FA9453-21-S-0001 Call 016
SSTI 5 – Space Cyber- Cognitive Overmatch (SCCO)

Question and Answer

15 July 2026

Topic	Question	Answer
U.S Citizens	Are non- US citizens allowed?	We do allow non-citizens. to participate in some situations, but there needs to be a waiver filed and there needs to be justification as to why the particular non-citizen possesses a unique skill set. Information to provide for waiver request: their name, their nationality, and then why they are at the top of their field or why you couldn't find a US citizen to fill the position.
	Can a foreign national faculty at lead partner university serve as CO-I's key personnel on fundamental research portion of work?	To be part of the SSTIs in any form, a foreign national must have a waiver.
Dual Citizens	Can dual citizens work on the program.	Yes, dual citizens can work on the program. We ask that dual citizen is denoted and provide other country information.
Green Card	Does a green card holder fall within U.S. Citizens?	No, Green Card holders are not considered "U.S. Citizens". and will require a waiver, however please note in the request that they are Green Card holders.
Letters of Support	Are letters of support part of the evaluation criteria?	Letters of support are not part of the criteria
Anticipated number of Awards	How many awards are anticipated from this call?	One, none, or multiple awards are possible from this call
White Papers	Can multiple white papers be submitted from a lead?	Yes, you can submit multiple white papers.
	Can a university submit a white paper are a lead university and then be a partner university under another whitepaper?	There's nothing in the call that precludes that.
Teaming Arrangement	What is the minimum team requirement?	The minimum team bid is 3 universities.
	Do all three universities need to be identified in the white paper?	Yes, all three need to be identified per the call on page 9.
Foreign Owned Organizations	Can foreign owned organizations participate?	No, foreign owned organizations can not

		participate.
Unallowable Participants	Can FFRDCs and/ or services schools (i.e USAFA, AFIT, Army War College, ect)	FFRDCs and Service schools can not participate in this call.
	Can large business participate?	No, large business are not allowed under this call.
	Can a UARC (University Associated Research Center) be a lead for this effort?	No, this is an organization that is sponsored by the Department and approved by the USWR&E. They may not participate and receive funding but may participate in other roles indirectly (Partnerships, industry advisory boards, ect).
Previous Work	Is there an advantage if a state has already received an award as a lead?	No, there is no advantage or disadvantage to having been previously awarded or having never participated.
ROM	How to prepare ROM with possibilities of our years being at a Secret Level?	The ROM is a best guest estimate. Post award, if changes need to be made due to nature of the research, then that will be addressed at that time.
Publications	What is the publication process?	There is a review process for all publications produced from an anticipated award. This will be outlined within the articles in the award.
	How is CUI handled for research activities with Students?	We ask you to treat everything as if it was CUI or in a controlled manner until we get a chance to do a publication review.
Co-Investigators	Is there a limit on Co-Is per institution?	No, there is not a minimum or maximum on Co-Is for this call..
TRL	Is there a targeted TRL for proposed research?	There is not a specific starting or finishing TRL for this call.
Hardware and Test Beds	Are hardware and test bed implementations encouraged or necessary for a complete research plan under this call?	Per the call: “highly desired” is the stated language.
Non-Profits	Are non-profit (501C) organizations eligible under this call?	Yes
White Paper Submittal	Authorized representative need to request the DOD safe link?	No, follow your internal submittal process. The link can be requested 7 days in advance.
	White paper submission to proposal deadline?	This is a two-step call. The Prime is going to submit your

		white papers. We will review and then send your notification letters. That typically takes about a month. From those letters, you will know if you're notified to submit a full proposal and those deadlines and timelines are included in that letter as well.
Award	Notional award start date for costing purposes?	Per the call the proposed costs are to be valid for 1 year. But anticipated start date would be 3-6 months for whitepaper submittal. Additional information will be provided in the notification letter to those selected for proposal.
	Is there a preference for large team with a large budget versus a small team with a small budget?	No. Per the call, we can choose to make none, one, or multiple awards for the full ceiling of $25M. White papers or proposals are not preferenced by either a large or small team, part of the ceiling or the full amount.