

UNCLASSIFIED

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)



Boosting Innovative GEOINT - Science & Technology

Broad Agency Announcement

(BIG-ST BAA)

General Solicitation

HM0476-23-BAA-0001 (Revision 4)

Version: 07/30/2026

UNCLASSIFIED

Change History

**Changes are highlighted in yellow throughout the document.*

Date	Section	Description
7/30/2026	General Solicitation	Updated the General Solicitation to make references to the updated Research and Technology Protection Plan (RTP) and Security addendum throughout the document.
	Section 3.2, 4.5.8.1.1-4.5.8.1.3, 5.2.5.1-5.2.5.3	Updated the Research and Technology Protection Plan (RTP) and Security addendum. The new RTP is titled, “Research and Technology Plan_20260730” and is attached to this General Solicitation. The RTP document contains eight (8) Attachments.
	BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses	Updated Provisions and Clauses. The document is titled, “Provisions and Clauses_20260730” and is attached to this General Solicitation.
4/25/2025	General Solicitation	Updated the General Solicitation to provide additional clarifications.
	Section 4.3	Moved the “Classified IC-ARC Sign Up Instructions” from Section 4.5.8.3 to Section 4.3
	Section 6.2	Removed embedded document titled “NGAI 8400.4.pdf” and posted it as a separate file on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC.
	Appendix 1	Removed embedded document titled “APPENDIX 1 Abstract Template.docx” and posted it as a separate file on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC.
	Appendix 2	Removed embedded document titled “APPENDIX 2 Proposal Template.docx” and posted it as a separate file on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC.
	Appendix 5	Removed embedded document “APPENDIX 5 Grants Coops.docx” and posted it as a separate file on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC.
	Appendix 6	Corrected the title description for the “Contract Deliverable Requirements List” to “Contract Data Requirements List”
04/02/2025	General Solicitation	In accordance with FAR Part 35. Replaced the term “Offerors” with “Offerors” throughout the document
	Sub-section 5.2.3	Updated language under the Analysis of Proposed Resources
	Section 6.1	Updated the Invoicing and Payments instructions and numbering format
	Section 6.2	Updated the Information Technology Section 508 Language
	BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses	In accordance with Class Deviation - Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity in Federal Contracts (DARS 2025-O0003). Removed Clause 52.222-21 Prohibition of segregated facilities (APR 2015) and Clause 52.222-26 Equal Opportunity (SEP 2016). (Separate File posted with this

		BAA General Solicitation). Added Clause 5X52.232-9003 Usage of Invoice Processing Platform (IPP) (FEB 2025).
	6.3 Travel	Added Section 6.3 Travel
	6.4 GFP/CAP/GFI	Added Section 6.4 Government Furnished Property/Contractor Acquired Property, Government Furnished Information
12/20/2024	Section 2.1	Update in reference to covered TRL levels
	Section 2.3	Award types updated
	Section 3.1.2	Added OT eligibility section
	Section 4.3	Updated based on FAR 52.204-7 update through interim rule [FR Doc. 2024-26062] Filed 11-8-24
	Section 4.5.3	Updated table in reference to removal of one attachment and re-numbering of FCL and PCL attachment
	Section 4.5.6	Added clarifying information
	Section 4.5.8.1	Renamed to 'Research and Technology Protection'
	Section 4.5.8.1.1	Added Section 4.5.8.1.1 Program Protection Implementation Plan (PIIP).
	Section 4.5.8.1.2	Added Section 4.5.8.1.2 Common Disclosure Forms (applicable to Fundamental Research)
	Section 5.2.5.2	Changed title to Program Protection Implementation Plan (PIIP) Review along with associated requirements
	Section 5.2.5.3	Added Section 5.2.5.3 Common Disclosure Forms Review
	Section 5.2.6	Removed information for clarification purposes
	Appendix 2	Updated in reference to renumbering of PCL and FCL Attachment and removal of PSPP attachment
	PSPP attachment to Appendix 2	Former attachment 7 PSPP was removed
	Attachment 7 to Appendix 2	Attachment 7 is now the FCL
	Attachment 8 to Appendix 2	Attachment 8 is now the PCL
	Appendix 3	Updated to include Research OT
	Appendix 4	Updated references to most recent DoDGARs and OT regulations & guides
	Appendix 5	Updated (see Appendix 5 file)
	Appendix 6	Definitions were updated for 'Confucius Institute', 'Foreign National', 'Fundamental Research', 'Institution of Higher Education', 'Proposing Institution' and 'Research Institution'

Table of Contents

1. Overview Information.....	4
2. Full Text Announcement	5
2.1 Introduction.....	5
2.2 Technical Domains of Interest	8
2.3 Award Information.....	10
2.4 Follow-on work resulting from prototype Other Transactions (OT):	11
3. Eligibility Information	11
3.1 Eligible Applicants.....	11
3.2 Foreign Participation.....	12
3.3 Cost Sharing/Matching	13
4. Abstract and Proposal Submission Information.....	13
4.1 Solicitation Application Package	13
4.2 Content and Form of Application Submission.....	14
4.3 Application Process Overview	14
4.4 Abstract Preparation and Submission Information	15
4.5 Proposal Preparation and Submission Information.....	17
5. Abstract and Proposal Review Information	27
5.1 Abstract Review Criteria & Process	27
5.2 Proposal Review Process	27
5.3 Selection Notices.....	35
5.4 Handling of Source Selection Information	35
6. Award Administration Information	36
6.1 Invoicing and Payments	36
6.2 Information Technology	37
6.3 Travel	38
6.4 Government Furnished Property/Contractor Acquired Property, Government Furnished Information	39
Appendix 1 – Abstract Template	40
Appendix 2 – Proposal Template	41
Appendix 3 – Award Types & Instruments.....	42
Appendix 4 – Governance Information.....	46
Appendix 5 – Grants and Cooperative Agreements Proposal Preparation & Submission Instructions	48
Appendix 6 - Definitions.....	49

1. Overview Information

Federal Agency Name	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)
BAA Title	Boosting Innovative GEOINT - Science and Technology Broad Agency Announcement (BIG-ST BAA).
BAA Number	HM047623BAA0001
Publication Dates	December 15, 2023 – December 14, 2026
Announcement Type	General Solicitation
Competition Type	‘Other Competitive Procedure’ as described in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2) and 35.016, as well as 2 CFR § 200.203 and 10 USC § 2358.
BAA Process	BAA with Topic Calls The BIG-ST BAA is a general announcement of NGA’s research interest, including criteria for selecting proposals and soliciting the participation of all Offerors capable of satisfying the Government’s needs. The requests for abstracts and/or proposals are transmitted via Topic Calls that are published separately under the BIG-ST BAA general solicitation at various times during the open period of the general solicitation. The Topic Calls will further define the technology/government needs or just request abstracts or full proposals.
Topic Call Publication	Topic Calls will be published via updates of the BIG-ST BAA General Solicitation site on SAM.gov and Grants.gov. Interested parties should periodically check these websites for updates.
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	541715 - Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology)
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s)	12.630 Basic, Applied, and Advanced Research in Science and Technology
Award Types	Procurement Contracts, Grants, Cooperative Agreements, or Other Transactions (OTs) for prototypes and follow-on production. Any resultant negotiations and/or awards will follow all laws and regulations applicable to the specific award instrument(s) available under this BAA.
Agency Contacts	BIGSTBAA@nga.mil

2. Full Text Announcement

2.1 Introduction

The mission of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Research Directorate is to deliver future Geospatial-Intelligence (GEOINT) capabilities to users for operational impact. NGA Research supports the National Security Strategy by solving hard defense and intelligence problems for the Intelligence Community and Department of Defense.

In support of this mission, NGA Research promotes research initiatives across a broad spectrum of science and engineering disciplines, and transforms these initiatives into disruptive GEOINT capabilities in support of U.S. national security. The Boosting Innovative GEOINT-Science and Technology (BIG-ST) Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) invites Offerors to submit innovative concepts to address hard GEOINT problems that align to one or more of the following technical domains: (1) Foundational GEOINT, (2) Advanced Phenomenologies, and (3) Analytic Technologies. Each of these domains is described below and includes a list of example research topics that highlight several (but not all) potential areas of interest. Throughout the open period of this BAA, posted Topic Calls will specify areas associated with these technical domains.

Each posted Topic Call will provide specific timelines for abstract and proposal submission. Offerors are responsible for maintaining awareness of these Topic Calls and associated timelines for submissions. No submissions shall be accepted to the general solicitation; abstracts and proposals will only be reviewed in response to Topic Calls.

In accordance with (IAW) DFARS 235.016, the scope of this BAA is limited to research and development of concepts and technologies that fall within Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) Budget Activities 6.1 to 6.4 and Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1-7. (See definitions on the following pages.)

Topics under this BAA may further specify proposed solutions to a subset of budget activities and expected TRLs.

#	Budget Activity	Description <i>See Department of Defense (DoD) 7000.14-R Vol. 2B Chapter 5 Section 1.5 for more information: https://comptroller.defense.gov/portals/45/documents/fmr/current/02b/02b_05.pdf</i>
6.1	Basic Research	The systematic study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind. It includes all scientific study and experimentation directed toward increasing fundamental knowledge and understanding in those fields of the physical, engineering, environmental, and life sciences related to long-term national security needs. It is farsighted high payoff research that provides the basis for technological progress.
6.2	Applied Research	The systematic study to understand the means to meet a recognized and specific need. It is a systematic expansion and application of knowledge to develop useful materials, devices, and systems or methods. It may be oriented, ultimately, toward the design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet general mission area requirements. Applied research may translate promising basic research into solutions for broadly defined military needs, short of system development. This type of effort may vary from systematic mission-directed research beyond that in Budget Activity 1 to sophisticated breadboard hardware, study, programming and planning efforts that establish the initial feasibility and practicality of proposed solutions to technological challenges. It includes studies, investigations, and non-system specific technology efforts. The dominant characteristic is that applied research is directed toward general military needs with a view toward developing and evaluating the feasibility and practicality of proposed solutions and determining their parameters. Applied Research precedes system specific technology investigations or development. Program control of the Applied Research program element is normally exercised by general level of effort.
6.3	Advanced Technology Development	The development of subsystems and components and efforts to integrate subsystems and components into system prototypes for field experiments and/or tests in a simulated environment. Budget Activity 3 includes concept and technology demonstrations of components and subsystems or system models. The models may be form, fit, and function prototypes or scaled models that serve the same demonstration purpose. The results of this type of effort are proof of technological feasibility and assessment of subsystem and component operability and producibility rather than the development of hardware for service use. Projects in this category have a direct relevance to identified military needs. Advanced Technology Development demonstrates the general military utility or cost reduction potential of technology when applied to different types of military equipment or techniques.
6.4	Advanced Component Development and Prototypes	The efforts necessary to evaluate integrated technologies, representative modes, or prototype systems in a high fidelity and realistic operating environment are funded in this budget activity. The ACD&P phase includes system specific efforts that help expedite technology transition from the laboratory to operational use. Emphasis is on proving component and subsystem maturity prior to integration in major and complex systems and may involve risk reduction initiatives.

Technology Readiness Level – Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) are a method used to measure and assess the maturity of a particular technology. TRL is based on a scale from 1 to 9 with 9 being the most mature technology. The use of TRLs enables consistent and uniform discussions of technical maturity across different types of technologies. Decision authorities will consider the recommended TRLs when assessing program risk. The below table lists the TRL levels allowed under this BAA:

TRL	Definition	Description
1	Basic principles observed and reported.	Lowest level of technology readiness. Scientific research begins to be translated into applied research and development. Examples might include paper studies of a technology's basic properties.
2	Technology concept and/or application formulated.	Invention begins. Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. Applications are speculative and there may be no proof or detailed analysis to support the assumptions. Examples are limited to analytic studies.
3	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof of concept.	Active research and development is initiated. This includes analytical studies and laboratory studies to physically validate analytical predictions of separate elements of the technology. Examples include components that are not yet integrated or representative.
4	Component and/or breadboard validation in laboratory environment.	Basic technological components are integrated to establish that they will work together. This is relatively "low fidelity" compared to the eventual system. Examples include the integration of "ad hoc" hardware in the laboratory.
5	Component and/or breadboard validation in relevant environment.	The Fidelity of breadboard technology increases significantly. The basic technological components are integrated with reasonably realistic supporting elements so it can be tested in a simulated environment.
6	System/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment.	A representative model or prototype system, which is well beyond that of TRL 5, is tested in a relevant environment. Represents a major step up in a technology's demonstrated readiness.
7	System prototype demonstration in an operational environment.	Prototype near, or at, planned operational system. Represents a major step up from TRL 6, requiring demonstration of an actual system prototype in an operational environment such as an aircraft, vehicle, or space.

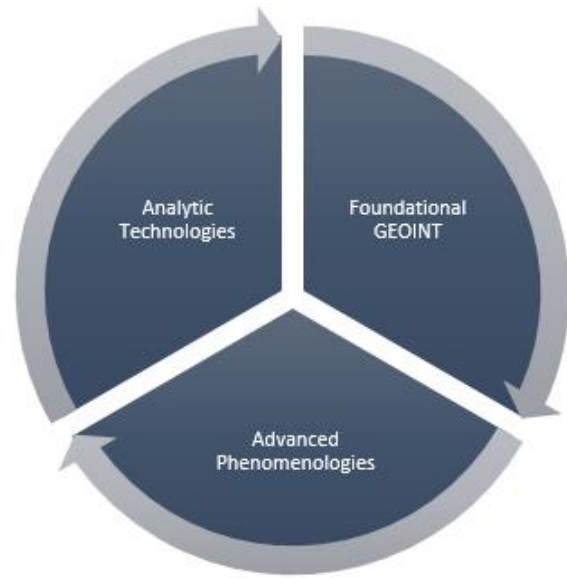
2.2 Technical Domains of Interest

FOUNDATIONAL GEOINT

The Foundational GEOINT portion of the Research portfolio focuses on the creation of always accurate, high-resolution, continually updated representations of the earth's properties, available on demand.

Topics of interest in this domain include, but are not limited to, innovations advancing the GEOINT physical sciences in the areas of:

- (1) terrestrial/celestial reference frames;
- (2) earth gravitational models;
- (3) world magnetic models;
- (4) assured positioning, navigation and timing, and resilience;
- (5) geopositioning;
- (6) feature extraction, attribution, classification and modeling;
- (7) infrastructure models;
- (8) human geography and environmental models;
- (9) bathymetric/topological models; and
- (10) maritime environmental mapping.



ADVANCED PHENOMENOLOGIES

The Advanced Phenomenologies portion of the Research portfolio employs novel methods and efficient strategies to drive development and delivery of improved spatially, spectrally, radiometrically, polarimetrically, and temporally resolved data from a growing number of traditional and non-traditional sources.

Topics of interest in this domain include, but are not limited to, innovations advancing the design and development of algorithms, components, and enabling technologies for systems in the areas of:

- (1) detection, tracking, and identification of the most challenging targets in complex environments;
- (2) sensing and real-time processing of both static and dynamic targets;
- (3) novel source exploitation and optimization;
- (4) collection technologies to optimize use of phenomenology sources;
- (5) space situational awareness;
- (6) information assurance, data integrity and quality validation;
- (7) error propagation modeling; and

(8) multi-domain data aggregation.

ANALYTIC TECHNOLOGIES

The Analytic Technologies portion of the Research portfolio enhances the definition and utility of GEOINT by leveraging new sources of data and developing novel analytic techniques to deliver a geospatial dimension to multi-INT analytics, in particular to address emerging threats and mission domains. New data sources drive use of these technologies to provide accurate, timely, reliable, and scalable methods for data exploitation, integration, and analysis.

Topics of interest in this domain include, but are not limited to, innovations in advanced processing techniques and enabling technologies for:

- (1) geospatial signatures detection, analysis, and tracking;
- (2) derivation of GEOINT from non-traditional data in cyberspace;
- (3) stand-off detection of counter proliferation and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive activities;
- (4) water security;
- (5) image/video understanding and computer vision;
- (6) image and product standards development and enhancement;
- (7) automated target recognition;
- (8) temporal and activity modeling and contextualization;
- (9) event forecasting and prediction;
- (10) knowledge and ontology modeling;
- (11) artificial intelligence, to include novel learning techniques;
- (12) automation, to include software tools;
- (13) natural language processing;
- (14) social media analytics;
- (15) location-based insights;
- (16) workflow effectiveness and analyst workflow modernization;
- (17) human-machine interaction;
- (18) tools that provide better human understanding of automated solutions;
- (19) tools to guide algorithm and automation governance; and
- (20) immersive GEOINT visualization tools.

2.3 Award Information

The NGA's Office of Contract Services (OCS) - Research Division (OCSR) has the authority to award a variety of instruments on behalf of NGA. Anticipated awards under this BAA may take the form of procurement contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or other transactions (OTs) for prototypes and follow-on production.

The NGA OCSR Division reserves the right to award the type of instrument most appropriate for the effort proposed. Offerors should familiarize themselves with these instrument types and the applicable regulations before submitting an abstract or proposal. In all cases, the Government contracting officer (CO) shall have sole discretion to select the award instrument type, regardless of instrument type proposed, and to negotiate all instrument terms and conditions with selectees.

NGA anticipates multiple awards which will be subject to the availability of funds. Awards will be made to Offerors whose proposals are determined to be the most advantageous to the Government.

The Government reserves the right to:

- Select for negotiation all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to specific Topic Calls;
- Make awards without discussions with Offerors;
- Conduct discussions with Offerors if the Government determines they are necessary;
- Divide awards into base and option periods;
- Not execute one or more option periods, if an award is divided into a base and option periods;
- Accept proposals in their entirety or to select only portions of proposals for award;
- Fund awards in increments;
- Request additional documentation once the award instrument has been determined (e.g., representations and certifications); and
- Remove Offerors from award consideration should the Offeror and the Government fail to reach agreement on award terms within a reasonable time, or if the Offeror fails to provide requested additional information in a timely manner.

The following is a list of possible award types and award instruments to help inform your organization in determining which award type and instrument may be the most appropriate. Proposed award type and instrument are subject to negotiation based on details of each Topic and the proposed approach. The allowable award instruments and their allowable award types are as follows (and are further defined in Appendix 3):

Procurement Contracts	Other Transactions	Grants & Cooperative Agreements
• Fixed Price • Fixed Price Level of Effort • Time and Materials • Labor Hour • Cost Plus Fixed Fee • Cost (No Fee)	• Fixed Price • Time and Materials • Labor Hour • Cost Plus Fixed Fee • Cost (No Fee)	• Cost (No Fee)

2.4 Follow-on work resulting from prototype Other Transactions (OT):

In accordance with 10 U.S.C. 4022, NGA may award a follow-on production contract or OT for any OT awarded under this BAA if: (1) the participant(s) in the OT successfully completed the entire prototype project provided for in that OT, as modified; and (2) the OT provides for the award of a follow-on production contract or OT to the participant(s).

3. Eligibility Information

3.1 Eligible Applicants

All responsible sources capable of satisfying the Government's needs may submit a proposal for NGA's consideration.

3.1.1 Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and Government Entities

NGA will consider FFRDC and Government Entity eligibility submissions on a case-by-case basis; however, the burden to prove eligibility for all team members rests solely with the Offeror. Sufficient information shall be provided at the time of proposal submission; NGA will not evaluate eligibility outside of any proposal submissions. Currently, NGA does not consider 15 U.S.C. § 3710a to be sufficient legal authority to show eligibility. While 10 U.S.C. § 4992 may be the appropriate statutory starting point for some entities, specific supporting regulatory guidance, together with evidence of agency approval, will still be required to fully establish eligibility.

3.1.1.1 FFRDCs

FFRDCs are subject to applicable direct competition limitations and cannot propose to this BAA in any capacity unless they meet the following conditions: (1) FFRDCs must clearly demonstrate that the proposed work is not otherwise available from the private sector; (2) FFRDCs must provide a letter, on official letterhead from their sponsoring organization, that (a) cites the specific authority establishing their eligibility to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry, and (b) certifies the FFRDC's compliance with the associated FFRDC sponsor agreement's terms and conditions; and (3) the FFRDC discloses any current work being performed within NGA Research or NGA that is similar in scope to this work. The CO will determine if Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCI) exists. These conditions are a requirement for FFRDCs proposing to be awardees or sub-awardees.

3.1.1.2 Government Entities

Government Entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC)s, military educational institutions, etc.) are subject to applicable direct competition limitations. Government entities must clearly demonstrate that the work is not

otherwise available from the private sector, and provide written documentation citing the specific statutory authority and contractual authority, if relevant, establishing their ability to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry. This information is required for Government Entities proposing to be awardees or sub-awardees.

3.1.2 Other Transaction Agreements (OTA) Eligibility Requirements

Consistent with 10 U.S.C. §4021, Research OTs have a resource-sharing requirement, intended to highlight dual use focus of the technology R&D of this authority, and show commitment on the performing team to pursue and/or commercialize technology in the future; the default starting resource sharing position will be 50%/50%.

Consistent with 10 U.S.C. § 4022, the awardee for a prototype OT must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- (A) There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor (see definition in Appendix 6) or nonprofit research institution participating to a significant extent in the prototype project.
- (B) All significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses (including small businesses participating in a program described under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 638)) or nontraditional defense contractors.
- (C) At least one third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by sources other than the Federal Government.

3.2 Foreign Participation

Each Topic will specify whether non-U.S. organizations and/or individuals may participate and any specific controls or security regulations that apply. If allowable under the Topic, any and all forms of foreign participation must be clearly and fully disclosed within the proposal. For controlled unclassified information (CUI) and classified submissions, this includes disclosing and mitigating any Foreign Ownership Control and Influence (FOCI) issues prior to transmitting the submission to NGA. Additional information on FOCI can be found at <https://www.dcsa.mil/mc/isd/foci/>.

Additional Information Provided in ‘Reference new addendum Research and Technology Protection Plan’

3.3 Cost Sharing/Matching

Cost sharing is not required; however, it will be carefully considered where there is an applicable statutory condition relating to the selected funding instrument (e.g., OTs under the authority of 10 U.S.C. § 4022).

OTs for prototypes require cost sharing unless at least one nontraditional defense contractor is significantly involved, or all significant participants in the transaction are small businesses or nontraditional defense contractors. If the proposing team is not composed of the required entities listed above, it is required to provide at least one-third (1/3) cost share from their own funds, unless a case can be made for a waiver. Waivers are not common and will require significant justification.

Notwithstanding these requirements, cost sharing is encouraged where there is a reasonable probability of a potential commercial application related to the proposed research and development (R&D) effort. Any cost sharing arrangement should be noted in the abstract and detailed in the final cost proposal.

4. Abstract and Proposal Submission Information

Offerors are reminded that submission deadlines as outlined in the separate Topic Calls are in Eastern Time and will be strictly enforced.

When planning a response to each Topic Call (solicitation), Offerors should consider that some parts of the submission process may take from one business day to one month to complete (e.g., registering for a TIN).

Revisions to General Solicitation and Topic Calls: If the General Solicitation or a Topic Call is revised, all terms and conditions that are not revised remain unchanged. Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any revisions by the date and time specified in the Topic Call revisions(s).

NGA will acknowledge receipt of *complete* submissions via email. If no confirmation is received within two business days, please contact NGA at BIGSTBAA@nga.mil to verify receipt.

4.1 Solicitation Application Package

No request for proposal or additional solicitation regarding this announcement and subsequent topic calls will be issued outside of publications to the SAM.gov website (<https://www.sam.gov>), the Grants.gov website (<https://www.grants.gov>), and the Classified Intelligence Community Acquisition Research Center (IC-ARC) (<https://acq-ui.ace.proj.nro.ic.gov>).

Topic Calls will be published as updates to the BIG-ST BAA General Solicitation on SAM.gov and Grants.gov. Topic Calls further define the technology/Government needs or request submission to specific areas. Classified topics, if applicable, will only be posted to the Classified

IC-ARC, but a notice will be posted on SAM.gov and Grants.gov with instructions pointing to the IC_ARC.

4.2 Content and Form of Application Submission

Abstracts and proposals shall adhere to the instructions within this part (Part 4: Abstract and Proposal Submission Information).

In general, Offerors are only allowed to submit one abstract and one proposal per Topic Call. Exceptions will be outlined in specific Topic Calls.

Offerors who did not submit an abstract are ineligible to submit a proposal.

4.2.1 Completeness of Information

Offerors are responsible for including all necessary information in their proposal to merit award under the solicitation criteria. Information that is not included within the proposal will not be evaluated and may result in a proposal being uncompliant with the solicitation instructions and deemed incomplete.

4.3 Application Process Overview

A. SAM Registration:

Register with System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Offerors will be able to obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at <https://www.sam.gov>, which replaced the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number in April 2022.

Offerors are required to be registered in SAM when submitting a proposal and at time of award, during performance, and at least until final payment of any contract resulting from this BAA.

B. ARC Registration:

Offerors must register on the Unclassified ARC to obtain an IC-ARC account to access Classified Topic Calls. More information is available at the Unclassified ARC (<https://acq.westfields.net>).

Classified IC-ARC Sign Up Instructions: Offerors will first need to set up an account on the Unclassified ARC at <https://acq.westfields.net/> and provide a classified e-mail address. Offerors will then get an e-mail at the classified address with login and password information to establish a Classified IC-ARC account. The high side ARC website is: <https://acq.nro.ic.gov>. You shall validate/activate your high side account within 24 hours of trying to login to the Classified IC-ARC or it will be disabled. If it is disabled, you shall contact the ACE Helpdesk at secure 855-4ACE or unclassified 703-230-6300. It may take up to 48 hours for a classified account to be established.

C. Abstract Submission:

It is mandatory that prospective Offerors submit abstracts prior to submission of a complete proposal. The purpose of submitting an abstract is to minimize the labor and cost associated with the production of a detailed proposal that has little chance of being selected for funding. Feedback on an abstract will be provided to the Offeror regarding the concept's scientific merit, potential contributions to the NGA Research mission, and affordability considering available funding. A favorable response to an Abstract is not a guarantee that a proposal based on the abstract will ultimately be selected for award. If NGA does not recommend that Offeror submit a full proposal, NGA will provide feedback to the Offeror regarding the rationale for this decision. Regardless of NGA's abstract feedback, Offerors may choose to submit a full proposal.

D. Proposal Submission:

All prospective Offerors who submitted an abstract are required to submit a proposal to be considered for award. Interested parties who did not submit an abstract are ineligible for award. Proposals must adhere to instructions contained within this solicitation and any instructions provided in the specific topic call. Offerors who did not submit an abstract, are ineligible to submit a proposal.

4.4 Abstract Preparation and Submission Information

4.4.1 Abstract Submission

An abstract of the proposed effort shall be submitted electronically, via email, to the email specified in the Topic Call, unless otherwise indicated in the Topic Call.

E-mail Subject Line: "BIGST BAA Topic X Abstract (Company Name)".

Please see Topic Call for specific timelines for abstract submission.

NGA will attempt to reply to abstracts within 30 calendar days. These official notifications will be emailed to the Technical POC and/or Administrative POC identified on the abstract cover sheet.

4.4.2 Abstract Format

Notwithstanding specific abstract format instructions provided in the topic calls, abstracts shall be submitted in accordance with this announcement.

Offerors shall use the **Abstract Template in Appendix 1.**

Offerors are prohibited from altering any of the settings in this template (i.e. font-type, font size, line spacing, margins). Graphics/illustrations are allowed and are not subject to the format restrictions. Tables are allowed but are subject to the format restrictions.

Section 1 – ‘Proposed Research’ is limited to 5 pages.

Offerors shall replace/delete all grey instructions within the template after completion of the abstract.

Any abstract that does not utilize the required template at Appendix 1 will not be considered for review.

4.4.3 Restrictive Markings on Abstracts

Records or data subject to restrictions on their use may be included in the abstract, but shall be clearly marked. The Offeror shall clearly identify and mark any proprietary data that is intended to be used by the Government only. The Offeror shall also identify any technical data or computer software contained in the abstract that is being provided with restrictions on its use by the Government. In the absence of such identification, the Government will assume to have unlimited rights to all technical data or computer software contained in the abstract.

It is the intent of NGA to treat all abstracts as procurement sensitive information before the award, and to disclose their contents only to Government employees or designated support contractors for the purpose of procurement related activities only. Refer to BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses (Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation), NGA Acquisition Regulation Implementation (NARI) Clause 5X52.209-9004, Use of Contractor Support, for specific information concerning NGA use of contractor support. Classified, sensitive, or critical information on technologies should not be included in an abstract.

Offerors are cautioned that portions of an abstract may be subject to release under terms of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended.

4.5 Proposal Preparation and Submission Information

The proposal is the only vehicle available to the Offeror for receiving consideration for award. Offerors who do not submit an abstract are ineligible to submit a proposal.

4.5.1 Proposal Submission

The proposal shall be submitted electronically, via email, to the email specified in the Topic Call, unless otherwise indicated in the Topic Call.

E-mail Subject Line: “BIGST BAA Topic X Full Proposal (Company Name)”.

All forms requiring signature shall be completed, printed, signed, and scanned into an Adobe *.pdf document or electronically signed.

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with this announcement and any instructions in the individual Topic Call.

4.5.2 Proposal Preparation and Submission Information for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

See Appendix 5 for detailed instructions on how to submit a proposal for a Grant or Cooperative Agreement.

Offerors shall provide a courtesy copy of their complete Grants.gov submission to the email specified in the Topic Call.

Sections 4.5.3 - 4.5.8 of this document do not apply to Grants and Cooperative Agreement Proposals.

4.5.3 Proposal Format

Offerors shall use the **Proposal Template in Appendix 2**, which consists of a BIG-ST BAA proposal submission coversheet, table of contents, four proposal volumes, and eight (8) attachments.

This template includes detailed instructions on required proposal volume information. Offerors are prohibited from altering any of the settings in this template (i.e. font, font size, line spacing, margins). Graphics/illustrations are allowed and are not subject to the format restrictions. Tables are allowed but are subject to the format restrictions.

Any proposal that does not utilize the required template at Appendix 2 will not be reviewed and will not be considered for award.

Reference	Description	Format	Page limit
Cover Page	See template in Appendix 2 (Digital signature required)	PDF	N/A
Table of Contents	See template in Appendix 2	PDF	N/A
Volume 1	TECHNICAL/ MANAGEMENT	Adobe PDF	20 pages if not specified in Topic Bibliography: 2 pages (not incl. in page count) Relevant Papers: max. 3 papers on 10 pages total (not incl. in page count) Resumes: max. 2 resumes with max. 3 pages each (one shall be of PI; not incl. in page count);
Attachment 1	Statement of Work (SOW)	Adobe PDF	5 pages (in addition to 20-page count of Vol 1) Table of deliverables is not incl. in page count
Volume 2	COST/PRICE	Adobe PDF	None
Attachment 2	Cost/Price Breakout	Excel	None
Volume 3	ADMINISTRATIVE & NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS	Adobe PDF	None
Attachment 3	Subcontracting Plan	Adobe PDF	None
Attachment 4	Data Rights Assertion Table (Digital signature required)	Adobe PDF	None

Attachment 5	Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) Form (Digital signature required)	Adobe PDF	None
Volume 4	SECURITY (Instructions at Topic Level)	Adobe PDF	None
Attachment 6	Acquisition Security Review (ASR) Questionnaire – Lists Contractor and Subcontractor information (Instructions at Topic Level)	Adobe PDF	None
Attachment 7	Facility Clearance Level (FCL) (Instructions at Topic Level)	Adobe PDF	None
Attachment 8	Personnel Security Clearance Level (PCL) (Instructions at Topic Level)	Adobe PDF	None

FILE NAMING CONVENTION

Offerors shall submit each proposal volume and attachment **as a separate file** in accordance with (IAW) the structure laid out above.

Files shall be labeled by the following naming convention (Short Version of Offeror Name + Topic Number + Volume or Attachment Number):

Offeror Name_T#_Vol #

Offeror Name_T#_Att #

4.5.4 Proposal Content

The proposal shall stand on its own merit. Only information provided in the proposal will be used in the evaluation process leading to an award. The proposal should provide straightforward and concise descriptions of proposed work.

Do not use acronyms or abbreviations without defining acronyms and abbreviations at the first use; place the abbreviation in parenthesis immediately following the phrase. This provides the definition for each subsequent reuse.

The proposal shall be signed by the official authorized to commit the organization to the terms of any resulting award. If the electronic version of the proposal does not include a signature from the appropriate official, the Government Contracting Officer may determine the proposal to be non-compliant.

4.5.5 Volume 1 -Technical/Management

The detailed proposal portion of Volume 1, including any appendices, tables, or figures, shall be **no greater than twenty (20) pages** in length, unless otherwise specified within the topic call instructions. Reviewers will not review any pages beyond the 20-page limit. The information required within this volume is listed within the proposal template.

Offerors shall submit a Statement of Work as Attachment 1 to Volume 1, using the Proposal Template in Appendix 2. The SOW is limited to **five (5) pages** (excluding table for deliverables). Offerors are prohibited from altering any of the settings in this template (i.e. font, font size, line spacing, margins). This document will become an attachment to the contract in the event of an award. The SOW needs to stand on its own without making references to the technical proposal. Do not include any proprietary information within the SOW.

4.5.6 Volume 2 – Cost/Price Narrative

The Cost/Price volume shall justify the need for and amount of major direct expense categories, including (but not limited to) labor, equipment, and travel. The cost estimate for the proposed effort shall sufficiently detail elements of cost and the need for these items to allow for meaningful evaluation. The Cost/Price volume shall clearly and closely align with the planned methodology presented in the Technical/Management Volume.

A cost estimate shall be detailed for each task of the proposed work.

Offerors shall submit a Cost/Price Breakout as Attachment 2 to Volume 2 using an MS Excel spreadsheet.

Cost Type Contract (applicable to procurement contracts): All proposals may be subject to the requirements of the Truth in Negotiations Act (TINA). Prior to closing negotiations, a Certificate of Current Cost/Price data will be required if proposed costs are over the TINA threshold and the Contracting Officer deems it necessary in accordance with FAR 15.403-4.

Sub-contractor Cost Proposals:

Offerors shall include cost information for subcontracted work. Subcontractor cost proposals shall contain the same type of information and level of detail as the Offeror's cost proposal. All subcontracted work shall be properly identified as such. If a subcontractor elects to submit an abbreviated cost proposal to a Offeror, it is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure the submitted subcontractor information is simultaneously submitted to the Government Contracting Officer as part of their proposal. Offerors shall carry out responsibilities in accordance with FAR 15.404-3, DFARS 215.404-3 and PGI 215.404-3.

4.5.7 Volume 3 – Administrative and National Policy Requirements

4.5.7.1 Solicitation Provisions and Award Clauses, Terms and Conditions

Solicitation provisions relevant to procurement contracts are listed within the file 'BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses' (Separate File posted with this BAA General Solicitation).

'BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses' and 'NGA Addendum to DoD Research General Terms and Conditions' also list award clauses that, depending on their applicability, may be included in the terms and conditions of awards resultant from NGA solicitations. This list is not exhaustive and the clauses, terms and conditions included in a resultant award will depend on the nature of the research effort, the specific award instrument, the type of awardee, and any applicable security or publication restrictions.

The above information serves to inform potential Offerors and awardees of proposal requirements and award terms and conditions to which they may have to adhere to.

4.5.7.1.1 Representations and Certifications

Representations and certifications shall be completed by successful applicants prior to award. FAR Online Representations and Certifications are to be completed through SAM at <https://www.sam.gov>.

As appropriate, DFARS and contract-specific certification packages as listed in BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses (Separate File posted with this BAA General Solicitation) shall be filled out and submitted with the proposal.

4.5.7.1.2 Other Transaction Proposals

Terms and Conditions will be negotiated at the time of award.

4.5.7.2 Subcontracting Plan (Applicable to Procurement Contracts)

Pursuant to Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act [15 U.S.C. § 637(d)], it is the policy of the Government to enable small business and small disadvantaged business (SDB) concerns to be considered fairly as subcontractors.

All other than U.S. small businesses proposing contracts expected to exceed \$750,000.00 (total contract value including option periods) are required to submit a subcontracting plan IAW FAR 19.702(a), and shall do so with their proposal. A subcontracting plan is required regardless of whether the prime contractor is proposing a subcontractor or not.

Per FAR 19.702, large businesses are required to provide small businesses 'the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in contract performance consistent with its efficient performance.' Large business proposals that exceed the above stated threshold are required to

include the required subcontracting plan, explaining and justifying the proposed level of small business participation.

The submission of a Master Subcontracting Plan (with individual subcontracting goals if applicable), Commercial Plan or Comprehensive Subcontracting Test Program (CSP) Plan is acceptable; a copy of the applicable plan shall be included with the proposal as Attachment 3.

Proposals failing to include a subcontracting plan (when required) will be deemed non-compliant and will be removed from consideration for award. For further information on this requirement, see FAR 19, specifically 19.702 and 19.704, and NARI 5X52.219-9002 –Small Business Goal.

Subcontracting plans are determined to be acceptable or unacceptable based on the criteria established at FAR 19.705-4 and DFARS 219.705-4. Subcontracting goals are established by the Government on an individual contract basis; see NGA clause 5X52.219-9002, Small Business Goal under BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses (Separate File posted with this BAA General Solicitation). The proposed subcontracting goals should be realistic, challenging and attainable which, to the greatest extent possible, maximize small business participation in subcontracting for Small Business, Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB), Economically-Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB), and Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Small Business, consistent with applicants' make-or-buy policy, the pool of and availability of qualified and capable small business subcontractors, their performance on subcontracts, and existing relationships with suppliers.

The proposed subcontracting goals should result in efficient contract performance in terms of cost, schedule, and performance and should not result in increased costs to the Government or undue administrative burden to the prime contractor.

For additional reference, DoD Small Business Subcontracting Goals may be found at: <https://business.defense.gov/About/Goals-and-Performance/>

4.5.7.3 Intellectual Property

Intellectual property and data rights for concepts, research findings and developed products under this BAA will vary due to topic, security protection requirements, and final negotiated contract vehicle type. Offerors should note that the Government will not own the intellectual property, including technical data/computer software, developed under this BAA. Instead, NGA, as a DoD Component, does reserve a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so as well. In addition, as allowed by 35 U.S. Code 202, NGA may determine it is best to restrict or eliminate the right to retain title on any subject invention funded under this BAA to protect the security of such activities due to U.S. export control laws, Government furnished information, or security classification.

For Procurement Contracts, Offerors are required to assert any data right restrictions that are directly applicable to the deliverables of the proposed effort, using the template provided in **Attachment 4 to Appendix 2 - Data Rights Assertion Table Template** of this solicitation; Offerors shall submit this Table as Attachment 4 of Volume 3 - Administrative & National Policy Requirements.

For OTs, Offerors shall specifically identify any asserted data right restrictions that are directly related to the deliverables of the proposed effort. Offerors shall propose specific Intellectual Property terms and conditions and a data deliverable list. Offerors shall fill out the template provided in **Attachment 4 to Appendix 2, - Data Rights Assertion Table Template** of this solicitation; Offerors shall submit this Table as Attachment 4 of Volume 3 - Administrative & National Policy Requirements.

The table under Attachment 4 shall be dated and signed by the official authorized to commit the organization to the terms of any resulting award. If the Offeror will deliver all technical data and computer software to the Government without restrictions, enter “NONE” in this table under the heading “Technical Data or Computer Software to be Furnished with Restrictions.”

(1) Patents:

The Offeror shall list any known patents, patent applications, or inventions which the Offeror may be required to license in order to perform the work described in the proposal, or which the Government may be required to license to make or use the deliverables of the contract, should the proposal be selected for award. For any patent or patent application listed above, the Offeror shall provide the patent number or patent application publication number, a summary of the patent or invention title, and indicate whether the Offeror is the patent or invention owner. If a patent or invention is in-licensed by the Offeror, identify the licensor.

If any listed patent, patent application or invention is owned or licensed by the Offeror, the Offeror shall provide a statement, in writing, if it either owns or possesses the appropriate licensing rights to patent, patent application or invention to perform the work described in the proposal and/or if the Offeror will grant the Government a license to make or use the deliverables for the proposed program. If any listed patent, patent application or invention is not owned or licensed by the Offeror, then the Offeror shall explain how it will obtain a license, how the Government may obtain a license and/or whether the Offeror plans to obtain these rights on behalf of the Government.

Be advised that no patent, patent application or invention disclosure will be accepted if not pre-identified in **Attachment 4, Data Rights Assertion Table (Volume 3)** and included in your proposal. Existing inventions, patents and patent applications shall be discussed in the above list. Government rights in any technology that might be invented or reduced to practice under this BAA are addressed in the patent rights clause to be included in the contract.

(2) Data Rights

Proposals submitted in response to this BAA shall identify, to the extent known at the time an offer is submitted to the Government, the technical data or computer software that the Offeror, its subcontractors or suppliers, or potential subcontractors or suppliers, assert should be furnished to the Government with restrictions on use, release, or disclosure, in accordance with DFARS 252.227-7017, Identification and Assertion of Use, Release or Disclosure Restrictions, and DFARS 252.227-7028, Technical Data or Computer Software Previously Delivered to the Government. The restrictions, if any, shall be directly applicable to the deliverables of the proposed effort and shall, therefore, reference the respective deliverables listed within the SOW. The Offeror's assertions, including the assertions of its subcontractors or suppliers or potential subcontractors or suppliers, shall be submitted as **Attachment 4, Data Rights Assertion Table**, under Volume 3, Administrative and National Policy Requirements (Template is at Attachment 4 to Appendix 2).

4.5.7.4 Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCI) Disclosure and Analysis Form(s)

Offerors and their subcontractors shall each submit an OCI Disclosure Form as Attachment 5 of Volume 3; template is at Appendix 2, **Attachment 5 - OCI Disclosure and Analysis Form**. This form shall also be submitted if no actual or potential OCI is identified.

If the Government determines that a Offeror failed to fully disclose an OCI; failed to provide the disclosure of NGA support; or failed to reasonably provide additional information requested by the Government to assist in evaluating the Offeror's OCI mitigation plan, the Government may reject the proposal and withdraw it from consideration for award.

4.5.8 Volume 4 - SECURITY

4.5.8.1 Research and Technology Protection

4.5.8.1.1 Program Protection Implementation Plan (PPIP)

Reference new addendum Research and Technology Protection Plan

~~The PPIP shall only be submitted upon NGA's request after proposal selection.~~

~~Offerors will **not** submit a PPIP with their initial proposal package. Instead, NGA will first complete the scientific review process and select the proposals that will be funded.~~

~~NGA will request a PPIP from Offerors whose proposals were selected for funding.~~

~~Topic Calls that will require a PPIP (again, provided only after NGA selects proposals that will be funded) will state so in the Topic Call. PPIP submission information can be found in the **'Research and Technology Protection 20260617'** attachment and its sub attachments.~~

(Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC ARC)

4.5.8.1.2 Common Disclosure Forms (applicable to Fundamental Research)

Awards which cover fundamental research (see definition in Appendix 6) funded by the Department of Defense (DoD), regardless of award instrument or type of proposing entity, are required to submit certified Common Disclosure Forms for each covered individual (see Appendix 6 for definition).

The Common Disclosure Forms shall only be submitted upon NGA's request after proposal selection.

Offerors will **not** submit them with their initial proposal package. Instead, NGA will first complete the scientific review process and select the proposals that will be funded.

NGA will request these forms from Offerors whose proposals were selected for funding; the **'Research and Technology Protection'** attachment provides the link to the two Common Disclosure Forms. (Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC ARC)

4.5.8.2 Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)

Reference new addendum Research and Technology Protection Plan

NGA will provide specific instructions at the Topic Call level for projects that require access to Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

For unclassified proposals containing CUI, applicants will ensure personnel and information systems processing CUI meet all security requirements provided in the Topic Call.

4.5.8.3 Classified Submissions and Topics

Reference new addendum Research and Technology Protection Plan

For Topic Calls that will require classified work and/or access to classified information, NGA will provide specific instructions for submitting a Security Plan and all required attachments at the Topic Call level. Instructions will also provide information on how NGA will evaluate the Security Plan and attachments. If additional security requirements are released at the Topic level,

Offerors shall adhere to the security requirements to be eligible to participate in the applicable Topic Area.

Classified questions or comments regarding this BAA must be submitted via email to BIGSTBAA@coe.ic.gov. (An *unclassified* email shall be sent to the BIGSTBAA@nga.mil to notify the Contracting Officer of the intent to submit classified information.)

Topic Calls will identify the highest classification level for that topic; if the highest classification level is classified, the Topic Call will provide further instructions for where Offerors can submit classified proposals.

If a Topic is posted on the Classified IC ARC, NGA will provide a SAM.gov notice that a classified Topic has been posted on the Classified IC ARC site.

For Classified Topics, once registered and logged in at the Classified IC ARC, Offerors can click and select the BIG-ST BAA Classified IC ARC page under NGA. Offerors will need to use the Q&A link on that page to submit a question or comment, and to view the responses to all questions and comments, including those submitted by other interested parties. For assistance, please refer to Classified IC ARC 20 Users Guide under the Help Resources button at the top of the Classified IC ARC page. Please email the Contracting Officer whenever a question or information is submitted to the Classified IC ARC site to ensure a timely response.

5. Abstract and Proposal Review Information

5.1 Abstract Review Criteria & Process

During the review of the Abstracts the following will be considered in accordance with the BAA intent:

- Proposed concept constitutes Basic Research, Applied Research, Advanced Technology Development and/or Advanced Component Development and Prototype efforts IAW DFARS 235.016.
- Proposed concept is within the scope of the specific posted topic.
- Overall scientific and technical merit of the proposed research; approach that enables novel/innovative advances over current state of practice.
- Potential contribution to NGA's Research mission.
- ROM Cost/Price presents an affordable path for the Government based on the Topic Area Budget.

Abstract Feedback: After abstract review, feedback will be provided to the Offeror as to whether they are or are not recommended to submit a full proposal. Regardless of NGA's response to an abstract, Offerors may submit a full proposal. (*Reminder: Offerors who did not submit an abstract are ineligible to submit a proposal.*)

5.2 Proposal Review Process

Proposals received in response to the BIG-ST BAA solicitation will be evaluated in accordance with the 8-step procedures set forth below:

1	Compliant Review
2	Scientific/Technical Review
3	Analysis of Proposed Resources
4	Funding Decision
5	Security Evaluation (If Applicable)
6	Cost/Price Evaluation
7	Administrative and National Policy Requirements
8	Final Award(s) Decision.

5.2.1 Step 1: Compliance Review

An **administrative compliance review** will be performed to verify that the proposal includes all required documentation and information as set forth within this BAA and the applicable Topic Call; proposals that fail to do so will be deemed non-compliant and may be removed from consideration. The Government may provide Offerors with the opportunity to fix administrative errors or supply missing attachments if it is in the best interest of the Government and does not create an unfair advantage for a Offeror.

5.2.2 Step 2: Scientific/Technical Review

NGA will conduct a scientific/technical review of each compliant proposal. Proposals will not be evaluated against each other because they are not submitted in accordance with a common work statement. NGA's intent is to review proposals as soon as possible after they arrive; however, proposals may be reviewed periodically for administrative reasons.

CONFIDENCE RATING

NGA will conduct the scientific/technical review of each proposal using two (2) Technical Evaluation Factors; section 5.2.2.1 discusses each one. The Government will assess its level of confidence that the Offeror understands the goals and objectives of the research topic, proposes a sound approach, and will be successful in performing the proposed work. As warranted, the confidence assessment will consider the extent to which successful performance will require Government intervention, or Government participation beyond what is stated in the proposal. After evaluation of the technical proposal, NGA will assign each technical factor a Confidence Rating of High, Some, or Low; the definitions are shown below.

Confidence Rating	Definition
High Confidence	The Government has high confidence that the Offeror understands the goals and objectives of the research topic, proposes a sound approach, and will be successful in performing the proposed work.
Some Confidence	The Government has some confidence that the Offeror understands the goals and objectives of the research topic, proposes a sound approach, and will be successful in performing the proposed work.
Low Confidence	The Government has low confidence that the Offeror understands the goals and objectives of the research topic, proposes a sound approach, or will be successful in performing the proposed work.

The NGA scientific/technical review team will also make a funding recommendation to the NGA final funding decision authority. The funding recommendations include:

- Recommended for full funding;
- Recommended for partial funding;
- Recommended for funding if funds become available within three months of final funding decision;
- Not recommended for funding.

5.2.2.1 Proposal Technical Evaluation Criteria

The following are the Technical Evaluation Factors, in descending order of importance:

Factor 1	Scientific and Technical Merit
Factor 2	Mission Alignment

5.2.2.1.1 Factor 1: Scientific and Technical Merit

The Government will evaluate this factor based on the extent to which

- Proposed effort investigates an innovative approach that enables revolutionary advances or substantial improvements to the existing state of practice.
- Technical approach (e.g., Schedule, Risk, Team Experience) is realistic, meaning that it can be implemented with proposed resources and within the given constraints.
- Technical approach is feasible, meaning that it can achieve the desired outcome and solve the problem.

5.2.2.1.2 Factor 2: Mission Alignment

The Government will evaluate this factor based on the extent to which

- Proposed effort is within the scope of the BAA and Topic Call and relevant to the NGA Research Mission.
- Proposed Data Rights/Intellectual Property promote technology integration or adoption.
- Proposal has potential to transition deliverables to future Government needs or use proposed research results for other programs.

5.2.3 Step 3: Analysis of Proposed Resources

For proposals that the scientific/technical review team recommended for full or partial funding, or fund if funds become available, the Government will review whether the labor hours and mix are consistent with the technical proposal and are realistic for the work proposed. The Government will also assess if proposed material, equipment, software, other direct cost, and travel, are well justified, reasonable, and required for successful execution of the proposed work. In addition, the Government will review if contractor assumptions / requests for Government Furnished Property / Contractor Acquired Property (GFP/CAP) and Government Furnished Information (GFI) are realistic and reasonable to achieve a successful outcome.

5.2.4 Step 4: Funding Decision

Based on the recommendations of the Scientific/Technical Review team, the Scientific Review Official (SRO) will make a final funding decision of proposals. Possible funding decisions include:

- Fully fund proposal
- Partially fund proposal
- Fund if funds become available within three months of final funding decision
- Not fund proposal

The Government will select the proposal(s) for negotiation and potential award(s) which is most advantageous to the government, subject to availability of funding.

Following the review and selection process described above, but prior to negotiations and possible award, the Government will review Volume 2 (Cost/Price), Volume 3 (Administrative and National Policy Requirements), and Volume 4 (Security) for all proposals selected for funding or partial funding.

5.2.5 Step 5: Security Evaluation

Proposals selected for funding or partial funding will undergo a Security evaluation IAW the Security Instructions provided in each Topic Call.

Proposals selected for funding if funds become available will undergo the Security evaluation once funds become available.

Reference new addendum Research and Technology Protection Plan

5.2.5.1 *Classified Projects*

Reference new addendum Research and Technology Protection Plan

For Topics that will require classified work, or access to classified information, NGA will provide specific instructions for submitting a Security Plan and all required attachments in the Topic Call.

In general, the Government will evaluate security information provided in the proposal on a Pass/Fail basis to determine security eligibility, and the ability to satisfy the requirements set forth in the DD Form 254. The Government will conduct an assessment of the Offeror's security plan, explaining how Offeror will comply with security policies and regulations. The Offeror

shall provide information that can be verified via NGA, DoD, and/or IC databases and/or through coordination with other DoD and IC agencies, as applicable. Proposal shall follow the security instructions provided in the Topic Call solicitation.

Proposals that fail the Security component of this volume may be eliminated from further consideration, or the Government may conduct clarifications or discussions to provide an opportunity for Offerors to correct failed items.

Depending on the project, there could be up to five (5) Security Factors which could be used to evaluate Security:

- ~~Security Factor 1: Facility Clearance (FCL) and Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI)~~
- ~~Security Factor 2: Personnel Security Clearance Level (PCL)/ Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) access~~
- ~~Security Factor 3: Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF)~~
- ~~Security Factor 4: Security Plan~~
- ~~Security Factor 5: Supply Chain Risk~~

5.2.5.2 Program Protection Implementation Plan (PPIP) Review

Reference new addendum Research and Technology Protection Plan

For proposals selected for funding that require a PPIP, the Government will review information provided in the PPIP to determine the Offeror's ability to identify and protect technology elements essential to meet topic-specific requirements, in accordance with DoDI 5000.83 and the DoD Technology and Program Protection (TPP) Guidebook.

NGA will work with the potential awardee to submit a PPIP that meets protection of information requirements within five (5) sections.

The following table describes the requirements that each section must meet:

SUBFACTOR	Requirement
1. Introduction, Updates, and Responsible Points of Contact (POCs)	The PPIP (1) describes the purpose of the program that will be addressed by the PPIP; and (2) identifies the lead prime and subcontractor personnel responsible for implementing countermeasures described in the PPIP.

2. Technology Element Identification and Impact Assessment	The PPIP sufficiently demonstrates (1) <u>how</u> the Offeror will conduct, validate, and maintain Critical Technology Element (CTE) assessments for all development activities throughout the program lifecycle; including (2) <u>how</u> technologies are selected as critical; and (3) reasons <u>why</u> other technologies are not selected as critical.
3. Identified Threats and Vulnerabilities	The PPIP sufficiently describes the process for identifying and assessing (1) threats and (2) vulnerabilities specific to CTE or assessed as more likely given the program's content or intent, including (3) what sources will inform identification and assessment and (4) <u>how</u> the Offeror will maintain awareness of emerging threats and vulnerabilities throughout the program lifecycle.
4. Countermeasures and Risk Mitigation Plan	The PPIP sufficiently describes (1) <u>how</u> the Offeror plans to address Section 4, "Countermeasures and Risk Mitigation Plan," of Attachment 9 of Appendix 2; or (2) <u>why</u> a given subsection is not applicable given the program's content or intent.
5. Response, Recovery, and Support	The PPIP sufficiently (1) identifies the lead prime and subcontractor personnel responsible for response coordination; and sufficiently describes (2) reporting and (3) remediation policies necessary to address Section 5, "Response, Recovery, and Support," of Attachment 9 of Appendix 2.

5.2.5.3 Common Disclosure Forms Review

Reference new addendum Research and Technology Protection Plan

For proposals selected for funding that require certified Common Disclosure Forms, IAW sections 4.5.8.1 of this General Solicitation, NGA will conduct risk-based security reviews of the required disclosures in accordance with "[Countering Unwanted Foreign Influence in Department Funded Research at Institutions of Higher Education](#)", dated 29 June 2023, and section 10632(a)(1) of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167), to identify practices or behaviors identified in Table 1 of the "DoD Component Decision Matrix to Inform Fundamental Research Proposal Mitigation Decisions."

Congruent with executive, congressional, and departmental direction, NGA may decline award to a Offeror when:

1. The Offeror

- (a) receives federal funds in excess of \$50 million per year and has not established a research security program in accordance with National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33); or
- (b) hosts a Confucius Institute (as defined in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024), unless the Offeror has been issued a waiver by the Secretary of Defense; or
- (c) is an entity identified as a Chinese military company operating in the United States in accordance with section 1260h of the William M. ("Mac") Thornberry NDAA for FY 2021 (10 U.S.C. 113; Public Law 116-283); or
- (d) has a covered individual who is published on the list under section 1237(b) of the Strom Thurmond NDAA for FY 1999 (Public Law 105-261; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note.); or
- (e) has a covered individual that is party to a MFTRP; or
- (f) does not have a policy or procedure addressing MFTRPs; or

2. The Offeror, its parent company or its subsidiary is:

- (a) located in a foreign country of concern (FCOC); or
- (b) has an owner or covered individual that has a foreign affiliation with a research institution located in a FCOC; or
- (c) has an owner or covered individual that is party to a MFTRP; and

3. The relationships and commitments described in clauses 2(a) through 2(c):

- (a) interfere with NGA's capacity to carry out activities it supports;
- (b) create duplication with DoD-supported activities;
- (c) present concerns about conflicts of interest (CoI) or commitment (CoC);
- (d) were not appropriately disclosed to NGA;
- (e) violate Federal law or NGA terms and conditions; or
- (f) pose a risk to national security.

5.2.6 Step 6: Cost/Price Evaluation

Proposals selected for funding or partial funding will undergo a Cost/Price evaluation, inclusive of all optional periods/tasks, to determine that the final agreed-to price is fair and reasonable. (Proposals selected for funding if funds become available will undergo the evaluation once funds become available.)

Applicable to Fixed Price (FP), Time and Materials (T&M), and Labor Hours (LH) Contract Type Proposals:

The Government will evaluate whether the proposed price to perform proposed work is reasonable and whether the unit prices are balanced. The Government reserves the right, at its

sole discretion, to conduct a realism analysis of any of the proposals, as described at FAR 15.404-1(d)(3).

Applicable to Cost Contract Type Proposals:

The proposed costs will be evaluated in accordance with FAR 15.4 for reasonableness and realism. The Government will perform a Cost Realism analysis pursuant to FAR 15.404-1(d).

Applicable to Grants and Cooperative Agreements:

With respect to Grants and Cooperative Agreements, awards will be made as Cost Reimbursement (no fee) only. A price reasonableness and completeness evaluation will be completed.

5.2.7 Step 7: Administrative and National Policy Requirements

This step is only conducted for proposals selected for funding or partial funding. (Proposals selected for funding if funds become available will undergo the evaluation once funds become available.) Proposal will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis, as applicable, and as outlined below. Proposals that fail an element of this volume may be eliminated from further consideration, or the Government may conduct clarifications or discussions to provide an opportunity for Offerors to correct failed items.

Representation and Certifications

SAM.gov will be checked to ensure all Representations and Certifications are completed. The CO will also check the required DFARS and contract-specific certification packages submitted with the proposal as listed in the BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses (Separate File posted with this BAA General Solicitation).

For grants and cooperative agreements, the Contracting Officer will ensure that the SF 424 is filled out properly to address the certification of compliance with the national policy mandate concerning lobbying for Grants greater than \$100,000 (see section 4.5.1). If the SF 424 is not filled out, the certification in Volume 4 shall be signed by an Authority of Record for the Company. The SF 424 shall also have Block 17 checked "I agree" in order to satisfy the Prohibition on Contract with Entities that Required Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements Representation.

Subcontracting Plan (see section 4.5.7.2)

For proposals from other than small businesses requesting procurement contracts expected to exceed \$750,000.00 (total contract value including option periods), the Contracting Officer will complete a review of the Offeror's Small Business Sub-Contracting Plan IAW FAR 19.705-4 and DFARS 219.705-4, and coordinate approval of the Plan with the NGA Small Business Office. Master, Comprehensive, and Commercial plans are acceptable and encouraged.

Intellectual Property (see section 4.5.7.3)

Information provided related to intellectual property will be considered as part of the evaluation and confidence ratings of the Scientific/Technical review.

OCI Disclosure and Analysis Form(s) (see section 4.5.7.4)

The Disclosure and Analysis form(s) will be reviewed to determine if any actual or perceived OCI exist. If actual or perceived OCI exist, the Government will require the Offeror to submit an OCI plan. The Offeror's OCI plan will be reviewed to determine if the plan is acceptable to the Government. Unacceptable OCI plans will be rated as FAIL and will preclude award.

5.2.8 Step 8: Final Award(s) Decision.

Award(s) will be made to the Offeror(s) whose proposal(s) are determined to be most advantageous to the Government, all criteria considered, and cost/price determined to be fair/reasonable.

Additional information regarding the planned number of awards will be released with each Topic Call.

5.3 Selection Notices

At the earliest practicable opportunity, the Government will provide a notice to each Offeror advising the Offeror of the disposition of their proposal. A Offeror whose proposal is selected for negotiations and possible award will be contacted by a Government Contracting Officer to discuss any additional information required for award. The anticipated project start date will be determined at this time. The appropriate award document, when signed by the Government Contracting Officer, is the authorizing award document.

5.4 Handling of Source Selection Information

NGA policy is to treat all submissions as source selection sensitive information (FAR 2.101 and 3.104), and to only disclose their contents to authorized personnel. Restrictive notices notwithstanding, submissions may be handled by support contractors for administrative purposes and/or to assist with technical evaluation. All NGA support contractors performing this role are expressly prohibited from performing NGA-sponsored technical research, and are bound by appropriate nondisclosure agreements. Subject to the restrictions set forth in FAR 37.203(d), NGA may also request input on technical aspects of the proposals from other non-Government consultants/experts who are strictly bound by the appropriate nondisclosure requirements. Refer to BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses (Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation), 5X52.209-9004, Use of Contractor Support, for specific information concerning NGA use of contractor support. By submitting an abstract or a proposal to this solicitation, a

contractor is granting permission to the Government to share that abstract/proposal with non-Government advisors.

6. Award Administration Information

6.1 Invoicing and Payments

6.1.1 Procurement Contracts and OTs:

For Procurement Contracts and OTs awarded prior to 19 Feb 2025, see 5X52.232-9000: Submission of Invoice-Federal Payment Center (FPC) in the BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses (Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC)

For Procurement Contracts and OTs awarded on or after 19 Feb 2025, see 5X52.232-9003, Usage of the Invoice Processing Platform (IPP) in the BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses (Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC)

6.1.2 Grants and Cooperative Agreements

6.1.2.1 Invoice and Payment Procedures

You shall request payment on a monthly basis using Standard Form 270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement. Requests for payment shall be submitted by email to the Award Administration Office (ONR_San_Diego@navy.mil), Grants Office (OCSGrants@nga.mil), and the Program (BIGSTBAAPMO@nga.mil). The subject line of the email shall contain the Grant Agreement number followed by “SF270”. *For example: HM04762410001_SF270.*

6.1.2.2 Electronic Funds Transfer Information

All payments will be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) to the bank account registered within <https://www.sam.gov>. You shall maintain the currency of information about yourself in SAM, including information necessary to facilitate payment via EFT. NGA cannot be held responsible for any misdirection or loss of payment which occurs as the result of failure to maintain correct/current EFT information within the SAM registration.

6.1.2.3 Questions for the Payment Office

Questions concerning specific payments should be directed to the Award Administration Office and Grants Office. The award number and voucher number will be required to inquire about the status of the payment.

6.2 Information Technology

The Contractor shall ensure that all systems, hardware, software, software engineering, and information and communications technology (ICT) associated with this effort is made in a manner that is accessible for people with disabilities as directed in the NGA Instruction 8400.4 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1998 (Section 508).

The Contractor shall manually test for accessibility and provide an Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR) for each ICT item offered through this contract. The ACR shall be created by using the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) version 2.4 or later.

The Contractor shall pursue human centered design and usability guidelines in order to ensure that all services associated with this effort are accessible by as many users as possible and as a means to drive modernization, innovation, and enhance mission support.

The Government reserves the right to perform testing on required ICT to validate Section 508 Compliance, and if the ICT is found to be noncompliant (partial compliance is regarded as noncompliance), the Contractor shall provide a remediation plan and remediate ICT to align with Section 508 requirements.

If it is determined by the Government that ICT supplies, products, platforms, information, documentation, and services support provided by the Contractor do not conform to the described accessibility standards in the contract, remediation of the supplies, products, platforms, information, documentation, or services support to the level of conformance specified in the contract will be the responsibility of the Contractor at its own expense.

All ICT associated with the contract may use Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 to comply with Section 508 or use alternative designs or technologies which result in substantially equivalent or greater access to and use of the product for people with disabilities. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 (w3.org)

Requests for exceptions to these requirements shall be submitted to the Contracting Officer with an appropriate justification as soon as possible and at least 60 days prior to submission of any affected deliverable.

Additional information, including definitions and requirements are available at: <https://www.section508.gov> and NGA Instruction (NGAI) 8400.4. (Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC)

6.3 Travel

6.3.1 Procurement Contracts

Travel is required by the Contractor for this effort. Travel shall consist of locations within CONUS and OCONUS and shall be performed as required by assigned tasks. All travel shall be directed by the COR or Government Program Manager (PM) and approved in advance in writing to ensure contract funds availability. All travel shall be in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulation (JTR).

The Contractor will be authorized travel expenses in accordance with FAR 31.205-46. The Contractor shall review and justify all requests for travel and Other Direct Costs (ODCs) before forwarding to the CO, COR/ACOR for approval prior to any expenditures. Only the CO, COR, or ACOR are authorized to approve Contractor travel.

The Contractor may be required to travel from their primary work location to other NGA locations, other US Government locations, and Contractor facilities, as well as NGA partner sites worldwide in support of NGA activities. Travel requirements may be adjusted at the discretion of the Government. For air travel, the Contractor shall use non-refundable rates to the maximum extent possible and must use economy or coach accommodations on an airplane, train, or ship. In accordance with NGAI 5240.3, the Contractor shall submit and have all OCONUS travel submitted to the NGA Support Team no later than 30 calendar days prior to travel for personnel cleared to CPI, SCI, or SAP. Traveling personnel shall complete all required foreign travel briefs, any required regional or other training (e.g., SERE, etc.), and submissions in the Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (APACS), Travel Tracker Individual Anti-Terrorism Plan system (for USINDOPACOM AOR) and Personnel Recovery Mission Software (PRMS) system, and have Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) approvals (when required) prior to traveling. Contractor travel to OCONUS NGA partner sites shall comply with all host nation and SOFA travel and other requirements and Center for Disease Control (CDC), host nation and DoD travel health-related restrictions.

6.3.2 Grants and Cooperative Agreements

Reference APPENDIX 5 Grants Coops Instructions.docx

6.3.3 Other Transactions

Please refer to specific OT contracts for travel requirements, when applicable.

6.4 Government Furnished Property/Contractor Acquired Property, Government Furnished Information

The Government will provide the necessary GFP, as required. All Contractor Acquired Property (CAP) becomes GFP at item delivery.

Unless specified in the Topic Call and/or awarded proposals, all GFP/CAP must be returned to the Government. GFI will be required to be either returned to the Government or destroyed at the end of its usefulness to the contract.

Appendix 1 – Abstract Template

Appendix 1 titled “APPENDIX 1 Abstract Template.docx” is a Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC.

Appendix 2 – Proposal Template

Appendix 2 titled “APPENDIX 2 Proposal Template.docx” is a Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC.

Appendix 3 – Award Types & Instruments

1. **Award Types**

a. **Cost / Cost Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF)**

Cost awards allow the contractor to invoice for the allowable incurred costs up to the funding ceiling in accordance with the final estimate of costs awarded. Cost and CPFF awards are common in Research and Development (R&D) and provide flexibility with cost variances within the ceiling, i.e. changes in level of effort per month or material changes.

Contractors who propose Cost or CPFF contracts typically have had previous contracts with the Department of Defense (DoD), and shall have a Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) compliant accounting system that is adequate for determining costs applicable to the contract (this is not applicable to Grants or Cooperative Agreements).

b. **Fixed Price (FFP)**

FFP awards are best used if costs are well defined for the deliverables, because the allowed price is not adjustable with variance in contractor's cost. This contract type places more risk on the contractor but may be suitable for efforts that are shorter in duration or more limited in scope such as small studies. FFP contracts require well defined milestones with associated payments.

c. **Fixed Price Level-of-Effort (FFP LOE)**

FFP LOE awards are best used if the contractor intends to provide a specified level of effort, over a stated period of time, on work that can only be stated in general terms. This contract type is suitable for investigation or study in a specific research and development area, and produces a product that is normally a report, showing the results achieved through application of the required level of effort.

d. **Time and Materials (T&M) / Labor Hour (LH)**

T&M and LH awards are commonly used for construction, product development or any other piece of work, in which the Government agrees to pay the contractor based upon the time spent by the contractor's and subcontractor's employees to perform the work. T&M and LH contracts are common in R&D and provide flexibility with cost variances within the ceiling, i.e. changes in level of effort per month or material changes. T&M and LH contracts are generally used for projects in which it is not possible to accurately estimate the size of the project, or when it is expected that the project requirements would most likely change. The Government will only consider T&M and LH contract if a Fixed-Price or Cost-Reimbursement Type Contract is not appropriate as determined by the Contracting Officer.

2. **Award Instruments**

a. **Procurement Contract**

A legal instrument, authorized under 31 U.S.C. 6303, which reflects a relationship between the Federal Government and a State, a local government, or other recipient when the principal purpose of the instrument is to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government.

Fee and profit are not allowed on travel and materials under Procurement Contracts.

This instrument is appropriate for awards of the acquisition of basic, applied, or advanced research and that part of development not related to the development of a specific system or hardware procurement, when the principal purpose is to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government. It is an appropriate instrument for Contractors who have experience working with the DoD and have approved purchasing and accounting systems.

b. **Research OT**

Under 10 U.S.C. § 4021, and Director of National Intelligence Memo ES-2023-01837, Subject: Class Delegation for Intelligence Community Elements to Exercise Director of National Intelligence Other Transaction Authority, 28 Feb 2024, NGA has authority to award Research OTs for Basic, Applied, or Advanced research and development (R&D).

Research OTs are used for basic, applied, and advanced research projects that are focused on validating research results and advancements, rather than for the delivery or acquisition of the resultant technologies. The goal of these awards is to foster the best technologies for future defense needs with the most capable performers.

c. **OT for Prototype and Follow-on Production**

A legal instrument, authorized under 10 U.S.C. 4022, which may be used when a procurement contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is not feasible or appropriate. The effort covered under an OT shall not be duplicative of effort being conducted under an existing DoD program. Please refer to the DoD Other Transaction (OT) Guide, OUSD(A&S), July 2023, Version 2.0. This document, along with other OT resources, may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/dpc/cp/policy/other-policy-areas.html>.

Contractors who do not have experience working with the DoD, or who do not have approved accounting systems, may be interested in proposing an OT. NGA has authority to use OTs for prototype projects directly relevant to enhancing the mission effectiveness of military personnel and the supporting platforms, systems, components, or materials proposed to be acquired or developed by the Department of Defense, or for improvement of platforms, systems, components, or materials in use by the Armed Forces.

OTs for Prototypes offer flexibility that allows for open negotiation of many agreement terms and conditions instead of traditional FAR and DFARS clauses.

In accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 4022, NGA may award a follow-on production contract or Other Transaction (OT) for any OT awarded under this BAA if:

- The OT participant, or a recognized successor in interest to the OT, successfully completed the entire prototype project provided for in the OT, as modified; and
- The OT provides for the award of a follow-on production contract or OT to the participant, or a recognized successor in interest to the OT.

d. Grants

A legal instrument, authorized under 31 U.S.C. 6304, used to transfer a thing of value to the recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law or the United States, rather than to acquire property or services for the Department of Defense's direct benefit or use. Substantial involvement is not expected between the Department of Defense and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated by the grant.

Grants are commonly used by academic and research institutions and other non-profit entities. They are most appropriate for fundamental research that will provide the most value to society by being shared widely to encourage further research and development work.

Grants may be requested through this BAA in response to the specific Topic calls.

Grants are governed by Subtitle A and Chapter XI of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Fee and Profit are not allowed under Grants.

e. Cooperative Agreement

A legal instrument, authorized under 31 U.S.C. 6305, that is similar to a grant, except allowing for substantial involvement between the DoD and the recipient when carrying out the research activity. As with a Grant, a cooperative agreement provides assistance to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation. A cooperative agreement is different from cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) as defined in 15 U.S.C. 3710a.

Cooperative agreements are most appropriate for entities that want a higher level of involvement from the Government than is typically provided under other instruments.

Cooperative agreements are governed by Subtitle A and Chapter XI of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations

Fee and profit are not allowed under Cooperative Agreements.

This instrument is appropriate for basic, applied, or advanced research awards when the principal purpose is to transfer a thing of value to the recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law or the United States, rather than to acquire property or services for the Department of Defense's direct benefit or use. Substantial involvement is expected between the Department of Defense and the award recipient when carrying out the cooperative agreement activity.

Appendix 4 – Governance Information

1. Grants and cooperative agreements for institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, foreign organizations, and foreign public entities:

- a. Subtitle A and Chapter XI of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- b. 32 CFR Parts 21, 22, 26, and 28
- c. DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions;
Check the following website for the most recent version: <https://www.onr.navy.mil/work-with-us/manage-your-award/manage-grant-award/grants-terms-conditions>
- d. Award-specific terms and conditions

2. Grants and cooperative agreements for for-profit and nonprofit organizations exempted from Subpart E - Cost Principles of 2 CFR Part 200:

- a. 32 CFR Part 34 – Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with For-Profit Organizations
- b. 32 CFR Parts 21, 22, 26, and 28
- c. DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions
- d. Agency-specific Research Terms and Conditions
- e. Award-specific terms and conditions

3. OTs are primarily governed by the following:

- a. 10 U.S.C 4021 and 4022
 - b. Guide to Research Other Transactions, OUSD(R&E), June 2023
 - c. DoD Other Transaction (OT) Guide, OUSD(A&S), July 2023, Version 2.0
- OT resources may be accessed at the following link:
<https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/dpc/cp/policy/other-policy-areas.html>.

4. The following websites may be accessed to obtain an electronic copy of the governing regulations and terms and conditions for procurement contracts:

- a. FAR, DFARS: [FAR | Acquisition.GOV](https://www.acquisition.gov)
- b. Code of Federal Regulations: <https://www.govinfo.gov/>
- c. NARI clauses/instructions (BIG-ST BAA Provisions and Clauses (Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation))

Contracts awarded by the NGA OCS-R Division will contain, where appropriate, detailed special provisions concerning patent, rights in technical data and computer software, reporting requirements, equal employment opportunity, etc. Contracts are primarily governed by the following regulations:

- i. Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR)
- ii. Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations (DFAR)

iii. NGA Acquisition Regulation Implementation (NARI)

Appendix 5 – Grants and Cooperative Agreements Proposal Preparation & Submission Instructions

Appendix 5 titled “APPENDIX 5 Grants Coops.docx” is a Separate File posted with this BAA General solicitation on SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and Classified IC-ARC.

Appendix 6 - Definitions

As used throughout this BAA, “Offeror” refers to the lead organization on a submission to this BAA. The Offeror is responsible for ensuring that all information required by a BAA--from all team members--is submitted in accordance with the BAA. “Awardee” refers to anyone who might receive a prime award from the Government, including recipients of procurement contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or Other Transactions. “Sub-awardee” refers to anyone who might receive a sub-award from a prime awardee (e.g., sub-awardee, consultant, etc.).

“Conforming” is defined as having been submitted in accordance with the requirements outlined herein. If a proposal is not submitted in accordance with the requirements outlined herein, the proposal may be considered non-conforming and ineligible for award.

As used throughout this BAA, “contract” refers to the broad term of an agreement between the Government and a 3rd party.

“Procurement Contract” is a legal instrument, authorized under 31 U.S.C. 6303, which reflects a relationship between the Federal Government and a State, a local government, or other recipient when the principal purpose of the instrument is to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government.

All references to "Unlimited Rights" or "Government Purpose Rights" are intended to refer to the definitions of those terms as set forth in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 227.

Affiliation: Academic (not including undergraduate or graduate students), professional, or institutional appointments or positions with a foreign government or a foreign government-connected entity, whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary (including adjunct, visiting, post-doctoral appointment, or honorary), where monetary reward, non-monetary reward, or other quid-pro-quo obligation is involved.

Association: Academic (not including undergraduate or graduate students), professional, or institutional appointments or positions (including adjunct, visiting, voluntary, post-doctoral appointment, or honorary) with a foreign government or a foreign government-connected entity where no monetary reward, non-monetary reward, or other quid-pro-quo is involved.

Commercially Available Information (CAI): Any information [data] that is of a type customarily made available or obtainable and sold, leased, or licensed to the general public or to non-governmental entities for purposes other than governmental purposes. Commercially Available Information also includes information [data] for exclusive government use, knowingly and voluntarily provided by, procured from, or made accessible by corporate entities at the request of a government entity, or on their own initiative.

Conflict of Commitment (CoC): A situation in which an individual accepts or incurs conflicting obligations between or among multiple employers or other entities. These include conflicting commitments of time and effort (e.g., obligations to dedicate time in excess of institutional or funding agency policies or commitments). Other types of conflicting obligations, including obligations to improperly share information with, or to withhold information from, an employer or funding agency, can also threaten security and integrity, and are an element of a broader concept of CoCs.

Conflict of Interest (CoI): A situation in which an individual, or the individual's spouse or dependent children, has a significant financial interest or financial relationship that could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, reporting, funding, or distribution of research.

Confucius Institute: As defined in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. The term 'Confucius Institute' means-- (A) any program that receives funding or support from (i) the Chinese International Education Foundation; or (ii) the Center for Language Exchange Cooperation of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China; or (B) any cultural institute funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Contract Data Requirements List (CDRL) – The Contract Data Requirement List (CDRL) is a list that identifies the specific data requirements (products) that must be delivered by a contractor to the government for a contract. DFARS Subpart 215.470 requires the use of the CDRL in solicitations when the contract will require delivery of data. The purpose of the CDRL is to provide a standardized format for identifying potential data requirements in a solicitation and deliverable data requirements in a contract. It also functions as the Government's vehicle to obtain data from contractors. DD Form 1423 is used to document the data requirements and delivery information. Once the Government and the contractor agree to the list of deliverable CDRL, the list becomes part of a binding contract. A CDRL both assists and protects the Government and contractors in the execution of a defense contract.

Controlling Equity: Ownership of more than 50 percent of the outstanding equity interest of a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or trust.

Covered Individual: An individual who contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to the effort to be performed under a federal award or agreement, and who is considered essential to the successful performance of the project. Covered individuals include those listed as key personnel in proposals, such as the principal investigator or co-principal investigators.

Due Diligence: An analysis utilizing publicly available information from commercial data sources and analytical tools to identify potential activity or behavior by a researcher, employee, or organization that may reveal or acknowledge research security risk, such as participation in a malign foreign talent recruitment program, and affiliations or associations with a foreign entity of concern.

Entity: An organization, including government organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private corporations, whether foreign or domestic.

Entity in a Non-Foreign Country of Concern: An organization, including government organizations, non-government organizations, and private corporations, incorporated in a non-foreign country of concern or physically located in a non-foreign country of concern.

Foreign Country of Concern (FCOC): The People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Foreign Entity of Concern: As defined in section 10638(3) of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167), a foreign entity that is:

- Designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a));
- Included on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury (commonly known as the SDN list);
- Owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a foreign country that is a covered nation (as such term is defined in 10 U.S.C. 4872);
- Alleged by the Attorney General to have been involved in activities for which a conviction was obtained under:
 - chapter 37 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Espionage Act
 - section 951 or 1030 of title 18, United States Code;
 - chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Economic Espionage Act of 1996);
 - The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.);
 - Section 224, 225, 226, 227, or 236 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, and 2284);
 - The Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.); or
 - The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or
- Determined by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, to be engaged in unauthorized conduct that is detrimental to the national security or foreign policy of the United States.

Foreign Government-Connected Entity: An organization, including government organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private corporations, owned or operated directly or indirectly by a foreign government.

Foreign National: As defined by 32 CFR Part 117 The National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM), a Foreign National is any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

A U.S. National is defined in 32 CFR Part 117 the NISPOM as a citizen of the U.S., or a person who, though not a citizen of the U.S., owes permanent allegiance to the U.S. Also see 8 USC 1101(a) (22) or 8 USC 1401 (a) para 1 to 7 for further clarification on those who may qualify as nationals of the United States.

Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI): A U.S. entity is under FOCI when:

- A foreign interest has the power to direct or decide issues affecting the entity's management or operations in a manner that could either:
 - Result in unauthorized access to classified information, or
 - Adversely affect performance of a classified contract or agreement
- The foreign government is currently exercising, or could prospectively exercise, that power, whether directly or indirectly, such as:
 - Through ownership of the U.S. entity's securities, by contractual arrangements, or other means, or;
 - By the ability to control or influence the election or appointment of one or more members of the entity's governing board.

Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (FTRP): An effort organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, or a foreign government instrumentality or entity, to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin or whether providing the recruited individual a full-time or part-time position).

Fundamental Research – Basic and applied research in science and engineering, the results of which ordinarily are published and shared broadly within the scientific community, as distinguished from proprietary research and from industrial development, design, production, and product utilization, the results of which ordinarily are restricted for proprietary or national security reasons. Refer to National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) 189 (dated 21 SEP 1985) and complimentary DOD Policy memorandums (ATL Memorandum, DoD Policy on Fundamental Research dated 26 JUN 2008 and 24 MAY 2010).

For the purposes of this solicitation, fundamental research includes basic and applied research that is either (a) between Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 1 - 2, whether performed by universities or industry; or (b) between TRL 3 - 4 and performed on-campus at a U.S. university. Awards and agreements shall not be considered fundamental in circumstances that present a high likelihood of disclosing performance characteristics of military systems, unique manufacturing technologies that are critical to defense, sources and methods relevant to intelligence-related activities, or information that would have a negative impact on national security.

Government Purpose Rights - The rights to use, modify, reproduce, release or disclose the technical data or computer software within the Government without restriction and outside the

Government for a Government purpose – “any activity in which the United States Government is a party, including cooperative agreements with international or multi-national defense organizations or sales or transfers by the United States Government to foreign governments or international organizations. Government purposes include competitive procurement, but do not include use for commercial purposes.”

Institution of Higher Education:

Per 20 U.S. Code § 1001, this is an educational institution in any State that:

- Admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, or persons who meet the requirements of section 1091(d) of this title;
- Is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education;
- Provides an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor’s degree or provides not less than a 2-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree, or awards a degree that is acceptable for admission to a graduate or professional degree program, subject to review and approval by the Secretary;
- Is a public or other nonprofit institution; and
- Is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association, or if not so accredited, is an institution that has been granted pre-accreditation status by such an agency or association that has been recognized by the Secretary for the granting of pre-accreditation status, and the Secretary has determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards of such an agency or association within a reasonable time

Joint Venture: An association of people or business concerns who, either by express or implied contract, are working together to execute a single business venture for joint profit. These people or concerns may combine their efforts, skills, property, money, or knowledge, but only on a temporary basis.

Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP): As defined in section 10638(4) of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167), the term “malign foreign talent recruitment program” means:

- Any program, position, or activity that includes compensation in the form of cash, in-kind compensation, including research funding, promised future compensation, complimentary foreign travel, things of non de minimis value, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, or other types of remuneration or consideration directly provided by a foreign country at any level (national, provincial, or local) or their designee, or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country, to the targeted individual, whether directly or indirectly stated in the arrangement, contract, or other documentation at issue, in exchange for the individual:
 - Engaging in the unauthorized transfer of intellectual property, materials, data products, or other nonpublic information owned by a United States entity or

developed with a Federal research and development award to the government of a foreign country or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country regardless of whether that government or entity provided support for the development of the intellectual property, materials, or data products;

- Being required to recruit trainees or researchers to enroll in such program, position, or activity;
- Establishing a laboratory or company, accepting a faculty position, or undertaking any other employment or appointment in a foreign country or with an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country if such activities are in violation of the standard terms and conditions of a Federal research and development award;
- Being unable to terminate the foreign talent recruitment program contract or agreement except in extraordinary circumstances;
- Through funding or effort related to the foreign talent recruitment program, being limited in the capacity to carry out a research and development award or required to engage in work that would result in substantial overlap or duplication with a Federal research and development award;
- Being required to apply for and successfully receive funding from the sponsoring foreign government's funding agencies with the sponsoring foreign organization as the recipient;
- Being required to omit acknowledgment of the recipient institution with which the individual is affiliated, or the Federal research agency sponsoring the research and development award, contrary to the institutional policies or standard terms and conditions of the Federal research and development award;
- Being required to not disclose to the Federal research agency or employing institution the participation of such individual in such program, position, or activity; or
- Having a conflict of interest or conflict of commitment contrary to the standard terms and conditions of the Federal research and development award; and
- A program that is sponsored by:
 - A foreign country of concern or an entity based in a foreign country of concern, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country of concern;
 - An academic institution on the list developed under section 1286(c)(8) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (codified at 10 U.S.C. 4001); or

A foreign talent recruitment program on the list developed under section 1286(c)(9) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (codified at 10 U.S.C. 4001).

Non-Traditional Defense Contractor - A non-traditional defense contractor is defined as an entity that is not currently performing or has not performed in the last one-year period on any contract for the Department of Defense that is subject to full Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) coverage.

Parent Company: A company, sometimes called a holding company, that has controlling interests in one or more smaller companies. The parent company only needs to own a majority to have control.

Participation in a Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program: Affiliation with or membership in a malign foreign talent recruitment program, including a contractual or other binding agreement between an individual and a malign foreign talent recruitment program; an individual reporting participation in a malign foreign talent program in a research proposal, curriculum vitae, or resume; or an individual's identification in a publication listing the individual and a malign foreign talent recruitment program.

Prototype – A physical or virtual model used to evaluate the technical or manufacturing feasibility or military utility of a particular technology or process, concept, end item or system.

Publicly Available Information (PAI): Information that has been published or broadcast for public consumption, is available on request to the public, is accessible online or otherwise to the public, is available to the public by subscription or purchase, could be seen or heard by a casual observer, is made available at a meeting open to the public, or is obtained by visiting a place or attending an event that is open to the public as defined in DoD Directive 3115.18.

Organizational Conflict of Interest – means that because of other activities or relationships with other persons, a person is unable to or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the Government, or the person's objectivity in performing the contract work is or might be otherwise impaired, or a person has an unfair competitive advantage. The term "person" includes a business organization.

Proposing Institution: An institution of higher education, independent research institution, Federally Funded Research and Development Center, or any other entity that submits a fundamental research project proposal for DoD Government funding, in whole or in part.

Realistic Operational Environmental – Either 1) a real environment that can simulate all of the operational requirements and specifications required; or 2) a simulated environment that allows for testing of a virtual prototype; used in either case to determine whether a developmental effort meets the operational requirements and specifications.

Research Integrity: The standards of research that promote objective research with collaborations that are open, transparent, merit-based, and reciprocal in nature. Research collaborations conducted with integrity are expected to disclose all financial and time obligations of the persons involved in the research, hire individuals or recruit students to participate in the research based on merit, and respect rules governing intellectual property.

Research Institution: IAW 15 U.S.C. § 638, means a nonprofit institution, as defined in section 3703(5) of this title, and includes federally funded research and development centers, as identified by the National Scientific Foundation in accordance with the governmentwide Federal

Acquisition Regulation, issued in accordance with section 421(c)(1) 2 of title 41 (or any successor regulation thereto).

Research Security Risk: An increased likelihood that research and development efforts or results will be misappropriated to the detriment of national or economic security, as well as related violations of research integrity and foreign government interference.

Security Risk Indicators: Identified activities or behaviors by a researcher, employee, or organization that may reveal or acknowledge undue foreign influence.

Subsidiary: An entity is which more than 50 percent of the entity is owned or controlled directly by a parent corporation or through another subsidiary of a parent corporation.

U.S. person – U.S. person means a person (as defined in 22 CFR 120.15) who is a US citizen, or a lawful permanent resident as defined by 8 U.S.C. 1101(a) (20), or who is a protected individual as defined by 8 U.S.C. 1324b(a)(3). It also means any corporation, business association, partnership, society, trust, or any other entity, organization or group that is incorporated to do business in the United States. It also includes any U.S. governmental (federal, state or local) entity.