

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR) PROGRAM

STTR 25.D Annual Program Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Release 4

Amendment 1 (December 4, 2024)

The purpose of amendment 1 is to clarify section 2.5 Due Diligence Program to Assess Security Risks.

IMPORTANT DATES

	Pre-Release	Open	Close
Release 1	Oct 02, 2024	Oct 23, 2024	Nov 20, 2024
Release 2	Nov 06, 2024	Dec 04, 2024	Jan 08, 2025
Release 3	Dec 04, 2024	Jan 08, 2025	Feb 05, 2025
Release 4	Jan 08, 2025	Jan 29, 2025	Feb 26, 2025
Release 5	Feb 05, 2025	Feb 26, 2025	Mar 26, 2025
Release 6	Mar 05, 2025	Mar 26, 2025	Apr 23, 2025
Release 7	Apr 02, 2025	Apr 23, 2025	May 21, 2025
Release 8	May 07, 2025	May 28, 2025	Jun 25, 2025
Release 9	Jun 04, 2025	Jun 25, 2025	Jul 23, 2025
Release 10	Jul 02, 2025	Jul 23, 2025	Aug 20, 2025
Release 11	Aug 06, 2025	Aug 27, 2025	Sep 24, 2025
Release 12	Sep 03, 2025	Sep 24, 2025	Oct 22, 2025

NOTE: DoD Services and Components may elect to release topics under this BAA once a month throughout fiscal year 2025. New research topics will pre-release on the first Wednesday of each month, based on the schedule above. Each release will have corresponding open and close dates applicable only to those topics within the release. If a topic in a release deviates from the open and close dates listed above, it will be noted within the Component-specific instructions and on DSIP.

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1.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1.1 Objectives and Context

The Defense Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program's objectives include stimulating technological innovation, strengthening the role of small business to meet DoD research and development (R&D) needs, fostering and encouraging minority and disadvantaged persons' participation in technological innovation, and increasing the commercial application of DoD-supported research or R&D results. DoD invites proposing SBCs with the capability to conduct R&D and commercialize the results in any of the defense-related topic areas described in this STTR Program BAA to submit proposals.

The STTR Program, although modeled substantially after the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program, is a separate program and is separately financed. Subject to availability of funds, DoD Components will support high quality cooperative research and development proposals of innovative concepts to solve the listed defense-related scientific or engineering problems, especially those concepts that also have high potential for commercialization in the private sector. Partnerships between small businesses and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) or Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged, although no special preference will be given to STTR proposals from such proposers.

The Small Business Administration (SBA), through its [SBIR/STTR Policy Directive](#), purposely departs from normal government solicitation formats and requirements, which simplifies the SBIR/STTR award process and minimizes the regulatory burden on small business. Consistent with the SBA SBIR/STTR Policy Directive, DoD is soliciting proposals as a broad agency announcement (BAA). The guidelines in this BAA incorporate and make use of the SBA SBIR/STTR Policy Directive's flexibility to encourage scientific and technical approaches proposals most likely to yield significant results for DoD and the private sector.

This BAA is for research topics accepting Phase I proposals. A separate BAA will not be issued requesting Phase II proposals, and unsolicited proposals will not be accepted. All proposing SBCs that receive a Phase I award from this BAA will be eligible to participate in Phase II competitions and potential Phase III awards. DoD Services/Components will notify Phase I awardees of the Phase II proposal submission requirements.

DoD is not obligated to make any awards under Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III, and all awards are subject to both a risk-based due diligence security review and funds availability. DoD is not responsible for any monies the proposing small business concern (SBC) spends before any award issuance. Proposals must conform to this announcement's terms. DoD is under no obligation to fund any proposal or any specific number of proposals in each topic. It also may elect to fund several or none of the proposed approaches to the same topic.

1.2 A Three Phased Program

The STTR Program has three phases, Phases I, II, and III. Phase I determines, to the extent possible, an idea's scientific, technical, and commercial merit and feasibility within the STTR program. Phase I and II awards are made adhering to current SBA Policy Directive guidelines.

The Phase I period of performance is generally between six to twelve months. Proposals should focus on Research or Research & Development (R/R&D) to prove the proposed effort's scientific and technical feasibility, and commercialization potential, the successful completion of which is a prerequisite for further DoD support in Phase II. Proposing SBCs are encouraged to consider whether the research or R&D being proposed to DoD Services/Components also has private sector potential, either for the proposed application or as a base for other applications.

Phase II awards will be made to proposing SBCs based on results of Phase I awards and the Phase II proposal's scientific merit, technical merit, and commercialization potential. The period of performance is generally 24 months. The objective of Phase II is to continue and further develop the R/R&D effort from the completed Phase I award.

Phase III refers to work that derives from, extends, or completes an effort made under prior STTR funding agreements, but is funded by sources other than the STTR Program. Under Phase III, the SBC should focus on commercializing previously STTR-funded technology and is required to obtain funding from either the private sector, a non-STTR federal source, or both, to develop the prototype into a viable product or non-R&D service for sale in military or private sector markets.

1.3 OUSD(R&E) Critical Technology Areas

Although each DoD Service/Component develops SBIR and STTR topics tailored to their mission needs, topics generally align with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Research & Engineering (OUSD(R&E)) critical technology areas. While many technologies may cross between these categories, these areas represent the broad and different approaches required to advance technologies crucial to the Department, with a focus on accelerating key capabilities' transitions to the Military Services and Combatant Commands.

OUSD(R&E) critical technology areas include:

- FutureG
- Trusted AI and Autonomy
- Biotechnology
- Advanced Computing and Software
- Integrated Sensing and Cyber
- Directed Energy (DE)
- Hypersonics
- Microelectronics
- Integrated Network Systems-of-Systems
- Quantum Science
- Space Technology
- Renewable Energy Generation and Storage
- Advanced Materials
- Human-Machine Interfaces

Below are additional technology areas supporting DoD Services/Component-specific mission-critical areas:

- Advanced Infrastructure & Advanced Manufacturing
- Combat Casualty Care
- Emerging Threat Reduction
- Military Infectious Diseases
- Military Operational Medicine
- Mission Readiness & Disaster Preparedness
- Nuclear
- Sustainment & Logistics

Full descriptions of the above technology areas can be reviewed [here](#).

1.4 Eligibility and Performance Requirements

Each proposing SBC must qualify as an SBC as defined in 13 C.F.R §§ 701-705 at time of award and certify to this in the proposal's cover sheet. The eligibility requirements for the SBIR/STTR programs are unique and do not correspond to those of other small business programs.

- a. Proposing SBC must meet eligibility requirements for Small Business Ownership and Control (see 13 CFR § 121.702).
- b. A minimum of 40% of each STTR project must be conducted by the small business concern and a minimum of 30% of the effort performed by the single research institution, as defined in Appendix B. The percentage of work is measured by both direct and indirect costs. Deviations

from these STTR requirements are not allowed, as the performance of work requirements are specified in statute at 15 USC 638(e). For more information on the percentage of work calculation during proposal submission, refer to section 3.7.

- c. For both Phase I and II, the principal investigator's primary employment must be with the SBC or the research institution at the time of award and during the conduct of the proposed effort. Primary employment means that more than one-half of the principal investigator's time is spent with the small business (based on a 40-hour work week). At the time of award of a Phase I or Phase II contract, the SBC must have at least one employee in a management position whose primary employment is with the small business and who is not also employed by the research institution. Primary employment with an SBC precludes full-time employment at another organization. Deviations from this requirement or changes to the principal investigator are subject to the Funding Agreement officer approval.
- d. For both Phase I and Phase II, the SBC and its subcontractors must perform all research or R&D work in the United States.
- e. Joint ventures and limited partnerships are permitted, provided that the entity qualifies as small business in accordance with the ownership requirements in 13 CFR 121.702(a)(1)(iii) and the size requirements in 13 CFR 121.702(c)(6). Proposing SBC must disclose joint ventures with existing (or planned) relationships/partnerships with any foreign entity or any foreign government-controlled companies. See sections 2.6 and 3.7 for more detail.
- f. A small business concern must negotiate a written agreement between the small business and the research institution allocating intellectual property rights and rights to carry out follow-on research, development, or commercialization (see [Model Agreement for the Allocation of Rights](#)).

1.5 Majority Ownership in Part by Multiple Venture Capital, Hedge Fund, and Private Equity Firms

Unless otherwise noted in the participating Service/Component instructions, proposing SBCs that are multiple venture capital operating companies (VCOCs), hedge funds, or private equity funds majority owned are **ineligible** to submit applications to or receive awards under this BAA. If a Service/Component authorizes such participation, any proposing VCOC, hedge fund, and/or private equity fund-owned SBC, whether in part or in whole, must identify each foreign national, foreign entity, or foreign government holding or controlling greater than a 5 percent, either directly or indirectly held, equity stake in the proposing SBC. The proposing SBC must also identify any ultimate parent owner(s) and other entities and/or individuals owning more than a 5 percent equity stake in its ownership chain.

In accordance with the requirements of 13 CFR 121.702(a)(2), no single venture capital operating company, hedge fund, or private equity firm may own more than 50 percent of the concern unless that single venture capital operating company, hedge fund, or private equity firm qualifies as a small business concern that is more than 50 percent directly owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the United States.

1.6 Performance Benchmark Requirements/Increased Minimum Performance Standards for Experienced Firms

Proposing SBCs with multiple prior SBIR/STTR awards must meet minimum performance requirements to be eligible to apply for a new Phase I or Direct-to-Phase II award. The Phase I to Phase II Transition Rate addresses the extent to which an awardee progresses a project from Phase I to Phase II. The Commercialization Benchmark addresses the extent to which an awardee has moved past Phase II work towards commercialization.

The SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-183) amended the benchmarks' application for more experienced firms. Find detailed information on benchmark calculations, increased performance standards for more experienced firms and consequence of failure to meet benchmarks [here](#). SBA will notify companies failing either benchmark and the relevant officials at the participating agencies.

The SBIR/STTR Policy Directive defines the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force each as its own federal agency, and the remaining DoD Components as an executive agency of the Department of Defense. Therefore, companies that fail to meet either of the benchmarks under the Increased Performance Standards for More Experienced Firms may not receive more than an overall total of 80 awards from DoD, as detailed in the breakdown below:

Army – 20 total Phase I and Direct to Phase II awards

Navy – 20 total Phase I and Direct to Phase II awards

Air Force – 20 total Phase I and Direct to Phase II awards

All other DoD Components combined – 20 total Phase I and Direct to Phase II awards

1.7 Program on Innovation Open Topics

15 U.S.C. §638 (ww) requires DoD establish innovation open topic activities to:

- a. increase the transition of commercial technology to the DoD;
- b. expand the small business nontraditional industrial base;
- c. increase commercialization derived from DoD investments; and
- d. expand the ability for qualifying SBCs to propose technology solutions to meet DoD needs.

Unlike conventional topics, which specify the desired technical objective and output, open topics use generalized mission requirements or specific technology areas to adapt commercial products or solutions to close capability gaps, improve performance, or provide technological advancements in existing capabilities.

Open topics released under this BAA will be clearly identified as such in the title and topic objective. Proposal preparation instructions for open topics may vary significantly across DoD Services/Components. Proposing SBCs must carefully read and follow all instructions from the DoD Service/Component for the open topic of interest. Unless specifically noted in the Service/Component instructions, all requirements outlined in this BAA remain in effect for open topics.

An SBC may only submit one proposal to each open topic. If an SBC submits more than one proposal for a single open topic, only the most recent certified proposal submitted prior to the submission deadline will receive an evaluation. All previously submitted proposals for the same open topic will be marked nonresponsive and will not receive an evaluation.

1.8 Discretionary Technical and Business Assistance (TABAs)

DoD has not mandated the use of discretionary technical and business assistance (TABAs). The proposing SBCs should review individual Service/Component-specific instructions to determine if TABAs are offered by the Service/Component and follow instructions for requesting TABA funding.

1.9 Phase II Enhancement Policy

To further encourage the transition of SBIR/STTR research into both DoD acquisition programs and the private sector, certain DoD Services/Components developed their own Phase II Enhancement policies. Under this policy, the Service/Component will provide a Phase II awardee with additional Phase II

SBIR/STTR funding if the proposing SBC can match the additional SBIR/STTR funds with non-SBIR/STTR funds from DoD acquisition programs or the private sector.

See Service/Component instructions for more details on Phase II Enhancement opportunities.

1.10 Commercialization Readiness Program (CRP)

The SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011 established the Commercialization Pilot Program (CPP) as a long-term program called the Commercialization Readiness Program (CRP). Each Military Department (Army, Navy, and Air Force) has a CRP; please check the Service/Component instructions for further information.

The Defense SBIR/STTR Program also established the OSD Transitions SBIR/STTR Technology (OTST) Pilot Program as an interim technology maturity phase (Phase II) inserted into the SBIR/STTR development. For more information contact osd.ncr.ousd-r-e.mbx.sbir-sttr-tech-transition@mail.mil.

1.11 State and Other Available Assistance

Many states have established programs to provide services to those proposing SBCs and individuals wishing to participate in the Federal SBIR/STTR Program. These services vary from state to state, but may include:

- a. Information and technical assistance;
- b. Matching funds to SBIR/STTR recipients;
- c. Assistance in obtaining Phase III funding.

Contact your [State SBIR/STTR Support office](#) for further information. SBCs may seek general administrative guidance from small and disadvantaged business utilization specialists located in various defense contract management activities throughout the continental United States.

1.12 Fraud and Fraud Reporting

Knowingly and willfully making any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations may be a felony under the Federal Criminal False Statement Act (18 U.S.C. Sec 1001), punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000, up to five years in prison, or both.

The DoD Office of Inspector General Hotline (“Defense Hotline”) is an important avenue for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement within the DoD. The Office of Inspector General operates this hotline to receive and investigate complaints or information from contractor employees, DoD civilians, Service members, and the public. Individuals who wish to report fraud, waste or abuse may contact the Defense Hotline at (800) 424-9098 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time or visit their [website](#) to submit a complaint. Mailed correspondence should be addressed to the Defense Hotline, The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1900, or email addressed to hotline@dodig.mil.

2.0 CERTIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

2.1 System for Award Management (SAM) Registration

The System for Award Management (SAM) allows proposing SBCs to provide basic information on business structure, capabilities, and financial and payment information with the Federal Government. Proposing SBCs must register in SAM [here](#). Registration in SAM will generate the Unique Entity ID (UEI) number and the Commercial and Government Entry (CAGE) code. The UEI is required for registration in the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Company Registry. A proposing SBC

that is already registered in SAM should verify the registration is active, and its representations and certifications are current to avoid award delay.

2.2 SBA Company Registry

Proposing SBCs must be registered in the [SBA Company Registry](#). SBCs will be required to verify registration by providing the SBC Control ID and Proof of Registration/Certification during proposal submission.

2.3 Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) Registration

Individuals from proposing SBCs must be registered in the [DSIP](#) to prepare and submit proposals. Proposing SBCs submitting through this site for the first time will be asked to register. All users are required to have an individual user account to access DSIP. It is recommended proposing SBCs register as soon as possible upon identification of a proposal opportunity to avoid delays in the proposal submission process.

DSIP user accounts are authenticated by Login.gov. Users who do not already have a Login.gov account will be required to create one. Users who already have a Login.gov account can link their existing Login.gov account with their DSIP account. Job Aids and Help Videos to walk you through the process are in the [Learning & Support](#) section of DSIP.

Be advised the sharing of accounts and passwords is a violation of the Terms of Use for Login.gov and DoD policy.

Registered SBCs will have a designated DSIP Firm Admin responsible for creating the Firm PIN, controlling access for other users in the SBC and completing and maintaining the Firm-level forms, which must be completed before any proposals can be submitted.

Users should complete their account registrations as soon as possible to avoid any delays in proposal submissions.

NOTE: The DSIP application is only accessible from within the United States, which is defined as the fifty states, the territories and possessions of the Federal Government, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the District of Columbia.

2.3.1 DSIP Assistance and Support

For assistance with the DSIP application, please visit the [Learning & Support](#) section of DSIP. Email DSIP Support at DoDSBIRSupport@reisystems.com only for further assistance with issues pertaining directly to the DSIP application. Questions submitted to DSIP Support will be addressed in the order received during normal operating hours (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET). Please include information on your SBC, a proposal number (if applicable), and screenshots of any pertinent errors or issues encountered.

DSIP Support cannot provide updates to proposal status after submission, such as proposal selection/non-selection status or contract award status. Contact the DoD Service/Component that originated the topic following the Service/Component-specific instructions given at the beginning of that Service/Component-specific instructions.

2.4 Required Certifications

At the time of proposal submission, each SBC must certify via the Cover Sheet of the proposal that it meets the size, ownership, and other requirements of the STTR Program. In addition, the Policy Directive includes certification requirements set forth in the SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-183). SBCs are required to certify that they are meeting the Program's requirements during the life cycle of the funding agreement: at the time of the Phase I and Phase II award, prior to final payment on the Phase I award, prior to receiving 50 percent of the total Phase II award amount, and prior to final payment on the Phase II award.

2.5 Due Diligence Program to Assess Security Risks

15 U.S.C. §638 (vv) requires the DoD, in coordination with the SBA, to establish and implement a due diligence program to assess and, when possible, mitigate national security risks from SBCs seeking a federally funded award. The Department will use the proposal and information in response to the "Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries" (proposal submission Volume 7) to conduct a risk-based due diligence review of the following areas: cybersecurity practices; patent analysis; employee analysis and foreign ownership, including the SBC's financial ties and obligations (which shall include surety, equity, and debt obligations); and SBC employees' ties to a foreign country, foreign person, or foreign entity. The Department will also assess proposals utilizing open-source analysis and analytical tools, for the purpose of confirming the accuracy of the information provided as well as determining if the proposing SBC failed to disclose the information set forth in 15 U.S.C. 638(g)(13).

After reviewing the proposing SBC's responses to the Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries, if DoD determines it appropriate the Department may ask the SBC to provide true copies of any contractual or financial obligation or other agreement specific to a business arrangement or joint-venture like arrangement with an enterprise owned by a foreign state or any foreign entity in effect during the five-year period preceding the SBC's proposal submission.

The DoD may not make awards that pose an unacceptable risk to national security. If the risk-based due diligence review concludes that an SBC should not be eligible for the specific SBIR or STTR award due to a national security risk that cannot be adequately mitigated, the proposal will not receive consideration for possible award regardless of the results of the technical review of the proposal. Attachment 2: Defense SBIR and STTR Due Diligence Program Common Risk Matrix of the memo titled "[Defense Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Due Diligence Program](#)", dated 13 May 2024, provides details on the factors for assessing SBC risk during the due diligence review.

2.5.1 Training for Understanding FOCI

DoD has partnered with Project Spectrum to provide an online course on Understanding Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI). This course defines FOCI, explains what it means to be under FOCI, and details FOCI's effect on a company seeking initial or continued eligibility for access to a federally funded award. Small business concerns can register and access this course by following the instructions below:

1. Go to projectspectrum.io
2. Click "Profile/Dashboard" in the top right and then click "Sign Up" from the dropdown menu.
3. Follow the instructions to sign up for an account. Descriptions of the account types are provided below each option.
4. Verify your email by entering the code sent to the email address you provided when signing up.

5. Log in to Project Spectrum by clicking “Profile/Dashboard > Login” in the top right.
6. Hover over “Courses” in the Navigation Bar, and then select “FOCI” from the dropdown listing.
7. Copy the provided password.
8. Click on the “Understanding Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI)” course, which will open a new browser tab.
9. From the new tab, log in to Encite.io using your email address and the copied password.
10. Enroll in the course and click “Enter” to begin.

For Project Spectrum registration or access assistance, please email support@projectspectrum.io.

2.6 Joint Ventures

A small business joint venture entity must submit, with its proposal, the representation required in paragraph (c) of FAR solicitation provision 52.212-3, Offeror Representations and Certifications-Commercial Products and Commercial Services, and paragraph (c) of FAR provision 52.219-1, Small Business Program Representations, in accordance with 52.204-8(d) and 52.212-3(b) for the following categories:

- a. Small business;
- b. Service-disabled veteran-owned small business;
- c. Women-owned small business (WOSB) under the WOSB Program;
- d. Economically disadvantaged women-owned small business under the WOSB Program; or
- e. Historically underutilized business zone small business.

These representations can be found [here](#) and must be uploaded to Volume 5, Supporting Documents of the proposal submission in DSIP, if applicable.

2.7 Conflicts of Interest

Contract awards to an SBC owned by or employing current, or previous, Federal Government employees could create conflicts of interest for those employees, which may be a violation of federal law.

2.8 Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCI)

FAR 9.5 Requirements

In accordance with FAR 9.5, proposing SBCs are required to identify and disclose all facts relevant to potential organizational conflicts of interest (OCIs) involving the proposing SBC’s organization and any proposed team member (sub-awardee, consultant). The proposing SBC is responsible for providing this disclosure with each submitted proposal. The disclosure must include the proposing SBC’s, and as applicable, proposed team member’s OCI mitigation plan. The OCI mitigation plan must include a description of the actions the proposing SBC has taken, or intends to take, to prevent the existence of conflicting roles that might bias the proposing SBC’s judgment, and to prevent the proposing SBC from having unfair competitive advantage. The OCI mitigation plan will specifically discuss the disclosed OCI in the context of each of the OCI limitations outlined in FAR 9.505-1 through FAR 9.505-4.

Agency Supplemental OCI Policy

DoD Services/Components also may have a supplemental OCI policy prohibiting contractors/performers from concurrently providing scientific engineering technical assistance (SETA), advisory and assistance services (A&AS), or similar support services, and being a technical performer. As part of the FAR 9.5 disclosure requirement, a proposing SBC must affirm whether the proposing SBC or any proposed team member (sub-awardee, consultant) is providing SETA, A&AS, or similar support to any DoD Service/Component office(s) under: (a) a current award or sub-award; or (b) a past award or sub-award

that ended within one calendar year prior to the proposal's submission date. If SETA, A&AS, or similar support is or was provided to any DoD Service/Component office(s), the proposal must include:

- a. The name of the DoD Service/Component office receiving the support;
- b. The prime contract number;
- c. Identification of proposed team member (sub-awardee, consultant) providing the support; and
- d. An OCI mitigation plan in accordance with FAR 9.5.

Government Procedures

In accordance with FAR 9.503, 9.504 and 9.506, the Government will evaluate OCI mitigation plans to avoid, neutralize, or mitigate potential OCI issues before award and determine whether it is in the government's interest to grant a waiver. The U.S. Government will only evaluate OCI mitigation plans for proposals determined selectable under the BAA evaluation criteria and funding availability.

The government may require proposing SBCs provide additional information to support evaluation of the proposing SBC's OCI mitigation plan.

If the government determines a proposer failed to fully disclose an OCI; or failed to provide a government waiver as described above; or failed to reasonably provide additional information the government requested when evaluating the proposer's OCI mitigation plan, the government may reject the proposal and withdraw it from consideration for award.

2.9 Research Involving Human Subjects/Human Subject Research (RIHS/HSR)

All research involving human subjects, to include use of human biological specimens and human data, shall comply with the applicable federal and state laws, and agency policy/guidelines for human subject protection (see Section 5.2 and Appendix B).

Institutions receiving funding for research involving human subjects must provide documentation of a current federal assurance of compliance with federal regulations for human subject protection; for example a Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Human Research Protections federal-wide assurance (<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp>). The awarding DoD Service/Component may also request additional federal assurance documentation. All institutions engaged in human subject research, to include subcontractors, must also have a valid assurance. In addition, personnel involved in human subjects research must provide documentation of completed appropriate training for the protection of human subjects. Institutions proposing to conduct human subject research that meets one of the exemption criteria in 32 CFR 219.101 are not required to have a federal assurance of compliance. Proposing SBCs should clearly segregate research activities involving human subjects from other R&D activities in their proposal.

If selected, institutions must also provide documentation of institutional review board (IRB) approval, or a determination from an appropriate official in the institution, that the work meets one of the exemption criteria with 32 CFR 219. As part of the IRB review process, evidence that all investigators are appropriately trained should accompany the protocol. The protocol, separate from the proposal, must include a detailed description of the research plan, study population, risks and benefits of study participation, recruitment and consent process, and data collection and analysis.

The amount of time required for the IRB to review and approve the protocol will vary based on the IRB's procedures, the complexity of the research, the level of risk to study participants and the responsiveness of the investigator. The average IRB approval process can last between one and three months. Once the IRB has approved the research, the awarding DoD Service/Component will review the protocol and the IRB's determination to ensure that the research will be conducted in compliance with both DoD and

Service/Component policies. The DoD review process can last between three to six months. Ample time should be allotted to complete both the IRB and DoD approval processes prior to recruiting subjects. **No funding can be used towards human subject research until ALL approvals are granted. Submitters proposing research involving human and/or animal use are encouraged to separate these tasks in the technical proposal and cost proposal to avoid potential contract award delays.**

2.10 Research Involving Animal Subjects

All research, development, testing, experimentation, education, or training involving the use of animals shall comply with the applicable federal and agency rules on animal acquisition, transport, care, handling, and use (see Section 5.2 and Appendix B).

For submissions containing animal use, proposals should briefly describe plans for their institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) review and approval.

All recipients must receive their IACUC's approval, as well as secondary or headquarters-level approval from a DoD veterinarian trained or experienced in laboratory animal medicine and science. **No animal research may be conducted using DoD funding until all appropriate DoD office(s) grant approval. Submitters proposing research involving human and/or animal use are encouraged to separate these tasks in the technical proposal and cost proposal to avoid potential contract award delays.**

2.11 Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules

All research involving recombinant DNA molecules shall comply with the applicable federal and state law, regulation, and additional agency guidance. An institutional biosafety committee must approve the research.

In addition to the standard federal and DoD procurement certifications, the SBA SBIR/STTR Policy Directive requires the proposing business concerns provide certain information at time of award and during the award life cycle. Each proposing SBC must provide this additional information at the time of the Phase I and Phase II award, prior to final payment on the Phase I award, prior to receiving 50 percent of the Phase II total award amount, and prior to final payment on the Phase II award.

2.12 Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act Orders

FAR 52.204-29 Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act (FASCA) Orders—Representation and Disclosures and FAR 52.204-30 FASCA Orders—Prohibition are included in this solicitation. In accordance with FAR 52.204-29 and FAR 52.204-30, proposing SBCs must review FASCSA orders [here](#) for covered articles, or any products or services produced or provided by a source, that an applicable FASCSA order prohibits.

During contract performance, the contractor shall review SAM.gov at least once every three months, or as the contracting officer advises, to check for covered articles, or products or services produced subject as part of any new FASCSA order(s) that could impact their supply chain, and report to the contracting officer any covered article, or product or service produced or provided by a source provided to the government or used during the contract performance.

The proposing SBC represents that, via proposal submission under this BAA, it conducted a reasonable inquiry, and it does not propose to provide or use any covered article, or any products or services produced or provided by a source, if an applicable FASCSA prohibited the covered article or the source effective this BAA's issue date.

3.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Introduction

The proposal must provide sufficient information to demonstrate to the evaluator(s) that the proposed work represents an innovative approach to an important scientific or engineering problem and is worthy of support under the stated criteria. The proposed research or R&D must be responsive to the chosen topic, although it does not need to use the exact approach specified in the topic. SBCs should consider the following:

- a. Does the technical approach have a reasonable chance of meeting the topic objective?
- b. Is this approach innovative, not routine, with potential for commercialization?
- c. Does the proposing SBC have the capability to implement the technical approach or can it obtain the appropriate people and equipment for the task?

DSIP provides a structure for providing the following proposal volumes:

- a. Volume 1: Proposal Cover Sheet
- b. Volume 2: Technical Volume
- c. Volume 3: Cost Volume
- d. Volume 4: Company Commercialization Report
- e. Volume 5: Supporting Documents
- f. Volume 6: Fraud, Waste and Abuse Training
- g. Volume 7: Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries

Each Service/Component guidance on allowable proposal content may vary. A completed proposal submission in DSIP does NOT indicate that each proposal volume has been completed in accordance with the Service/Component-specific instructions. Accordingly, it is the proposing SBC's responsibility to consult the Service/Component-specific instructions for detailed guidance, including required proposal documentation and structure, cost and duration limitations, budget structure, TABA allowance and proposal page limits.

3.2 Export-Controlled Topic Requirements

For proposals submitted under export-controlled topics, either International Traffic in Arms or Export Administration Regulations (ITAR/EAR), a copy of the certified DD Form 2345, Militarily Critical Technical Data Agreement, or evidence of application submission must be included. The form, instructions and FAQs may be found at the United States/Canada Joint Certification Program website, <https://www.dla.mil/Logistics-Operations/Services/JCP/DD23%2045Instructions/>.

DD Form 2345 approval will be required if a proposal submitted to an ITAR/EAR-marked topic receives an STTR award.

3.3 Classified Proposals

Classified proposals will not be accepted under the DoD STTR Program. If topics require classified work during Phase II, the proposing SBC must have a facility clearance to perform the work. For more information on facility and personnel clearance procedures and requirements, please visit the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) website at: <https://www.dcsa.mil/mc/ctp/fc/>.

3.4 Promotional Materials

Promotional and non-project related discussion is discouraged, and additional information provided via website links or on computer disks, CDs, DVDs, video tapes or any other medium will not be accepted or considered in the proposal evaluation.

3.5 Prior, Current, or Pending Support of Similar Proposals or Awards

While it is permissible, with proposal notification, to submit identical proposals or proposals containing a significant amount of essentially equivalent work for consideration under numerous federal program BAAs or solicitations, it is unlawful to enter negotiation for contracts requiring essentially equivalent effort. If there is any question concerning prior, current, or pending support of similar proposals or awards, it must be disclosed to the soliciting agency or agencies as early as possible and declared on the proposal cover sheet.

3.6 Marking Proprietary Proposal Information

Proposing SBCs that include data in their proposals they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose, or only used for government evaluation purposes, shall:

- a. Mark the first page of each volume of the proposal submission with the following legend:

"This proposal includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed-in whole or in part-for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, a contract is awarded to this proposing SBC as a result of-or in connection with-the submission of this data, the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in pages [insert numbers or other identification of sheets]"; and

- b. Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend:

"Use or disclosure of data contained on this page is subject to the restriction on the first page of this volume."

The DoD assumes no liability for disclosure or use of unmarked data and may use or disclose such data for any purpose.

Restrictive notices notwithstanding, support contractors may handle proposals and final reports submitted through DSIP for administrative purposes only; they are required to adhere to appropriate non-disclosure agreements.

3.7 Phase I Proposal Instructions

- a. **Proposal Cover Sheet (Volume 1)**

The proposal cover sheet is prepared on DSIP. The cover sheet must include a brief technical abstract that describes the proposed R&D project and an anticipated benefits and potential commercial applications discussion. Each section should be no more than 3,000 characters.

Do not include proprietary or classified information in the proposal cover sheet. If your proposal is selected for negotiation and possible award, the technical abstract and anticipated benefits discussion may be publicly released online. DSIP will assign a proposal number once the cover sheet is saved. You may modify the cover sheet as needed until the BAA closes.

NOTE: the amounts listed in the percentage of work (POW) certification question on the proposal cover sheet are derived from SBC-entered information in the cost volume (Volume 3). Details on the calculation can be viewed in DSIP during proposal submission.

If the POW calculations fall below eligibility requirements, the small business concern will not be able to proceed with proposal submission. Deviations from the POW minimum requirements for STTR proposals are not allowed.

b. Technical Volume Format (Volume 2)

1. **File Type.** The Technical Volume must be a single PDF file, including graphics. Perform a virus check before uploading the technical volume file. If a virus is detected, the proposal may be rejected. **Do not lock, password protect or encrypt the uploaded file. Do not include or embed active graphics, such as videos, moving pictures, or other similar media, in the document.**
2. **Length.** It is the proposing SBC's responsibility to verify that the technical volume does not exceed the page limit after upload to DSIP. Please refer to Service/Component-specific instructions for how a technical volume is handled if the stated page count is exceeded. Some Services/Components will reject the entire technical proposal if the proposal exceeds the stated page count.
3. **Layout.** Number all proposal pages consecutively. Submit a direct, concise, and informative research or R&D proposal (no type smaller than 10-point on standard 8-1/2" x 11" paper with one-inch margins, including the header). Each header on each page in the technical volume should contain the proposing SBC's name, topic number, and the DSIP-assigned proposal number from the cover sheet.

c. Technical Volume Content (Volume 2)

The Technical Volume should cover the following items in the order given below:

1. Identification and Significance of the Problem or Opportunity
2. Phase I Technical Objectives
3. Phase I Statement of Work
4. Related Work
5. Relationship with Future Research or Research and Development
6. Commercialization Strategy
7. Key Personnel
8. Foreign Citizens
9. Facilities/Equipment
10. Subcontractors/Consultants
11. Prior, Current, or Pending Support of Similar Proposals or Awards
12. Identification and Assertion of Restrictions on the Government's Use, Release, or Disclosure of Technical Data or Computer Software

A Phase I technical volume template is available in Appendix A to provide details and helpful guidelines for completing each section of your Phase I technical proposal.

d. Cost Volume Content (Volume 3)

Complete the cost volume using the DSIP cost volume form. Some items in the cost breakdown may not apply to the proposed project. There is no need to provide information on each individual item; make sure to provide enough information for evaluators to understand the requested funds' planned use if a contract is awarded.

1. List all key personnel's names and include their individual hours dedicated to the project as direct labor.
2. While special tooling and test equipment and material cost may be included under Phase I, equipment and material inclusion will be carefully reviewed relative to need and appropriateness for the work proposed. Special tooling and test equipment purchases must, in the Service/Component contracting officer's opinion, be advantageous to the U.S. Government and should relate directly to the specific topic. These may include such items as innovative instrumentation or automatic test equipment. Title to property the U.S. Government furnished or acquired with government funds will be vested with the DoD Service/Component, unless it is determined that title transfer to the contractor would be more cost effective than the DoD Service/Component equipment recovery.
3. Cost for travel funds must be justified and related to the project needs.
4. Cost sharing is permitted for proposals under this BAA; cost sharing is not required, nor will it be an evaluation factor in the Phase I proposal consideration.
5. A Phase I option (if applicable) should be fully costed separately from the Phase I (base) approach.
6. All subcontractor costs and consultant costs, such as labor, travel, equipment, materials, must be detailed at the same level as prime contractor costs. Provide detailed subcontractor costs substantiation in your cost proposal. Supporting Documents (Volume 5) may be used if additional space is needed.

If a proposal is selected for negotiation and possible award, you must be prepared to submit further documentation to the Service/Component contracting officer to substantiate costs (e.g., a cost estimates explanation for equipment, materials, and consultants or subcontractors). For more information about cost proposals and accounting standards, see visit [DCAA's website](#).

e. Company Commercialization Report (Volume 4)

The company commercialization report (CCR) allows companies to report funding outcomes resulting from prior SBIR and STTR awards. SBA requires SBIR and STTR awardees to update and maintain their organization's CCR on SBIR.gov. Commercialization information is required upon the last deliverable's completion under the funding agreement. Thereafter, SBIR and STTR awardees are requested to voluntarily update the information in the database annually for a minimum 5-year period.

If the proposing SBC has prior DoD and/or non-DoD Phase I and/or Phase II SBIR/STTR awards, regardless of whether the project has any commercialization to date, the firm admin must download the CCR's PDF copy from SBIR.gov and upload it to DSIP's "Firm Forms" section. The DSIP firm admin completes the firm forms are completed and are applies them to all proposals the proposing SBC submits. To fulfill the DSIP CCR requirement complete the following:

1. Log into the firm account at <https://www.sbir.gov/>.
2. Navigate to My Dashboard > My Documents to view or print the information currently contained in the "Company Registry Commercialization Report."
3. Create or update the commercialization record, from the company dashboard, scroll to the "My Commercialization" section and click the "Create/Update Commercialization" tab under "Current Report Version." Please refer to the "Instructions" and "Guide" documents contained on dashboard for more detail on completing and updating the CCR.
Ensure the report is certified and submitted.

4. Click the “Company Commercialization Report” PDF under the dashboard’s “My Documents” section to download the CCR PDF.
5. Upload the CCR PDF (downloaded from SBIR.gov in previous step) to the “Company Commercialization Report” in DSIP’s “Firm Forms” section. The firm admin must complete this upload action.

In Volume 4 of the DSIP proposal submission, the proposing SBC will be prompted to answer: “Do you have a new or revised Company Commercialization Report to upload?” There are three possible courses of action:

- a. If the proposing SBC has prior DoD and/or non-DoD Phase I and/or Phase II SBIR/STTR awards and **has a new or revised CCR from SBIR.gov to upload to DSIP**, select YES.
 1. If the user is the firm admin, they can upload the CCR PDF from SBIR.gov directly on this page. It will also be updated in the “Firm Forms” and be associated with all new or in-progress proposals the proposing SBC submitted. If the user is not the firm admin, they will receive a message that they do not have access and must contact the firm admin to complete this action.
 2. **WARNING:** Uploading a new CCR under the DSIP “Firm Forms” section or clicking “Save” or “Submit” in one proposal’s Volume 4 is considered a change for ALL proposals under any open BAAs or CSOs. If a proposing SBC has previously certified and submitted any Phase I or Direct to Phase II proposals under *any* BAA or CSO *still open*, those proposals will be automatically reopened. Proposing SBCs will have to recertify and resubmit affected proposals. If a proposing SBC does not recertify or resubmit affected proposals, they will not be considered fully submitted and will not be evaluated.
- b. If the proposing SBC has prior DoD and/or non-DoD Phase I and/or Phase II SBIR/STTR awards, and **no new or revised CCR from SBIR.gov to upload to DSIP**, select NO.
 1. If a prior CCR was uploaded to the “Firm Forms”, the proposing SBC will see a file dialog box at the bottom of the page and can view the previously uploaded CCR. This read-only access allows the proposing SBC to confirm the firm admin uploaded the CCR.
 2. If no file dialog box appears at the bottom of the page **there is no previously uploaded CCR in the DSIP “Firm Forms.”** To fulfill the DSIP CCR requirement the firm admin must follow steps 1-5 listed above to download a CCR PDF from SBIR.gov and upload it to the DSIP “Firm Forms” to be included with all proposal submissions.
- c. If the proposing SBC has **NO** prior DoD and/or non-DoD Phase I and/or Phase II SBIR/STTR awards, the CCR upload from SBIR.gov is not required and SBC will select NO. The proposal’s CCR section will be marked complete.

Please refer to the Service/Component-specific instructions for details on how the CCR information will be considered during proposal evaluations.

f. Supporting Documents (Volume 5)

Volume 5 is provided for proposing SBCs to submit additional documentation to support the Coversheet (Volume 1), Technical Volume (Volume 2), and the Cost Volume (Volume 3).

The following documents may be included in Volume 5, if applicable to the proposal. Refer to Service/Component-specific instructions for additional Volume 5 requirements. **Reminder: A completed proposal submission in DSIP does NOT indicate the mandatory supporting documents have been uploaded in accordance with the Service/Component-specific instructions.**

1. Letters of support
2. Additional cost information
3. Funding agreement certification
4. Technical data rights (assertions)
5. Lifecycle certification
6. [Allocation of rights](#)
7. [Verification of Eligibility of Small Business Joint Ventures](#), if applicable
8. DD Form 2345, Militarily Critical Technical Data Agreement, if applicable (see section 3.2)

g. Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Training (Volume 6)

The fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) training is **required** for DoD SBIR/STTR proposals. FWA training provides information on what represents FWA in the SBIR/STTR program, the most common mistakes that lead to FWA, as well as the penalties and ways to prevent FWA. The training currently consists of a 3-page PDF, consistent with the tutorial provided by the SBA. This training material must be thoroughly reviewed once per year and can be found [here](#) and in the DSIP proposal submission module for Volume 6. Plan time to review the tutorial during completion of Volume 6, prior to the proposal submission deadline. One DSIP firm user for the proposing SBC with read/write access (Proposal Owner, Corporate Official or Firm Admin) must complete this training.

h. Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries (Volume 7)

In accordance with 15 U.S.C. §638 (vv) and the SBA SBIR/STTR Policy Directive, the DoD will review all proposals submitted in response to this BAA to assess security risks of SBCs seeking a federally funded award. SBCs must complete the DSIP Volume 7 webform “Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries” (NOTE: PDF uploads are no longer accepted). The corporate official cannot certify and submit the full proposal until the Volume 7 webform is fully completed and submitted.

Please be aware that the “Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries” form WILL NOT be accepted as a supporting document in DSIP’s Volume 5 proposal submission. Do not upload any previous versions of this form to Volume 5.

For additional details, please refer to Section 2.5. The disclosure questions are below:

1. Is any owner or covered individual of the applicant or awardee party to any malign foreign talent recruitment program? If yes, disclose the first and last name of each owner or covered individual, identify their role (i.e., owner or covered individual), and the malign foreign talent recruitment program.
2. Is there a parent company, joint venture, or subsidiary, of the applicant or awardee that is based in or receives funding from, any foreign country of concern? If yes, disclose the name, full address, applicant or awardee relationships (i.e., parent company, joint venture, or subsidiary) of each entity based in, or funded by, any foreign country of concern.

3. Does the applicant or awardee have any current or pending contractual or financial obligation or other agreement specific to a business arrangement, or joint venture-like arrangement with an enterprise owned by a foreign state or any foreign entity? If yes, disclose the name of each enterprise or foreign entity, type of obligation, agreement, or arrangement (*i.e.*, contractual, financial, or other), description of obligation, agreement, or arrangement, and the foreign state(s) and/or the country of the foreign entity (or entities).
4. Is the applicant or awardee wholly owned in a foreign country? If yes, disclose the foreign country.
5. Does the applicant or awardee have any venture capital or institutional investment? If yes, proceed to question 5a. If no, proceed to question 6.
 - 5a. Does the investing entity have a general partner or any other individual holding a leadership role who has a foreign affiliation with any foreign country of concern? If yes or unable to determine, disclose the venture capital or institutional investing entity's name, the percentage of ownership obtained by the investing entity, and the type of investment (*i.e.*, equity, debt, or combination of equity and debt).
6. During the previous 5-year period, did the applicant or awardee have any technology licensing or intellectual property sales or transfers, to a foreign country of concern? If yes, disclose the name, address, and country, of the institution or entity that licensed, purchased, or received the technology or intellectual property.
7. Is there any foreign business entity, offshore entity, or entity outside the United States related to the applicant or awardee? If yes, disclose the entity name, relationship type (*i.e.*, foreign business entity, offshore entity, entity outside the United States), description of the relationship to the applicant or awardee, and entity address and country.
8. Does the applicant or awardee have an owner, officer, or covered individual that has a foreign affiliation with a research institution located in a foreign country of concern? If yes, disclose the first and last name of each owner, officer, or covered individual that has a foreign affiliation with a foreign country of concern, identify their role (*i.e.*, owner, officer, or covered individual), and the name of the foreign research institution and the foreign country of concern where it is located.

3.8 Phase II Proposal Information

Only Phase I awardees may submit Phase II proposals. Phase II proposals submission must follow individual Service/Component instructions. Awarding DoD Services/Component, either in the Phase I award or via subsequent notification, will provide details on Phase II proposal due date, content, and submission requirements. If a proposing SBC submits their Phase II proposal prior to the individual Service/Component's dates, it may be rejected without evaluation.

Due to specific limitations on the amount of funding and number of awards awarded to a particular proposing SBC per topic using SBIR/STTR program funds, head of agency determinations are now required before a different agency may make an award using another agency's topic. This limitation does not apply to Phase III funding. Please contact your original sponsoring agency before submitting a Phase II proposal to an agency other than the one who sponsored the original topic.

SBIR/STTR Policy Directive Section 4(b)(1)(i) allows that, at the agency's discretion, projects awarded a Phase I under a solicitation for SBIR may transition in Phase II to STTR and vice versa. A proposing SBC wishing to transfer from one program to another must contact their designated technical monitor to discuss the reasons for the request and the agency's ability to it. The transition may be proposed prior to

award or during the Phase II effort performance. Agency disapproval of a request to change programs shall not be grounds for granting relief from any contractual performance requirement. All approved transitions between programs must be noted in the contracting officer-signed Phase II award or award modification that indicates the removal or addition of the research institution and the revised percentage of work requirements.

3.8.1 Phase II Commercialization Strategy

At a minimum, the commercialization strategy must address the following five questions:

- a. What will be the first product to use this technology?
- b. Who will be the customers, and what is the estimated market size?
- c. How much money is needed to bring the technology to market, and how will that money be raised?
- d. Does the proposing SBC contain marketing expertise and, if not, how will the SBC acquire that expertise?
- e. Who are the proposing SBC's competitors, and what is the price and/or quality advantage over those competitors?

The commercialization strategy must also include a schedule showing the anticipated quantitative commercialization results at 1) one year after the Phase II project starts, 2) at Phase II completion, and 3) after Phase II completion (i.e., additional investment amount, sales revenue, etc.). After Phase II award, the proposing SBC is required to report actual sales and investment data in its SBA company commercialization report via SBIR.gov's "My Dashboard" on a minimum annual basis. Please refer to the Service/Component-specific instructions for guidance on formatting, page count and other details.

3.8.2 Phase II Adequate Accounting System

To reduce the small business's risk and avoid potential contracting delays, companies interested in pursuing Phase II SBIR/STTR contracts and other contracts of similar size with the DoD, must have an adequate accounting system in place per General Accepted Accounting Principles, Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Cost Accounting Standards. The Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) will audit the accounting system. See DCAA's website for requirements and standards, the [audit process overview](#), and a pre-award [system adequacy checklist](#).

4.0 METHOD OF SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

4.1 Evaluation Process

All proposals will be evaluated and judged on a competitive basis in terms of technical capability and technical value. Proposals will be initially screened to determine responsiveness to the topic objective. Proposals passing this initial screening will be technically evaluated by engineers, scientists, or subject matter experts to determine the most promising technical and scientific approaches. As a common statement of work does not exist, each proposal will be assessed on the merit of the approach in achieving the technical objectives established in the topic.

4.2 Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined below, unless otherwise specified in the Service/Component-specific instructions. Selections will be based on a determination of the overall technical value of each proposal and an evaluation of the cost volume, with the appropriate method of

analysis given the contract type to be awarded, for selection of the proposal(s) most advantageous to the Government, considering the following factors which are listed in descending order of importance:

- a. The soundness, technical merit, and innovation of the proposed approach and its incremental progress toward topic or subtopic solution.
- b. The qualifications of the proposed principal/key investigators, supporting staff, and consultants. Qualifications include not only the ability to perform the R&D but also the ability to commercialize the results.
- c. The potential for commercial (government or private sector) application and the benefits expected to accrue from this commercialization.

Cost or budget data submitted with the proposals will be considered during evaluation.

Technical reviewers will base their conclusions only on information contained in the proposal. Do not assume reviewers are acquainted with the proposing SBC, key individuals, or any referenced experiments. Relevant supporting data such as journal articles, literature, including Government publications, etc., should be included based on requirements listed in Service/Component-specific instructions.

4.3 Proposal Status & Feedback

Proposing SBCs will be notified of selection or non-selection status for an award by the DoD Service/Component that originated the topic no later than 90 days of the closing date for this BAA. Please refer to the Service/Component-specific instructions for details.

After final selection decisions have been announced, the SBC may be provided proposal feedback in the form of a written debrief. This debriefing process varies across the DoD Services/Components. Please refer to the Service/Component-specific instructions for details on the debriefing processes.

4.4 Award Denials

The DoD will not make an award under the SBIR/STTR program if it determines:

- a. The SBC submitting the proposal
 - i. has an owner or covered individual that is party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program;
 - ii. has a business entity, parent company, or subsidiary located in the People's Republic of China or another foreign country of concern; or
 - iii. has an owner or covered individual that has a foreign affiliation with a foreign entity located in the People's Republic of China or another foreign country of concern; and
- b. The relationships and commitments described in clauses (i) through (iii) of subparagraph (A)
 - i. interfere with the capacity for DoD-supported activities to be carried out;
 - ii. create duplication with DoD-supported activities;
 - iii. present concerns about conflicts of interest;
 - iv. were not appropriately disclosed to the DoD;
 - v. violate Federal law or terms and conditions of DoD-awarded contracts or other agreements; or
 - vi. pose a risk to national security.

4.5 Pre-Award and Post Award BAA Protests

Interested parties have the right to protest via procedures in FAR Subpart 33.1; protests exclusively related to this BAA's terms must be served to: osd.ncr.ousd-r-e.mbx.SBIR-STTR-Protest@mail.mil

For protests filed with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a copy of the protest shall be

submitted to the email address listed above (pre-award ONLY) or DoD Service/Component POC (post-selection/award decision ONLY) within one day of filing with the GAO. Protests of small business status of a selected proposing SBC may also be made to the SBA via the procedures in FAR § 19.302.

For the purposes of a protest related to a particular topic selection, non-selection or award decision, protests should be served to the point-of-contact (POC) listed in the instructions of the DoD Component that authored the topic.

5.0 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Award Information

The number of awards will be consistent with the Component's RDT&E budget. No contracts will be awarded until evaluation of all qualified proposals for a specific topic is completed.

Each proposal selected for negotiation and possible award will be funded under negotiated contracts, purchase orders, or Other Transactions and will include a reasonable fee or profit consistent with normal profit margins provided to profit-making proposing SBCs for R/R&D work. Firm-Fixed-Price, Firm-Fixed-Price Level of Effort, Labor Hour, Time & Material, or Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee type contracts can be negotiated and are at the discretion of the Component Contracting Officer.

Contract value varies among the DoD Services/Components; it is important for proposing SBCs to review Service/Component-specific instructions regarding award size.

The SBA SBIR/STTR Policy Directive, Section 7(c)(1)(ii), states agencies should issue the award no more than 180 days after the closing date of the BAA.

5.2 Contract Requirements

Upon contract award, the contractor will be required to make certain legal commitments through acceptance of U.S. Government contract clauses in the Phase I contract. The examples below are illustrative of the types of provisions the Federal Acquisition Regulation requires in the Phase I contract. This is not an exhaustive provisions list that could be included in Phase I contracts, nor does it contain specific clause wording. Appendix C of this BAA contains additional potential required Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) clauses. Copies of complete general provisions will be made available prior to award.

Examples of general provisions:

- a. **Standards of Work.** Work performed under the Funding Agreement must conform to high professional standards.
- b. **Inspection.** Work performed under the Funding Agreement is subject to Government inspection and evaluation at all times.
- c. **Examination of Records.** The Comptroller General (or a duly authorized representative) must have the right to examine any pertinent records of the Awardee involving transactions related to this Funding Agreement.
- d. **Default.** The Federal Government may terminate the Funding Agreement if the contractor fails to perform the work contracted.
- e. **Termination for Convenience.** The Funding Agreement may be terminated at any time by the Federal Government if it deems termination to be in its best interest, in which case the Awardee will be compensated for work performed and for reasonable termination costs.
- f. **Disputes.** Any dispute concerning the Funding Agreement that cannot be resolved by agreement must be decided by the contracting officer with right of appeal.

- g. **Contract Work Hours.** The Awardee may not require an employee to work more than 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week unless the employee is compensated accordingly (for example, overtime pay).
- h. **Equal Opportunity.** The Awardee will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- i. **Equal Opportunity for Veterans.** The Awardee will not discriminate against any employee or application for employment because he or she is a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era.
- j. **Equal Opportunity for People with Disabilities.** The Awardee will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because he or she is physically or intellectually disabled.
- k. **Officials Not to Benefit.** No Federal Government official may benefit personally from the SBIR/STTR Funding Agreement.
- l. **Covenant Against Contingent Fees.** No person or agency has been employed to solicit or secure the Funding Agreement upon an understanding for compensation except bona fide employees or commercial agencies maintained by the Awardee for the purpose of securing business.
- m. **Gratuities.** The Funding Agreement may be terminated by the Federal Government if any gratuities have been offered to any representative of the Government to secure the award.
- n. **Patent Infringement.** The Awardee must report each notice or claim of patent infringement based on the performance of the Funding Agreement.
- o. **American Made Equipment and Products.** When purchasing equipment or a product under the SBIR/STTR Funding Agreement, purchase only American-made items whenever possible.

5.3 Agency Recovery Authority and Ongoing Reporting

In accordance with Section 5 of the SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022, the DoD will:

- a. require an SBC receiving an award under its STTR program to repay all amounts received from the federal agency under the award if,
 - 1. the SBC makes a material misstatement that the federal agency determines poses a risk to national security; or
 - 2. there is a change in the SBC's ownership, entity structure, or other substantial change in circumstances that the federal agency determines poses a risk to national security; and
- b. require an SBC receiving an award under its STTR program to regularly report to the federal agency and the administration throughout the duration of the award on
 - 1. any change to a disclosure required under the Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries form;
 - 2. any material misstatement made under paragraph (A) above; and
 - 3. any change described in paragraph (B) above.

5.4 Copyrights

With prior written permission of the contracting officer, the awardee may copyright (consistent with any appropriate national security considerations) material developed with DoD support. DoD receives a royalty-free license for the Federal Government and requires that each publication contain an appropriate acknowledgment and disclaimer statement.

5.5 Patents

SBCs normally may retain the principal worldwide patent rights to any invention developed with U.S. Government support. The government receives a royalty-free license for its use, reserves the right to require the patent holder to license others in certain limited circumstances, and requires that anyone exclusively licensed to sell the invention in the United States must normally manufacture it domestically.

35 U.S.C. § 205 authorizes that the government will not make public any information disclosing a government-supported invention for a period of five years to allow the awardee to pursue a patent. See also Section 6.8, Invention Reporting.

5.6 Invention Reporting

STTR awardees must report inventions to the Service/Component within two months of the inventor's report to the awardee, via either paper documentation submission, including fax, or through the Edison Invention Reporting System at www.iedison.gov for participating agencies.

5.7 Technical Data Rights

Rights in technical data, including software, developed under the terms of any contract resulting from proposals submitted in response to this BAA generally remain with the contractor, except that the U.S. Government obtains a royalty-free license to use such technical data only for government purposes during the period commencing with contract award and ending not less than twenty years after that date. This data should be marked with the restrictive legend specified in DFARS 252.227-7018 Class Deviation 2020-O0007. Upon expiration of the twenty-year restrictive license, the government has government purpose rights in the STTR data. During the license period, the U.S. Government may not release or disclose STTR data to any person other than its support services contractors except: (1) for evaluation purposes; (2) as expressly permitted by the contractor; or (3) a use, release, or disclosure that is necessary for emergency repair or overhaul government-operated items. See [DFARS clause 252.227-7018 Class Deviation 2020-O0007](#) "Rights in Noncommercial Technical Data and Computer Software – Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program."

If a proposing SBC plans to submit assertions in accordance with DFARS 252.227-7017 Class Deviation 2020-O0007, those assertions must be identified and assertion of use, release, or disclosure restriction must be included with your proposal submission, at the end of the technical volume. The contract cannot be awarded until assertions are approved.

5.8 Final Technical Reports - Phase I through Phase III

- a. **Content:** A final report is required for each project phase. The reports must contain in detail the project objectives, work performed, results obtained, and estimates of technical feasibility. A completed SF 298, "Report Documentation Page," will be used as the first page of the report. The DoD Service/Component also may require monthly status and progress reports.
- b. **SF 298 Form "Report Documentation Page" Preparation:**
 - a. If desirable, the proposing SBC may also use language from its Phase II proposal to cover Phase I progress in the final report.
 - b. For each unclassified report, the proposing SBC submitting the report should fill in Block 12 (Distribution/Availability Statement) of the SF 298, "Report Documentation Page," with the following statement: "Distribution authorized to U.S. Government only; Proprietary Information, (Date of Determination). Other requests for this document shall be referred to the Service/Component SBIR/STTR Program Office."

Note: Data developed under an STTR contract is subject to SBIR/STTR Data Rights, under which DFARS 252.227-7018 Class Deviation 2020-O0007 (see Section 5.7, Technical Data Rights) provides protection. The sponsoring DoD activity, after reviewing the proposing SBC's entry in Block 12, has final responsibility for assigning a distribution statement.

For additional information on distribution statements see the following Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) [website](#).

- c. Block 14 (Abstract) of the SF 298, "Report Documentation Page" must include as the first sentence, "Report developed under SBIR contract for topic [insert BAA topic number. [Follow with the topic title, if possible.]]" The abstract must identify the work's purpose and briefly describe the work conducted, the findings or results, and the effort's potential applications. **Since DoD will publish the abstract, it must not contain any proprietary or classified data, and type "UU" in Block 17.**
- d. Block 15 (Subject Terms) of the SF 298 must include the term "STTR Report".
- c. **Submission:** In accordance with DFARS 252.235-7011, submit an electronic copy of the approved final scientific or technical report, not a summary, delivered under the contract to the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) through the web-based input system at <https://discover.dtic.mil/submit-documents/> as required by DoD Instruction 3200.12, DoD Scientific and Technical Information Program (STIP). Include a completed Standard Form (SF) 298, Report Documentation Page, in the document, or complete the web-based SF 298. Additional submission resources are available [here](#).

Delivery will normally be within 30 days after completion of the Phase I technical effort.

Other requirements regarding reports and/or other deliverables submission will be defined in each contract's contract data requirements list (CDRL). Special instructions for submitting CLASSIFIED reports will be defined in the contract's delivery schedule.

DO NOT email classified or controlled unclassified reports, or reports containing STTR Data Rights protected under DFARS 252.227-7018 Class Deviation 2020-O0007.

6.0 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

6.1 Submission Details

DSIP is the official portal for DoD SBIR/STTR proposal submission. Proposers are required to submit proposals via DSIP; proposals submitted by any other means will be disregarded. Detailed guidance on DSIP proposal submission is found [here](#).

Deadline for Receipt: Complete proposals must be certified and submitted in DSIP no later than the close date of the release listed on the cover page of this BAA. Proposals cannot be submitted in DSIP after the deadline is reached and will not be accepted or evaluated.

The final proposal submission includes successful completion of all firm level forms, all required proposal volumes, and electronic corporate official certification. Although signatures are not required on the electronic forms at the time of submission, the proposal must be certified electronically by the corporate official for it to be considered submitted. If the proposal is selected for negotiation and possible award, the DoD Component program will contact the proposing SBC for signatures prior to award.

Please plan to submit proposals as early as possible to allow time for troubleshooting any possible issues before the BAA close. DSIP Support is unable to assist with submission issues once a deadline has passed and cannot provide submission extensions. DoD is not responsible for missed proposal submission due to system latency.

If the proposal status is “In Progress” or “Ready to Certify” it will NOT be considered submitted, even if all volumes are added prior to the BAA close date. The proposing SBC may modify all proposal volumes prior to the BAA close date.

6.2 Technical Questions

- a. **Direct Contact with Topic Authors.** During the pre-release period, the names of the topic authors, their phone numbers and/or email addresses are published with the topic on the [DSIP Topics and Topic Q&A](#) page. During this time, proposing SBCs can contact topic authors via telephone or email to ask technical questions about specific BAA topics. Questions must be limited to specific information related to understanding a particular topic’s requirements. Proposing SBCs may not ask for advice or guidance on solution approach and may not submit additional material to the topic author.

If information provided during an exchange with the topic author is deemed necessary for proposal preparation, that information will be made available to all parties through DSIP Topic Q&A.

After the pre-release period, questions must be asked through DSIP Topic Q&A as described below. No further direct contact is allowed between proposing SBCs and topic authors, unless the topic author is responding to a question submitted during the pre-release period.

- b. **DSIP Topic Q&A.** Proposing SBCs may submit written questions through DSIP Topic Q&A [here](#), where all questions and answers are posted on a non-attribution basis for public viewing. DSIP Topic Q&A opens on the pre-release date and closes two weeks prior to the topic close date.

Proposing SBCs may use the topic search feature on DSIP to locate a topic of interest. Use the form at the bottom of the topic description, enter and submit the question. Answers are generally posted within seven business days of question submission and also e-mailed directly to the inquirer.

Questions submitted through the DSIP Topic Q&A are limited to technical information focused on understanding a topic’s requirements. Any other questions, such as asking for advice or guidance on solution approach, or administrative questions, such as SBIR or STTR program eligibility, technical proposal/cost proposal structure and page count, budget and duration limitations, or proposal due date are not appropriate and will not receive a response; for administrative questions, refer to a topic’s Service/Component-specific instructions.

Once the BAA proposal submission closes, no communication of any kind is allowed either with the topic author or through topic Q&A regarding submitted proposals.

Throughout the BAA period, proposing SBCs should frequently monitor DSIP for updates and amendments to the topics and DSIP Topic Q&A for questions and answers.

7.0 Participating Component Instructions & Research Topics

The following section contains all Component-specific proposal preparation instructions and research topics under Release 4 of this BAA.

DoD SBIR 25.D BAA

Release 4

January 8, 2025: Topics Pre-release

January 29, 2025: Topics Open; DoD begins accepting proposals in DSIP

February 12, 2025: DSIP Topic Q&A closes to new questions at **12:00 p.m. ET**

February 26, 2025: Topics Close; Deadline for receipt of proposals is **12:00 p.m. ET**

Participating Services/Components:

- Department of the Army (Army)
- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DoD 25.D Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
Annual Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)
Component-Specific Proposal Instructions
Release 4

To the extent possible, all Department of the Army component specific text follows the same numbering as the related sections in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA. Supplemental numbering is used only when the text cannot be integrated intelligibly with the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA counterpart.

Each Small Business Concern (SBC) (also referred to herein as “proposer”, “offeror”, and/or “firm”) is encouraged to thoroughly review the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA, to include any amendments/revisions, and the Army component-specific proposal instructions herein.

Please note that these instructions contain active hyperlinks. Offerors are encouraged to utilize these hyperlinks for additional information and resources. Ensure your browser or Portable Document Format viewer settings permit hyperlink access to take full advantage of these resources.

The following resources are provided to assist SBCs with STTR Program Opportunities:

- The DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA is located at:
<https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/solicitation-documents/active-solicitations>.
- To remain apprised of important programmatic and solicitation changes, SBCs should register for the Defense Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR)|STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) Listserv at: <https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/login>.
- Department of the Army’s [How to Submit a Compliant and Responsive Proposal Webinar](#)

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1.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1.4 Eligibility and Performance Requirements

Proposing SBCs may refer the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA, to include any amendments/revisions, for full eligibility requirements.

Furthermore, firms must not be debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or excluded from Government contracting within the System for Award Management (SAM) –

- Contractors debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment are excluded from receiving an award. Contractors that are debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment are also excluded from conducting business with the Government as agents or representatives of other contractors.
- Contractors and other entities that have an active exclusion record in SAM because they have been declared ineligible on the basis of statutory or other regulatory procedures are excluded from receiving an award under the conditions and for the period set forth in the statute or regulation.
- The Army SBIR|STTR Program will not consent to subcontracts with these contractors.

1.7 Program on Innovation Open Topics

This release may contain an open topic. Proposing SBCs may refer the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA, to include any amendments/revisions, for additional information regarding open topic submissions.

1.8 Discretionary Technical and Business Assistance (TAB A)

The Army, at its discretion, may provide Technical and Business Assistance (TAB A). The Army will select a preferred vendor(s) for the Army STTR TAB A program through a competitive process. Alternately, a SBC may, by subcontract or otherwise, select one or more vendors to assist the firm in meeting the TAB A goals. The Applicant must request the authority to select its own TAB A provider in its Army STTR proposal and must demonstrate that the vendor is *uniquely* postured to provide the specific technical and business services required by providing documentation in Volume 5, Supporting Documentation. TAB A funding will be denied if the offeror fails to include the cost and detailed explanation in its proposal. If you prefer to use the Army preferred vendor, you may opt for that support after selection if chosen to receive a contract award.

Participation in the Army SBIR|STTR TAB A program is voluntary for each Army SBIR|STTR awardee. Services provided to Army SBIR|STTR firms under the auspices of the TAB A program may include, but are not limited to:

1. Access to a network of scientists, engineers, and technologists focused on commercialization and transition considerations such as protected supply chain management, advanced manufacturing, process/product/production scaling, etc.;
2. Assistance with intellectual property protections, such as legal considerations, intellectual property rights, patent filing, patent fees, licensing considerations, etc.;
3. Commercialization and technology transition support such as market research, market validation, development of regulatory or manufacturing plans, brand development; and
4. Regulatory support such as product domain regulatory considerations, regulatory planning, and regulatory strategy development.

The Army STTR program sponsors participation in the TAB A program. The resource limitation for each firm is as follows:

- Phase I Firms:
 - Army-Preferred Vendor: If approved, the contractor may receive up to \$6,500 worth of assistance services per project (in addition to the maximum value identified in the ‘Anticipated Funding Agreement Structure’ section herein).
 - Firm-Selected Vendor: If approved, the contractor may receive up to \$6,500 in contract obligation (in addition to the maximum value identified in the ‘Anticipated Funding Agreement Structure’ section herein) per project. Funding must be included in the Phase I proposal.

1.9 Department of the Army Phase II Enhancement Policy

1.9.1 Overview

To further encourage the transition of SBIR|STTR research into both DoD acquisition programs as well as the private sector, the Department of the Army may provide a Phase II awardee with up to \$500,000.00 in matching SBIR|STTR funding (on a dollar-for-dollar basis) if the performer obtains commitment of non-SBIR|STTR funding from a DoD component(s), Federal Agency(ies), and/or a commercial investor(s).

Enhancement funding is typically applied to an active Phase II award via a contract modification, and will result in an additional period of performance that is commensurate with the total funding received, typically 6 to 18 months (18 months being the maximum). On a case-by-case basis, however, a new Phase II contract may be awarded if appropriate. The proposed Enhancement effort must develop, deliver, and integrate a technology or product into a program within a DoD component(s), Federal Agency(ies), and/or the commercial sector.

1.9.2 Application Process

Enhancement requests should be submitted at least 6 months prior to the end of the Phase II period of performance to allow adequate time to complete the contracting process. Applications to the Enhancement Program will be reviewed for overall merit, transition potential, commercialization strategy, and value to the Army mission and are typically initiated through the Contracting Officer Representative (COR), Technical Point(s) of Contact (TPOC), SBIR|STTR Coordinator, and/or the Army SBIR|STTR Program Transition Broker Team lead, with oversight and input from the Contracting Officer.

Upon Army SBIR|STTR Program’s Source Selection Authority (SSA) approval to proceed, assigned contracting personnel will prepare and issue a letter request for proposal (RFP), soliciting the firm’s Enhancement proposal.

1.9.3 Limitations

All Enhancement requests are subject to the approval of the Army SBIR|STTR Program’s SSA, successful completion of negotiations, and the availability of funding.

In order to be considered for matching SBIR|STTR funds under a Phase II Enhancement, the Contracting Officer must receive certified proof of the non-SBIR|STTR funding transfer. Certification consists of a notarized letter, stating that "\$ in cash has been transferred to [company name] from [investor name] in accordance with the DA Enhancement Program procedures” that is signed by both the awardee and its investor. The letter must be sent to the Contracting Officer along with a copy of the SBIR|STTR awardees bank statement showing the funds were deposited. This certification must be received by the Contracting Officer within 45 days of the Enhancement approval notification. Failure of the awardee to certify and provide proof of the Investor’s total cash contribution may result in the awardee becoming ineligible for the Phase II Enhancement.

“Outside investment” must meet DoD Guidelines to qualify for Phase II Enhancement matching funds.

Eligible third-party investors include:

- Non-SBIR|STTR Department of Defense funds

- Any other non-SBIR|STTR federal agency funds
- A SBC other than the eligible/performing SBC
- Venture capital firms
- Individual investors
- A non-SBIR|STTR federal, state, or local government; or
- Any combination thereof

Ineligible sources include:

- The eligible SBC's internal research and development funds
- Funding in forms other than cash (such as in-kind or other tangible assets)
- Funding from the owners of the eligible SBC, or the family members or affiliates of such owners; or
- Funding attained through loans or other forms of debt obligations

2.0 CERTIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

2.1 System for Award Management (SAM) Registration

Interested SBCs are required to be registered and active in [SAM](#) in accordance with [FAR Provision 52.204-7](#) when submitting an offer or quotation and at time of award. Proposals or offers submitted by firms failing to meet this requirement shall be deemed unresponsive and will neither be evaluated or considered for potential contract award. For the requirement to maintain SAM registration during performance and through final payment, interested SBCs may refer to [FAR Clause 52.204-13, System for Award Management Maintenance](#).

Refer to the Eligibility section above, for information regarding firms (proposing SBC and its subcontractor(s)) who are listed as debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or possessing an active exclusion within the SAM.

SBCs may only submit offers using their legal business name or 'Doing Business As' (DBA) name, as indicated in the SAM registration for the provided Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). An offer submitted using a DBA that is different from the firm's legal, registered name, or no longer registered and linked to SAM shall be deemed unresponsive. A firm submitting an offer using a DBA name shall have the DBA registered and linked to their SAM registration. Further, a firm may NOT submit an offer on behalf of another entity.

2.3 Defense SBIR|STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) Registration

It is the SBCs responsibility to ensure that the firm's DSIP account profile information correlates to the data found within the firm's SAM registration. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

- 5-Digit Commercial and Government Entity Code
- 12-Digit UEI
- Legal Business Name
- "Doing Business As" Name
- Physical Address

Failure to correlate the SBCs entity information between the DSIP application and SAM and/or submit required certifications may significantly delay funding agreement award, or become grounds for cancellation of the funding agreement.

2.4 Required Certifications

- Under a STTR Phase I contract, the contractor shall submit a STTR Funding Agreement Certification – Life Cycle Certification, certifying as to whether it is in compliance with specific program requirements at the time of final payment or disbursement. This form shall be submitted

as an attachment in Wide Area Workflow (WAWF), when submitting an invoice for final payment or disbursement on the Phase I contract.

3.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

3.2 Export-Controlled Topic Requirements

Export of all unclassified technical data with military or space application in the possession of, or under the control of, a DoD Component information, which includes, in some circumstances, release to foreign nationals within the United States, without first obtaining approval, authorization, or license from the Department of State for items controlled by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), or the Department of Commerce for items controlled by the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), may constitute a violation of law.

Pursuant to Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Procedures Guidance and Information 225.7901-2, your firm should direct its attention to the clause at DFARS 252.225-7048, Export-Controlled Items for questions concerning compliance with ITAR/EAR.

Further, in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 5230.25, Withholding of Unclassified Technical Data from Public Disclosure, contractors or subcontractors that will handle technical data that might have military or space applications, must certify that they will comply with all applicable U.S. laws that control the export of sensitive data, as follows:

If any portion of the proposed SBIR|STTR effort is subject to ITAR your firm must complete a fully certified DD Form 2345, Military Critical Technical Data Agreement. The DD Form 2345, Military Critical Technical Data Agreement, instructions, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) may be found at the United States/Canada Joint Certification Program (JCP) website, [JCP Portal](#). Failure to complete the DD Form 2345 in a timely manner will significantly delay contract award, become grounds for cancellation of the contract action, or become grounds for termination of an existing contract.

If any portion of the proposed SBIR|STTR effort is subject to EAR, your firm must submit for and obtain the proper export licenses through the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security on-line system, [SNAP-R](#). Failure to obtain the proper export licenses in a timely manner will significantly delay contract award, become grounds for cancellation of the contract action, or become grounds for termination of an existing contract.

Topics under this announcement may be subject to ITAR/EAR and may be identified as such. However, export control compliance statements found in this document are not meant to be all inclusive. They do not remove any liability from the applicant to comply with applicable ITAR or EAR export control restrictions.

3.7 Phase I Proposal Instructions

The following instructions supplement, and in some cases, supersede, those found within the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA, including any amendments/revisions/appendices.

a. Proposal Cover Sheet (Volume 1)

The proposal cover sheet shall follow the instructions and requirements provided in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA. The offeror shall certify that to the best of its knowledge and belief, its eligibility information under the STTR Program is accurate, complete, and current as of the date of the offer.

b. Technical Volume Format (Volume 2)

The following technical volume formatting requirements supplement those found in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA, including any revisions/amendments.

1. **File Type:** The Technical Volume shall be a single Adobe Acrobat (supporting Windows 10-11) Portable Document Format (.pdf) searchable text format file, including graphics. PDF files that cannot be opened using Adobe Acrobat products will not be considered by the Government and shall therefore be deemed unresponsive.
2. **Length:** The Technical Volume shall not exceed five (5) pages and shall follow the formatting requirements provided in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA. It is the proposing SBC's responsibility to verify that the Technical Volume does not exceed the page limit after upload to DSIP. Any proposals exceeding the page count limit will be deemed unresponsive.

c. Technical Volume Content (Volume 2)

The following technical volume content instructions supersede those stated in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA, including any amendments/revisions/appendices.

The technical volume shall contain two (2) key parts: technical approach and team qualifications, described in further detail below.

Volume 2, Part 1. The technical approach section should be a substantial portion of the Technical Volume detailing how the offeror will address the specific technical problem or opportunity outlined in the topic, and its significance. The offeror shall include a statement of work or work-plan that describes the technical approach, including subcontractor efforts. The statement of work shall indicate what tasks are planned, how and where the work will be performed, a schedule of major events and meetings, and the final deliverables. The Phase I effort should determine the technical feasibility of the proposed concept. Methods for achieving each objective or task must be clearly explained, avoiding unnecessary technical jargon.

Additionally, the technical approach should address any inherent risks, and describe mitigation strategies. Offerors should describe any activities directly related to the proposed effort, as well as prior work that, while not directly related, is similar to the proposed effort. This includes activities and prior work conducted by the principal investigator, the proposing SBC, consultants, or others. Offerors should also describe the expected outcomes if the project is successful and explain the relevance of the Phase I effort in supporting Phase II research and development efforts.

Volume 2, Part 2. The team qualifications section shall identify the key personnel working on the project (including information on directly related education and experience) and the resources that will be brought to bear on solving the problem.

Identify any foreign citizens or individuals holding dual citizenship expected to be involved on this project as a direct employee, subcontractor, or consultant. For these individuals, please specify their country of origin, the type of visa or work permit under which they are performing and an explanation of their anticipated level of involvement on this project. Note: You may be asked to provide additional information during proposal evaluation and/or negotiations in order to verify the foreign citizen's eligibility to participate in the program. Supplemental information provided in response to this paragraph will be protected in accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a), if applicable, and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6)). The Government may withdraw from negotiations at any time for any reason to include matters of national security (foreign persons, foreign influence or ownership, inability to clear the firm or personnel for security clearances, or other related issues).

d. Cost Volume Content (Volume 3)

With the exception of the instructions provided below, Offerors must comply with all Cost Volume (Volume 3) requirements outlined in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA.

Note: Options are not anticipated at this time. If an option is identified in the topic posting, costs for the Base and Option shall be separated and clearly identified.

In anticipation of a possible contract award, all proposed costs shall be accompanied by documentation to substantiate how the cost was derived. Failure to include supporting documentation with the proposal may delay any potential contract award, as the proposer will be asked to submit the necessary documentation to the Contracting Officer to substantiate costs. It is important to respond as quickly as possible to the Contracting Officer's request for documentation. Failure or refusal to provide documentation may result in dissolution of the contract action.

- **DIRECT LABOR:**
 - List all key personnel by name as well as by number of hours dedicated to the project as direct labor.
 - Provide a task-level, time-phased (e.g., annual) breakdown of labor hours, rates, and cost by appropriate Direct Labor category, and explain the basis of estimates. Include substantiating documentation to support the costs (e.g., payroll reports)
- **MATERIAL/TOOLING/EQUIPMENT:**
 - Provide a consolidated priced summary of individual raw materials, parts, components, assemblies, and services to be produced or performed by others. For all items proposed, include the item nomenclature, description, part number, quantity, unit price, extended amount, vendor name, basis of estimate, and whether the item is commercial in accordance with the definition in FAR 2.101, based on adequate price competition or non-competitive.
 - Proposing firms shall provide substantiating documentation for the cost of all material, tooling and equipment (e.g. vendor quotes, invoice prices, competitive bids, etc.). If your choice isn't the lowest cost available, explain the decision to choose one item or supplier over another.
 - Ensure all materials are American made to the maximum extent practicable. Offerors who propose to use a foreign-made product in its technology may be required to find an American-made equivalent.
 - While special tooling and test equipment and material cost may be included, it will be carefully reviewed relative to need and appropriateness for the work proposed. The purchase of special tooling and test equipment shall, in the opinion of the Procurement/Government Component Contracting Officer, be advantageous to the Government and should be related directly to the specific topic. These may include such items as innovative instrumentation or automatic test equipment. Title to property furnished by the Government or acquired with Government funds will be vested with the DoD Component, unless it is determined that transfer of title to the contractor would be more cost effective than recovery of the equipment by the DoD Component.

- SUBCONTRACTS:

- Provide data showing the degree of Subcontractor competition and the basis for establishing the source and reasonableness of price through price analysis.
- Provide detailed substantiation of subcontractor costs in your cost proposal.
- Subcontracts with Federal Laboratories - As defined in 15 United States Code (U.S.C.) 3703, Federal Laboratory means any laboratory, any federally funded research and development center, or any center established under 15 U.S.C. 3705 and 3707 that is owned, leased, or otherwise used by a Federal Agency and funded by the Federal Government, whether operated by the Government or by a contractor. A waiver is no longer required for the use of federal laboratories and FFRDCs; however, Offerors must certify their use of such facilities on the Cover Sheet of the proposal. A list of eligible FFRDCs is available at:
<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdelist/>
- Offerors shall not propose to subcontract to any prohibited sources, as prescribed at FAR 25.7 – Prohibited Sources, and its supplements. Proposals identifying a subcontractor/vendor arrangement with a prohibited source will be deemed unresponsive.
- Considering the goals of the SBIR|STTR Programs, Offerors shall ensure subcontracts (as defined in Appendix B of the overarching DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA) are with United States SBCs to the maximum extent practicable. Offerors proposing a subcontractor arrangement with other than a United States SBC (such as, a large business, foreign firm, foreign government, educational institution, FFRDC, unit of Federal Government, etc.) may be required to submit further explanation.

- TRAVEL:

- **Virtual meetings shall be utilized to the maximum extent practicable.**
- Explain the basis of proposed travel, including to/from locations, number of trips, number of travelers per trip, and number of days/nights per trip. Include substantiating documentation for the costs (e.g. screenshots of flight cost comparison, rental car quotes, etc.).
- In accordance with FAR 31.205-46 Travel costs incurred shall not exceed the maximum per diem rates set forth in Federal Travel Regulation, Joint Travel Regulation, or standard regulations, unless the travel is special or considered unusual. Any special or unusual travel costs shall be supported with substantiating documentation for review and consideration. Per diem rate lookup can be located at <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates?gsaredirect=perdiem>.

- INDIRECT COSTS:

- Indicate how you have computed and applied your indirect costs (e.g., overhead, general & administrative, material handling, fringe, etc.), including cost breakdowns. Indicate the rates used and provide an appropriate explanation.
- If a Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) Audit has been conducted within the

last five (5) years, include the audit compliance documentation in the cost proposal documents. The documentation should also include the offeror's DCAA Point of Contact (if applicable). Further, if applicable Offerors shall provide any current Forward Pricing Rate Agreements (FPRA) in effect at time of proposal submission.

e. Company Commercialization Report (Volume 4)

Completion of the Company Commercialization Report (CCR) as Volume 4 of the proposal submission in DSIP is required for prior SBIR|STTR awardees. Please refer to the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA for full details on this requirement.

f. Supporting Documents (Volume 5)

Volume 5 is provided for proposers to submit additional documentation to support the Cover Sheet (Volume 1) and the Technical Volume (Volume 2), and the Cost Volume (Volume 3). A completed proposal submission in DSIP does NOT indicate that the mandatory supporting documents have been uploaded. It is the responsibility of the proposing small business concern to ensure that the mandatory documents listed above have been uploaded and included with the proposal submission.

All proposing SBCs are REQUIRED to submit the following documents to Volume 5:

1. Allocation of Intellectual Property Rights in STTR Award: As required by paragraph §8(d) of the SBA's SBIR|STTR Policy Directive (current version), an SBC, before receiving a STTR award, must negotiate a written agreement between the SBC and the partnering Research Institution, allocating Intellectual Property rights and rights, if any, to carry out follow-on research, development, or Commercialization. The SBC must submit this agreement to the awarding agency with the proposal. The SBC must certify in all proposals that the agreement is satisfactory to the SBC. (see [Model Agreement for the Allocation of Rights](#))
2. Army Commercialization Plan: Proposing SBCs shall submit their Commercialization Plan, utilizing the template found at Appendix 0001– Commercialization Plan Template attached hereto. The offeror shall convert the Commercialization Plan to a PDF prior to submitting as an attachment to Volume 5 – Supporting Documents. **Any proposals submitted without a Commercialization Plan, or in a format other than the template provided at Attachment 0001 – Commercialization Plan Template, shall be deemed unresponsive.** Commercialization Plan Template can also be found here: [Army SBIR Forms and Templates](#)

All proposing SBCs are required to submit the following documents to Volume 5, *if applicable*:

3. [Verification of Eligibility of Small Business Joint Ventures](#)
4. Assertion of use, release, or disclosure restriction (in accordance with DFARS 252.227- 7017)
5. DD Form 2345, Military Critical Technical Data Agreement
6. Justification for SBC-selected TABA vendor
7. Place of Performance - Ammunition and Explosives (refer to section 3.11 – Arms, Ammunitions and Explosives, Paragraph (f) below)

In addition to the Volume 5 requirements, the Department of the Army may accept the following documents in Volume 5:

8. Cost/Pricing Information
9. [SBIR|STTR Funding Agreement Certification](#)
10. Other (only as specified in the topic)

Please only submit documents that are identified immediately above, and as required by the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA. All other documents submitted will be disregarded, including but not limited to promotional and non-project related information.

g. Fraud, Waste and Abuse Training (Volume 6)

Follow instructions provided in the DoD Program BAA for completion of the Fraud, Waste and Abuse training in DSIP.

h. Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries (Volume 7)

SBCs must complete the Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries webform in Volume 7 of the DSIP proposal submission.

Please be aware that the Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries WILL NOT be accepted as a PDF Supporting Document in Volume 5 of the DSIP proposal submission. Do not upload any previous versions of this form to Volume 5. For additional details, please refer to the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA.

3.8 Phase II Proposal Information

Phase II proposals may only be submitted by Phase I awardees. Submission of Phase II proposals is not permitted at this time, and if submitted, may be rejected without evaluation. Phase II proposal preparation and submission instructions will be provided via subsequent notification.

3.9 Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives (AA&E)

If the proposed statement of work requires the use, development, production, manufacture, purchase, or delivery of Arms, Ammunition and Explosives (AA&E) data and/or hardware, the offeror shall follow the following instructions:

a. References:

1. MIL-STD-1168 - Ammunition Lot Numbering and Ammunition Data Cards
2. DODM 5100.76 - Physical Security of Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives (AA&E)
3. AR 190-11 - Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives
4. Defense Transportation Regulation 4500.9-R
5. Technical Bulletin (TB) 700-2

b. The offeror, in its proposal, and resulting contractor, in performance of the work, shall comply with the requirements of the following DFARS provisions/clauses:

1. 252.223-7002, Safety Precautions for Ammunition and Explosives (NOV 2023);
2. 252.223-7003, Change in Place of Performance-Ammunition and Explosives (DEC 1991);
and
3. 252.223-7007, Safeguarding Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives (NOV 2023).

c. The offeror, in its proposal, and resulting contractor, in performance of the work, shall provide proper storage and accountability. These standards are set forth in Department of Defense (DOD) 5100.76-M, entitled "Physical Security of Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunition and Explosives".

d. Prior to any contract award, the offeror must first pass a pre-award physical security inspection of its and its subcontractor's facilities, conducted by Defense Security Service (DSS). See DOD 5100.76-M, Appendix 2, Attachment 1, for a listing of DSS regions. Facilities, including any subcontractor

facilities, that do not meet all of the security requirements of DOD 5100.76-M will not be awarded a contract.

- e. If the proposed statement of work requires transportation of Sensitive Conventional AA&E, the standards set forth in Defense Transportation Regulation 4500.9-R., Defense Traffic Management, shall be followed.
- f. Place of Performance: In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) provision/clause 52.215-6, Place of Performance (OCT 1997), and DFARS provision/clause 252.223-7003, Change in Place of Performance—Ammunition and Explosives (DEC 1991), the offeror shall include the following information in Volume 5 of its proposal. Failure to include this information in proposals involving AA&E may result in the proposal being deemed unresponsive.
 - 1. The offeror, in the performance of any contract resulting from this solicitation, ☐ intends, ☐ does not intend [check applicable block] to use one or more plants or facilities located at a different address from the address of the offeror as indicated in its proposal.
 - 2. If the offeror or respondent checks "intends" in paragraph (a), it shall include the following required information for each and every plant or facility (including subcontractor plants or facilities) located at a different address from the address of the offeror as indicated in its proposal.
 - i. Firm Name
 - ii. Place of Performance (Street Address, City, State, County, ZIP Code)
 - iii. Name and Address of Owner and Operator of the Plant or Facility
- g. In accordance with local procedures and DFARS provision/clause 252.223-7007, Safeguarding Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives (NOV 2023), the offeror shall include the following information in Volume 5 of its proposal for itself and for each plant or facility (including subcontractor plants or facilities) that the offeror listed as a "Place of Performance". The offeror shall include the information to the best of its ability in order to avoid delay in contract award. Do not include locations that will not use, develop, produce, manufacture, purchase, or deliver AA&E in performance of the work.
 - 1. Firm Name
 - 2. Identify if the firm is the prime-contractor or sub-contractor
 - 3. Place of Performance (Street Address, City, State, County, ZIP Code)
 - 4. Unique Entity Identification (UEI) and Cage Code
 - 5. Confirm that address and cage code match the information in SAM.gov ("unknown" is an acceptable response if unable to look up sub-contractors)
 - 6. Full name, phone number, and email address for a point of contact at this location
 - 7. Description of the AA&E and/or work involving AA&E
 - 8. National Stock Number (NSN) of the AA&E (if none exist, indicate "N/A")
 - 9. Identify the Security Risk Classification (SRC) of the AA&E (Instructions for determining the SRC are found in Enclosure 7 (p. 40 - p.46) of DODM 5100.76) (The SRC can be either I, II, III, IV or U) ("unknown" is an acceptable response if Government input is required to make this determination)
 - 10. Identify the hazard classification (HC) of the AA&E (Instructions for determining the HC are found in Chapter 2 (p.2) of TB 700-2) ("unknown" is an acceptable answer if Government input is required to make this determination)
 - 11. Identify whether the AA&E will be furnished by the Government as Government Furnished Property (GFP) or if it will be developed, produced, manufactured, or purchased by the prime or sub-contractor

4.0 METHOD OF SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

4.1 Evaluation Process

4.1.1 Initial Screening

Proposals will only be evaluated in response to an active, corresponding Army topic. Proposals will be initially screened to determine responsiveness, timeliness, and SBC eligibility. Assessment of responsiveness and eligibility may continue during technical evaluation, and after selection. For purposes of this solicitation, these terms are defined as:

Responsiveness: When a proposal fails to meet a material requirement of the solicitation, to include compulsory terms and conditions, the proposal shall be deemed unresponsive.

Timeliness: A Timely Proposal is one that is received by the Government on or before the due date and prior to the established set time.

SBC Eligibility: An eligible SBC is a firm that meets all requirements identified in the “Eligibility” section herein.

4.1.2 Technical Evaluation

Proposals passing the initial screening will receive a technical evaluation using ‘Valid Evaluation,’ a software as a service analytics tool. Each proposal is assigned a cadre of evaluators (typically engineers or scientists) who perform a review based on the evaluation criteria defined in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA, as supplemented by the Army’s [Phase I Evaluation Criteria](#), which further defines the overall evaluation criteria by breaking it down into sub-dimensions, or elements.

It is the policy of the Army to ensure equitable and comprehensive proposal evaluations based on the evaluation criteria and to select the source (or sources) whose offer meets the Government's technical, policy, and programmatic goals. Selections for further consideration of possible contract award will be based on a determination of the overall technical value of each proposal. As a common statement of work does not exist, each proposal is assessed on its own individual merit to determine how well the proposal meets the criteria stated in this solicitation and the corresponding opportunity. Proposals will not be evaluated against each other during the evaluation process.

Note: Designated support contractors may review submissions for the purposes of technical evaluation. All support contractors are bound by appropriate non-disclosure agreements.

4.1.3 Selection

Proposing firms will be notified via email of selection or non-selection status of its Phase I proposal within 90 days of the closing date of the Topic. The notification will be sent to the Corporate Official listed on the proposal cover sheet, from the Army SBIR|STTR Program Office mailbox.

Selected proposals are not guaranteed a contract award. Proposers shall not regard the notification email (selection decision notice) as an authorization to commit or expend funds. Upon selection, proposals are forwarded to a Government Contracting Officer for further evaluation and contract negotiation. A Government Contracting Officer may contact the proposer in order to discuss and request additional information required for award. This may include representations and certifications, certified or other than certified cost data, and/or other information as applicable to the proposed award. Proposers shall not regard these communications as an authorization to commence work or commit or expend funds.

4.1.4 Other Assessment Considerations

SBCs will be evaluated for responsibility, meaning the prospective SBC meets the standards set forth in [FAR 9.104](#). A prospective contractor must affirmatively demonstrate its responsibility, including, when necessary, the responsibility of its proposed subcontractors.

Further, in accordance with FAR 15.402(a), Contracting officers shall purchase supplies and services from responsible sources at fair and reasonable prices. As a result, Contracting Officials will conduct proposal analysis in accordance with the techniques identified at FAR 13.106-3 and/or 15.404-1. Proposals lacking a fair and reasonable price will be deemed unsuccessful.

4.1.5 Potential Contract Award

If at any point the proposal is deemed untimely, unresponsive, or the SBC (or its subcontractors) is deemed ineligible or non-responsible, the proposal will be unsuccessful, meaning the proposal is not one that will result in an award (it is un-awardable). Successful proposals, therefore, are those that have met all stated requirements and qualifications and will receive an award.

Upon an affirmative determination of proposal timeliness, responsiveness, compliance, and price reasonableness, as well as prospective contractor eligibility and responsibility, the Contracting Officer may proceed with an award, subject to the availability of funds. Unless a Government Contracting Officer signs an award document (e.g., contract), no obligations to provide funding are made. The Government may cancel award of the contract action at any time.

If signed by the Government Contracting Officer, the award document is the official and authorizing instrument, thereafter, referred to as the “contract”. The period of performance will begin upon award of the contract. The Contracting Officer will email the signed contract to the principal investigator (PI) and/or an authorized organization representative.

4.3 Proposal Status and Feedback

The Army promotes transparency regarding the technical evaluation for all Army SBIR|STTR proposals. The Army will provide feedback to offerors in accordance with the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA. The selection decision notice contains instructions for obtaining feedback in the form of a ValidEval Report. The Army shall not provide any additional feedback beyond the ValidEval report. Offerors are entitled to no more than one feedback per proposal.

NOTE: Feedback is not the same as a FAR Part 15 debriefing. The competitive procedures for this solicitation are governed by the SBA SBIR|STTR Policy Directive. Therefore, offerors are neither entitled to, nor will they be provided FAR Part 15 debriefs.

4.5 Pre-Award and Post Award BAA Protests

Pre-award agency protests related to the terms of the BAA must be served to the point of contact listed in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA.

Post award agency protests related to a selection or award decision must be served to the following address:

Email: usarmy.SBIRSTTR@army.mil

Mailing Address:

Army SBIR|STTR Office
2530 Crystal Drive; Suite 11192
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Firms shall follow the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA for protests filed with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and size protests regarding the small business status of a selected proposing small business concern.

5.0 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Award Information

- a. Number of Awards. The number of awards will depend upon funds availability. The Army reserves the right to award none, one, or more than one contract under any topic. No awards will be made until evaluation of all qualified proposals for a specific topic have been made. The Army is not responsible for costs incurred before award receipt.
- b. Type of Funding Agreement. The Army plans to execute funding agreements as FAR-based, firm-fixed-price contracts. Fixed price payments shall be tied to measurable milestones or deliverables, as agreed to by the Government. Milestone schedules are used as a means to monitor technical progress, to mitigate technical and cost risk, and to address the cashflow needs of awardees. The Government Contracting Officer retains the right to negotiate a contract type and price (or estimated cost and fee) that will promote the Government's interest, result in reasonable contractor risk, and provide the contractor with the greatest incentive for efficient and economical performance (FAR Subpart 16.1 – Selecting Contract Types).
- c. Dollar Value and Period of Performance. Award guideline and associative period of performance limitations have been established for each SBIR|STTR Topic. Proposals exceeding these limitations will be deemed unresponsive

5.2 Contract Requirements

In addition to the contractual requirements specified in the DoD STTR 25.D Program BAA, awards under the Army SBIR|STTR Program are also subject to the following:

5.2.1 Deliverable Requirements

- a. Hardware (Prototype) Deliverables (if applicable): See topic for information to determine if development and delivery of prototypes is required. If your proposal identifies hardware that will be delivered to the government, be aware of the possible requirement for unique item identification in accordance with [DFARS Clause 252.211- 7003, Item Unique Identification and Valuation](#). More information regarding item identification and valuation requirements may be found at [DFARS Section 211.274](#).
- b. Data Deliverables (Contract Data Requirements Lists – CDRLS): Data can be in the form of test data, computer software, algorithms, design details, progress reports, technical data, financial or management reports, or any information required by contract to be delivered. Data is ordered using single or multiple DD Form 1423, Contract Data Requirements Lists (CDRLS), which will be located in the contract at Section J, Exhibits. A CDRL is the “data delivery” vehicle providing the what, when, who, and how of the delivery. CDRLS require the contractor to formally deliver the data (contractual obligation) to the Government. Each CDRL will reference a Data Item Description (DID) that describes data content, format, media, and intended use of a single data product. Each DID is uniquely numbered to identify the data deliverables in terms of purpose, description, requirements, and preparation instructions. DIDs may be viewed using the Acquisition Streamlining and Standardization Information System (ASSIST).

All funding agreements executed under the Army SBIR|STTR Program shall include the following CDRL requirements:

1. Status Reports: Under the authority of DID number DI-MGMT-80368A, status reports are due at a specified time after contract award and periodically (e.g., Monthly, Bi-monthly, Quarterly) thereafter in accordance with the prepared DD Form 1423 that will be incorporated via Section J, Exhibits of any resultant contracts.
2. Scientific and Technical Report: Under the authority of DID number DI-MISC-80711A, a final report shall be delivered in accordance with the prepared DD Form 1423 that will be incorporated via Section J, Exhibits of any resultant contract (see section 12.9 below for additional information regarding the Final Technical Report).
3. Scientific and Technical Reports Summary: Under the authority of DID number DI-MISC-80048, a final, non-proprietary summary report shall be delivered in accordance with the prepared DD Form 1423 that will be incorporated via Section J, Exhibits, or any resultant contract.

The Army end-user or customer may require additional deliverables or documentation including Software documentation and user manuals; Engineering drawings; Operation and Maintenance documentation; Safety hazard analysis when the project will result in partial or total development/delivery of hardware; and/or updated commercialization results.

5.2.2 Meeting Requirements:

- a. Start of Work Meeting: The contractor shall hold a start of work meeting at its facility, unless some other location is designated in the contract, within 30 calendar days after contract award. The Start of Work Meeting is to assure a clear and mutual understanding of the contract terms, conditions, line items, technical requirements and sequence of events needed for successful execution of the contracted effort. The contractor shall coordinate with the Government to arrange a schedule and agenda for the meeting.
- b. Periodic (e.g., Monthly, Bi-Monthly, Quarterly) Review Meetings: Periodic review meetings shall be conducted to monitor and report on status of contractor effort towards achieving contract objectives, identify accomplishments to date and difficulties encountered, and compare the status achieved to planned goals and the resources expended.

5.6 Invention Reporting

In accordance with FAR clause 52.227-11, "Patent Rights-Ownership by the Contractor", and DFARS clause 252.227-7039, "Patents – Reporting of Subject Inventions", the contractor shall execute the following:

- a. Final Report of Inventions and Subcontracts: Under all Phase I STTR contracts, the contractor shall deliver a Final Report of Inventions and Subcontracts, DD Form 882, within three (3) months after completion of the contracted work, listing all subject inventions or stating that there were no such inventions.
- b. SBIR|STTR awardees must report inventions within two months of the inventor's report to the awardee. The reporting of inventions may be accomplished by submitting paper documentation, including fax, or through the Edison Invention Reporting System at www.iedison.gov.

6.0 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

6.3 Contact Information

SBC's may direct questions to the following Points of Contact, as described below:

- a. Army Component Specific Proposal Instructions: General questions regarding the administration of the Army SBIR Program, and the Army Component-Specific Proposal Instructions should be submitted as soon as possible, but not later than 15 days prior to solicitation closing, and can be directed to the following:

Email: usarmy.SBIRSTTR@army.mil

Website: <https://www.armysbir.army.mil/>

Mailing Address: Army SBIR Office
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 11192
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Appendix 0001

Commercialization Plan Template

General Instructions/Guidance:

1. As stated above, proposing SBCs shall prepare an eight (8) slide commercialization plan, utilizing the template and format below. The commercialization plan shall be converted to a PDF and included with Volume 5 – Supporting Documentation.
2. Font size shall be no smaller than 10-point font.
3. Slides should display the slide number in bottom right corner.
4. All text (including tables, charts, plots, axis labels, legends, captions) shall be readable without zooming and understandable without voice-over.
5. For plots and charts:
 - a. Include title/bullet describing importance of plot/chart, and/or data (be specific).
 - b. Axis shall be meaningfully labeled (to be understandable by non-experts) and include scale.
6. Avoid jargon; define technical terms.
7. To insert images, capture a screenshot of the image and paste it into the slide. Please do not drag-drop a file into the presentation or use the Insert Pictures menu function.
8. Use PowerPoint's "Compress Pictures" feature to reduce file size.
 - a. Select 96ppi resolution
 - b. Uncheck "For this picture only"
9. Replace the boilerplate footer below with distribution markings as appropriate, i.e. sensitive, proprietary, intellectual property.

Commercialization Plan Template can also be found here: [Army SBIR Forms and Templates](#)

To be considered valid proposals, Commercialization Plan submissions shall follow the number and content of each slide as contained in the attached template.

Firm Name

SBIR Project Title

Principal Investigator Name / Title
Key (or other relevant) Personnel, and
Subcontractors

BLUF: Bottom Line Up Front

- BLUF:
 - 1. Company information and background:** Core competencies, significant sales, previous funding, commercialization successes.
 - 2. Customer and Competition:** Clear description of key technology objectives, current competition, and advantages.
 - 3. Market:** Plan to obtain market share.
 - 4. Intellectual Property:** Patent status, technology lead, trade secrets or other demonstration of a plan to protect the company's technical advantage.
 - 5. Financing/Revenue:** Plans for securing necessary non -SBIR funding.
 - 6. Assistance and mentoring:** Plans for securing needed technical or business assistance.

Distribution markings as appropriate for your organization

3

Company Information and Background

- Core competencies and areas of specialization.
- Products with significant sales.
- Concise history of previous Federal and non -Federal funding/investments.
- Regulatory experience (if applicable).
- Past commercialization successes.
- Past failure and how you overcame.

Distribution markings as appropriate for your organization

4

Customer & Competition

- Description of key technology objectives.
- Current competition and/or alternative solutions.
- Advantages of company's offer compared to competing products or services.
- Hurdles to acceptance of the proposed innovation.
- Description of possible areas where your technology may be utilized or is under utilized.

Distribution markings as appropriate for your organization

5

Market

- Analysis of market size and 1 and 5 year forecasted market share.
- Explanation of milestones and target dates of plan to obtain that market share.
- What experience do you have with marketing to this target market?
- What commercialization strategy appears to be the best for bringing this product to the target market?
- What experience do you have with bringing products to market – either through this company or through other companies with which you have worked.
- Does the company currently market, manufacture, or license technology? Describe what you do.

Distribution markings as appropriate for your organization

6

Intellectual Property

- Patent status, technology lead, trade secrets or other demonstration of a plan to achieve sufficient protection to realize the commercialization stage and attain at least a temporary competitive advantage.
- Describe how you will protect the intellectual property that enables commercialization of its products while keeping competitors at bay. Note any actions you may consider to attain at least a temporary competitive advantage. Also consider your company's prior record in this area. Comment on your company's strategy to build a sustainable business through protection of intellectual property.

Distribution markings as appropriate for your organization

7

Financing

- Plan for securing non -SBIR, private or government funding necessary to enter low rate of production of anticipated technical solution.
- Describe your revenue stream generation to include but not limited to:
 - Manufacture and direct sales
 - Sales through value added resellers or other distributors
 - Joint venture

Distribution markings as appropriate for your organization

8

Assistance & Mentoring

- Plans for securing needed technical or business assistance through mentoring, partnering, or arrangements with government sponsored (e.g., SBIR funded Discretionary Technical and Business Assistance (TABAs), State assistance programs, Federally-funded research laboratories, Manufacturing Extension Partnership centers), not -for-profits (e.g., Small Business Development Center (SBDC) or Small Business Technical Development Center (SBTDC)), commercial accelerators, DOD Prime Contractors, SBA Mentor - Protégé program, Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) or other assistance provider.

Distribution markings as appropriate for your organization

9

Army STTR 25.D Topic Index
Release 4

A25D-001	TITLE: Radar Signal Processing Improvements for Probability of Detection
A25D-002	TITLE: Artificial Intelligence for Interoperability
A25D-003	TITLE: Autonomous Robotic Bridging

A25D-001 TITLE: Radar Signal Processing Improvements for Probability of Detection

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Integrated Sensing and Cyber; Advanced Computing and Software

OBJECTIVE: Current ground-based radar systems cannot meet the detection needs of evolving longer range threat systems without sacrificing scan times. The Army needs a solution, such as novel signal processing techniques, that can be implemented on existing radars that will provide improvements in probability of detection at longer ranges. Solutions must not impact current scan time requirements.

DESCRIPTION: U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force radar systems must effectively counter emerging threats. It is desirable to update existing radar systems to detect emerging long-range threats. Particularly, counterfire target acquisition (CTA) radars must detect emerging surface-launched projectile threats at further ranges. Typical methods to improve probability of detection involve changing operational modes to increase dwell time. However, such changes adversely affect a radar's scan time requirements. This topic would investigate signal processing methods to improve detection probability. Additionally, any proposed method should be able to operate in complex environments (i.e., multiple targets, clutter, electronic attack). These signal processing techniques would be transitioned to programs of record to improve performance.

PHASE I: This topic is only accepting Phase I proposals for a cost up to \$250,000 for a 6-month period of performance.

During Phase I, the expected outcome would be a feasibility study on possible signal processing techniques. This study should include a report with analysis using laboratory simulation tools such as MATLAB, a test plan, and test results. The study and analysis should evaluate at least one technique and how it would be implemented and used in a real-world environment, with metrics showing potential improvement.

PHASE II: During Phase II, it is the expectation that the techniques evaluated during phase one are matured and implemented in a more realistic simulation environment, such as a high-fidelity radar modeling tool. The algorithms should be matured to a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 5 or above, with the possibility of integration into a government-owned System Integration Lab (SIL). At the end of Phase II, the algorithms and techniques must be able to transition into a Science and Technology (S&T) program.

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS:

- **Drone and UAV:** The proliferation of commercial drones can cause havoc for U.S. public security; improved radar signal processing could help detect threats.
- **Weather monitoring:** MIMO radars can enhance storm tracking and precipitation detection.
- **Healthcare:** Radar can be used to detect vital signs remotely to aid in remote patient monitoring (RPM) which has seen a surge since COVID (24% [CAGR projection](#)).

Advanced signal processing techniques could be leveraged across any radar or sensor application such as, but not limited to, automotive, maritime, or air traffic control. More advanced signal processing would make current systems more capable and/or more efficient.

REFERENCES:

1. <https://www.darpa.mil/program/beyond-linear-processing>

KEYWORDS: Radar; Ground-Based Radar; Digital Signal Processing; Army; Advanced Algorithms; Counterfire Target Acquisition; Probability of Detection

A25D-002 TITLE: Artificial Intelligence for Interoperability

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Trusted AI and Autonomy; Advanced Computing and Software

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this topic is to apply Large Language Models (LLMs) and/or other Artificial Intelligence (AI) approaches to support and automate warfighter's system's integrations. This will pertain to problems with data unification and interoperability regardless of the target system, source system, or data format. It will focus on usage in tactical environments to assist and provide reliable performance, regardless of echelon level.

DESCRIPTION: In essence, data interoperability makes it feasible for data from numerous sources and formats to be integrated and leveraged together. An organization could derive the value from its data and overcome the major obstacles presented by distributed data assets by achieving data interoperability. The Department of Defense (DoD) recognizes efforts to improve interoperability, with three main topics of discussion: 1) a decrease in redundant and antiquated systems; 2) bridging the gap between DoD and mission partner standards; and 3) a more efficient and unified data flow.

The Army's goal for the use and application of AI is to assist the national plan for leadership in AI-enhanced applications. Within the tactical environment, there exists numerous warfighting systems comprised of distinct databases and components. As more of these software's develop and continue to be utilized, it is conceivable to employ LLMs and/or other AI approaches for handling interoperability that complies with government requirements and reduces harm to associated software from functional additions or modifications as software evolves to address interoperability challenges. The addition of new software to existing systems should be considered when improving interoperability.

The DoD is seeking to make ubiquitous data with one of these approaches which would result in data regardless of the sender's system, recipients' system, or data format, to be standardized across all systems in a tactical setting in a way that allows for this dialogue to function in both directions. Data may also pre-position based on AI-supported models.

For example, LLMs are a type of AI that are trained with deep learning models with vast and massive amounts of data. They could potentially bridge the gap in between systems. LLMs like ChatGPT can be leveraged to reach the efforts and goals of the DoD and Army by enhancing service interoperability and support for the warfighters in their missions. This strategy will function as a framework for software service optimization as needed by the warfighter's circumstances.

PHASE I: This topic is only accepting Phase I proposals for a cost up to \$250,000 for a 6-month period of performance.

Research, document, and publish techniques, for training AI with respects to integration of traditional software systems. Identify an AI approach to integrate disparate software systems that includes but is not limited to API, data model and message mapping. Contractor will submit a list of metrics that are aligned to data interoperability goals that can be used to assess the performance of the proposed approach. (Technology Readiness Level 2)

PHASE II: Provide a concept demonstration to address interoperability issues with traditional software systems. This concept demonstrator should show that two or more traditional systems can be made more interoperable by using this technique, minimizing the need for software customization. The offeror should

show how the approach measured up against the aforementioned metrics reflects the improvements created relating to interoperability. Metrics outlined in Phase I will be updated as required. (TRL 5)

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS:

- **Finance:** Requires real-time analytics and risk assessments from multiple systems
- **Customer support:** LLM agents can help integrate multiple data points and analytics from various web browsers/systems
- **Cybersecurity:** For various markets, cybersecurity professionals would benefit from NLP querying from a myriad of like databases and cyber intrusions
- **Healthcare:** Similar to finance, doctors and pharmaceuticals would benefit from those efficiencies

This technology could easily be adapted with a different training data set in order to increase interoperability of commercial systems.

REFERENCES:

1. <https://asc.army.mil/web/news-optimizing-interoperability/>
2. <https://outofcontrol.substack.com/p/large-language-models-could-re-decentralize>
3. https://www.army.mil/epubs/DR_pubs/DR_a/pdf/web/ARN19606 AR34-1 FINAL.pdf

KEYWORDS: Large Language Model; Interoperability; Artificial Intelligence; Data Uniformity; Machine Learning; Deep Learning; Distributed Data; Scalable; Interoperability

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Trusted AI and Autonomy

OBJECTIVE: This topic seeks to develop autonomous drone swarm capability for watercraft operated in a riverine environment. The fielding of autonomous powered floating bridges will enable the Army to conduct unpredictable dispersed river crossings, increase crew survivability by removing the man from the craft, and reduce logistics footprint over the Improved Ribbon Bridge in use today by combining both payload capacity and powertrain into a single craft. The development of an autonomy package for multiple dispersed floating bays to interact separately and jointly is the key technology to bring this capability to the 2040 battlespace.

DESCRIPTION: Current Gap crossing solutions do not meet the Army's requirements for the Future Operational Environment of 2040 and beyond. Future Gap Crossing technology must consider near peer adversarial capabilities and support sustainment operations in a lethal contested logistics environment when the enemy can attack targets at virtually any depth within the battlespace. Autonomous powered floating bridges increase mission effectiveness and survivability by enabling unpredictable nonlinear river crossing, remove the Combat Engineers from the breach bridging mission, and reducing the logistics footprint by combining together into a single platform what currently take two today. To achieve these benefits, a number of developments must be made. Core to the success of this effort is the development of an autonomy capability that will allow for the operation of multiple dispersed floating bays in near vicinity to each other while operating independently or when combined together in a single larger rafting platform.

Within this effort, the Contractor will need to select or mature sensor technology that can handle any marine environment, to include obstacle laden rivers or waters heavily occluded by salt or dirt particles. Tied in with the sensing, the selected contractor will need to develop control and communication logic to keep numerous unmanned robotic rafting bays, all in the general vicinity of each other, from colliding with terrain obstacles (man-made or natural) and each other in potentially turbulent waters. The bays must also be able to find and orient with each other to permit the connecting of multiple bays (the actual physical connection is out of scope here) for increased buoyancy and follow on river rafting transport of various weight military vehicle payloads. The effort will culminate in a demonstration of the capability on surrogate platforms of the contractor's choosing to demonstrate the above in a relevant marine environment.

PHASE I: This topic is only accepting Phase I proposals for a cost up to \$250,000 for a 6-month period of performance.

Phase I milestones include a feasibility study report that identifies the communication, spatial awareness and guidance sensors and plans for how the bays will leverage the onboard sensors to execute the objective. The study also needs to include a discussion on the proposed architecture and its integration with other DoD systems, and how the proposed solution would be tested and validated when installed on a surrogate platform.

PHASE II: Phase II milestones encompass development of architecture, methodology and code required to accomplish the goals while being able to operate securely (cyber) and in a potential GPS denied environment, sourcing or development of appropriate sensor and logic with breadboard testing, identification of a DoD compliant controller when not fully autonomous, Modeling & Simulation (M&S) products to support hardware selection; outfitting surrogates with selected hardware; a Developmental

Test Plan; testing conducted in relevant conditions; Test Reports, and prototype deliverables, including software.

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS:

1. **Infrastructure Inspection:** Efficiently examine and assess the condition of critical structures like bridges and pipelines for maintenance and safety.
2. **Uncrewed vehicle swarming for last-mile delivery:** Efficiently deliver supplies.
3. **Underwater Exploration:** Used for underwater exploration and research, where multiple autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) can work together to map the ocean floor, study marine life, and monitor underwater ecosystems.
4. **Agricultural Monitoring:** Observe and manage agricultural activities, enhanced by swarm technology.
5. **Space Exploration:** Collaborative robotic swarm technology to enhance mission efficiency and data collection.

REFERENCES:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TulDBmAgEVw> – Video: Introduction to Maritime Autonomous Systems with Thomas Howe (Royal Institute of Navigation)
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDsBJf3dRPE> – Video: Building an Improved Ribbon Bridge (using today’s process) to cross vehicles
3. <https://www.auvsi.org/industry-news/darpa-offset-program-deploys-swarms-autonomous-air-and-ground-vehicles-during-third> – News Article: swarm enabled ground and air robot demonstration conducted by DARPA

KEYWORDS: autonomy; bridging; float bridging; robotic bridging; assault float; drone swarm; watercraft; wet gap; riverine

The purpose of Amendment 4 to DARPA 25.D Release 4 is to update language for all topics (changed sections highlighted), and to extend the proposal submission deadline to 12:00pm ET, March 12, 2025.

**Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
DoD 25.D Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
Annual Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)
Proposal Submission Instructions
Release 4**

INTRODUCTION

DARPA's mission is to create technological surprise for U.S. national security. To achieve this mission, the agency makes strategic, early investments in breakthrough science and technology that will have long-term positive impacts on our national security. The pace of discovery in both science and technology is accelerating worldwide, resulting in new fields of study and the identification of scientific areas ripe for small business utilization through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Small businesses are critical for developing technology to support national security. Proposers are encouraged to consider whether the Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) being proposed to Department of Defense (DoD) Components also has private sector potential, either for the proposed application or as a base for other applications. The topics below focus on technical domains important to DARPA's mission, pursuing innovative research concepts that fall within one of its technology offices. More information about DARPA's technical domains and research topics of interest are available at <https://www.darpa.mil/research>.

Proposers responding to a topic in this BAA must follow all general instructions provided in the DoD STTR Program BAA. DARPA requirements, in addition to or deviating from the DoD STTR Program BAA, are provided in the instructions below. All DARPA SBIR and STTR proposals must be submitted electronically through the Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) as described in the Proposal Preparation and Submission sections of these instructions. It is recommended that firms register in DSIP as soon as possible upon identification of a proposal opportunity to avoid delays in the proposal submission process. Proposers are encouraged to submit proposals as early as possible to avoid unexpected delays due to a high volume of traffic during the final hours before a BAA closes. *DARPA will not accept any late proposals.*

Proposers are encouraged to thoroughly review the DoD Program BAA and register for the Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) Listserv to remain apprised of important programmatic and contractual changes.

- The DoD Program BAA is located at: <https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/solicitation-documents/active-solicitations>. Please select the tab for the appropriate BAA cycle.
- Register for the DSIP Listserv at: <https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/login>.

Specific questions on the administration of the DARPA Program and these proposal preparation instructions should be directed to DARPA Small Business Programs Office at SBIR_BAA@darpa.mil. DSIP Topic Q&A will NOT be available for these DARPA topics. Technical questions related to improving the understanding of a topic's requirements must be submitted to SBIR_BAA@darpa.mil by the deadline listed in the DoD BAA. The deadline for technical question submission is Dec 31, 2024.

PHASE I PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

The Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) is the official portal for DoD SBIR/STTR proposal submission. Proposers are required to submit proposals via DSIP; proposals submitted by any other

means will be disregarded. Detailed instructions regarding registration and proposal submission via DSIP are provided in Appendix A.

Current Release Award Structure by Topic

White Paper & Slide Deck Proposal

Topic Number	Phase I			
	Technical Volume		Award Amount	Period of Performance (PoP)
	White Paper	Slide Deck		
HR0011ST2025D-01	10 pages	5 pages	\$200,000	6 months
HR0011ST2025D-02	10 pages	5 pages	\$200,000	6 months
HR0011ST2025D-03	10 pages	5 pages	\$200,000	6 months
HR0011ST2025D-04	10 pages	5 pages	\$200,000	6 months
HR0011ST2025D-05	10 pages	5 pages	\$200,000	6 months
HR0011ST2025D-06	10 pages	5 pages	\$200,000	6 months

Technical Volume (Volume 2) – White Paper & Slide Deck Format

The white paper shall not exceed 15 pages, and the slide deck shall not exceed five (5) pages. For information on the content of each of these elements of the Technical Volume and the commercialization strategy, please see Appendix A: DARPA PHASE I INSTRUCTIONS.

Content of the Technical Volume

Proposers should refer to the DARPA SBIR/STTR Phase I Template – Volume 2: Technical Volume, provided on the DARPA Small Business site (<https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/fy25-topics>), under SBIR/STTR BAA Forms & Templates.

Cost Volume (Volume 3)

Please see the chart above for award amounts listed by topic. Proposers are required to use the DARPA SBIR/STTR Phase I Technical Volume template available on the DARPA Small Business site (<https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/fy25-topics>) under SBIR/STTR BAA FORMS & TEMPLATES.

Content of the Cost Volume

Proposers should refer to the DARPA Phase I Proposal Instructions, provided in Appendix A, and the instructions contained in the template.

Please review the updated Percentage of Work (POW) calculation details included in the DoD Program BAA. DARPA cannot accept deviations from the POW requirements for STTR proposals.

Company Commercialization Report (CCR) (Volume 4)

Completion of the CCR as Volume 4 of the proposal submission in DSIP is required. Please refer to the DoD STTR Program BAA for full details on this requirement. Information contained in the CCR will not be considered by DARPA during proposal evaluations.

Supporting Documents (Volume 5)

In addition to the documents required by DoD, small businesses may also submit additional documentation to support the Cost Volume (Volume 3) in Volume 5. See Appendix A, Section I Introduction the Technical Volume (Volume 2) and, for required certifications that must be included in Volume 5. For additional information, see the SBIR 25.D Annual Program BAA at <https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/solicitation-documents/active-solicitations>.

PHASE II PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Phase II proposals may only be submitted by Phase I awardees. Should DARPA have funding available and decide to proceed with a Phase II, proposers awarded a Phase I contract will be eligible to submit a proposal for Phase II and will be contacted by the DARPA Small Business Programs Office at the appropriate time during their Phase I period of performance. Phase II proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria listed in the applicable DoD STTR Program BAA. Phase II selection(s) are at the sole discretion of the Government and are subject to funding availability and Phase I performance. Phase II Instructions are available at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/fy25-topics>.

Current Release Award Structure by Topic

Topic Number	Phase II				
	Technical Volume	Award Amount	Period of Performance (PoP)	Option Amount	Option PoP
HR0011SB2025D-01	25 pages	\$1,800,000	24 months	N/A	N/A
HR0011SB2025D-02	25 pages	\$1,800,000	24 months	N/A	N/A
HR0011SB2025D-03	25 pages	\$1,800,000	24 months	N/A	N/A
HR0011SB2025D-04	25 pages	\$1,800,000	24 months	N/A	N/A
HR0011SB2025D-05	25 pages	\$1,800,000	24 months	N/A	N/A
HR0011SB2025D-06	25 pages	\$1,800,000	24 months	N/A	N/A

Technical Volume (Volume 2)

The Technical Volume shall not exceed 25 pages. The Phase II commercialization strategy shall not exceed 5 pages. This should be the last section of the Technical Volume and is included in the 25-page total. Any pages in the Technical Volume over 25 pages will not be considered in proposal evaluations.

DISCRETIONARY TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE (TAB A)

DARPA does not offer TAB A funding.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

All proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria listed in the DoD STTR Program BAA. DARPA will conduct an evaluation of each conforming proposal. Proposals that do not comply with the requirements detailed in this BAA and the research objective(s) of the corresponding topic are considered non-conforming and, therefore, will not be evaluated nor considered for award.

Using the evaluation criteria, the Government will evaluate each proposal in its entirety, documenting the strengths and weaknesses relative to each evaluation criterion. Based on these identified strengths and weaknesses, the Government will determine the proposal's overall selectability for funding. Proposals will not be evaluated against each other during the evaluation process, but rather evaluated on their own

individual merit to determine how well the proposal meets the criteria stated in this BAA and the corresponding topic.

Awards will be made to proposers whose proposals are determined to be the most advantageous to the Government, consistent with instructions and evaluation criteria specified in the DoD STTR Program BAA and availability of funding.

For the purposes of this proposal evaluation process, a selectable proposal is defined as follows:

Selectable: A selectable proposal is a proposal that the Government has evaluated against the evaluation criteria listed in the BAA and topic, and the strengths of the overall proposal outweigh its weaknesses. Additionally, there are no accumulated weaknesses that would require extensive negotiations and/or a resubmitted proposal.

For the purposes of this proposal evaluation process, a non-selectable proposal is defined as follows:

Non-Selectable: A proposal is considered non-selectable when the Government has evaluated the proposal against the evaluation criteria listed in the BAA and topic, and the strengths of the overall proposal do not outweigh its weaknesses.

Proposing firms will be notified of selection or non-selection status for a Phase I award within 90 calendar days of the closing date of the BAA. The Corporate Official (CO) indicated on the Proposal Cover Sheet will be notified via e-mail regarding proposal selection or non-selection. In accordance with the Small Business Administration (SBA) Policy Directive, Appendix I, paragraph 4, Method of Selection and Evaluation Criteria, subparagraph (d) Release of Proposal Review Information, DARPA will provide a technical evaluation narrative to the proposer for each proposal submitted in response to a topic. An informal feedback session may be requested by the proposing firm via e-mail at sbir@darpa.mil. The informal feedback is provided at the sole discretion of DARPA.

It is the policy of DARPA to treat all proposals as source selection information and to disclose their contents only for the purpose of evaluation. Restrictive notices notwithstanding, during the evaluation process, submissions may be handled by support contractors for administrative purposes and/or to assist with technical evaluation. All DARPA support contractors are expressly prohibited from performing DARPA-sponsored technical research and are bound by appropriate non-disclosure agreements. Input on technical aspects of the proposals may be solicited by DARPA from other Government and/or non-Government consultants/experts who are strictly bound by the appropriate non-disclosure requirements. No submissions in response to the BAA will be returned. Upon completion of the evaluation and selection process, an electronic copy of each proposal received will be retained at DARPA.

Proposal titles, abstracts, anticipated benefits, and keywords of proposals that are selected for contract award will undergo a DARPA Policy and Security Review. Proposal titles, abstracts, anticipated benefits, and keywords are subject to revision and/or redaction by DARPA. Final approved versions of proposal titles, abstracts, anticipated benefits, and keywords may appear on the DoD SBIR/STTR awards website and/or the SBA's SBIR/STTR award website (<https://www.sbir.gov/awards>).

Refer to the DoD STTR Program BAA for procedures to protest this BAA.

As further prescribed in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 33.106(b), protests regarding the selection decision should be submitted to:

DARPA
Contracts Management Office (CMO)

675 N. Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203
E-mail: CMO_SBIRProtests@darpa.mil and sbir@darpa.mil

AWARD AND CONTRACT INFORMATION

1. General Award Information

Multiple awards are anticipated. DARPA may award FAR-based Government contracts (Firm-Fixed Price or Cost-Plus Reimbursement) or Other Transactions (OT) for Prototypes agreement (under the authority of 10 U.S.C. § 4022) subject to approval of the Contracting Officer or Agreements Officer, respectively. The resources made available under each topic issued under this BAA will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the availability of funds.

The Government reserves the right to select for negotiation all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this BAA and to make awards with or without communications with proposers. Additionally, the Government reserves the right to award all, some, one, or none of the options on the contract(s)/agreement(s) based on available funding and the performer's technical performance. If warranted, portions of resulting awards may be segregated into pre-priced options. Additionally, DARPA reserves the right to accept proposals in their entirety or to select only portions of proposals for award. In the event that DARPA desires to award only portions of a proposal, negotiations may be opened with that proposer. The Government reserves the right to fund proposals in phases with options for continued work, as applicable.

The Government reserves the right to request any additional, necessary documentation once it makes the award instrument determination. The Government reserves the right to remove a proposal from award consideration should the parties fail to reach an agreement on award terms, conditions, and price within a reasonable time, and/or the proposer fails to provide requested additional information within three (3) business days.

It is DARPA's goal to award SBIRs and STTRs as expeditiously as possible. In an effort to do so, please review and ensure the DARPA SBIR/STTR Pre-Award Checklist located on the DARPA Small Business website at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/sbir-sttr-overview/> is completed prior to being selected for award.

In all cases, the Government Contracting Officer reserves the right to select award instrument type, regardless of the instrument type proposed, and to negotiate all instrument terms and conditions with selectees. DARPA will apply publication or other restrictions, as necessary, if it determines that the research resulting from the proposed effort will present a high likelihood of disclosing performance characteristics of military systems or manufacturing technologies that are unique and critical to defense. Any award resulting from such a determination will include a requirement for DARPA permission before publishing any information or results on the program. For more information on publication restrictions, see the DoD STTR Program BAA.

Because of the desire to streamline the award negotiation and program execution process, proposals identified for negotiation will result in negotiating a type of instrument for award that is in the best interest of the Government. In the case of an OT for Prototype agreement under DARPA's authority to award OTs for prototype projects, 10 U.S.C. § 4022, use of an OT provides significant opportunities for flexible execution to assist in meeting DARPA's aggressive SBIR/STTR program goals.

All proposers that wish to consider an OT award should carefully read the following information:

The flexibility of the OT award instrument is beneficial to the program because the performer will be able to apply its best practices as required to carry out the research project that may be outside of the FAR process-driven requirements. Streamlined practices will be used, such as milestone-driven performance, intended to reduce time and effort on award administration tasks and permit performers to focus on the research effort and rapid prototyping. Because of this ability, OTs provide the Agreements Officer the flexibility to create an award instrument that contains terms and conditions that promote commercial transition, reduce some administratively burdensome acquisition regulations, and meet SBIR/STTR program goals.

Proposers must only propose an OT agreement with fixed payable milestones. Fixed payable milestones are fixed payments based on successful completion of the milestone accomplishments agreed to in the milestone plan. Refer to the Other Transactions for Prototypes Fact Sheet and Other Transaction for Prototype Agreement, available at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/sbir-sttr-participate>. Specific milestones will be based upon the research objectives detailed in the topic.

Please see <https://acquisitioninnovation.darpa.mil/what-are-ots> for more information on OTs.

2. Transition and Commercialization Support Program (TCSP)

DARPA will provide services to Phase II awardees upon contract execution through TCSP at no cost to awardees. The TCSP goal is to maximize the potential for SBIR/STTR companies to move their technology beyond Phase II and into other research and development programs for further maturity or into solutions or products for DoD acquisition programs, other Federal programs, and/or the commercial market. Please visit <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/transition-commercialization/> for more information on DARPA TCSP.

3. Embedded Entrepreneurship Initiative

Awardees of Phase II STTR funding pursuant to this BAA may be eligible to participate in the DARPA Embedded Entrepreneurship Initiative (EEI). An invitation to participate in EEI is at the sole discretion of the Government based on evaluation of technical and commercial factors and subject to program balance and the availability of funding. EEI is a limited scope program offered by DARPA, at the Agency's discretion, to a small subset of awardees. The goal of DARPA's EEI is to increase the likelihood that DARPA-funded technologies take root in the U.S. and provide new capabilities for national defense. EEI supports DARPA's mission "to make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies and capabilities for national security" by accelerating the transition of innovations out of the lab and into new capabilities for the Department of Defense (DoD). EEI investment supports development of a robust and deliberate Go-to-Market strategy for DARPA-funded advanced technology, into high-value products and capabilities for the government and commercial markets, and positions DARPA awardees to attract U.S. private investment. The following is for informational and planning purposes only and does not constitute solicitation of proposals to EEI.

There are three elements to DARPA's EEI: (1) A Senior Commercialization Advisor (SCA) from DARPA who works with the Program Manager (PM) to examine the business case for the awardee's technology and uses commercial methodologies to identify steps toward achieving a successful transition of technology to the government and commercial markets; (2) Connections to potential U.S. industry and private investor partners via EEI's Investor Working Groups; and (3) Additional funding to hire an embedded entrepreneur to achieve specific milestones in a Go-to-Market strategy for transitioning the technology into products that serve both defense and commercial markets. This embedded entrepreneur's qualifications should include business experience within the target industries of interest, experience in commercializing early-stage technology, and the ability to communicate and interact with technical and non-technical stakeholders, and customers. Funding for EEI is typically no more than \$310,000 per awardee over the duration of the award. An awardee will attend one commercialization workshop, and

also may apportion EEI funding to hire more than one embedded entrepreneur, if achieving the milestones requires a unique expertise that can be obtained without exceeding the awardee's total EEI funding.

EEI Application Process:

After receiving an SBIR/STTR Phase II award, awardees interested in being considered for EEI should notify their DARPA PM during the period of performance. If the DARPA PM determines that EEI could be of benefit to transition the technology to product(s) the Government needs, the PM will refer the performer to the DARPA Commercial Strategy Team. The SCA will then contact the performer, assess fitness for EEI and determine, in consultation with the PM and Commercial Strategy Team, whether or not to invite the performer to participate in the EEI. Factors that are considered in determining fitness for EEI include DoD/Government need for the technology; competitive approaches to enable a similar capability or product; risks and impact of the Government's being unable to access the technology from a sustainable source; Government and commercial markets for the technology; cost and affordability; manufacturability and scalability; supply chain requirements and barriers; regulatory requirements and timelines; intellectual property and Government use rights, and available funding.

After SCA review, the Commercial Strategy Team may request the SBIR/STTR awardee to submit additional tasks for review.

EEI awards are at the sole discretion of DARPA and are subject to program balance and the availability of funding. For more information, please refer to the EEI website <https://eei.darpa.mil/>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DARPA intends to use electronic mail for all correspondence regarding these topics. Questions related to the technical aspect of the research objectives and awards specifically related to a topic should be e-mailed to SBIR_BAA@darpa.mil. Please reference the topic number in the subject line. All questions must be in English and must include the name, e-mail address, and the telephone number of a point of contact.

DARPA will attempt to answer questions in a timely manner; however, questions submitted within seven (7) calendar days of the proposal due date listed herein may not be answered. DARPA will post a consolidated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. To access the posting please visit: <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/fy25-topics>. Under the topic number summary, there will be a link to the FAQ. The FAQ will be updated on an ongoing basis until one week prior to the proposal due date.

Technical support for the Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) is available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET. Requests for technical support must be e-mailed to DoDSBIRSupport@reisystems.com with a copy to SBIR_BAA@darpa.mil.

DARPA SBIR 25.D Topic Index
Release 4

HR0011ST2025D-01	Analyzing the Trade-off Between Bias and Accuracy
HR0011ST2025D-02	Mitigating Explicit and Implicit Bias Through Hybrid AI
HR0011ST2025D-03	Unlearning Bias
HR0011ST2025D-04	Bias Datasets for the Department of Defense (DoD)
HR0011ST2025D-05	Model-Agnostic Detection of Bias (MAD-Bias)
HR0011ST2025D-06	Addressing Underrepresentation Through Data Augmentation

HR0011ST2025D-01 TITLE: Analyzing the Trade-off Between Bias and Accuracy

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Trusted AI and Autonomy

OBJECTIVE: To develop new methods to analyze the trade-off between accuracy and bias in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

DESCRIPTION: There are well-studied trade-offs between accuracy and fairness of AI models. For example, some degree of fairness may be sacrificed in terms of misclassifying an irrelevant attribute of a patient to optimize for the accuracy of predicting whether that patient has a terminal illness. Performers should propose novel methods for measuring the bias-accuracy trade-offs and demonstrate the utility of these methods in DoD relevant use cases.

While the measurement of accuracy is intuitive, measuring fairness is a more nebulous endeavor. Some examples in the literature include penalizing attribute disparities as a regularization term in the loss function of the model or training LLMs using RLHF with the human rankings of the LLM outputs being based on their subjective valuation of fairness. Under this topic, performers must specify what their notions of fairness will be and how those will be made manifest in the training or inference of the models while analyzing the tradeoff incurred on accuracy.

To address the foregoing technical challenges performers in this effort will:

- Develop novel methods of constructing AI systems that enable flexible trade off in “fairness” as appropriate for a given use case.
- Develop methods to measure and validate this trade-off in a relevant use case given by the proposer.

PHASE I: The goal of Phase I proposals is to present a new technology to address AI bias as described previously. The technology need not be mature by the end of the phase, but a convincing proof-of-concept for its utility must be demonstrated. This proof-of-concept may come in the form of a live demo, publications in peer-reviewed venues, and open-source software, among others. Phase I deliverables and milestones for this STTR should include:

- Month 3 : report detailing technical progress made to date and tasks accomplished.
- Month 6: finalize the technical report, including remaining challenges directions to be addressed, a tentative plan for future work, and lessons learned.

PHASE II: Develop, install, integrate and demonstrate a prototype system determined to be the most feasible solution during the Phase I feasibility study. This demonstration should focus specifically on:

1. Validating the product-market fit between the proposed solution and the proposed topic and define a clear and immediately actionable plan for running a trial with the proposed solution and the proposed customer.
2. Evaluating the proposed solution against the objectives and measurable key results as defined in the Phase I feasibility study.
3. Describing in detail how the solution can be scaled to be adopted widely (e.g., how can it be modified for scale).
4. A clear transition path for the proposed solution that takes into account input from all affected stakeholders including, but not limited to: end users, engineering, sustainment, contracting, finance, legal, and cyber security.
5. Specific details about how the solution can integrate with other current and potential future solutions.
6. How the solution can be sustainable (i.e. supportability).

7. Clearly identifying other specific DoD or governmental customers who want to use the solution.

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS: The contractor will pursue commercialization of the various technologies developed in Phase II for transitioning expanded mission capability to a broad range of potential government and civilian users and alternate mission applications. Interested government end users may include the Air Force, the DoD Chief Digital and AI Office (CDAO), DARPA, White House Office of Science and Tech Policy (OSTP), Dept of Education, Dept of Commerce, and NIST, all of whom have been looking at the problem of detecting and mitigating bias in AI as part of an inter-agency working group. For example, mitigating bias in one of the DoD's responsible AI principles and it is widely recognized that bias remains a hurdle for responsible AI adoption. Bias also remains a hurdle for operational AI adoption, to ensure robustness of AI to rare and unlikely events. Of course, these problems also affect and are pervasive in industry, thereby motivating the dual use of the proposed technologies. Example industrial applications include the de-biasing of generative models, which have been shown to reflect inherent biases, as well as to create new biases as a result of current de-biasing techniques.

Direct access with end users and government customers will be provided with opportunities to receive Phase III awards for providing the government additional research and development, or direct procurement of products and services developed in coordination with the program.

REFERENCES:

1. Zhang, Gong, et al. "Forget-me-not: Learning to forget in text-to-image diffusion models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
2. D'Inca, Moreno, et al. "OpenBias: Open-set Bias Detection in Text-to-Image Generative Models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
3. Jha, Sumit Kumar, et al. "Responsible reasoning with large language models and the impact of proper nouns" Workshop on Trustworthy and Socially Responsible Machine Learning, NeurIPS 2022.

KEYWORDS: AI Bias, Trustworthy AI, Trusted AI, Fair AI, Bias Mitigation

HR0011ST2025D-02 TITLE: Mitigating Explicit and Implicit Bias Through Hybrid AI

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Trusted AI and Autonomy

OBJECTIVE: To develop new neuro-symbolic methods that can mitigate both explicit (e.g., symbolic descriptions of bias) and implicit (e.g., the learned model parameters) biases in artificial intelligence (AI).

DESCRIPTION: What constitutes bias can be explicitly defined using natural language (e.g., perpetuating explicitly defined harmful stereotypes), but there are also implicit biases that manifest in the distribution of data, model weights, or statistical patterns. The combination of these two modalities holds promise for countering bias, particularly in the context of generative AI. To that end, we seek submissions that combine symbolic and neural methods to counter explicit and implicit bias, respectively, in AI models while preserving accuracy.

The use of neuro-symbolic methods in generative AI has garnered interest in recent years, particularly for improving safety. For example, the control of LLMs has been explored through the perspective of probabilistic flow circuits (a symbolic structure) that are smoothened into a differentiable form to be integrated into the loss function of LLMs for improved control after re-training [1]. On the other hand, the enforcement of constraints in generated text has also been explored through neuro-symbolic methods via grammar-constrained decoding of tokens, where the grammar takes the form of a deterministic finite automaton (a symbolic structure) [2]. The foregoing are promising use cases for neuro-symbolic AI in addressing safety and other constraints. We invite prospective performers to propose neuro-symbolic AI methods in the broader context of mitigating bias.

PHASE I: The goal of Phase I proposals is to present a new technology to address AI bias as described previously. The technology need not be mature by the end of the phase, but a convincing proof-of-concept for its utility must be demonstrated. This proof-of-concept may come in the form of a live demo, publications in peer-reviewed venues, and open-source software, among others. Phase I deliverables and milestones for this STTR should include:

- Month 3 : report detailing technical progress made to date and tasks accomplished.
- Month 6: finalize the technical report, including remaining challenges directions to be addressed, a tentative plan for future work, and lessons learned.

PHASE II: Develop, install, integrate and demonstrate a prototype system determined to be the most feasible solution during the Phase I feasibility study. This demonstration should focus specifically on:

1. Validating the product-market fit between the proposed solution and the proposed topic and define a clear and immediately actionable plan for running a trial with the proposed solution and the proposed customer.
2. Evaluating the proposed solution against the objectives and measurable key results as defined in the Phase I feasibility study.
3. Describing in detail how the solution can be scaled to be adopted widely (e.g., how can it be modified for scale).
4. A clear transition path for the proposed solution that takes into account input from all affected stakeholders including, but not limited to: end users, engineering, sustainment, contracting, finance, legal, and cyber security.
5. Specific details about how the solution can integrate with other current and potential future solutions.
6. How the solution can be sustainable (i.e. supportability).
7. Clearly identifying other specific DoD or governmental customers who want to use the solution.

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS: The contractor will pursue commercialization of the various technologies developed in Phase II for transitioning expanded mission capability to a broad range of potential government and civilian users and alternate mission applications. Interested government end users may include the Air Force, the DoD Chief Digital and AI Office (CDAO), DARPA, White House Office of Science and Tech Policy (OSTP), Dept of Education, Dept of Commerce, and NIST, all of whom have been looking at the problem of detecting and mitigating bias in AI as part of an inter-agency working group. For example, mitigating bias in one of the DoD's responsible AI principles and it is widely recognized that bias remains a hurdle for responsible AI adoption. Bias also remains a hurdle for operational AI adoption, to ensure robustness of AI to rare and unlikely events. Of course, these problems also affect and are pervasive in industry, thereby motivating the dual use of the proposed technologies. Example industrial applications include the de-biasing of generative models, which have been shown to reflect inherent biases, as well as to create new biases as a result of current de-biasing techniques.

Direct access with end users and government customers will be provided with opportunities to receive Phase III awards for providing the government additional research and development, or direct procurement of products and services developed in coordination with the program.

REFERENCES:

1. Zhang, Gong, et al. "Forget-me-not: Learning to forget in text-to-image diffusion models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
2. D'Inca, Moreno, et al. "OpenBias: Open-set Bias Detection in Text-to-Image Generative Models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
3. Jha, Sumit Kumar, et al. "Responsible reasoning with large language models and the impact of proper nouns" Workshop on Trustworthy and Socially Responsible Machine Learning, NeurIPS 2022.

KEYWORDS: AI Bias, Trustworthy AI, Trusted AI, Fair AI, Bias Mitigation

HR0011ST2025D-03 TITLE: Unlearning Bias

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Trusted AI and Autonomy

OBJECTIVE: To develop new methods that can unlearn the bias in artificial intelligence (AI) models.

DESCRIPTION: The mitigation of bias in AI is often relegated to expensive and uncertain re-training of models. This topic looks at the alternative direction of detecting where bias exists in a model and unlearning said bias, which may come from model editing techniques, concept replacing, etc. In this STTR, performers will be expected to develop methods of removing bias from a generative model without accessing the original training data of the model for retraining. Methods could include, but are not limited to, analysis of the internal conceptual space of models to prevent biased content generation as in [1], extend methods as in [2] for the unlearning of factual data as a type of alignment, or consider modular add-ons that could be used to de-bias generated content via iterative prompt refinement [3].

In summary, performers will be expected to:

- Define a set of biases to target in a generative model.
- Develop a method of removing the biased behavior from the model.
- Develop an evaluation schema to demonstrate confidently that the targeted bias has been removed, and that performance has been retained.

PHASE I: The goal of Phase I proposals is to present a new technology to address AI bias as described previously. The technology need not be mature by the end of the phase, but a convincing proof-of-concept for its utility must be demonstrated. This proof-of-concept may come in the form of a live demo, publications in peer-reviewed venues, and open-source software, among others. Phase I deliverables and milestones for this STTR should include:

- Month 3 : report detailing technical progress made to date and tasks accomplished.
- Month 6: finalize the technical report, including remaining challenges directions to be addressed, a tentative plan for future work, and lessons learned.

PHASE II: Develop, install, integrate and demonstrate a prototype system determined to be the most feasible solution during the Phase I feasibility study. This demonstration should focus specifically on:

1. Validating the product-market fit between the proposed solution and the proposed topic and define a clear and immediately actionable plan for running a trial with the proposed solution and the proposed customer.
2. Evaluating the proposed solution against the objectives and measurable key results as defined in the Phase I feasibility study.
3. Describing in detail how the solution can be scaled to be adopted widely (e.g., how can it be modified for scale).
4. A clear transition path for the proposed solution that takes into account input from all affected stakeholders including, but not limited to: end users, engineering, sustainment, contracting, finance, legal, and cyber security.
5. Specific details about how the solution can integrate with other current and potential future solutions.
6. How the solution can be sustainable (i.e. supportability).
7. Clearly identifying other specific DoD or governmental customers who want to use the solution.

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS: The contractor will pursue commercialization of the various technologies developed in Phase II for transitioning expanded mission capability to a broad range of potential government and civilian users and alternate mission applications. Interested government end

users may include the Air Force, the DoD Chief Digital and AI Office (CDAO), DARPA, White House Office of Science and Tech Policy (OSTP), Dept of Education, Dept of Commerce, and NIST, all of whom have been looking at the problem of detecting and mitigating bias in AI as part of an inter-agency working group. For example, mitigating bias in one of the DoD's responsible AI principles and it is widely recognized that bias remains a hurdle for responsible AI adoption. Bias also remains a hurdle for operational AI adoption, to ensure robustness of AI to rare and unlikely events. Of course, these problems also affect and are pervasive in industry, thereby motivating the dual use of the proposed technologies. Example industrial applications include the de-biasing of generative models, which have been shown to reflect inherent biases, as well as to create new biases as a result of current de-biasing techniques..

Direct access with end users and government customers will be provided with opportunities to receive Phase III awards for providing the government additional research and development, or direct procurement of products and services developed in coordination with the program.

REFERENCES:

1. Zhang, Gong, et al. "Forget-me-not: Learning to forget in text-to-image diffusion models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
2. D'Incà, Moreno, et al. "OpenBias: Open-set Bias Detection in Text-to-Image Generative Models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
3. Jha, Sumit Kumar, et al. "Responsible reasoning with large language models and the impact of proper nouns" Workshop on Trustworthy and Socially Responsible Machine Learning, NeurIPS 2022.

KEYWORDS: AI Bias, Trustworthy AI, Trusted AI, Fair AI, Bias Mitigation

HR0011ST2025D-04 TITLE: Bias Datasets for the Department of Defense (DoD)

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Trusted AI and Autonomy

OBJECTIVE: To develop new datasets for detecting bias in DoD applications.

DESCRIPTION: There are no DoD-specific datasets for evaluating the bias of an artificial intelligence (AI) model. We seek the development of such datasets, a baseline model for other methods to compare against when using said datasets, and the proposed metrics to evaluate models on said datasets. Potential approaches include the use of generative AI to develop synthetic military-relevant data that can expose bias in existing models.

PHASE I: The goal of Phase I proposals is to present a new technology to address AI bias as described previously. The technology need not be mature by the end of the phase, but a convincing proof-of-concept for its utility must be demonstrated. This proof-of-concept may come in the form of a live demo, publications in peer-reviewed venues, and open-source software, among others. Phase I deliverables and milestones for this STTR should include:

- Month 3 : report detailing technical progress made to date and tasks accomplished.
- Month 6: finalize the technical report, including remaining challenges directions to be addressed, a tentative plan for future work, and lessons learned.

PHASE II: Develop, install, integrate and demonstrate a prototype system determined to be the most feasible solution during the Phase I feasibility study. This demonstration should focus specifically on:

1. Validating the product-market fit between the proposed solution and the proposed topic and define a clear and immediately actionable plan for running a trial with the proposed solution and the proposed customer.
2. Evaluating the proposed solution against the objectives and measurable key results as defined in the Phase I feasibility study.
3. Describing in detail how the solution can be scaled to be adopted widely (e.g., how can it be modified for scale).
4. A clear transition path for the proposed solution that takes into account input from all affected stakeholders including, but not limited to: end users, engineering, sustainment, contracting, finance, legal, and cyber security.
5. Specific details about how the solution can integrate with other current and potential future solutions.
6. How the solution can be sustainable (i.e. supportability).
7. Clearly identifying other specific DoD or governmental customers who want to use the solution.

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS: The contractor will pursue commercialization of the various technologies developed in Phase II for transitioning expanded mission capability to a broad range of potential government and civilian users and alternate mission applications. Interested government end users may include the Air Force, the DoD Chief Digital and AI Office (CDAO), DARPA, White House Office of Science and Tech Policy (OSTP), Dept of Education, Dept of Commerce, and NIST, all of whom have been looking at the problem of detecting and mitigating bias in AI as part of an inter-agency working group. For example, mitigating bias in one of the DoD's responsible AI principles and it is widely recognized that bias remains a hurdle for responsible AI adoption. Bias also remains a hurdle for operational AI adoption, to ensure robustness of AI to rare and unlikely events. Of course, these problems also affect and are pervasive in industry, thereby motivating the dual use of the proposed technologies. Example industrial applications include the de-biasing of generative models, which have been shown to reflect inherent biases, as well as to create new biases as a result of current de-biasing techniques.

Direct access with end users and government customers will be provided with opportunities to receive Phase III awards for providing the government additional research and development, or direct procurement of products and services developed in coordination with the program.

REFERENCES:

1. Zhang, Gong, et al. "Forget-me-not: Learning to forget in text-to-image diffusion models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
2. D'Incà, Moreno, et al. "OpenBias: Open-set Bias Detection in Text-to-Image Generative Models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
3. Jha, Sumit Kumar, et al. "Responsible reasoning with large language models and the impact of proper nouns" Workshop on Trustworthy and Socially Responsible Machine Learning, NeurIPS 2022.

KEYWORDS: AI Bias, Trustworthy AI, Trusted AI, Fair AI, Bias Mitigation

HR0011ST2025D-05 TITLE: Model-Agnostic Detection of Bias (MAD-Bias)

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Trusted AI and Autonomy

OBJECTIVE: To develop new methods to detecting bias inherent in the datasets being used regardless of what the architecture of the downstream artificial intelligence (AI) model is.

DESCRIPTION: The detection of bias is conventionally framed around a dataset and an AI model that leverages said dataset for training. This topic seeks to upend that conventional wisdom and instead study the dynamics of a given dataset to detect bias, regardless of which AI model is ultimately used with that data. Potential approaches include geometric and topological data analysis, as well as alternative representations of data that facilitate an understanding of the inherent bias therein.

PHASE I: The goal of Phase I proposals is to present a new technology to address AI bias as described previously. The technology need not be mature by the end of the phase, but a convincing proof-of-concept for its utility must be demonstrated. This proof-of-concept may come in the form of a live demo, publications in peer-reviewed venues, and open-source software, among others. Phase I deliverables and milestones for this STTR should include:

- Month 3 : report detailing technical progress made to date and tasks accomplished.
- Month 6: finalize the technical report, including remaining challenges directions to be addressed, a tentative plan for future work, and lessons learned.

PHASE II: Develop, install, integrate and demonstrate a prototype system determined to be the most feasible solution during the Phase I feasibility study. This demonstration should focus specifically on:

1. Validating the product-market fit between the proposed solution and the proposed topic and define a clear and immediately actionable plan for running a trial with the proposed solution and the proposed customer.
2. Evaluating the proposed solution against the objectives and measurable key results as defined in the Phase I feasibility study.
3. Describing in detail how the solution can be scaled to be adopted widely (e.g., how can it be modified for scale).
4. A clear transition path for the proposed solution that takes into account input from all affected stakeholders including, but not limited to: end users, engineering, sustainment, contracting, finance, legal, and cyber security.
5. Specific details about how the solution can integrate with other current and potential future solutions.
6. How the solution can be sustainable (i.e. supportability).
7. Clearly identifying other specific DoD or governmental customers who want to use the solution.

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS: The contractor will pursue commercialization of the various technologies developed in Phase II for transitioning expanded mission capability to a broad range of potential government and civilian users and alternate mission applications. Interested government end users may include the Air Force, the DoD Chief Digital and AI Office (CDAO), DARPA, White House Office of Science and Tech Policy (OSTP), Dept of Education, Dept of Commerce, and NIST, all of whom have been looking at the problem of detecting and mitigating bias in AI as part of an inter-agency working group. For example, mitigating bias in one of the DoD's responsible AI principles and it is widely recognized that bias remains a hurdle for responsible AI adoption. Bias also remains a hurdle for operational AI adoption, to ensure robustness of AI to rare and unlikely events. Of course, these problems also affect and are pervasive in industry, thereby motivating the dual use of the proposed technologies.

Example industrial applications include the de-biasing of generative models, which have been shown to reflect inherent biases, as well as to create new biases as a result of current de-biasing techniques.

Direct access with end users and government customers will be provided with opportunities to receive Phase III awards for providing the government additional research and development, or direct procurement of products and services developed in coordination with the program.

REFERENCES:

1. Zhang, Gong, et al. "Forget-me-not: Learning to forget in text-to-image diffusion models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
2. D'Inca, Moreno, et al. "OpenBias: Open-set Bias Detection in Text-to-Image Generative Models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
3. Jha, Sumit Kumar, et al. "Responsible reasoning with large language models and the impact of proper nouns" Workshop on Trustworthy and Socially Responsible Machine Learning, NeurIPS 2022.

KEYWORDS: AI Bias, Trustworthy AI, Trusted AI, Fair AI, Bias Mitigation

HR0011ST2025D-06 TITLE: Addressing Underrepresentation Through Data Augmentation

OUSD (R&E) CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREA(S): Trusted AI and Autonomy

OBJECTIVE: To develop new data augmentation techniques that address the underrepresentation of concepts, including artificial intelligence (AI) disparities.

DESCRIPTION: Since machine learning (ML) models learn and extrapolate from the biases inherent in their training data, it is important to augment data to counteract that bias. This direction of data augmentation is increasingly more feasible given the capabilities of generative AI for generating said data. Some technical challenges performers must address in this direction include the model collapse problem, where the performance of AI models degrades over time as they are continuously trained on synthetic data.

PHASE I: The goal of Phase I proposals is to present a new technology to address AI bias as described previously. The technology need not be mature by the end of the phase, but a convincing proof-of-concept for its utility must be demonstrated. This proof-of-concept may come in the form of a live demo, publications in peer-reviewed venues, and open-source software, among others. Phase I deliverables and milestones for this STTR should include:

- Month 3 : report detailing technical progress made to date and tasks accomplished.
- Month 6: finalize the technical report, including remaining challenges directions to be addressed, a tentative plan for future work, and lessons learned.

PHASE II: Develop, install, integrate and demonstrate a prototype system determined to be the most feasible solution during the Phase I feasibility study. This demonstration should focus specifically on:

1. Validating the product-market fit between the proposed solution and the proposed topic and define a clear and immediately actionable plan for running a trial with the proposed solution and the proposed customer.
2. Evaluating the proposed solution against the objectives and measurable key results as defined in the Phase I feasibility study.
3. Describing in detail how the solution can be scaled to be adopted widely (e.g., how can it be modified for scale).
4. A clear transition path for the proposed solution that takes into account input from all affected stakeholders including, but not limited to: end users, engineering, sustainment, contracting, finance, legal, and cyber security.
5. Specific details about how the solution can integrate with other current and potential future solutions.
6. How the solution can be sustainable (i.e. supportability).
7. Clearly identifying other specific DoD or governmental customers who want to use the solution.

PHASE III DUAL USE APPLICATIONS: The contractor will pursue commercialization of the various technologies developed in Phase II for transitioning expanded mission capability to a broad range of potential government and civilian users and alternate mission applications. Interested government end users may include the Air Force, the DoD Chief Digital and AI Office (CDAO), DARPA, White House Office of Science and Tech Policy (OSTP), Dept of Education, Dept of Commerce, and NIST, all of whom have been looking at the problem of detecting and mitigating bias in AI as part of an inter-agency working group. For example, mitigating bias in one of the DoD's responsible AI principles and it is widely recognized that bias remains a hurdle for responsible AI adoption. Bias also remains a hurdle for operational AI adoption, to ensure robustness of AI to rare and unlikely events. Of course, these problems also affect and are pervasive in industry, thereby motivating the dual use of the proposed technologies.

Example industrial applications include the de-biasing of generative models, which have been shown to reflect inherent biases, as well as to create new biases as a result of current de-biasing techniques.

Direct access with end users and government customers will be provided with opportunities to receive Phase III awards for providing the government additional research and development, or direct procurement of products and services developed in coordination with the program.

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1. Zhang, Gong, et al. "Forget-me-not: Learning to forget in text-to-image diffusion models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
2. D'Inca, Moreno, et al. "OpenBias: Open-set Bias Detection in Text-to-Image Generative Models." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2024.
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KEYWORDS: AI Bias, Trustworthy AI, Trusted AI, Fair AI, Bias Mitigation

Appendix A: DARPA PHASE I PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

I. Introduction

A complete proposal submission consists of:

Volume 1: Proposal Cover Sheet

Volume 2: Technical Volume

Volume 3: Cost Volume

Volume 4: Company Commercialization Report

Volume 5: Supporting Documents

a. Verification of Eligibility of Small Business Joint Ventures (Attachment 3), if applicable

b. Data Rights Assertions, if applicable

c. Allocation of Rights

d. Other supporting documentation

A completed proposal submission in DSIP does NOT indicate that the mandatory supporting documents have been uploaded. It is the responsibility of the proposing small business concern to ensure that the mandatory documents listed above have been uploaded and included with the proposal submission.

Volume 6: Fraud, Waste and Abuse Training

Volume 7: Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries

The Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) provides a structure for building the proposal volumes and submitting a consolidated proposal package. If this is your first time submitting an STTR proposal using DSIP, please review detailed training guides at <https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/learning-support/training-materials>. It is the responsibility of the proposing firm to ensure that a complete proposal package is certified and submitted by the close date listed in the topic to which they are responding. ***DARPA will not accept late proposals.***

To assist in proposal development, templates for Volume 2: Technical Volume and Volume 3: Cost Volume have been provided as attachments on the DARPA Small Business website at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/fy25-topics>. Use of the DARPA Cost Proposal template is mandatory.

II. Proprietary Information

Proposers that include in their proposals data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose, or used by the Government except for evaluation purposes, shall follow instructions in the DoD STTR BAA regarding marking propriety proposal information.

III. Phase I Proposal Instructions

a. Proposal Cover Sheet (Volume 1)

The Cover Sheet must include a brief technical abstract of no more than 3000 characters that describes the proposed research and development project with a discussion of anticipated benefits and potential commercial applications. **Do not include proprietary or classified information in the Proposal Cover Sheet.** If your proposal is selected for award, the technical abstract and discussion of anticipated benefits may be publicly released.

b. Format of the Technical Volume (Volume 2) – White Paper & Slide Deck

1. The Technical Volume must include two parts, PART ONE: white paper, and PART TWO: slide deck, combined as a single Portable Document Format (PDF) for upload to DSIP.
2. Type of File: The Technical Volume must be a single PDF file, including graphics. Perform a virus check before uploading the Technical Volume file. If a virus is detected, it may cause rejection of the proposal. Do not lock or encrypt the uploaded file. Do not include or embed active graphics such as videos, moving pictures, or other similar media in the document.
3. Length: The length of the white paper shall not exceed 10 pages, and the slide deck shall not exceed five (5) pages/slides. The Government will not consider pages in excess of the page count limitations.
4. Layout: Number all pages of your proposal consecutively. Font size should not be smaller than 10-point on standard 8-1/2" x 11" paper with one-inch margins. The header on each page of the Technical Volume should contain your company name, topic number, and proposal number assigned by DSIP when the Cover Sheet was created. The header may be included in the one-inch margin.

c. Content of the Technical Volume (Volume 2) – White Paper & Slide Deck

White Paper (not to exceed 10 pages). Provide the following information:

Goals and Impact: Clearly describe what is being proposed and what difference it will make (qualitatively and quantitatively), including a brief discussion on how this directly relates to the topic.

1. Technical Plan: Provide an explicit, detailed description of the Phase I approach. The Statement of Work should indicate what tasks are planned, how and where the work will be conducted, a schedule of major events, and the final product(s) to be delivered. The Phase I effort should attempt to determine the technical feasibility of the proposed concept. The methods planned to achieve each objective or task should be discussed explicitly and in detail.
2. Management and Capabilities: Designate key personnel who will be involved in the Phase I effort. Provide a brief summary of expertise of the team, including subcontractors and key personnel. Describe the organizational experience in this technology area, previous work not directly related to the proposed effort but similar, existing intellectual property required to complete the project, and any specialized facilities to be used as part of the project. List Government-furnished materials or data assumed to be available. Describe any specialized facilities to be used as part of the project, the extent of access to these facilities, and any biological containment, biosafety, and certification requirements.
3. Transition and Commercialization Plan (not to exceed five (5) pages of the 10-page white paper):
 - a) Describe the commercial product or DoD system to be developed.
 - b) Discuss the potential end users – DoD, Federal, and/or private sector customers. Discuss your business model for this technology (i.e., how do you anticipate generating revenue with this technology?). Who are you selling to directly or indirectly, a supplier, an integrator, or an end user?

- c) Describe your company's funding history. Discuss how much additional funding above this proposed effort (include additional required technology development, staffing requirements, infrastructure requirements, intellectual property (IP) strategy costs, etc.) will be required to bring this technology to market and how you anticipate going about getting that funding (e.g., Government S&T contracts, investment).
- d) Describe the timeline to maturity for sales or transition to an end user. Describe your IP strategy.
- e) Describe the technology, market, team and business risks associated with this proposed effort and your plan to mitigate these risks.

Slide Deck (not to exceed five (5) slides). Provide the following information (convert the completed deck to a PDF and attach it to the white paper):

1. What are you trying to do and how does this directly relate to the topic?
2. Technology and commercial product: Specifically, what are you proposing to produce – software, system, application? Be specific on what your proposed technology development is targeting as an end state.
3. How is the technology approached today? Who is doing the research, development and delivering products/services? What are the current limitations in the technology and commercial marketplaces?
4. Management: Overview of team, facilities and qualifications.
5. Technical summary quad chart: Use template provided at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/fy25-topics>.

NOTE: All letters of recommendation, CVs, and Data Rights Assertions can be loaded in Volume 5: Supporting Documents.

d. Format of Cost Volume (Volume 3)

Proposers are required to use the Phase I – Volume 3: Cost Proposal Template (Excel Spreadsheet) provided at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/fy25-topics>.

e. Content of the Cost Volume (Volume 3)

Some items in the Cost Breakdown Guidance below may not apply to the proposed project. If such is the case, there is no need to provide information on every item.

For Phase I proposals, proposers should NOT provide documentation to substantiate how all proposed costs were derived. However, proposers should be prepared to provide such documentation should the Contracting Officer request this documentation. If any substantiating documentation is requested by the Contracting Officer, it is important to respond as quickly as possible to the request as to not delay contract negotiation.

Examples of substantiating documentation are as follows, if you proposed travel cost to attend

a project-related meeting or conference, and used a travel website to compare flight costs, include a screen shot of the comparison. Similarly, if you proposed to purchase materials or equipment, and used the internet to search for the best source, include your market research for those items. You do not necessarily have to propose the cheapest item or supplier, but you should be able to explain your decision to choose one item or supplier over another. It's important to provide enough information to allow contracting personnel to understand how the proposer plans to use the requested funds.

Cost Breakdown Guidance:

- List all key personnel by name as well as by number of hours dedicated to the project as direct labor.
- Special tooling and test equipment and material cost may be included. The inclusion of equipment and material will be carefully reviewed relative to need and appropriateness for the work proposed. The purchase of special tooling and test equipment must, in the opinion of the Contracting Officer, be advantageous to the Government and should be related directly to the specific topic. These may include such items as innovative instrumentation and/or automatic test equipment. Title to property furnished by the Government or acquired with Government funds will be vested with DARPA; unless it is determined that transfer of title to the contractor would be more cost effective than recovery of the equipment by the DARPA.
- Cost sharing is permitted for proposals under this BAA; however, cost sharing is not required, nor will it be an evaluation factor in the consideration of a proposal.
- If Subcontractors will be performing Fundamental Research under the effort, please incorporate the following into proposal: 1) a separate statement of work (SOW) outlining the specific work that the proposer finds to qualify as Fundamental Research; OR 2) Within Prime contractor SOW identify which tasks are to be performed that are fundamental research.
- Proposers should complete both tabs within the Cost Proposal Spreadsheet (Cost Model & Milestone Chart)

For more information about cost proposals and accounting standards associated with contract awards, see the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) publication titled "Audit Process Overview – Information for Contractors" at <http://www.dcaa.mil>.

Please note, a separate, more detailed cost proposal spreadsheet will be provided for any Phase II Proposals.

f. Company Commercialization Report (Volume 4)

The Company Commercialization Report (CCR) allows companies to report funding outcomes resulting from prior SBIR and STTR awards. The Company Commercialization Report (CCR) is required for Phase I and Direct to Phase II proposals. Please refer to the DoD STTR Program BAA for full details on this requirement. Information contained in the CCR will not be considered by DARPA during proposal evaluations.

g. Supporting Documents (Volume 5)

In addition to required DoD documentation and certifications, small businesses may also submit additional documentation to support the Technical Volume (Volume 2) and the Cost Volume (Volume 3) in Volume 5. See Introduction for **required** certifications that must be included in Volume 5. The template for Data Rights Assertions is included in the

Phase I Template – Volume 2: Technical Volume at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/communities/small-business/fy25-topics>. For additional information, see the STTR 25.D Annual Program Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) at <https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/solicitation-documents/active-solicitations>.

h. Fraud Waste and Abuse (Volume 6)

The Fraud, Waste and Abuse (FWA) training is required for Phase I and Direct to Phase II proposals. FWA training provides information on what represents FWA in the SBIR/STTR program, the most common mistakes that lead to FWA, as well as the penalties and ways to prevent FWA in your firm. This training material must be thoroughly reviewed once per year. Plan ahead and leave ample time to complete this training based on the proposal submission deadline. Knowingly and willfully making any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations may be a felony under the Federal Criminal False Statement Act (18 U.S.C. § 1001), punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000, up to five years in prison, or both. Understanding the indicators and types of fraud, waste, and abuse that can occur is critical for the SBIR/STTR awardees' role in preventing the loss of research dollars.

i. Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries (Volume 7)

In accordance with Section 4 of the SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 and the SBA SBIR/STTR Policy Directive, the DoD will review all proposals submitted in response to this BAA to assess security risks presented by small business concerns seeking a Federally funded award. Small business concerns must complete the Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries webform in Volume 7 of the DSIP proposal submission (NOTE: PDF uploads will no longer be accepted). Full proposal submissions cannot be certified and submitted by the Corporate Official until Volume 7 is fully completed and the webform is submitted.

Please be aware that the Disclosures of Foreign Affiliations or Relationships to Foreign Countries WILL NOT be accepted as a Supporting Document in Volume 5 of the DSIP proposal submission. Do not upload any previous versions of this form to Volume 5.

For additional details, please refer to the DoD STTR Program BAA.

Appendix A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL TEMPLATE (VOLUME 2)

INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions and template apply to DoD SBIR/STTR Phase I topics and provide general guidelines for completing the Phase I Technical Volume. Information provided in the Service/Component-specific instructions for the topic of interest take precedence over any instructions listed below.

The template (beginning on the following page) is the format model that may be used to prepare the Phase I Technical Volume. Do not include the instructions provided on this page or any bracketed [] guidance in the template.

Disclosure

Offerors that include in their proposals data which they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose, or used by the U.S. Government except for evaluation purposes, must:

- (1) Mark the first page of each Volume of the Submission with the following legend:

"This proposal includes data that must not be disclosed outside the Government and must not be duplicated, used, or disclosed-in whole or in part-for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, a contract is awarded to this offeror as a result of-or in connection with-the submission of this data, the Government has the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in pages [insert numbers or other identification of sheets]";

- (2) Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend:

"Use or disclosure of data contained on this page is subject to the restriction on the first page of this volume."

Format

The Technical Volume shall meet the following requirements:

- Please refer to Service/Component-specific topic instructions for the page limit and how a technical volume is handled if the stated page count is exceeded. It is the proposing firm's responsibility to verify that the Technical Volume does not exceed the page limit after upload to DSIP. Unless otherwise noted, all content in the Technical Volume will count toward the limit.
- Single column format, single-spaced typed lines.
- Standard 8 ½" x 11" paper format.
- Page margins one inch on all sides. A header and footer may be included in the one-inch margin.
- **The header on each page of the Technical Volume should contain your company name, topic number, and DSIP-assigned proposal number.**
- No font smaller than 10-point. For headers, footers, imbedded tables, figures, images, or graphics that include text, a font size of smaller than 10-point is allowable, though proposers are cautioned that the text may be unreadable by evaluators.

Do not lock or encrypt the uploaded file. Do not include or embed active graphics such as videos, moving pictures, or other similar media in the document.

Delete this instruction page and begin the Technical Volume starting with the following page.

[Title]

Volume 2: Technical Volume

[Note: Remove the disclosure statement below if not applicable to your proposal. Refer to Instructions.]

This proposal includes data that must not be disclosed outside the Government and must not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, a contract is awarded to this offeror as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the Government has the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in pages <insert numbers or other identification of sheets>.

1. Identification and Significance of the Problem or Opportunity.

[Define the specific technical problem or opportunity addressed and its importance.]

2. Phase I Technical Objectives.

[Enumerate the specific objectives of the Phase I work, including the questions the research and development effort will try to answer to determine the feasibility of the proposed approach.]

3. Phase I Statement of Work (include Subcontractors and/or Research Institutions).

(a) [Provide an explicit, detailed description of the Phase I approach. If a Phase I option is required or allowed by the Component (refer to Component-specific instructions for topic of interest), describe appropriate research activities which would commence at the end of Phase I base period should the Component elect to exercise the option. The Statement of Work should indicate what tasks are planned, how and where the work will be conducted, a schedule of major events, and the final product(s) to be delivered. The Phase I effort should attempt to determine the technical feasibility of the proposed concept. The methods planned to achieve each objective or task should be discussed explicitly and in detail. This section should be a substantial portion of the Technical Volume.

(b) The BAA may contain topics that have been identified by the Program Manager as research or activities involving Human/Animal Subjects and/or Recombinant DNA. If Phase I performance includes performance of these kinds of research or activities, please identify the applicable protocols and how those protocols will be followed during Phase I. Please note that funds cannot be released or used on any portion of the project involving human/animal subjects or recombinant DNA research or activities until all of the proper approvals have been obtained. **SBCs proposing research involving human and/or animal use are encouraged to separate these tasks in the technical proposal and cost proposal in order to avoid potential delay of contract award.]**

4. Related Work.

[Describe significant activities directly related to the proposed effort, including any conducted by the principal investigator, the proposing firm, consultants, or others. Describe how these activities interface with the proposed project and discuss any planned coordination with outside sources. The Technical Volume must persuade evaluators of the proposer's awareness of the state of the art in the topic. Describe any previous work not directly related but similar to the proposed effort. Provide the following: (1) a short description, (2) the client for which work was performed (including the Government Point of Contact to be contacted including e-mail address and phone number), and (3) date of performance including project completion.]

5. Relationship with Future Research or Research and Development.

- (a) [State the anticipated results of the proposed approach if the project is successful.
- (b) Discuss the significance of the Phase I effort in providing a foundation for a Phase II research or research and development effort.
- (c) Identify the applicable clearances, certifications and approvals required to conduct Phase II testing. Outline the plan for ensuring timely completion of stated authorizations in support of a Phase II research or research and development effort.]

6. Commercialization Strategy.

[Describe in approximately one page the SBC's strategy for commercializing this technology in DoD, other Federal Agencies, and/or private sector markets. Provide specific information on the market need the technology will address and the size of the market. Also include a schedule showing the quantitative commercialization results from the project that your company expects to achieve.]

7. Key Personnel.

[Identify key personnel who will be involved in the Phase I effort including information on directly related education and experience. A concise technical resume of the principal investigator, including a list of relevant publications (if any), must be included (Please do not include Privacy Act Information). All resumes will count toward the page limit for Volume 2, as specified in the Component-specific instructions.]

[Principal Investigator Name]

[School, Degree, Year]

Relevant Experience

[A concise description of the principal investigator's relevant technical experience and its application to this topic.]

Relevant Awards or Patents

[List any awards received or patents granted or applications submitted for work related to this topic.]

Relevant Publications

[List any publications relevant to this topic.]

[Repeat this format as necessary to address the qualifications of all key personnel.]

8. Foreign Citizens.

[Identify any foreign citizens or individuals holding dual citizenship expected to be involved on this project as a direct employee, subcontractor, or consultant. For these individuals, please specify their country of origin, the type of visa or work permit under which they are performing and an explanation of their anticipated level of involvement on this project. The proposal may be deemed nonresponsive if the requested information is not provided. You may be asked to provide additional information during negotiations in order to verify the foreign citizen's eligibility to participate on an SBIR/STTR contract. Supplemental information provided in response to this paragraph will be protected in accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a), if applicable, and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6)). Note: If no foreign nationals will be involved in proposed work, the word "None" can be substituted for the table.]

Name [include direct employees, subcontractors, and consultants]	Foreign National (Yes/No)	Country of Origin	Type of Visa or Work Permit	Level of Involvement (Role)

9. Facilities/Equipment.

[Describe available instrumentation and physical facilities necessary to carry out the Phase I effort. Justify equipment purchases in this section and include detailed pricing information in the Cost Volume. State whether or not the facilities where the proposed work will be performed meet environmental laws and regulations of federal, state (name), and local Governments for, but not limited to, the following groupings: airborne emissions, waterborne effluents, external radiation levels, outdoor noise, solid and bulk waste disposal practices, and handling and storage of toxic and hazardous materials.]

10. Subcontractors/Consultants.

[Propose efforts as applicable to either SBIR or STTR as follows:

SBIR. Involvement of a university or other subcontractors or consultants in the project may be appropriate. A minimum of two-thirds of the research and/or analytical work in Phase I, as measured by direct and indirect costs, must be carried out by the proposing small business firm, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Contracting Officer. SBIR efforts may include subcontracts with Federal Laboratories and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs). A waiver is not required for the use of Federal Laboratories and FFRDCs; however, proposers must certify their use of such facilities on the proposal cover sheet. Subcontracts with other Federal organizations are not permitted. Note that universities cannot publicly release information related to Export Controlled/ITAR restricted topics. (Refer to the DoD SBIR/STTR Broad Agency Announcement for detailed eligibility requirements as it pertains to the use of subcontractors/consultants.)

STTR. Involvement of a Research Institution in the project is required. A minimum of 40 percent of the research and/or analytical work in Phase I, as measured by direct and indirect costs, must be conducted by the proposing small business firm, and a minimum of 30 percent of the research and/or tasks in Phase I, as measured by direct and indirect costs, must be conducted by a single Research Institution. STTR efforts may include subcontracts with Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs). A waiver is not required for the use of Federal Laboratories, but they do not qualify as a Research Partner; proposers may only subcontract to Federal Laboratories within the remaining 30 percent and must certify their use of such facilities on the proposal cover sheet. Subcontracts with other Federal organizations are not permitted. Note that universities cannot publicly release information related to Export Controlled/ITAR restricted topics. (Refer to the DoD SBIR/STTR Broad Agency Announcement for detailed eligibility requirements as it pertains to the use of subcontractors/consultants.)

11. Prior, Current or Pending Support of Similar Proposals or Awards.

[If a proposal submitted in response to this BAA is substantially the same as another proposal that was funded, is now being funded, or is pending with another Federal Agency, another or the same DoD Service/Component, you must disclose this on the proposal cover sheet and provide the following information:

- a) Name and address of the Federal Agency(s) or DoD Component to which a proposal was submitted, will be submitted, or from which an award is expected or has been received.
- b) Date of proposal submission or date of award.
- c) Title of proposal.
- d) Name and title of principal investigator for each proposal submitted or award received.
- e) Title, number, and date of BAA(s) or solicitation(s) under which the proposal was submitted, will be submitted, or under which award is expected or has been received.
- f) If award was received, provide contract number.
- g) Specify the applicable topics for each proposal submitted or award received.

Note: If this does not apply, state in the proposal "No prior, current, or pending support has been provided for proposed work."]

12. Identification and Assertion of Restrictions on the Government's Use, Release, or Disclosure of Technical Data or Computer Software.

The Offeror asserts for itself, or the persons identified below, that the Government's rights to use, release, or disclose the following technical data or computer software should be restricted:

Technical Data or Computer Software to be Furnished with Restrictions	Basis for Assertion	Asserted Rights Category	Name of Person or Organization Asserting Restrictions
[(LIST)]	[(LIST)]	[(LIST)]	[(LIST)]

[Completion of this table and submission of the proposal constitutes signature for the information listed in the table above.]

[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/INSTRUCTION: Rights in technical data, including software, developed under the terms of any contract resulting from proposals submitted in response to this BAA generally remain with the contractor, except that the Government obtains a royalty-free license to use such technical data only for Government purposes during the period commencing with contract award and ending twenty years after completion of the project under which the data were generated. This data must be marked with the restrictive legend specified in DFARS 252.227-7018 Class Deviation 2020-O0007. Upon expiration of the twenty-year restrictive license, the Government has unlimited rights in the SBIR/STTR data. During the license period, the Government may not release or disclose SBIR/STTR data to any person other than its support services contractors except: (1) For evaluation purposes; (2) As expressly permitted by the contractor; or (3) A use, release, or disclosure that is necessary for emergency repair or overhaul of items operated by the Government. See DFARS clause 252.227-7018 Class Deviation 2020-O0007 "Rights in Noncommercial Technical Data and Computer Software – Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program."

If a proposer plans to submit assertions in accordance with DFARS 252.227-7017 Class Deviation 2020-O0007, those assertions must be identified and assertion of use, release, or disclosure restriction **MUST** be included with your proposal submission. The contract cannot be awarded until assertions have been approved. Please note that only the table is included in the page limitation; any supporting data

concerning the contract/grant number and awarding agency, as well as planned use or need of the data asserted, can be provided in Volume 5, Supporting Documents.

The following instructions apply to the fields in the table above (Identification and Assertion of Restrictions on the Government's Use, Release, or Disclosure of Technical Data or Computer Software).

- 1) For technical data (other than computer software documentation) pertaining to items, components, or processes developed at private expense, identify both the deliverable technical data and each such item, component, or process. For computer software or computer software documentation identify the software or documentation.
- 2) Generally, development at private expense, either exclusively or partially, is the only basis for asserting restrictions. For technical data, other than computer software documentation, development refers to development of the item, component, or process to which the data pertain. The Government's rights in computer software documentation generally may not be restricted. For computer software, development refers to the software. Indicate whether development was accomplished exclusively or partially at private expense. If development was not accomplished at private expense, or for computer software documentation, enter the specific basis for asserting restrictions.
- 3) Enter asserted rights category (e.g., Government purpose license rights from a prior contract, rights in SBIR/STTR data generated under another contract, limited, restricted, or government purpose rights under this or a prior contract, or specially negotiated licenses).
- 4) Corporation, individual, or other person, as appropriate.

Enter "none" when all data or software will be submitted without restrictions.]

Appendix B DEFINITIONS

The following definitions from the SBA SBIR/STTR Policy Directive, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and other cited regulations apply to this BAA.

Commercialization

The process of developing products, processes, technologies, or services, and the production and delivery (whether by the originating party or others) of the products, processes, technologies, or services for Federal Government or commercial markets purchase or use.

Cooperative Research and Development

An SBC and a research institution jointly conduct R&D. For purposes of the STTR Program, the SBC performs 40 percent of the work, and the single research institution performs not less than 30 percent of the work. For purposes of the SBIR Program, this refers to work a research institution conducts as the SBC's subcontractor. The proposing SBC must conduct at least two-thirds of the research and/or analytical work in Phase I.

Covered Individual

An individual who contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of a R&D project proposed to be carried out with a DoD-funded award. DoD has further designated covered individuals as including all proposed key personnel.

Essentially Equivalent Work

Work that is substantially the same research, which is proposed for funding in more than one contract proposal or grant application submitted to the same federal agency or submitted to two or more different federal agencies for review and funding consideration; or work where a specific research objective and the research design for accomplishing the objective are the same or closely related to another proposal or award, regardless of the funding source.

Export Control

The International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), 22 CFR Parts 120 through 130, and the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), 15 CFR Parts 730 through 799, apply to all projects with military or dual-use applications that develop beyond fundamental research, which is basic and applied research ordinarily published and shared broadly within the scientific community. Details are available [here](#).

NOTE: Export control compliance statements found in the individual Service/Component-specific proposal instructions are not meant to be all inclusive. They do not remove any liability from the submitter to comply with applicable ITAR or EAR export control restrictions or from informing the U.S. Government of any potential export restriction as fundamental R&D efforts proceed.

Federal Laboratory

In 15 U.S.C. §3703, it means any laboratory, any federally funded R&D center (FFRDC), or any center established under 15 U.S.C. §§ 3705 & 3707 that a federal agency owns, leases, or otherwise uses and the Federal Government funds, whether the U.S. Government or the contractor operates.

Federally Funded Award

A Phase I, Phase II (including Direct to Phase II, sequential Phase II/subsequent Phase II and cross-agency Phase II), or Phase III SBIR or STTR award made using a funding agreement.

Foreign Affiliation

Under 15 U.S.C. § 638(e)(16), foreign affiliation means a funded or unfunded academic, professional, or institutional appointment or position with a foreign government or government-owned entity, whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary (including adjunct, visiting, or honorary). This includes appointments or positions deemed adjunct, visiting, or honorary with research institutions located in a foreign country of concern.

Foreign Country of Concern

In 15 U.S.C. § 638(e)(17), foreign country of concern means the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, or any other country the Secretary of State determines as a country of concern.

Foreign Entity

Foreign entity means any branch, partnership, group or sub-group, association, estate, trust, corporation or division of a corporation, non-profit, academic institution, research center, or organization that foreign owners, foreign investors, foreign management, or a foreign government establish, direct, or control.

Foreign Government

Foreign government means any government or governmental body, organization, or instrumentality, including government owned-corporations, other than the U.S. Government or U.S. state, territorial, tribal, or jurisdictional governments or governmental bodies. The term includes, but is not limited to, non-U.S. national and subnational governments, including their respective departments, agencies, and instrumentalities.

Foreign National

Foreign National (also known as Foreign Person) under 22 CFR 120.16 mean any natural person who is not a lawful permanent resident as defined by 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20) or who is not a protected individual as defined by 8 U.S.C. § 1324b(a)(3). It also means any foreign corporation, business association, partnership, trust, society, or any other entity or group that is not incorporated or organized to do business in the United States, as well as international organizations, foreign governments and any agency or subdivision of foreign governments (e.g., diplomatic missions).

“Lawfully admitted for permanent residence” means the status of having been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant in accordance with the immigration laws, such status not having changed.

"Protected individual" means an individual who (A) is a citizen or national of the United States, or (B) is an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence, is granted the status of an alien lawfully admitted for temporary residence under 8 U.S.C. § 1160(a) or 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(1), is admitted as a

refugee under 8 U.S.C. § 1157, or is granted asylum under Section 8 U.S.C. § 1158; but does not include (i) an alien who fails to apply for naturalization within six months of the date the alien first becomes eligible (by virtue of period of lawful permanent residence) to apply for naturalization or, if later, within six months after November 6, 1986, and (ii) an alien who has applied on a timely basis, but has not been naturalized as a citizen within two years after the date of the application, unless the alien can establish that the alien is actively pursuing naturalization, except that time consumed in the Service's processing the application shall not be counted toward the two-year period.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

- a. Fraud includes any false
- b. about a material fact or any intentional deception designed to deprive the United States unlawfully of something of value or to secure from the United States a benefit, privilege, allowance, or consideration to which an individual or business is not entitled.
- c. Waste includes extravagant, careless or needless expenditure of government funds, or the consumption of government property, that results from deficient practices, systems, controls, or decisions.
- d. Abuse includes any intentional or improper use of government resources, such as misuse of rank, position, or authority or resources.
- e. The SBIR/STTR Program training related to Fraud, Waste and Abuse is available [here](#). See Section 1.12 for reporting fraud, waste, and abuse.

Funding Agreement

Any contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered between any Federal Agency and any SBC for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work, including products or services, Federal Government-funded in whole or in part. DoD Services/Components will only use contracts and other transaction authority (OTA) agreements for all SBIR/STTR awards.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions

Department of Education [list](#) for historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions.

HUBZone Certified Small Business Concern

An SBC with SBA certification under the Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) Program (13 C.F.R. § 126) as a HUBZone firm listed in the dynamic small business search (DSBS).

Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program

As defined in 42 U.S.C § 19237, the term “malign foreign talent recruitment program” means-

- (A) 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-
- (i) 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 R&D 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 IP, materials, or data products;
- (ii) being required to recruit trainees or researchers to enroll in such program, position, or activity;
- (iii) 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 R&D award;
- (iv) being unable to terminate the foreign talent recruitment program contract or agreement except in extraordinary circumstances;
- (v) through funding or effort related to the foreign talent recruitment program, being limited in the capacity to carry out a R&D award or required to engage in work that would result in substantial overlap or duplication with a Federal R&D award;
- (vi) 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;
- (vii) being required to omit acknowledgment of the recipient institution with which the individual is affiliated, or the Federal research agency sponsoring the R&D award, contrary to the institutional policies or standard terms and conditions of the Federal R&D award;
- (viii) 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
- (ix) having a conflict of interest or conflict of commitment contrary to the standard terms and conditions of the Federal R&D award; and

(B) a program that is sponsored by-

- (i) 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;
- (ii) 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 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; 1 Public Law 115–232); or
- (iii) 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 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; 1 Public Law 115–232).

Performance Benchmark Requirements

SBCs with multiple SBIR/STTR awards must meet minimum performance requirements to be eligible to apply for a new Phase I or Direct-to-Phase II award. The purpose of these requirements is to ensure that Phase I SBCs with multiple prior SBIR/STTR awards are making progress towards commercializing the work done under those awards. The Phase I to Phase II transition rate addresses the extent to which an awardee progresses a project from Phase I to Phase II. The commercialization benchmark addresses the extent to which an awardee has moved past Phase II work towards commercialization.

The SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-183) amended the benchmarks' applications for more experienced firms. Detailed information on benchmark calculations and increased performance standards for more experienced firms can be found [here](#).

Personal Conflict of Interest

A situation in which an individual has a financial interest, personal activity, or relationship that could impair the employee's ability to act impartially and in the best interest of the government when performing under the contract. (A de minimis interest that would not "impair the employee's ability to act impartially and in the best interest of the government" is not covered under this definition.)

Among the sources of personal conflicts of interest are:

- a. The covered employee's, their close family members' or other members of their household's financial interests;
- b. Other employment or financial relationships (including seeking or negotiating for prospective employment or business); and
- c. Gifts, including travel.

Financial interests referred to in this definition's first paragraph may arise from:

- a. Compensation, including wages, salaries, commissions, professional fees, or fees for business referrals;
- b. Consulting relationships (including commercial and professional consulting and service arrangements, scientific and technical advisory board memberships, or serving as an expert witness in litigation);
- c. Services provided in exchange for honorariums or travel expense reimbursements;
- d. Research funding or other forms of research support;
- e. Investment in the form of stock or bond ownership or partnership interest (excluding diversified mutual fund investments);
- f. Real estate investments;
- g. Patents, copyrights, and other IP interests; or
- h. Business ownership and investment interests.

Principal Investigator/Program Manager

The principal investigator/project manager is the proposing SBC-designated individual who provides the scientific and technical direction to a funding agreement-supported project.

Proprietary Information

Proprietary information is any information that a SBC considers to be non-public information the SBC owns and is marked accordingly.

Research Institution

Any organization located in the United States that is:

- a. A university.
- b. A nonprofit institution as defined in Section 4(5) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980.
- c. A contractor-operated federally funded R&D center, as identified by the National Science Foundation in accordance with the government-wide FAR issued in accordance with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act Section 35(c)(1). A list of eligible FFRDCs is [here](#).

Research or Research and Development

Any activity that is:

- a. A systematic, intensive study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the subject studied.
- b. A systematic study directed specifically toward applying new knowledge to meet a recognized need; or
- c. A systematic knowledge application toward the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements.

Research Involving Animal Subjects

All activities involving animal subjects shall be conducted in accordance with DoDI 3216.01 “Use of Animals in DoD Programs,” 9 C.F.R. parts 1-4 “Animal Welfare Regulations,” National Academy of Sciences Publication “Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals,” as amended, and the Department of Agriculture rules implementing the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. §§ 2131-2159), as well as other applicable federal and state law and regulation and DoD instructions.

“Animal use” protocols apply to all activities that meet any of the following criteria:

- a. Any research, development, test, evaluation or training, (including experimentation) involving an animal or animals.
- b. An animal is defined as any living or dead, vertebrate organism (non-human) that is being used or is intended for use in research, development, test, evaluation or training.
- c. A vertebrate is a member of the subphylum Vertebrata (within the phylum Chordata), including birds and cold-blooded animals.

See DoDI 3216.01 for definitions of these terms and more information about the applicability of DoDI 3216.01 to work involving animals.

Research Involving Human Subjects

All research involving human subjects shall be conducted in accordance with 32 C.F.R. § 219 “The Common Rule,” 10 U.S.C. § 980 “Limitation on Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects,” and DoDI 3216.02 “Protection of Human Subjects and Adherence to Ethical Standards in DoD-Supported Research,” as well as other applicable federal and state law and regulations, and DoD Services/Component guidance. Proposing SBCs must be cognizant of and abide by the additional restrictions and limitations imposed on the DoD regarding research involving human subjects, specifically as they regard vulnerable populations (DoDI 3216.02), recruitment of military research subjects (DoDI 3216.02), and informed consent and surrogate consent (10 U.S.C. § 980) and chemical and biological agent research (DoDI 3216.02). Food and Drug Administration regulation and policies may also apply.

“Human use” protocols apply to all research that meets any of the following criteria:

- a. Any research involving an intervention or an interaction with a living person that would not be occurring or would be occurring in some other fashion but for this research.
- b. Any research involving identifiable private information. This may include data/information/specimens collected originally from living individuals (broadcast video, web-use logs, tissue, blood, medical or personnel records, health data repositories, etc.) in which the identity of the subject is known, or the identity may be readily ascertained by the investigator or associated with the data/information/specimens.

See DoDI 3216.02 for definitions of these terms and more information about the applicability of DoDI 3216.02 to research involving human subjects.

Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules

Any recipient performing research involving recombinant DNA molecules and/or organisms and viruses containing recombinant DNA molecules shall comply with the National Institutes of Health Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules, dated January 2011, as amended. The guidelines can be found at: https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/NIH_Guidelines.pdf. Recombinant DNA is defined as (i) molecules that are constructed outside living cells by joining natural or synthetic DNA segments to DNA molecules that can replicate in living cells or (ii) molecules that result from the replication of those described in (i) above.

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

A service-disabled veteran or service-disabled veterans-owned and controlled SBC defined in Small Business Act 15 USC § 632(q)(2) and SBA's implementing SDVOSB regulations (13 CFR 125).

Small Business Concern (SBC)

A concern that meets the requirements set forth in 13 C.F.R. § 121.702 (available [here](#)).

An SBC must satisfy the following conditions on the date of award:

- a. Is organized for profit, with a place of business located in the United States, which operates primarily within the United States, or which makes a significant contribution to the United States economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials or labor;
- b. Is in the legal form of an individual proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, joint venture, association, trust or cooperative, except that if the concern is a joint venture, each entity to the venture must meet the requirements set forth in paragraph (c) below;
- c. Is more than 50 percent directly owned and controlled by one or more individuals (who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the United States), other SBCs (each of which is more than 50 percent directly owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the United States), or any combination of these; and
- d. Has, including its affiliates, not more than 500 employees. (See [here](#) for definition of an affiliate.)

Subcontract

A subcontract is any agreement, other than one involving an employer-employee relationship, including consultants, the funding agreement awardee enters calling for supplies or services for the performance of the original funding agreement.

Subcontractor

Subcontractor means any supplier, distributor, vendor, firm, academic institution, research center, or other person or entity that furnishes supplies or services pursuant to a subcontract, at any tier.

United States

United States means the fifty states, the territories and possessions of the Federal Government, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the District of Columbia.

Women-Owned Small Business Concern

An SBC where one or more women own at least 51 percent, or in the case of any publicly owned business, women own at least 51 percent of the stock, and women control the management and daily business operations.

Appendix C

POTENTIAL APPLICABLE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION, DEFENSE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION SUPPLEMENT CLAUSES

Note: Green cells are potential required Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) clauses. Blue cells are potential required FAR and DFARS clauses, when applicable.

Clause Number	Title	Date	When Applicable
52.203-17	Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights	Nov-23	
52.203-19	Prohibition on Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements	Jan-17	
52.204-10	Reporting Executive Compensation and First-Tier Subcontract Awards	Jun-20	
52.204-13	System for Award Management Maintenance	Oct-18	
52.204-18	Commercial and Government Entity Code Maintenance	Aug-20	
52.204-19	Incorporation by Reference of Representations and Certifications	Dec-14	
52.204-21	Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems	Nov-21	
52.204-23	Prohibition on Contracting for Hardware, Software, and Services Developed or Provided by Kaspersky Lab and Other Covered Entities	Dec-23	
52.204-25	Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment	Nov-21	
52.204-27	Prohibition on a ByteDance Covered Application	Jun-23	
52.204-30	Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act Orders—Prohibition	Dec-23	
52.209-06	Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting with Contractors Debarred, Suspended, or Proposed for Debarment	Nov-21	
52.209-10	Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations	Nov-15	
52.219-06	Notice of Total Small Business Set-Aside	Nov-20	
52.219-08	Utilization of Small Business Concerns	Feb-24	
52.219-28	Post-Award Small Business Program Representation	Feb-24	
52.222-03	Convict Labor	Jun-03	
52.222-19	Child Labor-Cooperation with Authorities and Remedies	Feb-24	
52.222-21	Prohibition of Segregated Facilities	Apr-15	
52.222-25	Affirmative Action Compliance	Apr-84	
52.222-26	Equal Opportunity	Sep-16	
52.222-36	Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities	Jun-20	
52.222-50	Combating Trafficking in Persons	Nov-21	

Clause Number	Title	Date	When Applicable
52.225-01	Buy American-Supplies	Oct-22	
52.225-13	Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases	Feb-21	
52.226-07	Drug-Free Workplace	May-24	
52.226-08	Encouraging Contractor Policies to Ban Text Messaging While Driving	May-24	
52.227-01 Alt I	Authorization and Consent - Alternate I (Apr-84)	Jun-20	
52.227-02	Notice and Assistance Regarding Patent and Copyright Infringement	Jun-20	
52.227-11	Patent Rights-Ownership by the Contractor	May-14	
52.227-20	Rights in Data-SBIR Program	May-14	
52.232-11	Extras	Apr-84	
52.232-23	Assignment of Claims	May-14	
52.232-25	Prompt Payment	Jan-17	
52.232-33	Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer - System for Award Management	Oct-18	
52.232-39	Unenforceability of Unauthorized Obligations	Jun-13	
52.232-40	Providing Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors	Mar-23	
52.232-01	Disputes	May-14	
52.233-04	Applicable Law for Breach of Contract Claim	Oct-04	
52.242-15	Stop-Work Order	Aug-89	
52.243-01 Alt V	Changes-Fixed-Price Alternate V (Apr-84)	Aug-87	
52.244-06	Subcontracts for Commercial Products and Commercial Services	Feb-24	
52.246-09	Inspection of Research and Development (Short Form)	Apr-84	
52.252-02	Clauses Incorporated by Reference	Feb-98	
52.252-06	Authorized Deviations in Clauses	Nov-20	
52.253-01	Computer Generated Forms	Jan-91	
252.203-7000	Requirements Relating to Compensation of Former DoD Officials	Sep-11	
252.203-7002	Requirement to Inform Employees of Whistleblower Rights	Dec-22	
252.204-7000	Disclosure of Information	Oct-16	
252.204-7003	Control of Government Personnel Work Product	Apr-92	
252.204-7008	Compliance with Safeguarding Covered Defense Information Controls	Oct-24	
252.204-7009	Limitations on the Use or Disclosure of Third-Party Contractor Reported Cyber Incident Information	Jan-23	
252.204-7012	Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting (DEVIATION 2024-O0013)	May-24	
252.204-7016	Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services—Representation	Dec-19	

Clause Number	Title	Date	When Applicable
252.204-7017	Prohibition on the Acquisition of Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services—Representation	May-21	
252.204-7018	Prohibition on the Acquisition of Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services	Jan-23	
252.204-7019	Notice of NISTSP 800-171 DoD Assessment Requirements	Nov-23	
252.204-7020	NIST SP 800-171 DoD Assessment Requirements	Nov-23	
252.204-7022	Expediting Contract Closeout	May-21	
252.204-7024	Notice on the use of the Supplier Performance Risk System	Mar-23	
252.227-7016	Rights in Bid or Proposal Information	Jan-23	
252.227-7018	Rights in Noncommercial Technical Data and Computer Software--Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program (DEVIATION 2020-O0007) (Jul 23)	Nov-23	
252.227-7019	Validation of Asserted Restrictions--Computer Software	Jan-23	
252.227-7025	Limitations on the Use or Disclosure of Government-Furnished Information Marked with Restrictive Legends	Jan-23	
252.227-7030	Technical Data--Withholding of Payment	Mar-00	
252.227-7037	Validation of Restrictive Markings on Technical Data	Jan-23	
252.227-7039	Patents--Reporting of Subject Inventions	Apr-90	
252.232-7003	Electronic Submission of Payment Requests and Receiving Reports	Dec-18	
252.232-7006	Wide Area WorkFlow Payment Instructions	Jan-23	
252.232-7010	Levies on Contract Payments	Dec-06	
252.235-7010	Acknowledgment of Support and Disclaimer	May-95	
252.235-7011	Final Scientific or Technical Report	Dec-19	
252.243-7001	Pricing of Contract Modifications	Dec-91	
252.244-7000	Subcontracts for Commercial Items	Nov-23	
52.203-03	Gratuities	Apr-84	Exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.203-05	Covenant Against Contingent Fees	May-14	Exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.203-06 or Alt I	Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government or ALT I	Nov-21	Exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold, Alt I commercial products or commercial services.
52.203-07	Anti-Kickback Procedures	Jun-20	Contracts exceeding \$150,000.
52.203-08	Cancellation, Rescission, and Recovery of Funds for Illegal or Improper Activity	May-14	Exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.203-10	Price or Fee Adjustment for Illegal or Improper Activity	May-14	Exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.203-12	Limitation on Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions	Jun-20	Contracts exceeding \$150,000.
52.204-02	Security Requirements	Mar-21	May require access to classified information; cost contract (see 16.302) for research and development with an educational institution is contemplated.

Clause Number	Title	Date	When Applicable
52.212-04	Contract Terms and Conditions— Commercial Products and Commercial Services	Nov-23	Commercial products or commercial services.
52.212-05	Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders- Commercial Items	May-24	Commercial products or commercial services.
52.219-14	Limitations on Subcontracting	Oct-22	Set aside for small business and the contract amount is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.222-35	Equal Opportunity for Veterans	Jun-20	Contracts exceed \$150,000.
52.222-37	Employment Reports on Veterans	Jun-20	If contract contains 52.222-35.
52.222-40	Notification of Employee Rights Under the National Labor Relations Act	Dec-10	Exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.222-54	Employment Eligibility Verification	May-22	Contracts exceed \$150,000.
52.223-03	Hazardous Material Identification and Material Safety Data	Feb-21	Requires the delivery of hazardous materials.
52.229-03	Federal, State, and Local Taxes	Feb-13	A fixed-price contract is contemplated; and the contract is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.232-02	Payment under Fixed-Price Research and Development Contracts	Apr-84	Fixed Price R&D.
52.233-03	Protest After Award	Aug-96	Exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.242-13	Bankruptcy	Jul-95	Exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.242-17	Government Delay of Work	Apr-84	Supplies other than commercial or modified-commercial products.
52.245-01	Government Property	Sep-21	When property is expected to be furnished.
52.245-09	Use and Charges	Apr-12	When the clause at 52.245-1 is included.
52.246-04	Inspection of Services-Fixed Price	Aug-96	Services, or supplies that involve the furnishing of services, when a fixed-price contract is contemplated, and the contract amount is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.246-16	Responsibility for Supplies	Apr-84	Supplies, services involving the furnishing of supplies, or research and development, when a fixed-price contract is contemplated, and the contract amount is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.246-23	Limitation of Liability	Feb-97	Exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.
52.247-34	F.o.b. Destination	Nov-91	When the delivery term is f.o.b. destination.
252.204-7015	Notice of Authorized Disclosure of Information for Litigation Support	Jan-23	Commercial products and commercial services.
252.209-7004	Subcontracting with Firms that are Owned or Controlled by the Government of a Country that is a State Sponsor of Terrorism	May-19	Contracts value of \$150,000 or more.
252.211-7003	Item Identification and Valuation	Jan-23	For supplies, and for services involving the furnishing of supplies.
252.223-7001	Hazard Warning Labels	Dec-91	Requires submission of hazardous material data sheets.
252.223-7008	Prohibition of Hexavalent Chromium	Jan-23	For supplies, maintenance and repair services, or construction.
252.225-7001	Buy American and Balance of Payments Program	Feb-24	Acquisition of commercial products and commercial services.

Clause Number	Title	Date	When Applicable
252.225-7002	Qualifying Country Sources as Subcontractors	Mar-22	(i) 252.225-7001, Buy American and Balance of Payments Program. Use if one or more is included: (ii) 252.225-7021, Trade Agreements. (iii) 252.225-7036, Buy American - Free Trade Agreements - Balance of Payments Program.
252.225-7012	Preference for Certain Domestic Commodities	Apr-22	Commercial products and commercial services.
252.225-7052	Restriction on Acquisition of Certain Magnets, Tantalum, and Tungsten	May-24	Products and commercial services, that exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.
252.225-7056	Prohibition Regarding Business Operations with the Maduro Regime	Jan-23	Commercial products and commercial services.
252.225-7060	Prohibition on Certain Procurements from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region	Jun-23	Products utilizing funds appropriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year.
252.225-7972	Prohibition on the Procurement of Foreign-Made Unmanned Aircraft Systems (DEVIATION 2020-O0015)	May-20	
252.225-7967	Prohibition Regarding Russian Fossil Fuel Business Operations (DEVIATION 2024-O0006, Revision 1)	Feb-24	Exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.
252.228-7001	Ground and Flight Risk	Mar-23	Acquisition, development, production, modification, maintenance, repair, flight, or overhaul of aircraft owned by or to be delivered to the Government.
252.228-7005	Mishap Reporting and Investigation Involving Aircraft, Missiles, and Space Launch Vehicles	Nov-19	Acquisition, development, production, modification, maintenance, repair, flight, or overhaul of aircraft owned by or to be delivered to the Government.
252.235-7002	Animal Welfare	Dec-14	Uses live vertebrate animals.
252.235-7004	Protection of Human Subjects	Jul-09	Involving human subjects.
252.243-7002	Requests for Equitable Adjustment	Dec-22	Exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.
252.245-7003	Contractor Property Management System Administration	Apr-12	Containing the clause at FAR 52.245-1, Government Property.
252.245-7005	Management and Reporting of Government Property	Jan-24	Containing the clause at FAR 52.245-1, Government Property.
252.247-7023	Transportation of Supplies by Sea	Jan-23	Except - those with an anticipated value at or below the simplified acquisition threshold.