

USD(R&E)

Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) – FY24 Funding Opportunity Announcements



Dr. Jennifer Becker
DEPSCoR Program Manager
Basic Research Office
DEPSCoR Webinar

16 April 2024



Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) Team

Dr. Bindu Nair

Director for the Basic Research Office (BRO)

Dr. Jennifer Becker

Dr. Rie Sasaki

BRO

Drs. Michael Finnin and Allison King

Scientific Advisors

Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA)

Ms. Denise Johnson and Ms. Nicole Thomas

Grants Officers for Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)



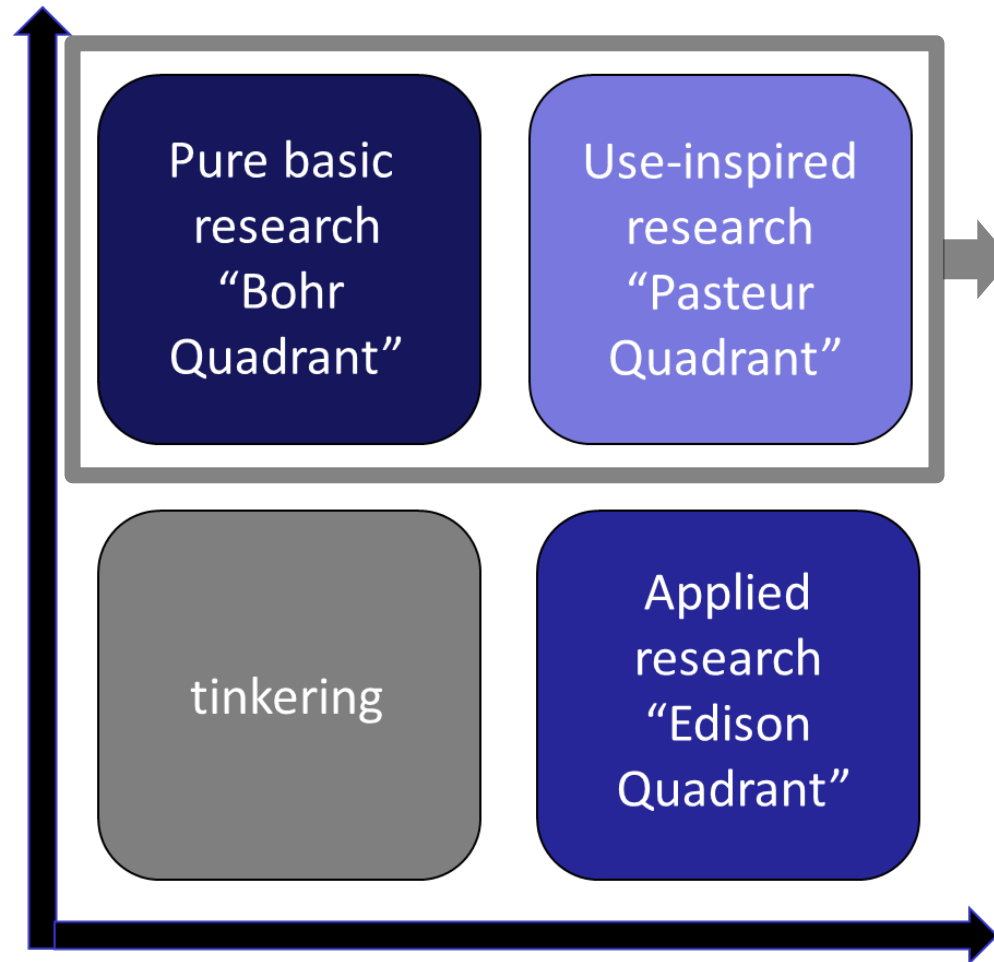
How does DoD define Basic Research?

DoD policy states that basic research is the
*“systematic study directed toward greater knowledge
or understanding of the fundamental aspects of
phenomena and of observable facts...”*



Why DoD Funds Basic Research

Quest for
fundamental
understanding



**DoD
6.1
Basic
Research**

Donald Stokes: 'Pasteur's Quadrant'

Consideration for use



Ways To Engage with tri-Service Program Officers



Email preferred for most POs



Phone (hit or miss due to travel)

Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)	Army Research Office (ARO)	Office of Naval Research (ONR)
<p>https://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl/afosr/</p> <p>On grants.gov search using keyword(s) “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research” to see the latest core announcement. The current funding opportunity number for general research interests is FA9550-23-S-0001.</p>	<p>https://arl.devcom.army.mil/</p> <p>Select “Collaborate with Us”; then “Browse Current Topics” under the “ARL Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)” The current funding opportunity number for the ARL BAA for Foundational Research is W911NF-23-S-0001-002.</p>	<p>https://www.onr.navy.mil/</p> <p>Select “Work With Us” and then “Funding Opportunities/Announcements” and then select FY23 Long Range Broad Agency Announcement for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology, N00014-23-S-B001. Navigate to https://www.nre.navy.mil/our-research/onr-technology-and-research for a list of ONR-sponsored research. Select a technology area which will provide program officer and specific program details.</p>



Basic Research Investments Across DoD



Pre-doctoral Fellowships

- **NDSEG**
- **SMART**
- Minerva Training Grants



Research Funding to University Laboratories

- **VBFF**
- Minerva projects
- **MURI**
- Single-Investigator Awards
- Young Investigator Program



Expanding the Research Base

- **DEPSCoR**
- **HBCU/MI**



Equipment and Facility Funding

- **DURIP**



Transition to DoD

- Minerva transition to Professional Military Schools
- **LUCI**
- **UARCS**



Technology Transfer

- **SBIR/STTR**
- Manufacturing Institutes

Service Programs **green**

OSD Programs **purple**

Cross- Service Programs **orange**



DEPSCoR Program Overview

- Defense *Experimental* Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was created by Congress in FY91 DoD appropriation, and legislatively authorized in 1994
- Defense *Established* Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was reauthorized in 2017
- Appropriations (\$20M): FY24 Defense Appropriations Congressional supplement to the Basic Research Initiatives program line dedicated to DEPSCoR



Program Goals

DEPSCoR Objectives as mandated by Congress:

1. **Enhance the capabilities** of institutions of higher education (IHE) in eligible State/Territories to develop, plan, and execute science and engineering (S&E) research that is relevant to the mission of the DoD and competitive under the peer-review systems used for awarding Federal research assistance
2. **Increase the number of university researchers** in eligible States/Territories capable of performing S&E research responsive to the needs of the DoD
3. **Increase the probability of long-term growth** in the **competitively awarded** financial assistance that IHE in eligible States/Territories receive from the Federal Government for S&E research

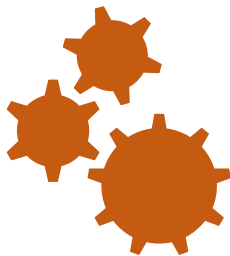


DEPSCoR: Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Program Goal

To increase the number of university researchers and improve the capabilities of institutions of higher education in eligible jurisdictions to perform competitive basic research in science & engineering relevant to the DoD mission & reflect national security priorities.

Key Components



**Capacity Building
DEPSCoR
Competition**



**Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR
Competition**

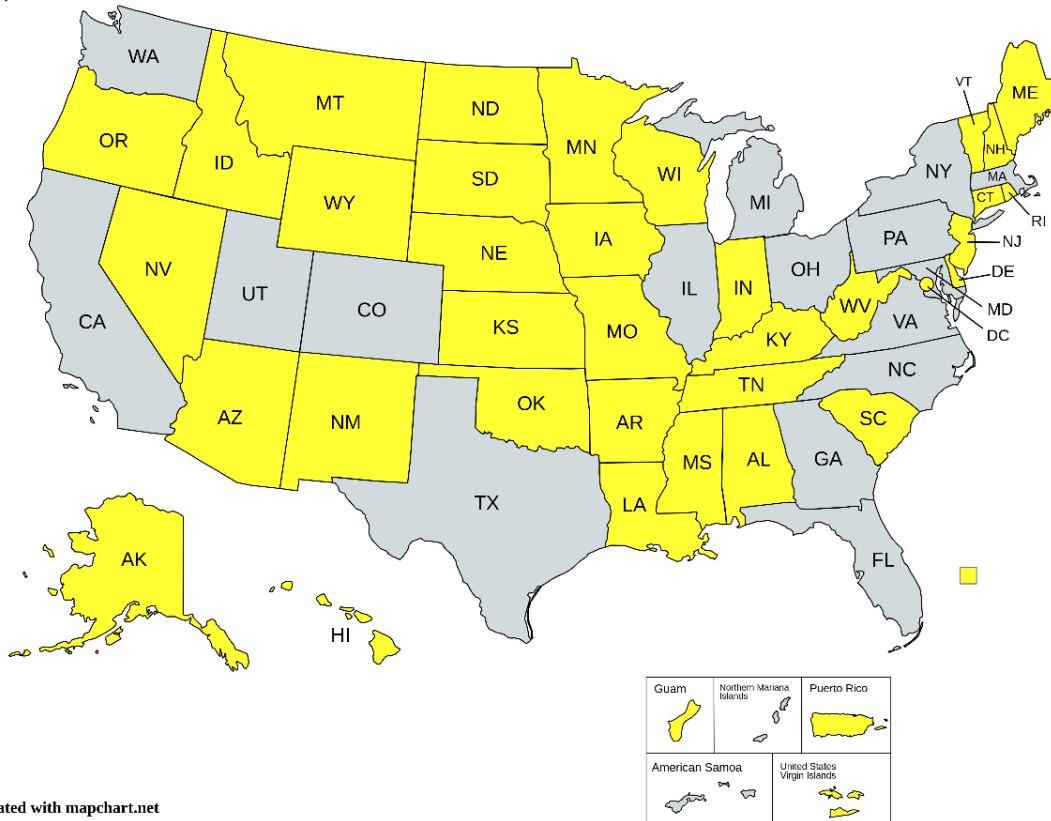


**Outreach &
Education**



FY24 Program Eligibility

Congressionally-directed eligibility criteria: “States or territories that received less than 60% of 1/50th of the total DoD S&E research obligations to U.S. IHE are eligible if a commitment to developing S&E research is demonstrated.”



Created with mapchart.net

***Eligible territories include Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands**

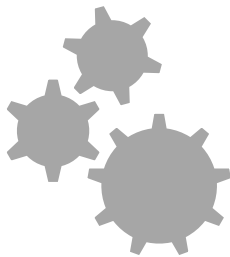


DEPSCoR: Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Program Goal

To increase the number of university researchers and improve the capabilities of institutions of higher education in eligible jurisdictions to perform competitive basic research in science & engineering relevant to the DoD mission & reflect national security priorities.

Key Components



Capacity Building
DEPSCoR
Competition



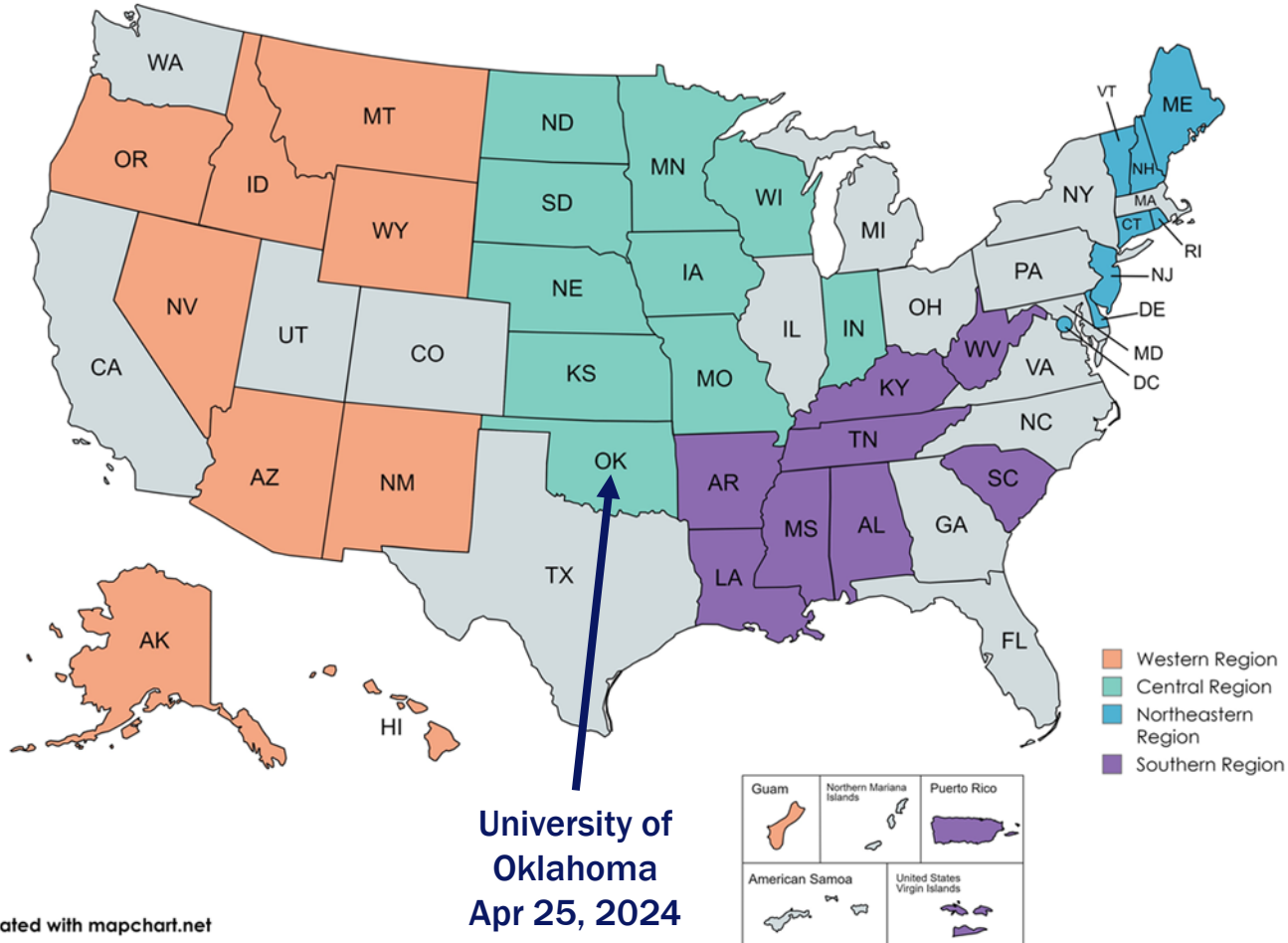
Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR
Competition



Outreach &
Education



DEPSCoR Outreach Events



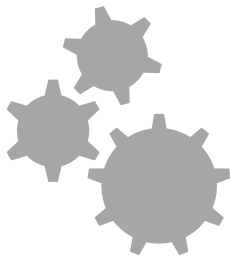


DEPSCoR: Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Program Goal

To increase the number of university researchers and improve the capabilities of institutions of higher education in eligible jurisdictions to perform competitive basic research in science & engineering relevant to the DoD mission & reflect national security priorities.

Key Components



Capacity Building
DEPSCoR
Competition



Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR
Competition

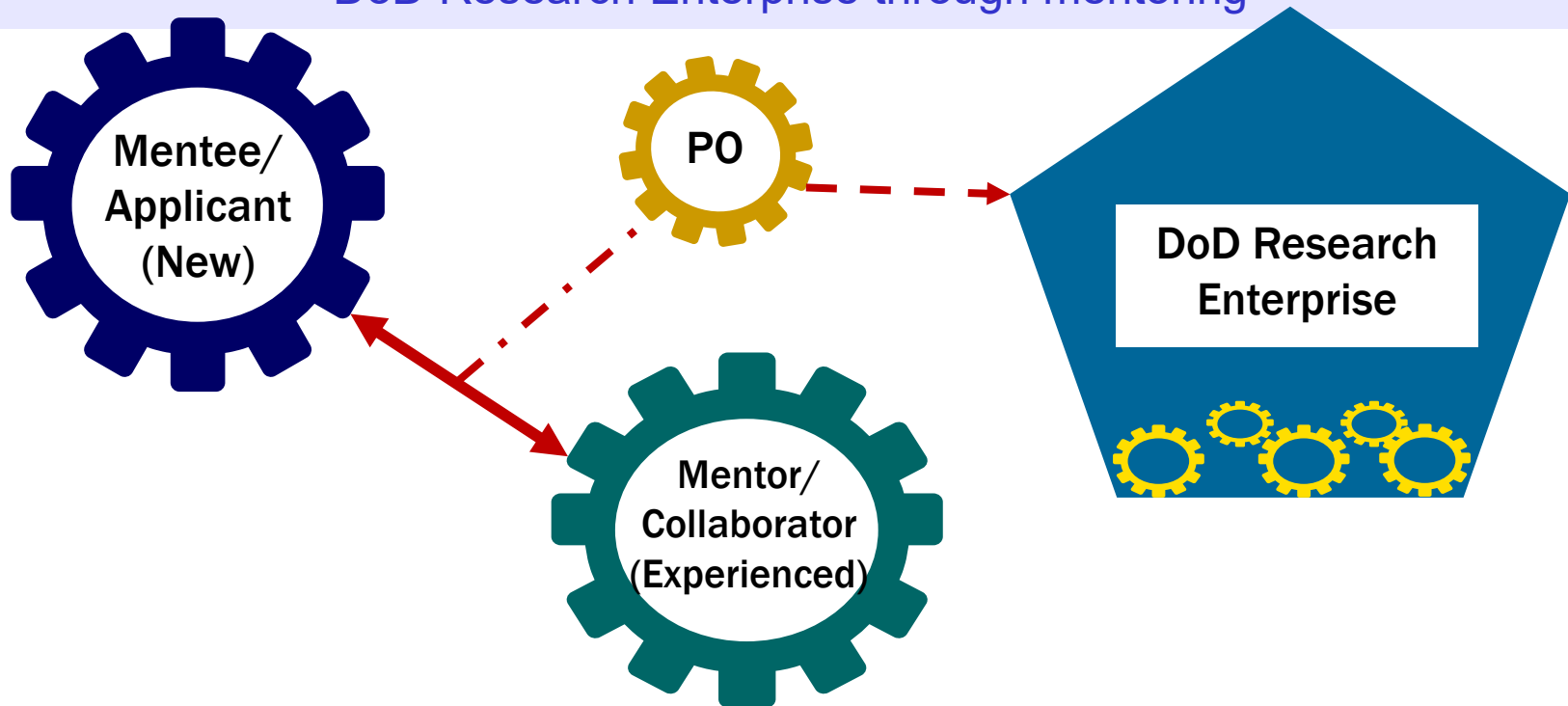


Outreach & Education



Research Collaboration (RC) DEPSCoR Competition

Integrate new researchers from DEPSCoR-eligible states/territories into the DoD Research Enterprise through mentoring



Program Structure:

- 2-person team from DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories can apply
 - \$200K/year (total cost) for three years
- **FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2024-0007**



DEPSCoR – RC Competition

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2024-0007

- Collaborative research grants
- **Strongly encouraged to discuss proposal idea with a tri-Service Program Officer listed in the FOA**
- One white paper submission per Applicant
- Collaborator may partner with more than one Applicant
- Security clearance is not required to receive award
- U.S. citizenship is not required
- Approximately 25 proposals will be selected for funding

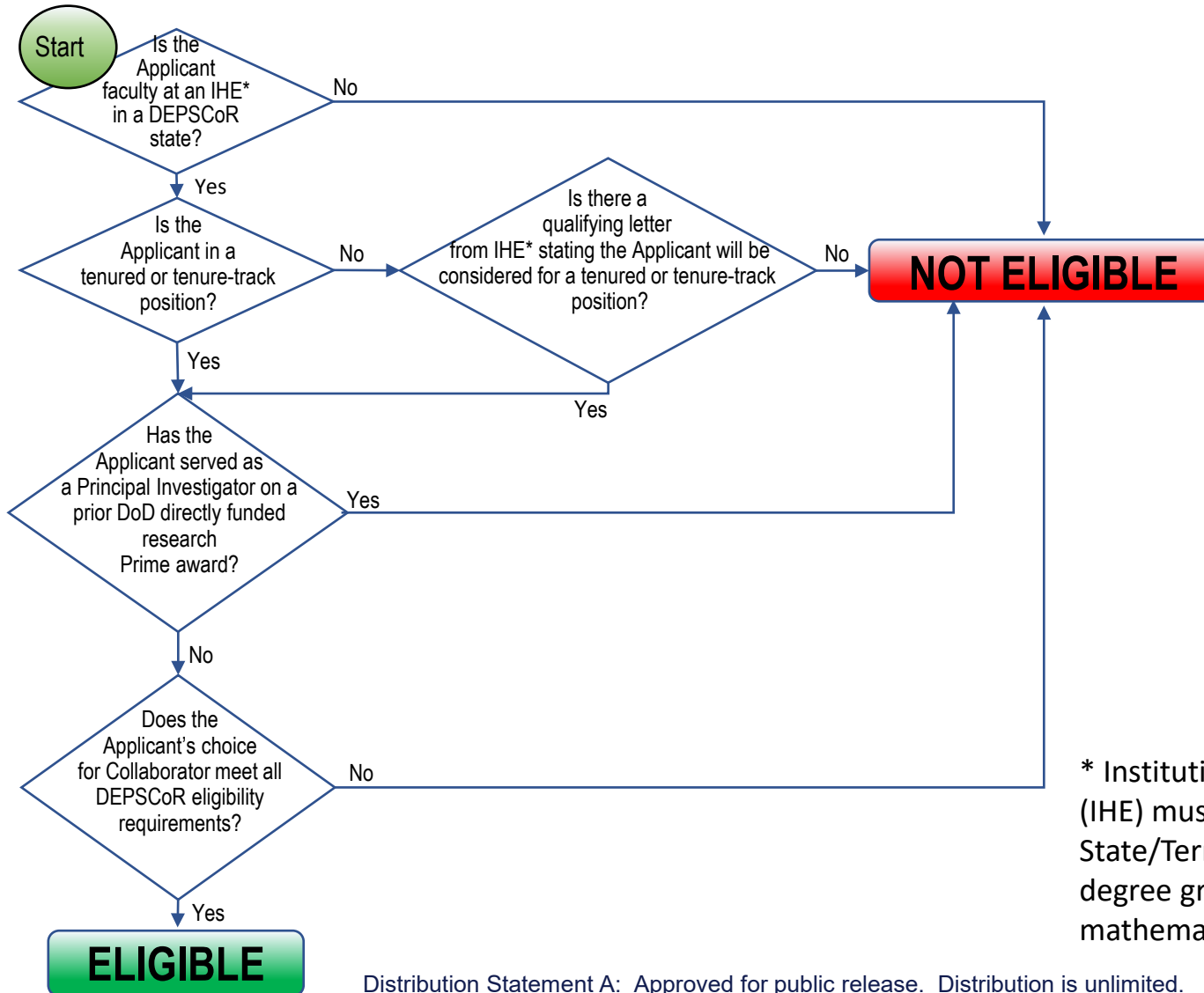


DEPSCoR – RC Competition

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2024-0007

- Both Applicant and Collaborator must be **tenured or tenure-track faculty members** with appointments at an IHE in a DEPSCoR eligible State/Territory
- Applicant must be a full-time faculty member who has **never** served as a PI on a prior DoD-funded award
- Collaborator will collaborate on research AND provide *mentorship* to the Applicant. Collaborator must have **served as a PI on a DoD-funded research award actively between 1 October 2017 and 30 September 2024.**

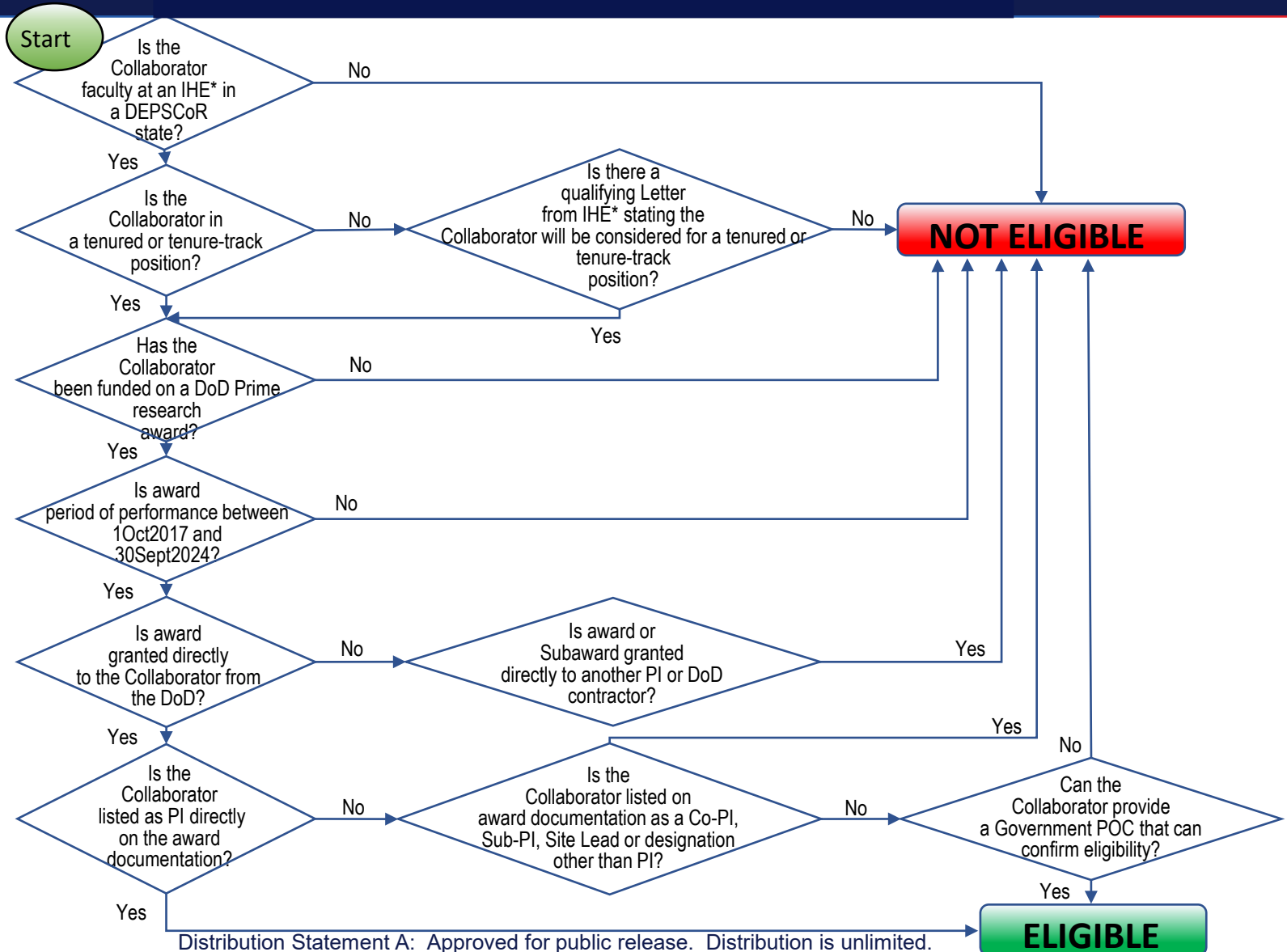
DEPSCoR – RC Applicant Eligibility



* Institution of Higher Education (IHE) must be in a DEPSCOR eligible State/Territory and with an advanced degree granting program in science, mathematics, and/or engineering



DEPSCoR – RC Collaborator Eligibility





DEPSCoR – RC Collaborator Eligibility

DoD Offices & Agencies*



Non-DoD Government*



*These are examples and do not represent comprehensive lists



Topics in FY24 Research Collaboration FOA

Topic Number	SERVICE	TOPIC AREA	PROGRAM OFFICER
1	Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)	Natural Materials and Systems	Dr. Bennett Ibey
2	AFOSR	Atomic and Molecular Physics	Dr. Boyan Tabakov
3	AFOSR	Mathematical Optimization	Dr. Warren Adams
4	AFOSR	Ghz - Thz Electronics	Dr. Kenneth C. Goretta
5	Army Research Office (ARO)	Fluid Dynamics	Dr. Jack R. Edwards
6	ARO	Polymer Chemistry	Dr. Robert H. Lambeth
7	ARO	Information Processing and Fusion	Dr. John S. Hyatt
8	ARO	Physical Properties of Materials	Dr. Katherine J. Duncan
9	Office of Naval Research (ONR)	Novel, fast-response, infrared (IR) detector concepts enabling higher temperature operation	Dr. Richard Espinola
10	ONR	Vertical Cloud and Aerosol Profiling	Dr. Josh Cossuth
11	ONR	Multifunctional Marine Antifouling Surfaces	Ms. Danielle Paynter
12	ONR	Understanding Mind and Body Relationship Through Respiratory Control	Dr. Sandra Chapman
13	ONR	Novel Attachment Methods for Fiber Reinforced Thermoplastics	Mr. Bill Nickerson



Establishing a Collaboration

Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) - non-comprehensive repository of government-funded scientific, technical, and engineering information for the DoD.

<https://discover.dtic.mil/products-services/>

Connect and Collaborate - site where prospective Applicants and Collaborators, seeking collaboration in this DEPSCoR opportunity can post their interest. [https://dod-](https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)

[basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor](https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)

Discussing proposed research with the Program Officer could identify possible networking leads.

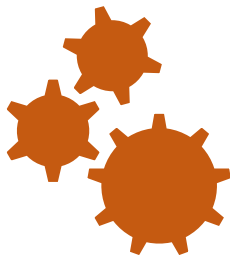


DEPSCoR: Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Program Goal

To increase the number of university researchers and improve the capabilities of institutions of higher education in eligible jurisdictions to perform competitive basic research in science & engineering relevant to the DoD mission & reflect national security priorities.

Key Components



**Capacity Building
DEPSCoR
Competition**



**Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR
Competition**

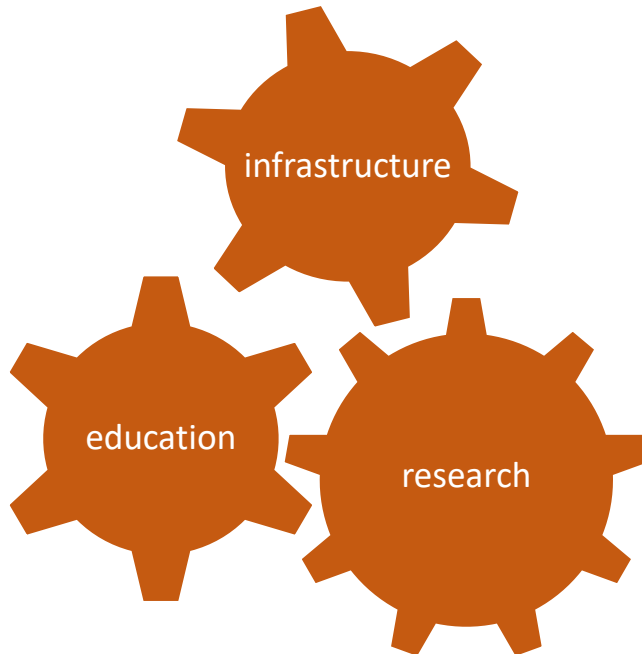


**Outreach &
Education**



Capacity Building (CB) DEPSCoR Competition

Support the strategic objectives of IHEs to achieve basic research excellence in areas of high relevance to the DoD



- Jumpstart capability development in the State/Territory through increased human, technical, and management resources
- Achieve excellence in a DoD-relevant research area through funding to support equipment, education, research, and other relevant activities

Program Structure:

- IHE's executive office, such as Vice-President of Research, in DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories can apply
 - \$750K/year (total cost) for 2 years
- **FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2024-0006**



DEPSCoR – CB Competition

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2024-0006

- Applications must present the opportunities for enhanced academic research and development competitiveness and, if appropriate, industrial or economic competitiveness, for the State/Territory. **A strategic plan to sustain the investment after the DEPSCoR award period of performance must be discussed.**
- Applications must identify basic research gaps currently at the IHE and the required capabilities that need to be developed at the applicant IHE to achieve full and competitive basic research capability in a DoD-relevant research area.
- Applications must present a management plan for coordinating multiple thrusts working on a common basic research theme that will fill the research gaps and develop new basic research capabilities. These thrusts could include, but are not limited to, purchasing new equipment, supporting new hires, and support for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Adequate provision for **substantive commitment by the IHE's executive offices and appropriate administrative support is an important factor contributing to the success of this Capacity Building effort.**



DEPSCoR – CB Competition

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2024-0006

- Applicant institutions are limited to no more than **one** application under this FOA
- The proposal must be led by a member of the IHE's executive staff such as the Vice-President for Research who will serve as the Team Lead
- Letters of Recommendation for Commitment / Endorsement are required at the FULL PROPOSAL stage only



Application Process

1. Online registration via RunGrants:

<https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor>

2. Whitepaper submission via RunGrants

3. Full proposal package submission via Grants.gov (by invitation only)



Important Dates for FY24 Competitions

Event	Date	Eastern Time
RunGrants website open for White Paper submission (https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)	Tuesday, 16 April 2024	9:00 AM
DEPSCoR Webinar For details and registration, please visit (https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)	Tuesday, 16 April 2024	1:00 - 3:00 PM
RunGrants Registration (strongly suggested by) & Cut-off date for Q&As with Program Officers	Thursday, 20 June 2024	NLT 11:59 PM
White Paper and Supporting Documentation submission on RunGrants website (https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor) (required by)	Monday, 24 June 2024	NLT 11:59 PM
Notification of White Paper Selection	Friday, 6 September 2024	NLT 11:59 PM
Full Proposal Submission (by invitation only) electronically on Grants.gov website (submitted by)	Monday, 25 November 2024	NLT 11:59 PM
Notification of Selection for Award	Monday, 17 March 2025	NLT 11:59 PM



RunGrants Demo



Questions



Thank you



<https://basicresearch.defense.gov/Pilots/DEPSCoR-Defense-Established-Program-to-Stimulate-Competitive-Research/>