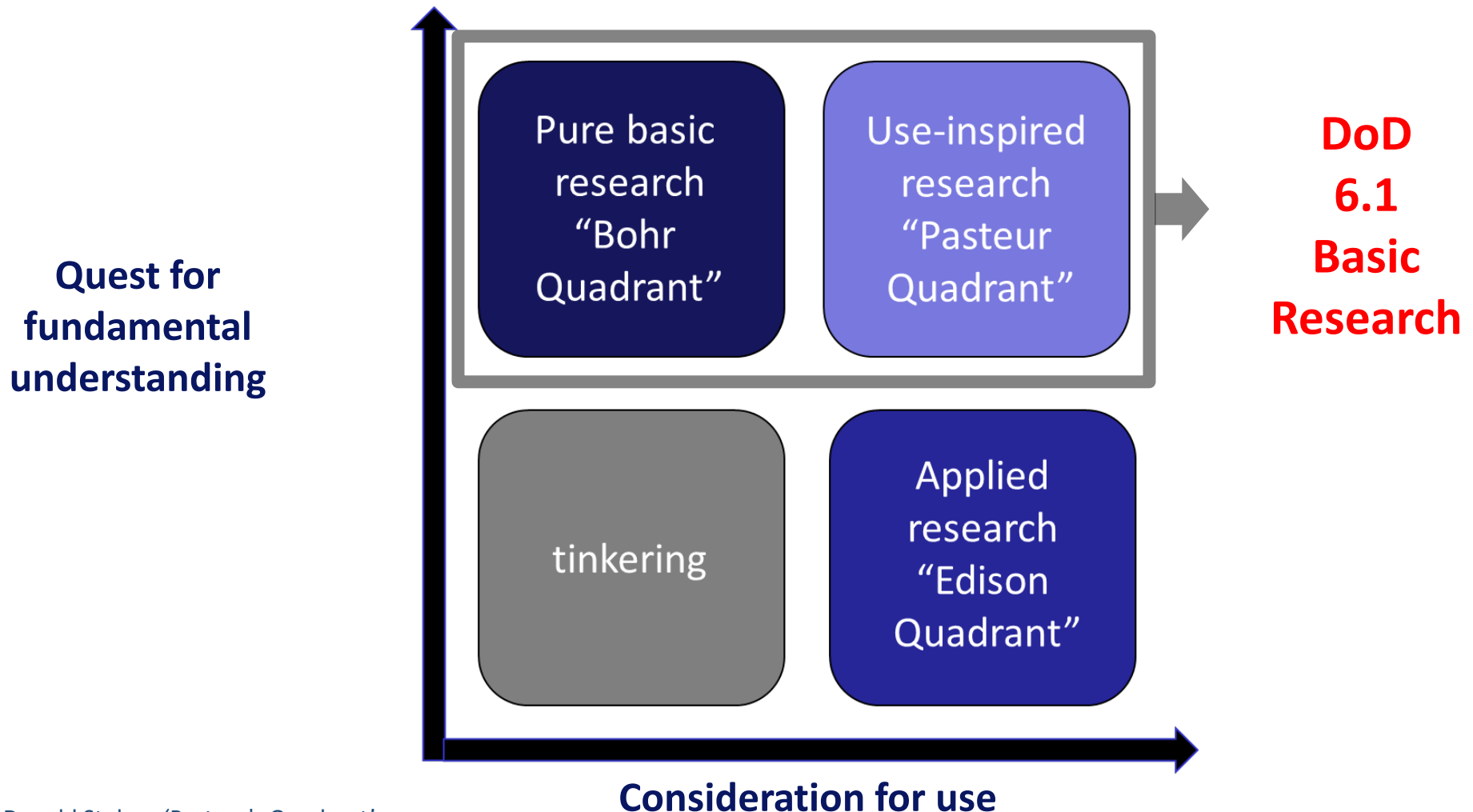


How does DoD define Basic Research?

DoD policy states that basic research is the
*“systematic study directed toward greater knowledge
or understanding of the fundamental aspects of
phenomena and of observable facts...”*



Why DoD Funds Basic Research



Donald Stokes: 'Pasteur's Quadrant'



Ways To Engage with tri-Service Program Officers



Email preferred for most POs



Phone (hit or miss due to travel)

Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)	Army Research Office (ARO)	Office of Naval Research (ONR)
<p>https://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl/afosr/</p> <p>On grants.gov search using keyword(s) “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research” to see the latest core announcement. The current funding opportunity number for general research interests is FA9550-23-S-0001.</p>	<p>https://www.aro.army.mil/</p> <p>Select “Collaborate with Us”; then “Funded Research”; then “Learn More”; and then “ARL Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)” to see the most recent ARO Core Broad Agency Announcement for Fundamental Research for 21 November 2022 - 20 November 2027, W911NF-23-S-0001.</p>	<p>https://www.onr.navy.mil/</p> <p>Select “Work With Us” and then “Funding Opportunities/Announcements” and then select FY23 Long Range Broad Agency Announcement for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology, N00014-23-S-B001. Navigate to https://www.nre.navy.mil/our-research/onr-technology-and-research for a list of ONR-sponsored research. Select a technology area which will provide program officer and specific program details.</p>



Basic Research Investments Across DoD



Pre-doctoral Fellowships

- **NDSEG**
- **SMART**
- Minerva Training Grants



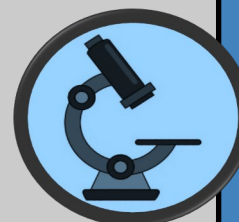
Research Funding to University Laboratories

- **VBFF**
- Minerva projects
- **MURI**
- Single-Investigator Awards
- Young Investigator Program



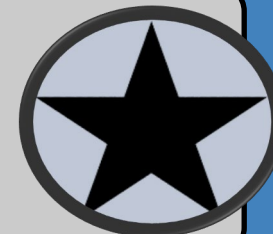
Expanding the Research Base

- **DEPSCoR**
- **HBCU/MI**



Equipment and Facility Funding

- **DURIP**



Transition to DoD

- Minerva transition to Professional Military Schools
- **LUCI**
- **UARCS**



Technology Transfer

- **SBIR/STTR**
- Manufacturing Institutes

Service Programs **green**

OSD Programs **purple**

Cross- Service Programs **orange**



DEPSCoR Program Overview

- Defense *Experimental* Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was created by Congress in FY91 DoD appropriation, and legislatively authorized in 1994
- Defense *Established* Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was reauthorized in 2017
- Appropriations (\$20M): FY23 Defense Appropriations Congressional supplement to the Basic Research Initiatives program line dedicated to DEPSCoR



Program Goals

DEPSCoR Objectives as mandated by Congress:

1. **Enhance the capabilities** of institutions of higher education (IHE) in eligible State/Territories to develop, plan, and execute science and engineering (S&E) research that is relevant to the mission of the DoD and competitive under the peer-review systems used for awarding Federal research assistance
2. **Increase the number of university researchers** in eligible States/Territories capable of performing S&E research responsive to the needs of the DoD
3. **Increase the probability of long-term growth** in the **competitively awarded** financial assistance that IHE in eligible States/Territories receive from the Federal Government for S&E research

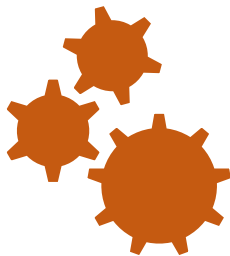


DEPSCoR: Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Program Goal

To increase the number of university researchers and improve the capabilities of institutions of higher education in eligible jurisdictions to perform competitive basic research in science & engineering relevant to the DoD mission & reflect national security priorities.

Key Components



**Capacity Building
DEPSCoR
Competition**

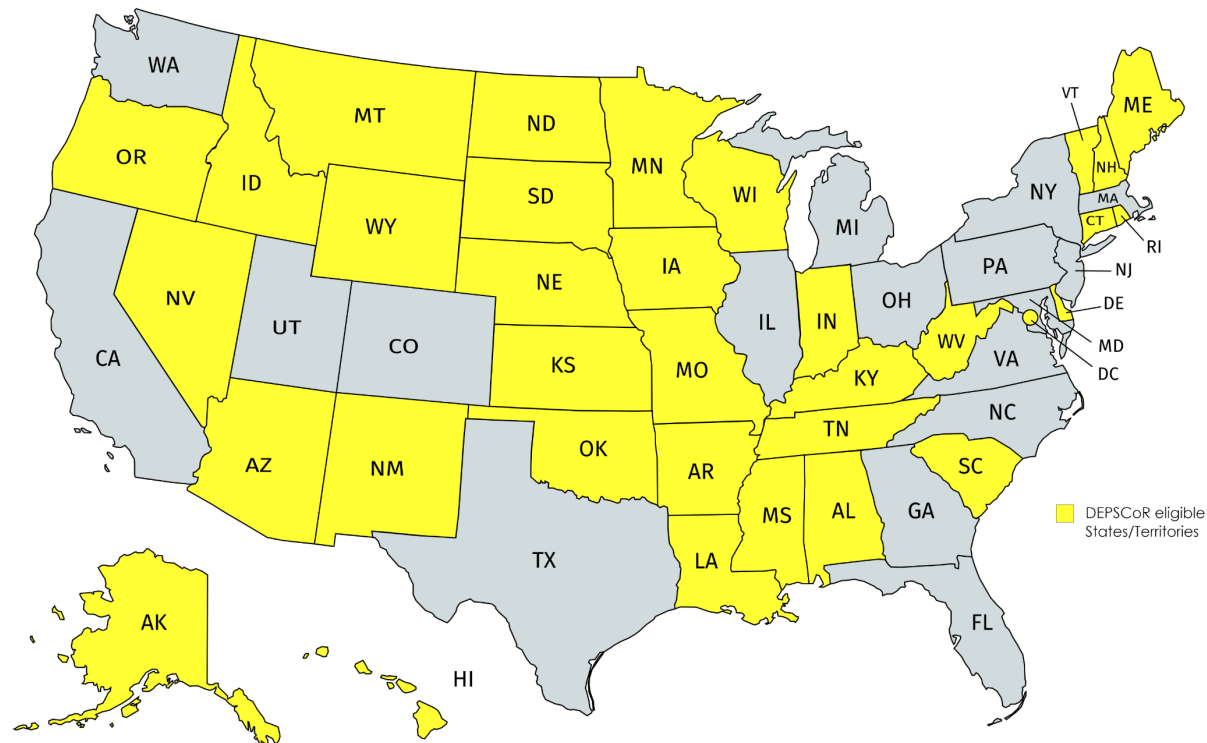


**Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR
Competition**



**Outreach &
Education**

Congressionally-directed eligibility criteria: “States or territories that received less than 60% of 1/50th of the total DoD S&E research obligations to U.S. IHE are eligible if a commitment to developing S&E research is demonstrated.”



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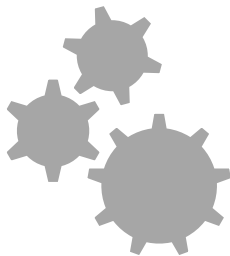


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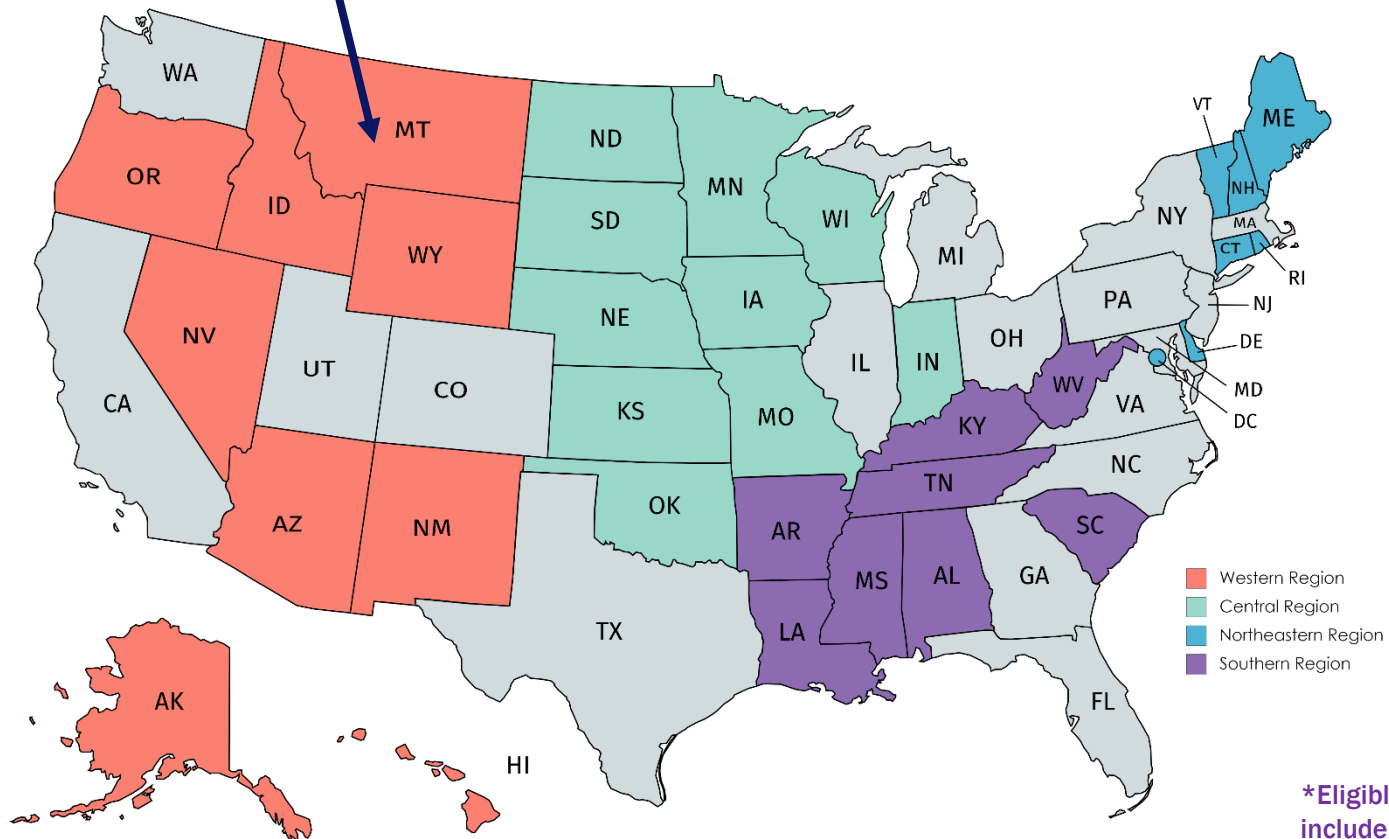


Outreach &
Education



DEPSCoR Outreach Events

Montana State University*
May 18, 2023



*Eligible territories include Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

* Register by April 18 and submit research menu by April 21

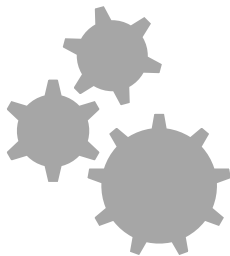


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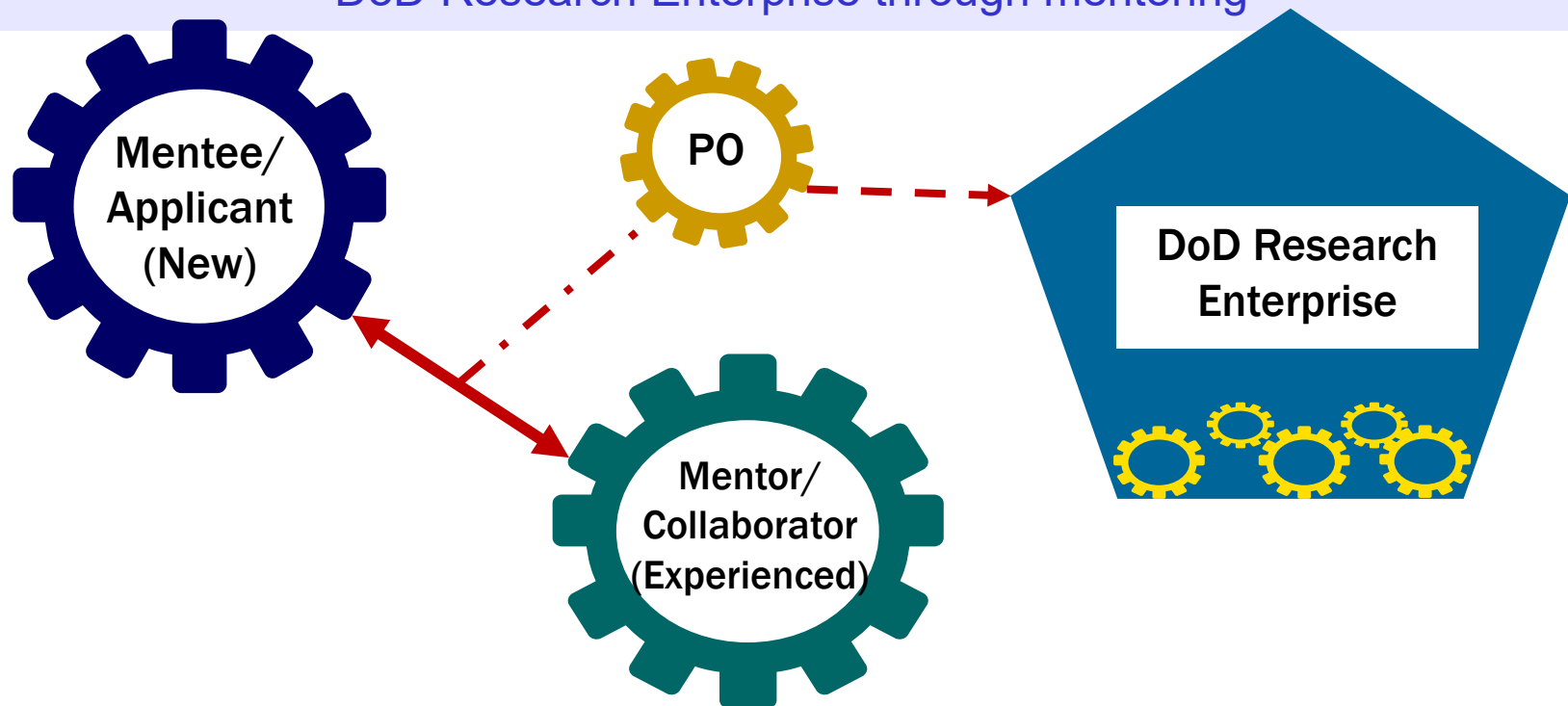


Outreach &
Education



Research Collaboration (RC) DEPSCoR Competition

Integrate new researchers from DEPSCoR-eligible states/territories into the DoD Research Enterprise through mentoring



Program Structure:

- 2-person team from DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories can apply
 - \$200K/year (total cost) for three years
- **FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2023-0008**



DEPSCoR – RC Competition

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2023-0008

- Collaborative research grants
- **Strongly encouraged to flesh out proposal idea with a tri-Service Program Officer listed in the FOA**
- One white paper submission per Applicant
- Collaborator may partner with more than one Applicant
- Security clearance is not required to receive award
- U.S. citizenship is not required
- Approximately 25 proposals will be selected for funding



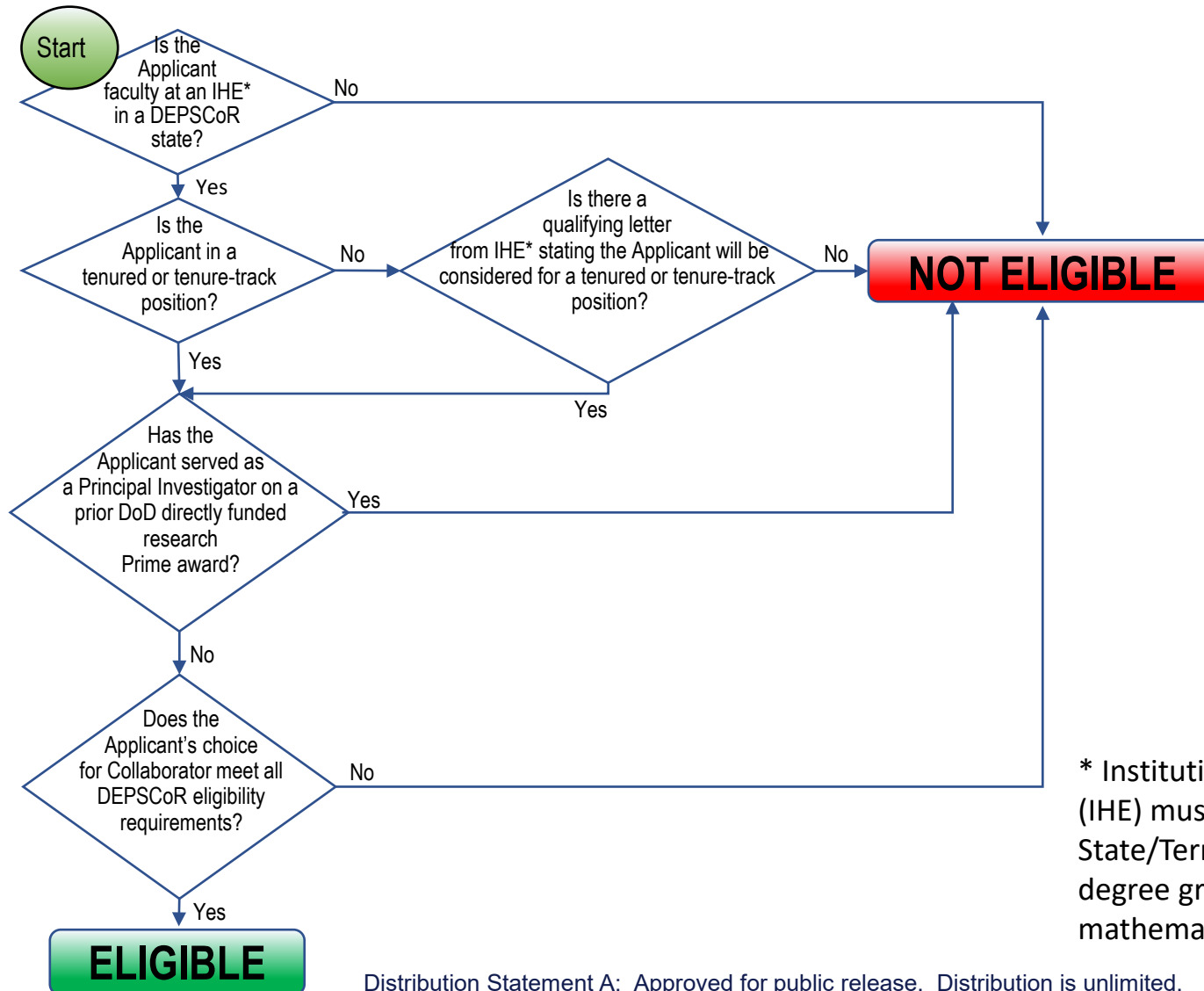
DEPSCoR – RC Competition

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2023-0008

- Both Applicant and Collaborator must be **tenured or tenure-track faculty members** with appointments at an IHE in a DEPSCoR eligible State/Territory
- Applicant must be a full-time faculty member who has **never** served as a PI on a prior DoD-funded award
- Collaborator will collaborate on research AND provide *mentorship* to the Applicant. Collaborator must have **served as a PI on a DoD-funded research award actively between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2023.**

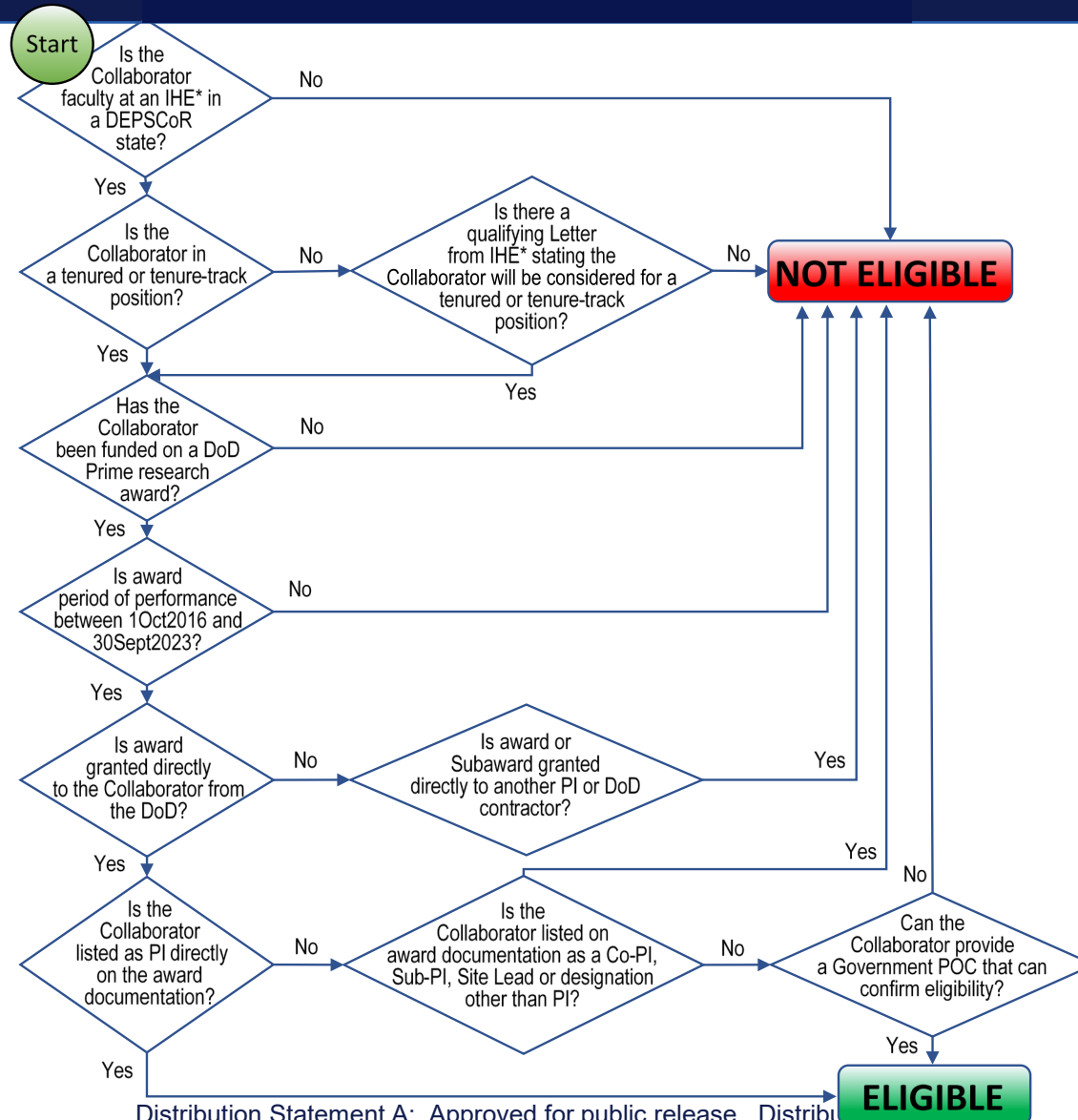


DEPSCoR – RC Applicant Eligibility



* Institution of Higher Education (IHE) must be in a DEPSCoR eligible State/Territory and with an advanced degree granting program in science, mathematics, and/or engineering

DEPSCoR – RC Collaborator Eligibility





DEPSCoR – RC Collaborator Eligibility

DoD Offices & Agencies*



Non-DoD Government*



*These are examples and do not represent comprehensive lists



Topics in FY23 Research Collaboration FOA

Topic Number	SERVICE	TOPIC AREA	PROGRAM OFFICER
1	Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)	Energy, Combustion, and Non-Equilibrium Thermodynamics	Dr. Chiping Li
2	AFOSR	Agile Science of Test and Evaluation	Dr. Brett Pokines
3	AFOSR	Molecular Dynamics and Theoretical Chemistry	Dr. Michael Berman
4	AFOSR	Electromagnetics	Dr. Arje Nachman
5	Army Research Office (ARO)	Modern Optics	Dr. James Joseph
6	ARO	Neurophysiology and Cognitive Neuroscience	Dr. Chou Hung
7	ARO	Information Assurance	Dr. Paul Yu
8	ARO	Intelligent Cyber-Physical Systems	Dr. MaryAnne Fields
9	Office of Naval Research (ONR)	Electronic Devices, RF Semiconductors and Amplifiers	Dr. Paul Maki
10	ONR	Interplay of Thermal, Mechanical, and Electrochemical Processes on Degradation Mechanisms of Energy Storage Materials	Dr. Joseph Parker
11	ONR	Aerodynamics for Sea-Based Aviation	Dr. David Gonzalez
12	ONR	Sustained Adaptability through Noise	Dr. Meredith Hutchinson



Establishing a Collaboration

Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) - non-comprehensive repository of government-funded scientific, technical, and engineering information for the DoD.

<https://discover.dtic.mil/products-services/>

Connect and Collaborate - site where prospective Applicants and Collaborators, seeking collaboration in this DEPSCoR opportunity can post their interest. [https://dod-](https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)

[basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor](https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)

Discussing proposed research with the Program Officer could identify possible networking leads.

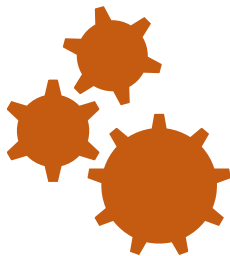


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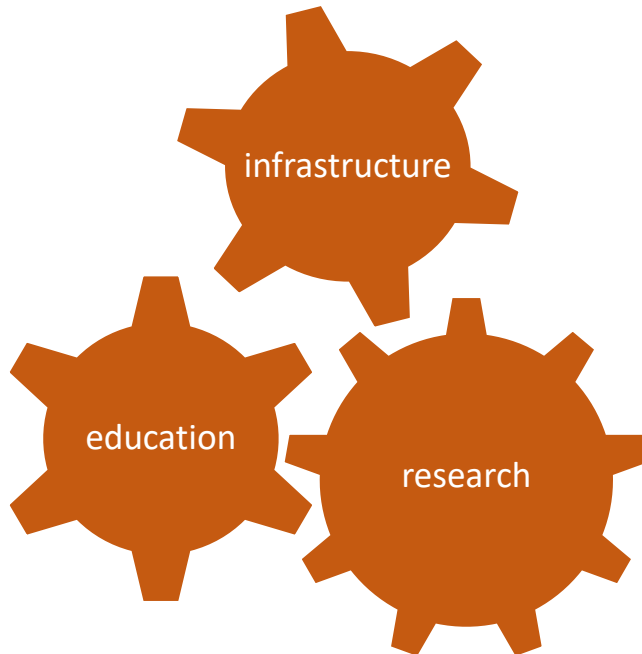


**Outreach &
Education**



Capacity Building (CB) DEPSCoR Competition

Support the strategic objectives of IHEs to achieve basic research excellence in areas of high relevance to the DoD



- Jumpstart capability development in the State/Territory through increased human, technical, and management resources
- Achieve excellence in a DoD-relevant research area through funding to support equipment, education, research, and other relevant activities

Program Structure:

- IHE's executive office, such as Vice-President of Research, in DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories can apply
 - \$750K/year (total cost) for 2 years
- **FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2023-0007**



DEPSCoR – CB Competition

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2023-0007

- Applications must present the opportunities for enhanced academic research and development competitiveness and, if appropriate, industrial or economic competitiveness, for the State/Territory. **A strategic plan to sustain the investment after the DEPSCoR award period of performance must be discussed.**
- Applications must identify basic research gaps currently at the IHE and the required capabilities that need to be developed at the applicant IHE to achieve full and competitive basic research capability in a DoD-relevant research area.
- Applications must present a management plan for coordinating multiple thrusts working on a common basic research theme that will fill the research gaps and develop new basic research capabilities. These thrusts could include, but are not limited to, purchasing new equipment, supporting new hires, and support for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Adequate provision for **substantive commitment by the IHE's executive offices and appropriate administrative support is an important factor contributing to the success of this Capacity Building effort.**



DEPSCoR – CB Competition

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2023-0007

- Applicant institutions are limited to no more than **one** application under this FOA
- The proposal must be led by a member of the IHE's executive staff such as the Vice-President for Research who will serve as the Team Lead
- Letters of Recommendation for Commitment / Endorsement are required at the FULL PROPOSAL stage only



Important Dates for FY23 Competitions

Event	Date	Eastern Time
RunGrants website open for White Paper submission (https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)	Wednesday, 5 April 2023	9:00 AM
DEPSCoR Webinar For details and registration, please visit (https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)	Wednesday, 5 April 2023	1:00 - 3:00 PM
RunGrants Registration (strongly suggested by) & Cut-off date for Q&As with Program Officers	Thursday, 8 June 2023	NLT 11:59 PM
White Paper and Supporting Documentation submission on RunGrants website (https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor) (required by)	Monday, 12 June 2023	NLT 11:59 PM
Notification of White Paper Selection	Friday, 25 August 2023	NLT 11:59 PM
Full Proposal Submission (by invitation only) electronically on Grants.gov website (submitted by)	Monday, 20 November 2023	NLT 11:59 PM
Notification of Selection for Award	Monday, 29 January 2024	NLT 11:59 PM



Questions



Thank you



<https://basicresearch.defense.gov/Pilots/DEPSCoR-Defense-Established-Program-to-Stimulate-Competitive-Research/>