U.S. Department of State

Program Office:	Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (ISN/CTR)
CFDA	19.033
Funding Opportunity Title:	Mapping and Understanding Illicit Proliferation Networks
Announcement Type:	Cooperative Agreement – Initial
Funding Opportunity Number:	S-ISNCT-17-005
Deadline for Applications:	July 10, 2017

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is limited to not-for-profit organizations subject to 501 (c) (3) of the tax code, for-profit organizations, and educational institutions. Direct funding for both U.S. and international organizations is also available under this announcement.

Cost Sharing or Matching
Providing cost sharing, matching or cost participation is not an eligibility requirement for this NOFO though ISN/CTR does encourage such approaches. Applicants are encouraged to include third-party contributions in their proposals but applicants who do not demonstrate cost-sharing or matching approaches will not be penalized.

Other Special Eligibility Criteria
Not Applicable.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, please contact:

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of State's Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (ISN/CTR) is pleased to announce an open competition for assistance awards through this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). ISN/CTR invites non-profit/non-governmental organizations and educational institutions to submit proposals for projects that will advance the mission of the Department's Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR). ISN/CTR has up to $400,000 available in the current fiscal year to award one cooperative agreement in this field. All applications and submission costs are at the Applicants' expense. ISN/CTR will not pay for any costs incurred in preparation of the applications.

II. BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ISN/CTR, sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating proliferation risk in from State and non-state actors in North-East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.

States of proliferation concern often employ external procurement and related trade networks to acquire and/or finance the acquisition of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, and related items. Such illicit networks flout global restrictions on these activities, including restrictions rooted in national authorities, nonproliferation treaties, multilateral export control regimes, and international and national sanctions aimed at curbing the spread of WMD. In particular, multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) obligate all states to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems; require them to establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking; and impose restrictions on dealing with entities identified as engaging in or facilitating this trade.

In executing its nonproliferation policy mission, the United States Government requires a comprehensive and thorough understanding of the threat posed by these proliferation-related procurement and trade networks, including through the use of relevant open source information. Such open-source information and related analysis would assist with international efforts to proactively monitor and enforce prohibitions on such activities. This project will facilitate future capacity building activity by ISN/CTR to help states address these threats.

Objectives

By the end of the award's period of performance, the recipient will have successfully developed and implemented a project to advance CTR's mission by:

- Gathering publicly available data about proliferation and related trade networks
- Utilizing subject matter experts to analyze the data and identify proliferation concerns and illicit technology transfers
- Providing a series of reports with original data that can be used to inform policy and threat reduction activities

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility is limited to not-for-profit organizations subject to 501 (c) (3) of the tax code, for-profit organizations, and educational institutions. Direct funding for both U.S. and non-U.S. organizations is available under this announcement.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Award Period: 12 months.
Award Amount: Up to $400,000 is available for this program during the current fiscal year. CTR will prioritize proposals that efficiently meet NOFO and programmatic goals at the lowest technically acceptable cost.

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. For questions about this solicitation, contact:

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Application Deadline: All applications must be submitted on or before July 10, 2017, 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.

All applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. **Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, it could take as long as two weeks to have the registration validated and confirmed. Please begin the registration process immediately to ensure that the process is completed well in advance of the deadline for applications.** Until that process is complete, you will not be issued a user password for Grants.gov, which is required for application submission. There are four steps that you must complete before you are able to register: (1) Obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet (if your organization does not have one already) by calling 1-866-705-5711; (2) Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR); (3) Register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (4) Be authorized as an AOR by your organization. For more information, go to www.grants.gov. Please note that your CCR registration must be annually renewed. Failure to renew your CCR registration may prohibit submission of an application through Grants.gov. **Application Content:** Applicants must follow the NOFO instructions and conditions contained herein and supply all information required. **Failure to furnish all information or comply with stated requirements will result in disqualification from the competition.** Applicants must set forth full, accurate, and complete information as required by this NOFO. The penalty for making false statements in proposals to the U.S. government is prescribed on 18 U.S.C.1001.

The completed submission must consist of the following three parts:

Section 1 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):
This form is part of the NOFO proposal package:
http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15

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 the project. The budget must identify the total amount of funding requested, with a breakdown of amounts to be spent in the following budget categories:

- Personnel and fringe benefits;
- Travel;
- Equipment and supplies;
- Contractual services;
- Construction;
- Other direct costs; and
- Indirect costs

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

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 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.

- **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 OMB Circulars A-122 and/or A-21, and if the costs are consistent with the program narrative.

- Cyber Security: Recipients and subcontractors are required to provide adequate security – (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 rapidly report cyber incidents directly to the grantor. Proposals must describe the applicants computer and cyber security practices and capabilities.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Award Notices:
ISN/CTR will provide a separate notification to applicants on the result of their applications. Successful applicants may receive a letter electronically via email requesting that the applicant respond to review panel conditions and recommendations (if applicable). This notification is not an authorization to begin activities and does not constitute formal approval or a funding commitment. Final approval is contingent upon the applicant successfully responding to the review panel's conditions and recommendations (if applicable), being registered in required systems, including the U.S. government's Payment Management System (PMS), unless an exemption is provided, and completing and providing any additional documents requested by ISN/CTR or AQM. Final approval is also contingent on Congressional notification requirements being met and final review and approval by the Department's warranted grants officer. All awards will also be assessed for risk prior to their issuance.

An award agreement shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the Government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the Recipient through GrantSolutions.

Anticipated Time to Award: Applicants should expect to be notified of the *recommended* concepts within 30 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 5 days after the cooperative agreement is awarded and before any work is performed for the award.

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) 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

VII. DISCLAIMER

Organizations that submit applications in response to this announcement acknowledge and accept all of the requirements contained herein. All submissions in response to this announcement are voluntary and do not obligate the Department of State to fund any application or application preparation costs. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of State and will be based upon the availability of funds.