Open Two-Step Advanced Research Announcement (ARA) Overview Information

To access hyperlinks from this electronic solicitation – Hit CTRL and click on the link.

This amendment will replace all prior versions. White papers are still being accepted for this ARA. Please read the ARA in its entirety for specific details on white paper and proposal submissions.

NAICS Code: The NAICS Code for this acquisition is 541715 and the small business size is 1,000 employees.

Federal Agency Name: Air Force Research Laboratory, AFRL/RX Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, AFRL/RXMZ, the AFRL Energy Office

ARA Title: Energy Office – **G**overnment **R**equirement for **A**dvanced **P**ower and **E**nergy (GRAPE)

ARA Type: This is an open ARA; AMENDMENT 06

ARA Number: FA8650-18-S-5008

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

This is an Open ARA announcement pursuant to the authority of 10 U.S.C. §4023 Procurement for Experimental Purposes. AFRL is interested in receiving white papers related to the AFRL Energy Office's mission to lead the discovery, development, delivery, and integration of energy science, technology, and innovation. The AFRL Energy Office's intent is to decouple mission effectiveness from energy, water, and other resource and supply chain vulnerabilities through the identification, development, and demonstration of critical technologies for the Department of Air Force (DAF).

Technologies that offer key benefits to users (e.g. increased combat capability, readiness, energy resiliency/reliability, increased cost–effectiveness, etc.) in the areas of Operational Energy, Advanced Agile Combat Equipment, and Installation Energy. The AFRL Energy Office's mission spans applied and advanced research and development through advanced technology demonstrations, including the required technology validation and risk reduction to facilitate technology transition. Dialogue between prospective Offerors and Government representatives is strongly encouraged.

This solicitation intends to use the acquisition authority provided by 10 U.S.C. §4023. This authority applies to the acquisition of items related to "…ordnance, signal, chemical activity, transportation, energy, medical, spaceflight, and aeronautical supplies, including parts and accessories, and designs thereof, that are necessary for experimental or test purposes in the development of the best supplies that are needed for the national defense." Consequently, white papers and proposals should address how the proposed effort provides benefits to the national defense relative to the parameters of this authority, and a strategy for verifying those intended benefits.

BACKGROUND:

Proposed solutions should be innovative and substantially improve national defense capabilities. While the Government describes discrete topic areas below, it also anticipates that certain comprehensive technology solutions, processes, methodologies, and prototypes may require multidisciplinary approaches that address two or more topic areas. The topic areas covered under this announcement may be used in any combination. The Government reserves the right to add, delete or modify the topic areas as necessary.

Industry-Government Communication: Dialogue between prospective Offerors and Government representatives is strongly encouraged throughout the life of this ARA. However, communication shall be limited to the Contracting/Agreement Officer once full proposals are submitted for evaluation/review.

Discussions should focus on understanding Government objectives and requirements, feasibility of prospective offeror approach, and prospective offeror prior similar efforts.

Discussions shall not constitute a commitment by the Government to subsequently fund or award any proposed effort. No guidance related to technical approach will be given. Offerors are advised that only Contracting or Agreement Officers are legally authorized to contractually bind or otherwise commit the Government.

ANNOUNCEMENT DETAILS:

This is a HYBRID ANNOUNCEMENT. This announcement includes an open request for white papers as described below. Additionally, individual solicitations for white papers (Two-Step solicitation) and/or proposals (One-Step solicitation) related to discrete requirements may be issued. AFRL reserves the right to collapse a white paper (Two-Step solicitation) into a One-Step if the situation warrants and the white paper contains sufficient technical detail to do full technical proposal evaluation instead of white paper evaluation.

Open Announcement Request: AFRL/RXKMS is soliciting white papers on the research effort described in the below topic areas pursuant to the authorities listed in Type of Contract/Instrument section below. White papers submitted pursuant to the open announcement request follow the two-step procedures described below. White papers submitted under the open announcement request may be retained for 12 months.

Individual Solicitation Request: Individual Solicitations, except for Limited Solicitations, for white papers and proposals will be issued under this announcement via the Government Point of Entry (GPE) at https://sam.gov. Notification of Individual Solicitations may be announced on other platforms (i.e. www.grants.gov) and will direct Offerors to the GPE for full solicitation details.

Individual Solicitation Submissions: Submission requirements for Individual Solicitations will be specified in the solicitation details of each Individual Solicitation.

Individual Solicitation Variations: Variations of the ARA Individual Solicitation process are available for use. The following types are commonly used but are not considered all inclusive.

One-Step: The one-step process is used to request full technical and cost proposals from each Offeror. The proposals are reviewed in accordance with the solicitation criteria and typically all, part, or none of a proposal may be selected for award.

Two-Step: The two-step process is used to request white papers and Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) costs. The Individual Solicitation must state whether an unfavorable white paper review will bar the Offeror from further consideration. The Government may retain unselected white papers for a specific period, which will be identified in the individual solicitation. White papers submitted under the open announcement request may be retained for 12 months. Full proposals are requested from those Offerors selected in the white paper review process. After proposals are received, they are processed and reviewed in accordance with the One-Step process.

Limited Individual Solicitations: This approach allows for solicitation to a limited group of potential offerors. Request for Proposals (RFP) or Requests for white papers will be issued directly to potential offerors without a requirement to publish to the GPE. The Government may issue solicitations that combine one or more of the above approaches.

Announcement Modifications: Offerors are highly encouraged to continually monitor https://sam.gov to ensure they receive the latest guidance for this announcement.

The Government shall provide updates to this announcement no less than annually. Updates may include changes to topic areas, submission requirements, administrative changes, evaluation criteria, solicitation methods, etc. (not an inclusive list).

Type of Contract/Instrument: The Government reserves the right to award the instrument best suited to the nature of the research proposed. Accordingly, the Government may award any appropriate contract, agreement or assistance instrument type under the authorities below:

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)

10 U.S.C. §4021 "Other Transaction for Research" 10 U.S.C. §4022 "Other Transaction for Prototype"

10 U.S.C. §4023 "Procurement for Experimental Purposes"

32 C.F.R. §22.215 – Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Government anticipates that a mix of contract/ instrument types will be used throughout the life of this announcement. Generally, awards under this announcement or any Individual Solicitations may be Cost-Plus-Fixed Fee (Completion and Term), Cost Reimbursement, Firm Fixed Price, Cost Sharing, and Incentive.

NOTE: If a Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) type contract is recommended as the award type authority, then the FAR clauses will be referenced at the Individual Solicitation level or within the Request for Proposal. The FAR and FAR supplement provisions and clauses will be incorporated by reference. The full text of these provisions and clauses can be found at https://www.acquisition.gov.

If an assistance instrument (grants or cooperative agreements) is recommended as the award type, then articles and guidance found under DoDGARS, 200 CFR, OMB/DoD Policy shall be used and followed as appropriate.

If an Other Transaction (OT) is recommended as the award type, then the FAR references and clauses will not apply. The terms and conditions of an OT agreement shall be developed and negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Anticipated Number of Awards: The Air Force anticipates awarding multiple awards for this announcement. However, the Air Force reserves the right to award zero, one, or more grants, agreements, other transactions, or contracts for all, some or none of the solicited effort based on the Offeror's ability to perform desired work and funding availability. There is no limit on the number of awards that may be made to an individual Offeror.

Award Schedule: The anticipated period of performance will be determined through dialogue between prospective Offerors and Government representatives for each topic area and specified in each individual award. Individual Solicitations may elect to provide a desired technical execution schedule for planning purposes.

Deliverables: Hardware and software deliverables will be specified within a separately priced contract/award line items and data deliverables will be specified on individual Contract Data Requirements List(s) (CDRLs) in any resultant contract or an OT article.

Within Scope Award Modifications: Offerors are advised that due to the inherent uncertainty of research and development efforts, awards resulting from this announcement may be modified during performance to make within scope changes, to include but not limited to, modifications which increase overall contract/award ceiling amount.

System for Award Management (SAM) Registration: Before the Government can issue an award, an Offeror must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). If an Offeror was previously registered in Central Contractor Registration (CCR), the information has been transferred to SAM. However, it is in the Offeror's interest to visit SAM and ensure that all their data is up to date from SAM and other databases to avoid delay in award. SAM replaced CCR, Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). SAM allows firms interested in conducting business with the federal government to provide basic information on business capabilities and financial information. To register, visit https://www.sam.gov.

Science & Technology (S&T) Program Protection: The Government will review the submitted S&T protection documentation only for those proposals categorized as Selectable and selected for funding and negotiations.

Science and Technology (S&T) Protection Initial Risk Review:

Personnel Risk Assessment: The Government will review non-government research key/senior performers identified by the offeror on the initial SF 424 for workload conflicts and conflicts of interest.

Initial Institution S&T Protection Program Review: The Government will review the offeror's security program information submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of this section (above) to identify any potential risks and ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect S&T information.

The Government may require the offeror to submit additional information and/or a mitigation plan for any identified S&T protection risks. If the Government determines the offeror failed to provide adequate additional information; or an acceptable mitigation plan; or it is determined the offeror's S&T protection approach is high risk and does not provide adequate protection of S&T information, the Government may reject the proposal and withdraw it from consideration for award.

S&T Protection Annual Risk Review: In accordance with SOW Supplemental Requirements, the Contractor shall provide an SF 424 with the following information: 1) an initial report of all Senior/Key Personnel at the time of award; 2) an annual report of all Senior/Key Personnel providing support; and 3) a report for any new Senior/Key Personnel who join the contract, agreement, grant, or OT. Any updated SF 424s for new Senior/Key Personnel supporting the award require coordination from the Government prior to the contractor employee receiving access to S&T information. The purpose of this report is oversight and should not be construed as relieving the contractor/recipient of any S&T Protection requirements within the contract, grant, agreement, or OT.

See Attachment 2: Security Risk Review – AFRLI 61-113. However, the Government may require the offeror to submit additional information &/or a mitigation plan for any identified S&T protection risks. If the Government determines the offeror failed to provide adequate additional information; or an acceptable mitigation plan; or it is determined the offeror's S&T protection approach is high risk & does not provide adequate protection of S&T information, the Government may reject the proposal & withdraw it from consideration for award.

WHITE PAPERS: *WILL BE A TWO-STEP SOLICITATION:*

First Step: WHITE PAPER DUE DATE AND TIME: This ARA is open and effective from 3 May 2018 until 31 December 2027. White Papers will be considered if received any time prior to 31 December 2027 at 3:00 p.m. Wright-Patterson AFB, OH local time. **Please do not send white papers prior to 3 May 2018. Whitepapers shall be submitted electronically to the Contracting POC.**

Second Step: **PROPOSAL DUE DATE AND TIME:** To be provided in the Requests for Proposals sent to offerors that submit White Papers considered to meet the needs of the Air Force.

FUTURE CALLS WILL BE ISSUED AS AMENDMENTS TO THIS ARA.

CALLS WILL BE ONE OR TWO STEP SOLICITATIONS AND CAN BE OPEN OR CLOSED

> ****Note The Government will suspend white paper submission for project areas identified in any active Call and this will be stated in the Call announcement. If the Government receives a white paper tied to an active Call, the white paper will not be reviewed.**

ONE STEP CALL (Closed): Periodically over the period of this ARA, Call announcements (Calls) may be issued under FA8650-18-S-5008 to request proposals for specific needs within the Technical Areas described in Section I.1 below. Offerors should monitor the official U.S. government website for federal awards at https://SAM.gov in the event this announcement is amended or Calls are issued. CLOSED CALLS will be issued with a specified period for submitting proposals. The proposals are due NLT the date and time specified within the CALL.

ONE STEP CALL (open): Periodically over the period of this ARA, Call announcements (Calls) may be issued under FA8650-18-S-5008 to request proposals for specific needs within the Technical Areas described in Section I.1. Offerors should monitor the official U.S. government website for federal awards at https://SAM.gov in the event this announcement is amended or Calls are issued. OPEN CALLS will be issued and remain active for an unspecified period of time and cancelled upon the discretion of the program office.

TWO STEP CALL(Closed): Periodically over the period of this ARA, Call announcements (Calls) may be issued under FA8650-18-S-5008 to request proposals for specific needs within the Technical Areas described in Section I.1.

Step One: Offerors are invited to submit white papers and a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) on their proposed project (which must fall within the Technical Area(s) identified in the CALL"). The white papers are due NLT the date and time specified within the CALL.

Step Two: If a white paper is reviewed favorably with respect to the Government Review Criteria and funding is available, AFRL/RXKM may request a formal technical and cost proposal from the offeror. Due dates and times will be specified in each Request for Proposal (RFP).

Submitted proposals will be evaluated IAW the proposal review information and may be selected for negotiations and award.

Offerors should monitor the official U.S. government website for federal awards at https://SAM.gov in the event this announcement is amended.

TWO STEP CALL (open): Periodically over the period of this ARA, Call announcements (Calls) may be issued under FA8650-18-S-5008 to request proposals for specific needs within the Technical Areas described in Section I.1
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Step One: Offerors are invited to submit white papers and a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) on their proposed project (which must fall within the technical area(s) identified in the call) any time while the CALL remains active

IAW the instructions stated in this ARA. CALLS will be issued and remain active for an unspecified period of time and cancelled upon the discretion of the program office. The period for submitting white papers will remain open as long as the CALL remains active.

Step Two: If a white paper is reviewed favorably with respect to the Government Review Criteria and funding is available, AFRL/RXKM may request a formal technical and cost proposal from the offeror. Due dates and times will be specified in each Request for Proposal (RFP).

Submitted proposals will be evaluated IAW the proposal review information and may be selected for negotiations and award.

Offerors should monitor the official U.S. government website for federal awards at https://SAM.gov in the event this announcement is amended.

NOTE: Any white paper or proposal received at the Government Office designated in this ARA after the exact time specified for receipt of offers is "late" and will not be considered except at the Contracting Point of Contract's discretion. It should be noted that this installation observes strict security procedures to enter the facility. These security procedures are NOT considered an interruption of normal Government processes, and proposals received after the above stated date and time as a result of security delays will be considered "late." Furthermore, note that if offerors utilize commercial carriers in the delivery of proposals, they may not honor time-of-day delivery guarantees on military installations. Be advised, if the

U.S. Postal Service is used, this building only receives U.S. Postal Mail twice a week and delivery by that means may not meet the proposal due date and time established herein. Early white paper/proposal submission is encouraged.

Submission: White Papers and CALLS must be submitted via e-mail to the Contracting Point of Contact (POC): Charlotte Chumack, Contracting Officer, AFRL/RXKMS, Bldg 45, 2130 8th St., Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7541; email: charlotte.chumack@us.af.mil. and Yanosh Cerovcevic, Contracting Specialist, AFRL/RXKMS Bldg 45, 2130 8th St., Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; email: yanosh.cerovcevic@us.af.mil.

Annual Updates: It is noted that for ease of reference this ARA will be republished at yearly intervals for updates.

Solicitation Request: Air Force Research Laboratory, AFRL/RX Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is soliciting white papers on the research effort described below.

Type of Contract/Instrument: The Air Force reserves the right to award Contract(s) and/or Other Transaction(s) pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §4023 based on the instrument deemed most appropriate. It is anticipated that awards under this ARA will generally be Cost Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF) or Firm Fixed Price (FFP). REMINDER: Cost reimbursement contracts require successful offerors to have an accounting system considered adequate for tracking costs applicable to the contract.

NOTE: If proposing a Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) based contract, the FAR clause references in this ARA shall apply. This announcement incorporates FAR and supplement provisions and clauses by reference.

The full text of these provisions and clauses can be found at http://acquisition.gov If proposing an Other

Transaction (OT) pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §4023, these FAR references and clauses would not apply. The terms and conditions of an OT agreement should be developed and negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Estimated Program Cost: The total estimated program value is $197,840,000 with multiple awards ranging from $100,000.00 to $5,000,000.00 (the Government reserves the right to exceed this amount if necessary).

Anticipated Number of Awards: The Air Force anticipates awarding multiple awards for this announcement. However, the Air Force reserves the right to award zero, one, or more agreements and/or contracts, for all, some or none of the solicited effort based on the offeror's ability to perform desired work and funding fluctuations. There is no limit on the number of agreements or contracts that may be awarded to an individual offeror.

Brief Program Summary: Air Force Research Laboratory, AFRL/RX Materials & Manufacturing Directorate is soliciting white papers and potentially technical and cost proposals under this announcement that support the needs of the AFRL Energy Office, AFRL/RXMZ.

The AFRL Energy Office's mission is to lead the discovery, development, delivery, and integration of energy science, technology, and innovation. The AFRL Energy Office's intent is to decouple mission effectiveness from energy, water, and other resource and supply chain vulnerabilities through the identification, development, and demonstration of critical technologies for the Department of Air Force (DAF). Technologies that offer key benefits to users (e.g. increased combat capability, readiness, energy resiliency/reliability, increased cost– effectiveness, etc.) in the areas of Operational Energy, with end-users. The Energy Office's mission spans applied and advanced research and development through advanced technology demonstrations, including the performance of the required technology validation and risk reduction to facilitation technology transition.

Communication Between Prospective Offerors and Government Representatives: Dialogue between prospective offerors and Government representatives is encouraged until submission of proposals. Discussions with any of the points of contact shall not constitute a commitment by the Government to subsequently fund or award any proposed effort. No guidance related to technical approach will be given. However, questions related to the objectives of the effort or prior similar efforts may be answered. Only Contracting Officers are legally authorized to commit the Government. If there is any doubt as to whether a response provides a competitive advantage, the answer will be posted publicly via an amendment to this ARA on SAM.gov for all contractors to review. For those white papers not selected to provide a full proposal, notification and feedback will be managed by the Contracting POCs.

Address technical questions to the Technical POC: Eric Griesenbrock, Lead, AFRL Energy Office: eric.griesenbrock.1@us.af.mil

Address contracting questions to the Contracting POC: Charlotte Chumack, Contracting Officer, e-mail address: charlotte.chumack@us.af.mil

System for Award Management (SAM) Registration: SAM is the primary Government repository for prospective federal awardee information and the centralized Government system for awards. It replaces CCR/FedReg, On-line Representations and Certifications (ORCA) and the Excluded Parties Lists System (EPLS). Offerors shall be registered in the SAM database prior to submitting an invoice and through final payment of any award resulting from this ARA. Offerors may obtain information on registration and annual confirmation requirements via the SAM accessed through https://www.acquisition.gov or by calling 866-606-8220.

Full Text Announcement

I. Program Description: The Energy Office (AFRL/RXMZ), located in the Air Force Research Laboratory, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate (AFRL/RX), is soliciting white papers (and later technical and cost proposals if after the Government's review of the white paper it is determined that the white paper has the potential to best meet the Air Force's needs) on the following research effort:

1. **Statement of Objective/Description of Technical Area(s):** The purpose of the ARA is to research and explore advanced energy, water, and other critical resource technologies to provide increased capabilities and benefits to DAF weapon systems, platforms, installations, and equipment. This program shall identify new and emerging advanced power generation, energy resilience, and energy efficiency technologies to be further developed and transitioned to meet military needs across the Department of the Air Force. Emphasis will be on technologies that provide capability improvements, readiness improvements, cost reductions, reliability improvements, and other enhancements to the performance of Department of the Air Force (DAF) Aviation, Expeditionary, Installation, Space, and Agile Combat Equipment missions. Descriptors of technology interests are presented below in the context of applications which focus on enabling innovative solutions, methods, and understanding to meet specific performance goals. The following research areas are of interest.

   a) **Operational Energy (Aviation)** Innovative solutions that create an energy- optimized force that maximizes combat capability: increases in weapon system capabilities (range, endurance, number of sorties refueled, etc.), supply chain risk mitigation, improved readiness through reduced maintenance, and other expansion/enhancement of system capabilities via potential approaches not limited to: lightweight modern materials, drag reduction, electrical and/or lighting modifications, software enhancements, digital engineering for new platforms and systems.

   b) **Expeditionary Energy** Innovative solutions that improve warfighter capabilities in austere environments. self- sufficiency in resource poor, inhospitable, austere world- wide operations by reducing energy, water, logistical and operational footprints and risk.

   c) **Installation Energy** Innovative solutions that provide assured and resilient energy for mission assurance or optimize energy used in processes common to air base operations, maintenance depots, research laboratories, and test centers.

   d) **Space Power and Energy** Innovative solutions that provide increased capabilities for space applications including power generation, power transfer, and energy storage and conversion technologies.

   e) **Agile Combat Equipment** Innovative solutions that improve combat capability and readiness through optimized energy usage, autonomy, combat agility during CONUS/OCONUS operations, and operator health and safety conditions.

2. **Security REQUIREMENTS**

   a. OPERATIONS SECURITY (OPSEC)

   The contractor shall participate in all activities associated with the disciplines of the organization's Industrial Security, Information Security, Personnel Security, Operations Security (OPSEC), and Antiterrorism programs, following appropriate measures in each program as required for this particular contract.

   Security measures are required to reduce program vulnerability from successful adversary collection, exploitation of critical information, and violations of export control requirements. The prime contractor

shall ensure all subcontractors, if applicable, conform to these requirements as required by the prime contractor.

b. PROGRAM PROTECTION PLAN (PPP) REQUIREMENTS

Any potential critical program information (CPI) generated as part of this effort will be reviewed to determine the need for a PPP or to be included as part of an existing PPP.

3. **Within Scope Modifications:** Potential offerors are advised that due to the inherent uncertainty of research and development efforts, awards resulting from this announcement may be modified during performance to make within scope changes, to include but not limited to, modifications which increase overall contract ceiling amount.

4. **Deliverable Items:**
   a. Data items, DD Form 1423-1 CDRLs will be utilized on contract awards. Other Transactions will specify data items on a case-by-case basis.
   b. Software: Software deliverables to be determined (TBD) based on proposal, if applicable.
   c. Hardware: Hardware deliverables to be determined (TBD) based on proposal, if applicable.
   d. Other: To be determined for each award.

5. **Schedule**: Each award is anticipated to be between 12 to 24 months; however Period of Performance will be tailored to each award.

6. **Other Requirements:**
   a. Program security classification: It is anticipated that the majority of the awards will be unclassified. However, there may be instances when a secret facility clearance and secret safeguarding capability will be necessary depending on the white paper received. Actual Classification will be established on award-by-award basis. If a DD254 is applicable, offerors must verify their Cognizant Security Office information is current with Defense Security Service (DSS) at www.dss.mil.
   b. OPSEC: see Statement of Objectives.
   c. Export Control: Information involved in this research effort may be subject to Export Control (International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) 22 CFR 120-131, or Export Administration Regulations (EAR) 15 CFR 710-774). If effort may be subject to export control, then a Certified DD Form 2345, Militarily Critical Technical Data Agreement, will be required to be submitted with proposal.
   d. Export-Controlled Items: As prescribed by DFARS 225.7901-4, DFARS 252.225- 7048, "Export-Controlled Item (JUN 2013)" is contained in this solicitation. This clause shall be contained in ALL resulting contracts.
   e. Safety: The following safety requirements will be incorporated into the award: Must comply with all Air Force, federal, state and local safety and environmental regulations. Must comply with system safety requirements contained in MIL-STD 882E, Section 4 "Other Requirements" for any deliverable systems or hardware.
   f. Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) may apply to contract awards resulting from this BAA. Interim and final evaluations of contractor performance for contract awards will be prepared in accordance with AFFARS 5342.1503. The final performance evaluation will be prepared at the time of completion of work. In addition to the final evaluation,

interim evaluation(s) will be prepared annually. Awardees will be requested to provide a POC to receive notifications of the opportunity to provide feedback. The contractor will be permitted 14 days to review the document and to submit additional information or a rebutting statement. If agreement cannot be reached between the parties, the matter will be referred to an individual one level above the Contracting Officer, whose decision regarding the CPARS submission will be final. Copies of the assessments, contractor responses, and review comments, if any, will be retained as part of the contract file, and may be used to support future award decisions for other procurements.

7. Other Information:

a. Government Furnished Property (GFP) Availability: to be determined for each award. Access to appropriate government facilities and platforms will be provided by the government as appropriate and necessary to conduct experimentation. Additional GFP use may be considered if proposed and found to be in the best interest of the Government.

In accordance with FAR 45.201(b), the contractor is responsible for all costs related to making the property available for use, such as payment of all transportation, installation or rehabilitation costs.

If GFP is requested in a proposal, the following clauses/provisions apply:

i. FAR 52.245-1 Government Property or FAR 52.245-1, Alt II if the resulting contract is with a nonprofit organization or applied research at nonprofit organizations (SEP 2021);

ii. FAR 52.245-9 Use and Charges (Apr 2012);

iii. DFARS 252.245-7003, Contractor Property Management System Administration (Apr 2012);(JAN 2025)

iv. DFARS 252.245-7005, Management and Reporting of Government Property (JAN 2024)

b. Base Support/Network Access: Base Support/Network Access will be determined for each contract/agreement. If contractor determines use of available base support to be in their best interest, it must be included as such in the white paper and proposal. Use of available base support will not be assumed during technical evaluation unless proposed. If it is determined to apply, language will be in the SOW supplemental Requirements Document.

c. Data Rights Desired:

(1) Technical Data: Unlimited Rights

(2) Non-Commercial Software (NCS): Unlimited Rights

(3) NCS Documentation: Unlimited Rights

(4) Commercial Computer Software Rights: Customary License

The Air Force Research Laboratory is engaged in the discovery, development, and integration of warfighting technologies for our air, space, and cyberspace forces. As such, rights in technical data and NCS developed or delivered under this contract are of significant concern to the Government. The Government will therefore carefully consider any restrictions on the use of technical data, NCS, and NCS documentation which could result in transition difficulty or less-than full and open competition for subsequent development of this technology.

In exchange for paying for development of the data, the Government expects technical data, NCS, and NCS documentation developed entirely at Government expense to be delivered with Unlimited Rights.

Technical data, NCS, and NCS documentation developed with mixed funding are expected to be delivered with at least Government Purpose Rights. Offers that propose delivery of technical data, NCS, or NCS documentation subject to Government Purpose Rights should fully explain how the data was developed at private expense. Specifically, offers must explain what technical data, NCS, or NCS documentation developed with costs charged to indirect cost pools and/or costs not allocated to a Government contract will be incorporated, how the incorporation will benefit the program, and address whether those portions or processes are segregable.

Offerors that propose delivery of technical data, NCS, or NCS documentation subject to Limited Rights, Restricted Rights, or Specifically Negotiated License Rights will be considered. Proposals should fully explain what technical data, NCS, or NCS documentation developed with costs charged to indirect cost pools and/or costs not allocated to a Government contract will be incorporated and how the incorporation will benefit the program and whether those portions or processes are segregable.

Offerors shall include the data rights assertions as required by DFARS 252.227- 7017, Identification and Assertion of Restrictions on the Government's Use, Release, or Disclosure of Technical Data or Computer Software. The assertions list is included in Section K and due at time of proposals. Assertions must be completed with specificity. Each assertion must identify both the data and each such item, component, or process listed. Nonconforming assertions lists will be rejected.

Terms used in this section are defined in the clauses at 252.227-7013, Rights in Technical Data-Noncommercial Items, and 252.227-7014, Rights in Noncommercial Computer Software and Noncommercial Computer Software Documentation.

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE (COMMERCIAL AND NONCOMMERCIAL):

DFARS 252.227-7014(d) describes requirements for incorporation of third party computer software. Any third party software (commercial and noncommercial) to be incorporated into a deliverable must be clearly identified in the proposal. Prior to delivery of any third party software, the contractor will obtain an appropriate license for the Government, and the written approval of the contracting officer.

Any third party software to be delivered to the Government that are not reasonably identifiable at proposal submission, must still be approved by the contracting officer prior to incorporation into a system deliverable.

This obligation to obtain pre-approval by the contracting officer, as described above, continues throughout contract administration.

The Government will neither accept nor execute a DD Form 250 for the software deliverables until the Contractor obtains from all third party software suppliers and/or vendors (Licensor) licenses that comply with the following terms and conditions for the Government (Licensee):

1. The license shall not subject the Government to liability that is indefinite or indeterminate, such as an indemnification clause, as it would constitute an obligation in advance or in excess of an appropriation and violate the Anti- Deficiency Act.
2. The license shall not create a contingent liability for the Government. This includes, but is not limited to: unilateral price increases, automatic assessment of charges, and automatic renewal of the license.
3. The license shall be governed by Federal Statutes, Case Law, and Federal Regulations, and shall not be subject to the laws or jurisdiction of any municipality, state, or foreign country.

4. The license shall not include non-substitution language that would preclude or limit the Government from using another vendor/reseller and/or product to fulfill Government requirements.
5. The license shall not comment on entitlement to attorney fees.
6. The Licensor shall not have the authority to unilaterally terminate the license. All remedies available shall be consistent with the Disputes Clause in the underlying basic contract.
7. The Licensor shall not have the right to enter the premise or monitor the networks of Licensee for the purpose of auditing the use of the license.
8. The Licensor shall not use any injunctive relief clauses as the Licensor cannot prevent the Licensee from performing mission operations.
9. The Licensor shall not have the authority to control any litigation between a third party and the Licensee.
10. The Licensor shall not use the fact that the Licensee is using the Licensor's products in any notification to the public (e.g., no publicity rights permitted).

II. Award Information

1. **Anticipated Award Date:** Award dates will vary. White papers will be accepted for review through 31 December 2027.
2. **Anticipated funding** for the program (not per contract/agreement)

FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	TOTAL
$4.999M	$26.735M	$22.951M	$25.785M	$75.470M

This funding profile is an estimate only and not a contractual obligation for funding. All funding is subject to change due to Government discretion and availability.

Potential offerors should be aware that due to unanticipated budget fluctuations funding in any or all areas may change with little or no notice.

III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Offeror**: This is an unrestricted solicitation. Businesses of all sizes are encouraged to propose on all or any part of this solicitation.
2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost Sharing is not required.
3. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers: The following guidance is provided for Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) contemplating submitting a proposal, as either a prime or subcontractor. FAR 35.017- 1(c) (4) prohibits an FFRDC from competing with any non-FFRDC concern in response to a Federal agency request for proposal for other than the operation of an FFRDC (with exceptions stated in DFARS 235.017-1(c) (4)). There is no regulation prohibiting an FFRDC from responding to a solicitation. However, the FFRDC's sponsoring agency must first make a determination that the effort being proposed falls within the purpose, mission, general scope of effort, or special competency of the FFRDC, and that determination must be included in the FFRDC's proposal. In addition, the AFRL Energy Office must make a determination that the work proposed would not place the FFRDC in

direct competition with domestic private industry. Only after these determinations are made, would a determination be made concerning the FFRDC's eligibility to receive an award.

4. Government Agencies: If a Government agency is interested in performing work, contact the Program Manager identified in the ARA. If those discussions result in a mutual interest to pursue your agency's participation, the effort will be pursued independent of this announcement.

5. Other:

a. Foreign Participation: Foreign Participation will be considered on a case- by-case basis. If it is determined that Foreign Participation is not allowed, the US Prime Contractor and/or Subcontractor may hire foreign national with prior FDO approval; however, Foreign Nationals will be limited to public domain information only. Public domain information is defined as information that is releasable to the general public and sometimes referred to as open source material. Examples include but are not limited to newspapers, magazines and information posted on the internet. Any proprietary information will have to be appropriately protected.

b. This acquisition may involve data that are subject to export control laws and regulations. Only contractors who are registered and certified with the Defense Logistics Services Center (DLSC) and have a legitimate business purpose may participate in this solicitation. Contact the Defense Logistics Services Center, 74 Washington Avenue N., Battle Creek, Michigan 40917-3084 (1-800-352-3572) for further information on the certification process. You must submit a copy of your approved DD Form 2345, Militarily Critical Technical Data Agreement, with your proposal.

c. There are no limits on the number of white papers an offeror may submit.

d. You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the white paper (and later proposal) due date as identified above.

IV. White Paper / Proposal and Submission Information

1. Overview: This Announcement contains a Two-Step Open Process described in detail below. White Papers/Proposals submitted shall be in accordance with this announcement. There will be no other solicitation issued in regard to this requirement. The Government intends to review white papers/proposals and award some, all, or none of the proposals received without negotiation/discussion; however, the Government reserves the right to negotiate with those offeror(s) whose proposal is selected for funding.

ONLY WHITE PAPERS ARE BEING SOLICITED INITIALLY. WHITE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM 3 MAY 2018 TO 31 DECEMBER 2027

In addition to the Two-Step Open Process, ARA CALL Announcements (CALLS) may be periodically issued under FA8650-18-S-5008 during this period.

Offerors should be alert for any ARA amendments that may permit extensions to the white paper submission date.

2. First Step (White Paper) Instructions:

a. General: The FIRST STEP requests a white paper and a rough order of magnitude (ROM) cost. The white paper shall include a discussion of the nature and scope of the research and the offeror's proposed technical approach. The Government will review the white papers in accordance with the

FIRST STEP Peer or Scientific Review criteria, set forth in Section V below. Based on this review, the Government will determine which of them have the potential to best meet the Air Force's needs. Offerors will be notified of the disposition of their white paper. It is anticipated that Government review of the white papers submitted will take 30 working days. Those offerors submitting white papers assessed as meeting Air Force needs will be asked to submit a technical and cost proposal. Those offerors not requested to submit a technical and cost proposal will be notified but may, however, still elect to submit a technical and cost proposal. An offeror submitting a proposal without first submitting a white paper will not be eligible for an award. The cost of preparing white papers in response to this Solicitation is not considered an allowable direct charge to any resulting or any other contract; however, it may be an allowable expense to the normal bid and proposal indirect cost as specified in FAR 31.205-18.

b. Page Limitation: The White Paper shall be limited to 6 pages prepared and submitted in Word format. Font shall be standard 10-point business font Arial. Character spacing must be "normal," not condensed in any manner. Pages shall be double-spaced (must use standard double-space function in Microsoft Word), double-sided (each side counts as one page), 8.5 by 11 inches, with at least one-inch margins on both sides, top and bottom. All text, including text in tables and charts, must adhere to all font size and line spacing requirements listed herein. Font and line spacing requirements do not have to be followed for illustrations, flowcharts, drawings, and diagrams. These exceptions shall not be used to circumvent formatting requirements and page count limitations by including lengthy narratives in such items. Pages shall be numbered starting with the cover page being Page 1, and the last page being no greater than Page 6. The page limitation covers all information including indices, photographs, foldouts (counted as 1 page for each 8.5 by 11 portion) tables, charts, appendices, attachments, resumes, etc. The Government will not consider pages in excess of these limitations. Offerors should submit their white paper via email in WORD format to the Contracting POC.

c. Format: The white paper will be formatted as follows:

(1) Section A: ARA Number (FA8650-18-S-5008), Title of Program (Government Requirement for Advanced Power and Energy (GRAPE)), Title of your white paper along with which technology area it fits under (Installation Readiness Energy, Expeditionary Energy, Ground Support Energy or Aviation Energy), Name of Company,

(2) Business Size, Company's Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) number, Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, Contracting POC and Technical POC with appropriate telephone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses for the POCs. Add the following information;

(3) Section B: Period of Performance and Task Objectives;

(4) Section C: Technical Summary and Proposed Deliverables (if any); and

(5) Section D: Cost of Task (Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM)).

d. Technical Portion: The technical portion of the white paper shall include a discussion of the nature and scope of the research and the offeror's proposed technical approach/solution. The offeror shall explicitly describe the innovative nature of the research. It may also include any proposed deliverables. Resumes, descriptions of facilities and equipment, a proposed Statement of Work are not required at this point.

e. Cost Portion: The cost portion of the white paper shall include a ROM cost estimate. No detailed price or cost support information should be forwarded; only a time- phased bottom line figure should be provided.

f. Other Information: Multiple white papers within the purview of this announcement may be submitted by each offeror. If the offeror wishes to restrict its white papers, they must be marked with the restrictive language stated in FAR 52.215-1(e).

g. White Paper/Proposal Content Summary: You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the proposal due date.

3. Second Step (Proposal) Instructions:

a. General Instructions:

(1) The SECOND STEP consists of offerors submitting a technical and cost proposal within 30 working days of the proposal request. After receipt, proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the award criteria in Section V. below. Proposals will be categorized and subsequently selected for negotiations.

(2) Technical/management and cost/business volumes should be submitted in separate volumes and must be valid for 180 days.

(3) Proposals must reference the announcement number FA8650-18-S- 5008 and relevant research area(s).

(4) Offerors must submit one-original and 1 hard copies of their proposals to the Contracting POC.

(5) Offerors must include 1 CD in Microsoft Office or Adobe format containing all electronic versions of required submittals. All electronic versions must match the hard copies.

(6) The cost file(s) spreadsheets must be in Microsoft Excel and include the formulas for calculating cost element bases (i.e., G&A, O/H, etc.)

(7) The CDs should be labeled with the company name and proposal title.

(8) Offerors are advised that only Contracting Officers are legally authorized to contractually bind or otherwise commit the Government. The cost of preparing proposals in response to this ARA is not considered an allowable direct charge to any resulting or any other contract; however, it may be an allowable expense to the normal bid and proposal indirect cost as specified in FAR 31.205-18.

(9) No classified technical proposals or cost volumes are expected. Offerors are encouraged to keep all elements of the proposal package unclassified. In the rare case where an offeror has a need to submit a classified appendix, please contact the technical POC for delivery instructions.

b. Technical/Management Proposal:

(1) Page Limitations: The following describes proposal page limitations:

a. The Technical/Management Proposal shall be limited to 20 pages. Technical/Management proposals and Statements of Work must be provided in Microsoft Word. Signed pages may be submitted in Adobe.

b. Font shall be standard 10-point business font Arial.

c. Character spacing must be “normal,” not condensed in any manner.

d. Pages shall be double-spaced (must use standard double-space function in Microsoft Word), double sided (each side counts as one page), 8.5 by 11 inches, with at least one-inch margins on both sides, top and bottom.

e. All text, including text in tables and charts, must adhere to all font size and line spacing requirements listed herein. Font and line spacing requirements do not have to be followed for illustrations, flowcharts, drawings, and diagrams. These exceptions shall not be used to circumvent formatting requirements and page count limitations by including lengthy narratives in such items.

f. Pages shall be numbered starting with the cover page being Page 1, and the last page being no greater than Page 20. The page limitation covers all information including indices, photographs, foldouts (counted as 1 page for each 8.5 by 11 portion) tables, charts,

appendices, attachments, resumes, etc.

g. The proposal page limit does not include the offeror's proposed Statement of Work (SOW); however, the same formatting rules apply to the SOW, which is limited to 10 pages.

h. Please Note: The Government will check the proposal and SOW for conformance to the stated requirements. Any pages in excess of the stated page limitation after the format check will not be considered for review purposes.

(2) The Technical/Management proposal(s) shall include a discussion of the nature and scope of the research and the technical approach. Additional information on prior work in this area, descriptions of available equipment, use of base support (if desired), data and facilities and resumes of personnel who will be participating in this effort should also be included as attachments to the technical proposal. This volume(s) shall include a SOW(s) detailing the technical tasks proposed to be accomplished under the proposed effort and suitable for contract incorporation. ***Do not include any proprietary information in the SOW.*** In addition to the contractor proposed SOW, a Government generated SOW attachment containing additional contracting requirements will be included in any resulting contracts.

(3) Any questions concerning the technical proposal or SOW preparation shall be referred to the Contracting POC.

c. Cost/Business Proposal:

(1) Separate the proposal into a business section and cost section.

a. The business section should contain all business aspects to the proposed contract, such as type of contract, any exceptions to terms and conditions of the announcement, any information not technically related, etc. Provide rationale for exceptions.

b. Identify any technical data that will be delivered with less than unlimited rights.

c. Subcontracting Plans: For efforts to exceed $750,000, Subcontracting Plans shall be submitted in the cost/business proposal. Reference FAR 19.704, DFARS 219.704, and AFFARS 5319.704(a) (1) for subcontracting plan requirements. Small business concerns are exempt from this requirement.

d. Limitations on Pass-Through Charges: As prescribed in FAR 15.408(n)(1) & 15.408(n)(2), provisions 52.215-22, "Limitations on Pass Through Charges- Identification of Subcontract Effort (Oct 2009)," apply.

e. Completed Certifications and Representations are due with the proposal. Offerors may also be required to submit updated or supplemental Certifications and Representations based on the specifics of their proposal.

f. If an offeror proposes the use of Government Furnished Property (GFP), other than GFP identified in the ARA, the offer must specifically identify each piece of GFP in the Cost/Business Proposal and propose and substantiate a rental cost for evaluation purposes in accordance with FAR 45.202. Include the following information in the proposal:

i. A list describing all Government property that the offeror or its subcontractors propose to use on a rent-free basis. The list shall identify the accountable contract under which the property is held and the authorization for its use (from the contracting officer having cognizance of the property); The dates during which the property will be used and, for any property that will be used concurrently in performing two or more contracts, the amounts of the respective uses in sufficient

detail to support prorating the rent;

ii. The amount of rent that would otherwise be charged in accordance with FAR 52.245-9, Use and Charges; and

iii. The voluntary consensus standard or industry leading practices and standards to be used in the management of Government property, or existing property management plans, methods, practices, or procedures for accounting for property.

(2) **Cost Element Breakdown:** Clear, concise, and accurate cost proposals reflect the offeror's financial plan for accomplishing the effort contained in the technical proposal. As a part of its cost proposal, the offeror shall submit the information outlined below, together with supporting breakdowns. All direct costs (labor, material, travel, computer, etc.) as well as labor and overhead rates should be provided by contractor fiscal year (CFY). Detailed cost element breakdowns by Government Fiscal Year or calendar year are not required. The supporting schedules may include summary level estimating rationale used to generate the proposed costs. The cost element breakdown(s) should include the following if applicable.

a. **Direct Labor:** Direct labor should be detailed by number of labor hours by category of labor.

b. **Labor and Overhead Rates:** Direct labor hours, with their applicable rates, must be broken out and the bases used clearly identified. The source of labor and overhead rates and all pricing factors should be identified. For instance, if a Forward Pricing Rate Agreement (FPRA) is in existence, that should be noted, along with the Administrative Contracting Officer's (ACO's) name and telephone number. If the rates are based on current experience in your organization, provide the historical base used and clearly identify all escalation, by year, applied to derive the proposed rates. If computer usage is determined by a rate, identify the basis used and rationale used to derive the rate.

c. **Material/Equipment:** List all material/equipment items by type and kind with associated costs and advise if the costs are based on vendor quotes, data and/or engineering estimates; provide copies of vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data.

d. **Subcontractor Costs:** Submit all subcontractor proposals and analyses with your cost proposal (See FAR 15.404-3(b)). If the subcontractor will not submit cost and pricing information to the offeror, this information must be submitted directly to the Government for analysis. On all subcontracts and interdivisional transfers, provide the method of selection used to determine the subcontractor and the proposed contract type of each subcontract. An explanation shall be provided if the offeror proposes a different amount than that quoted by the subcontractor. The offeror's proposal must:

i. Identify principal items/services to be subcontracted.

ii. Identify prospective subcontractors and the basis on which they were selected. If non-competitive, provide selected source justification.

iii. Identify the type of contractual business arrangement contemplated for the subcontract and provide rationale.

iv. Identify the basis for the subcontract costs (e.g., firm quote or engineering estimate, etc.).

v. Identify the cost or pricing data submitted by the subcontractor.

vi. Provide an analysis of the proposed subcontract in accordance with FAR 15.404-3(b). Provide an analysis concerning the reasonableness, realism and completeness of each subcontractor's proposal. If the analysis is based on comparison with prior prices, identify the basis on which the prior prices were determined to be reasonable.

The analysis should include, but not be limited to, an analysis of: materials, labor, travel, other direct costs and proposed profit or fee rates.

e. **Special Tooling or Test Equipment:** When special tooling, and/or test equipment is proposed, attach a brief description of items and indicate if they are solely for the performance of this particular contract or project and if they are or are not already available in the offeror's existing facilities. Indicate quantities, unit prices, whether items are to be purchased or fabricated, whether items are of a severable nature and the basis of the price. These items may be included under Direct Material in the summary format.

f. **Consultants:** When consultants are proposed to be used in the performance of the contract, indicate the specific project or area in which such services are to be used. Identify each consultant, number of hours or days to be used and the consultant's rate per hour or day. State the basis of said rate and give your analysis of the acceptability of the consultant's rate.

g. **Travel:** Travel costs must be justified and related to the needs of the project. Identify the number of trips, the destination and purpose. Travel costs should be broken out by trip with number of travelers, airfare, per diem, lodging, etc.

h. **Computer Use:** Detail the amount and kind of computer usage, the cost, and how the costs were derived.

i. **Facilities Capital Cost of Money:** If Facilities Capital Cost of Money is proposed, a properly executed DD Form 1861 is required.

j. **Project Funding Profile:** Offerors should include a project funding profile by Government Fiscal Year (GFY) (1 Oct through 30 Sept) for budgetary purposes. This will enable the Government to easily identify program funding needs by GFY.

k. If an offeror takes **exceptions** to the requirements called out in the announcement (e.g., base support, Government-furnished property (GFP), CDRLs), the exceptions should be **clearly stated in the cost proposal**.

l. **Forward Pricing Rate Agreements:** Offerors who have forward pricing rate agreements (FPRA's) and forward pricing rate recommendations (FPRR's) should submit them with their proposal.

m. Cost/Business proposals have no page limitations.

d. **Proposal Content Summary**: You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the proposal due date.

V. White Paper / Proposal Review Information

1. FIRST STEP – White Paper Peer or Scientific Review Criteria:

The Government will review White Papers to determine which of them have the potential to best meet the Air Force's needs based on the following criteria, which are listed in equal order of importance:

a. Is the technical approach consistent with the technologies listed in the ARA?

b. Is the research of interest to the Government?

c. Is appropriate funding available?

2. **SECOND STEP – Proposal Peer or Scientific Review Criteria:** Proposals will be reviewed against the criteria listed below. The technical aspect, which is ranked as the first order of priority, shall be reviewed based on the following criteria that are of **equal** order of importance.

   a. **Technical:**

   (1) Unique and innovative approach proposed to accomplish the technical objectives. New and creative solutions and/or advances in knowledge, understanding, technology, and the state of the art.

   (2) The offeror's understanding of the scope of the technical effort.

   (3) Soundness of the offeror's technical approach including whether the proposal identifies major technical risks, clearly defines feasible mitigation efforts, and

   (4) demonstrates related experience and qualifications of technical personnel.

   (5) The potential to transition the research and development deliverables to future Government needs. Any proposed restriction on technical data or computer software will be considered.

   (6) Availability of qualified technical personnel and their experience with the applicable technologies.

   (7) Availability, from any source, of necessary research, test, laboratory, or shop facilities.

   b. **Cost/Price:** The cost/price criterion includes the realism of the proposed cost. Cost/Price is a substantial factor, but ranked as the second order of priority. (If an offeror proposes the use of GFP other than any GFP identified in this ARA, and that proposed GFP provides the offeror an unfair competitive advantage, then FAR 45.202 requires rental equivalent be applied to the Cost Factor for evaluation purposes only).

3. **SECOND STEP / PROPOSAL - Review and Selection Process**

   a. Categories: Based on the Peer or Scientific Review, proposals will be categorized as Selectable or Not Selectable (see definitions below). The selection of one or more sources for award will be based on the Peer or Scientific Review, as well as importance to agency programs and funding availability.

      1. Selectable: Proposals are recommended for acceptance if sufficient funding is available

      2. Not Selectable: Even if sufficient funding existed, the proposal should not be funded.

      Note: The Government reserves the right to award some, all, or none of proposals. When the Government elects to award only a part of a proposal, the selected part may be categorized as Selectable, though the proposal as a whole may not merit such a categorization.

   b. No other criteria will be used.

   c. Prior to award of a potentially successful offer, the Contracting Officer will make a determination regarding price reasonableness.

VI. CALLS Proposal and Submission Instructions (One-Step)

** Note: Offerors should be alert for any ARA amendments.

ONE STEP CALL Instructions: One Step Calls will follow the requirements found in

IV.3 unless otherwise identified in the individual CALLS. Proposals against One Step Closed Calls will be due NLT than the date and time specified within the call. Proposals against One Step Open Calls can be submitted until the Call is canceled by the program office.

VII. Call Proposal Review Information (One-Step)

Proposal Peer or Scientific Review Criteria: One Step Calls will be reviewed against the evaluation criteria listed in V.2 and 3 unless otherwise identified in the individual CALLS. Details within each technical evaluation criteria may be tailored to reflect the specific aspects of the individual Call.

VIII. CALLS White Paper/Proposal Submission Instructions (Two-Step)

**Note: Offerors should be alert for any ARA amendments.

1. **First Step CALLS (two step) Instructions:** White Papers for Two Step Calls will follow the requirements found in IV.2 unless otherwise identified in the individual CALLS. White Papers against Two Step Closed Calls will be due NLT than the date and time specified within the call. Proposals against Two Step Open Calls can be submitted until the Call is canceled by the program office.
2. **Second Step Two-Step CALL (Proposal) Instructions:** If a white paper is reviewed favorably with respect to the Government Review Criteria and funding is available, AFRL/RXKM may request a formal technical and cost proposal from the offeror. Proposals for Two Step Calls (Open and Closed) will follow the requirements found in V.3 unless otherwise identified in the individual CALLS. Proposals against Two Step Calls (Open and Closed) will be due NLT than the date and time specified within the RFP.

IX. CALL White Paper/Proposal Review Information (Two-Step)

1. **White Paper Peer or Scientific Review Criteria**: White Papers for Two Step Calls (Open and Closed) will be reviewed against the criteria listed inV.1 unless otherwise identified in the individual CALLS.
2. **Proposal Peer or Scientific Review Criteria**: Proposals for Two Step Calls (Open and Closed) will be reviewed against the criteria listed in V.2 and 3 unless otherwise identified in the individual CALLS. Details within each technical evaluation criteria may be tailored to reflect the specific aspects of the individual Call.

X. Award Administration Information

1. **Award Notices:** Offerors will be notified whether their proposal is recommended for award. The notification is not to be construed to mean the award of a contract is assured, as availability of funds and successful negotiations are prerequisites to any award.
2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements: See Section I.**
3. **Reporting: See CALL for reporting requirements, Contract Data Requirements List (CDRL).**

XI. Other Information

1. **Acquisition of Commercial Items:** Based upon market research, the Government is not using the policies contained in Part 12, Acquisition of Commercial Items, in this solicitation. However, interested offerors may identify to the Contracting Officer their interest and capability to satisfy the Government's requirement with a commercial item within 15 days of this notice.
2. **Support Contractors**: Only Government employees will participate in Peer or Scientific Reviews. Offerors are advised that employees of commercial firms under contract to the Government may be used to administratively process proposals, monitor contract performance, or perform other administrative duties requiring access to other contractors' proprietary information. These support contracts include nondisclosure agreements prohibiting their contractor employees from disclosing any information submitted by other contractors or using such information for any purpose other than that for which it was furnished.
3. **Item Unique Identification and Valuation.** It is DoD policy that contractors shall be required to identify the Government's unit acquisition cost for all deliverable end items for which Item Unique Identification applies. Therefore, proposals must clearly break out the unit acquisition cost for any deliverable items. See DFARS 211.274-3, Policy for Valuation, for more information. (Per DoD, "fully burdened unit costs" to the Government would include all direct, indirect, G&A costs, and an appropriate portion of fee). For more information, see the following website: http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/pdi/uid/index.html.
4. **Informal Feedback Sessions:** When requested, an informal feedback session for a proposal will be provided IAW FAR 35.008(d), but that the procedures will be reasonably modified IAW FAR 15.502. The process will follow the time guidelines outlined in the notification letter. Informal feedback session is not provided for white paper submissions.
5. **Wide Area Work Flow:** NOTICE: Any contract award resulting from this solicitation will contain the clause at DFARS 252.232-7003, Electronic Submission of Payment Requests and Receiving Reports (Jun 2012) which requires electronic submission of all payment requests. Any contract resulting from this solicitation will establish a requirement to use WAWF-RA for invoicing and receipt/acceptance, and provide coding instructions applicable to this contract via the clause at DFARS 252.232-7006, Wide Area Workflow Payment Instructions (May 2013). Contractors are encouraged to take advantage of available training (both web-based and through your local DCMA office), and to register in the WAWF-RA system. Information regarding WAWF-RA, including the web-based training and registration, can be found at https://wawf.eb.mil. Note: This WAWF-RA requirement does not apply to Universities that are audited by an agency other than DCAA.
6. **Forward Pricing Rate Agreements:** Offerors who have forward pricing rate agreements (FPRAs) and forward pricing rate recommendations (FPRR's) should submit them with their proposal.
7. **Limitations on Pass-Through Charges**. As prescribed in FAR 15.408(n)(1) & 15.408(n)(2), provisions 52.215-22, Limitations on Pass Through Charges – Identification of Subcontract Effort (OCT 2009), and 52.215-23, Limitations on Pass- Through Charges (OCT 2009), are contained in this solicitation by reference. Any contract valued greater than the threshold for cost or pricing data threshold, except fixed price contracts awarded on the basis of adequate price competition, resulting from this solicitation, shall contain the Clause at FAR 52.215-23 (or Alt I).
8. **Associate Contractor Agreements:** Associate Contractor Agreements (ACAs) are agreements between contractors working on Government contracts that specify requirements for them to share information, data, technical knowledge, expertise, or resources. The contracting officer may require ACAs when contractors working on separate government contracts must cooperate, share resources or otherwise jointly participate in working on contracts or projects. Prime contractor to subcontractor relationships do not constitute ACAs.

For each award, the contracting officer will identify associate contractors with whom agreements are required.

9. **Post-Award Small Business Program Rerepresentation:** As prescribed in FAR 19.309(d), FAR Clause 52.219-28, Post-Award Small Business Program Rerepresentation (JUL 2013), is incorporated by reference in this solicitation. This clause will be contained in any contracts resulting from this solicitation. This clause requires a contractor to rerepresent its size status when certain conditions apply. The clause provides detail on when the rerepresentation must be complete and what the contractor must do when a rerepresentation is required.
10. **Employment Eligibility Verification**: As prescribed by FAR 22.1803, FAR Clause 52.222-54, Employment Eligibility Verification (AUG 2013), is hereby incorporated by reference in this solicitation. Any contract awarded as a result of this ARA that is above the Simplified Acquisition Threshold, and contains a period of performance greater than 120 days, shall include this clause in its contract. This clause provides the requirement of contractors to enroll as a Federal Contractor in the E-Verify program within 30 days after contract award.
11. **Reporting Executive Compensation and First-Tier Sub-contract/Sub- recipient Awards:** Any contract valued at $25,000 or more, excluding classified contracts or contractors with individuals, must contain FAR 52.204- 10, Reporting Executive Compensation and First-Tier Subcontract Awards (JUL 2013).
12. **Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters:** Any contract or assistance award that exceeds $550,000; and when offeror checked "has" in paragraph (b) of the provision FAR 52.209-7, shall contain the clause/article, FAR 52.209-9 "Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters (JUL 2013)."
13. **Accelerated Payment to Small Business Subcontractors:** As prescribed in FAR 32.009-2, FAR 52.232-40, Providing Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors (DEC 2013), is hereby incorporated by reference.
14. **Terms of Service, Open-Ended Indemnification and Unenforceability of Unauthorized Obligations:** As prescribed in FAR 32.706-3, FAR 52.232- 39, Unenforceability of Unauthorized Obligations (JUN 2013), is hereby incorporated by reference.
15. **Whistleblower Protections**: As prescribed in DFARS 203.970, DFARS 252.203- 7002, Requirement to Inform Employees of Whistleblower Rights (SEP 2013), is hereby incorporated by reference.
16. **Contractor Business Systems:** DFARS 252.242-7005, Contractor Business Systems (FEB 2012), is hereby incorporated by reference.
17. **Safeguarding of Unclassified Controlled Technical Information:** As prescribed in DFARS 204.7303, DFARS 252.204-7012, Safeguarding of Unclassified Controlled Technical Information (NOV 2013), is hereby incorporated by reference.
18. **Ombudsman:** The Ombudsman clause, AFFARS 5352.201-9101 Ombudsman (NOV 2012) will be contained in any contracts or agreements resulting from a Call for Proposals. The AFRL Ombudsman is AFRL/PK Technical Director, (937) 904-9700, email: AFRL.PK.OfficeAccount@us.af.mil.
19. **Proposal Content Checklist:** You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the proposal due date.
    a. Proposals are due to the Contracting POC.
    b. Proposals are due no later than the due date and time specified in this announcement.
    c. Proposal page limits are strictly enforced. See Section IV.3.b.of the solicitation for page limits.
    d. If a contract is proposed, completed Certifications and Representations (Section K) are required. Certifications and Representations (Section K) can be found at www.sam.gov.

e. The Cost/Business Proposal must contain all information described in the Content and Form of Proposal Section.

f. For any subcontracts proposed, the Cost/Business Proposal must contain a subcontractor analysis IAW FAR 15.404-3(b).

g. Offerors other than small businesses are to include a subcontracting plan in Microsoft Word Readable Format submitted via electronic mail (email) or transmitted via DoD Safe.

h. Proposals must be submitted in the format specified in Section IV.

i. Offerors who have Forward Pricing Rate Agreements (FPRA's) and Forward Pricing Rate Recommendations (FPRR's) should submit them with their proposal.

j. If a DD254 is applicable, offerors must verify their Cognizant Security Office information is current with Defense Security Service (DSS) at www.dss.mil.

k. Due to this effort being subject to export control, offerors must submit a Certified DD Form 2345, Militarily Critical Technical Data Agreement, with proposal.

Attachment 1

Supplemental Instructions for Assistance Instrument Proposals

a. Proposal Cover Page – SF 424 (R&R) Form: All proposals for assistance, whether submitted electronically or in hard copy must include an SF 424 (R&R) as the cover page. The SF 424 (R&R) should be downloaded from the "Application" box in the upper right hand corner of the synopsis page. Click on "download" under the column "Instructions and Application."

   Select "Download Application Package" and complete the SF 424 (R&R).

b. Certifications: All proposals for assistance whether submitted electronically or in hard copy must include the requisite certifications. To access the requisite Certifications, select the "Application" box in upper right hand corner of the synopsis page. Click on "Instructions and Application" and select "Download Application Instructions" to view the Certifications. To complete the Certifications you must check Block 18 of the SF 424 (R&R), and by signing it (either by pressing the "submit" button for Grants.gov or by hand if submitting it in hard copy), you are certifying that you have read and agree to abide by the terms in the Certifications. You do not need to submit any additional documentation unless you have lobbying activities to disclose on an SF –LLL.

c. If you are submitting an assistance instrument proposal, you may do so electronically through Grants.gov but you are not required to. *(The CO requests offerors submitting a proposal via Grants.gov to e-mail the CO when a proposal has been submitted.)*

d. Assistance Opportunity: Go to http://grants.gov/ to find the opportunity. Instructions are provided at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html

Attachment 2
Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)
Solicitation Language for Security Risk Review – AFRLI 61-113
8 Aug 2024

I. Notice of Intent.

(a) Security Risk Review. The Security Risk Review is applied to federally funded research designed to help protect Department of the Air Force Science and Technology (S&T) by identifying possible vectors of undue foreign influence. AFRL will follow all policy and procedures outlined in Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Instruction AFRLI 61-113, Science and Technology Protection for the Air Force Research Laboratory and Department of the Air Force Instruction DAFI 63-101/20-101, Integrated Lifecycle Management.

(b) Security risk review for these subject application/proposals will be developed for all proposed Senior/Key personnel and "Covered Individuals". These risk reviews will be based on information disclosed in a Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile and Security Questionnaire. In addition, any accompanying or referenced documents, publicly available information, and information contained in internal U.S. Government databases will be utilized in risk reviews. Nationality or citizenship is not a factor in the security risk reviews.

(c) When considering all external engagements, AFRL incorporates a holistic decision-making process that encompasses technical and security factors. The security review method implemented by AFRL measures risk factors to identify the appropriate Risk Acceptance Level (RAL) within the organization. The objective analysis of the security risk factors is conducted to empower AFRL's S&T leaders to make risk-informed decisions. The review process generally looks at five factors, or risk areas, but with authority for expanded review as noted in OSD R&E Memorandum dated 6 Jun 2023. The potential security risk factors are set forth below:

Potential security risk factors:

(1) Foreign Talent Program	(2) Funding	(3) Foreign Institutions	(4) Denied Entities	(5) U.S. Government Systems
Indicators of active and past participation or sponsorship in a strategic competitor Foreign Talent Program with history of targeting U.S. research or technology.	Indicators of active, historical, or pattern of conflict of interest, conflict of commitment, or pattern of direct funding from a strategic competitor or country with history of targeting U.S. research or technology.	Indicators of active, historical, or pattern of association with direct affiliation, collaboration with a foreign institution, person, or entity associated with a strategic competitor or country with history of targeting U.S. research or technology.	Indicators of an active affiliation or past affiliation or present association with an entity on the U.S. Gov't denied entity or person list or EO 13959 or subsequent similar issuances	Indicators that may reside in safeguarded U.S. government environments, according to its ascribed classification and not releasable for public consumption.

II. Actions Required by Applicants/Recipients and/or Offerors/Contractors at application/proposal submission.

(a) In accordance with AFRLI 61-113, S&T Protection, Applicants/Recipients and/or Offerors/Contractors are required to submit the following documentation with their application/proposal:

(1) Grant or Cooperative Agreement (CA)application:

(i) Standard Form 424, "Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile (Expanded) (See Appendix 1) AND;

(ii) Security Program Questionnaire (See Appendix 2) AND;

(iii) "Privacy Act Statement" consent form for each Covered Individual that is also signed by the Applicants/Recipients as that Individual's Sponsor. (See "Covered Individual" section below, and Appendix 4)

(2) Contract or Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) proposals:

(i) Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile Worksheet (See Appendix 3) AND;

(ii) Security Program Questionnaire (See Appendix 2) AND;

(iii) "Privacy Act Statement" consent form for each Covered Individual that is also signed by the Applicant/Recipient as that Individual's Sponsor. (See "Covered Individual" section below, and Appendix 4)

(3) In the event a security risk is identified, and the Government has determined the security risk exceeds the acceptable threshold, the Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor will be notified and informed of the decline of award. **The Government will provide as much rationale for the decision as Government OPSEC measures allow for.** Challenges under awards made solely for Fundamental Research shall follow the OSD R&E Memorandum dated 6 June 2023. Challenges under any other type of award shall follow the Ombudsman procedures within this Announcement/Solicitation.

(4) By submission of the Research and Related Senior Key Person Profile and Security Program Questionnaire, the Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor agrees to comply with the following:

(i) To certify that each covered individual who is listed on the application has been made aware: 1) of all relevant disclosure requirements, including the requirements of 42 U.S.C. § 6605; and 2) that false representations may be subject to prosecution and liability pursuant to, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. §§287, 1001, 1031 and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3802. See National Science and Technology Council Guidance for Implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33) on National Security Strategy for United States Government-Supported Research and Development (January 2022).

(ii) To establish and maintain an internal process or procedure to address foreign talent programs, conflicts of commitment, conflicts of interest, and research integrity.

(iii) To exercise due diligence to identify Foreign Components or participation by Senior/Key Personnel in Foreign Government Talent Recruitment Programs and agree to share such information with the Government upon request.

III. Actions Required by Covered Individuals.

(a) Covered Individual. An individual who contributes to a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of a research and development project proposed to be carried out with a research and development award from a federal research agency; and is designated as a covered individual by the federal research agency concerned. See 42 U.S.C. § 6605, Definitions. (Note: For purposes of a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) solicitation, "covered individuals" are all Senior/Key Personnel.)

(b) Federal law requires that all current and pending research support, as defined by 42 U.S.C. §6605, must be disclosed at the time of application/proposal submission, for all covered individuals. The Government may require an updated disclosure during the performance of any research project selected for funding. The Government will require an updated disclosure whenever covered individuals are added or identified as performing under the funded project.

(c) Covered Individuals are also required to sign the "Privacy Act Statement" and provide such signed

statement to the Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor for submission with the application/proposal. (See Appendix 4)

(d) Any decision to accept an application/proposal for funding under this announcement/solicitation will include full reliance on the individual's statements. Failure to report fully and completely all sources of project support and outside positions and affiliations may be considered a material statement within the meaning of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. 3729, and constitute a violation of Federal law.

IV. Actions required by Applicants/Recipients and/or Offerors/Contractors during period of performance:

(a) Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor will be required to re-submit the Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile as an annual requirement. In addition, whenever a new covered individual(s) is to be added or identified as performing under the funded project, a new Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile will be required prior to continued performance.

(b) If, at any time, during performance of this award, the Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor learns that its Senior/Key Research Personnel (including any sub awardee personnel who receive this designation) are or are believed to be participants in a Foreign Government Talent Program or have Foreign Components with a strategic competitor or country with a history of targeting U.S. technology for unauthorized transfer, the Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor will notify the Contracting/Grants/Agreements Officer within 5 business days of awareness.

(c) This disclosure must include specific information as to the personnel involved and the nature of the situation and relationship. The Government will review this information and conduct any necessary fact-finding or discussion with the Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor. The Government's determination on disclosure may include acceptance, mitigation, or termination of the award.

(d) Failure of the Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor to reasonably exercise due diligence to discover or ensure that neither it nor any of its Senior/Key Research Personnel involved in the subject award are participating in a Foreign Government Talent Program or have a Foreign Component with a strategic competitor or country with a history of targeting U.S. technology for unauthorized transfer may result in the Government exercising remedies in accordance with federal law and regulation.

(e) The Applicant/Recipient and/or Offeror/Contractor will be required to flow down this requirement to all sub awardees/contractors who have personnel designated as Senior/Key Research Personnel as a result of their involvement in the performance of the research.

Attachments:

Appendix 1: Standard Form 424, "Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile (Expanded);
Appendix 2: Security Program Questionnaire;
Appendix 3: Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile Worksheet;
Appendix 4: "Privacy Act Statement" consent form for each Covered Individual that is also signed by the Applicant/Recipient as that Individual's Sponsor

Appendix 2
SECURITY PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

Objective: This questionnaire is used to review the security program and practices of the institutions receiving research funding.

Intended Audience/User: Completed by collaborators; reviewed by S&T Protection Lead.

Date Submitted: _____

Applicant Name: _____

CAGE Code/SCL and level (if applicable): _____

Completed by Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

1. What are your physical security plans?
2. What information security processes are in place?
3. Where will information for this effort be stored? (examples: computers, cloud, file cabinets, etc.)
4. What procedures are in place for transmission/transportation of information for this effort?
5. What procedures are in place for disposal and destruction of information for this effort?
6. What procedures are in place for reproduction of information for this effort?
7. What safeguards are in place for personnel who can access information for this effort?
8. What is the plan for safeguarding GFE/GFI?
9. What procedures are in place for cybersecurity or network protection?
10. What operations security processes are in place to prevent adversaries' access to information for this effort or actions that would compromise your projects?
11. What processes are in place to deter, detect, and mitigate actions of insider threat?
12. What procedures are in place to handle if information for this effort is compromised?
13. Are you willing to provide AFRL S&T Protection training to all personnel with access annually?

Additional comments: