Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR)

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OUSD(R&E)/DDRE(RT)
June 23, 2021
Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) Team

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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 ($17M): FY21 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.
FY21 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.”

*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
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DEPSCoR Competition

Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR Competition

Outreach & Education
Regional Outreach Meetings

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

University of Arizona

University of South Dakota

Location - TBD

Oklahoma – TBD

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Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR Competition

Outreach & Education
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-2021-0007
Collaborative research grants

Strongly encouraged to flesh out 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 21 proposals will be selected for funding
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. Collaboration must have served as a PI on a DoD-funded research award actively between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2021.
DoD Offices & Agencies*

Non-DoD Government*

*These are examples and do not represent comprehensive lists
DEPSCoR – RC Applicant Eligibility

Start

Is the Applicant faculty at an IHE in a DEPSCoR state?

- Yes

Is the Applicant in a tenured or tenure-track position?

- Yes

Has the Applicant served as a Principal Investigator on a prior DoD directly funded research Prime award?

- Yes

Does the Applicant’s choice for Collaborator meet all DEPSCoR eligibility requirements?

- Yes

Is there a qualifying letter from IHE stating the Applicant will be considered for a tenured or tenure-track position?

- No

NOT ELIGIBLE

ELIGIBLE
DEPSCoR – RC Collaborator Eligibility

Start

Is the Collaborator faculty at an IHE in a DEPSCoR state?

Yes

Is the Collaborator in a tenured or tenure-track position?

Yes

Has the Collaborator been funded on a DoD research award?

Yes

Is award period of performance between 1Oct2014 and 30Sept2021?

Yes

Is award granted directly to the Collaborator from the DoD?

Yes

Is the Collaborator listed as PI directly on the award documentation?

Yes

Is the Collaborator listed on award documentation as a Co-PI, Sub-PI, Site Lead or designation other than PI?

No

Can the Collaborator provide a Government POC that can confirm eligibility?

No

NOT ELIGIBLE

Yes

Is there a qualifying Letter from IHE stating the Collaborator will be considered for a tenured or tenure-track position?

No

Is award or Subaward granted directly to another PI or DoD contractor?

Yes

NOT ELIGIBLE

Yes

ELIGIBLE
# Topics in FY21 Research Collaboration FOA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Number</th>
<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>TOPIC AREA</th>
<th>PROGRAM OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AFOSR</td>
<td>Physics of Sensing</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Yakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AFOSR</td>
<td>Space Propulsion and Power</td>
<td>Dr. Mitat A. Birkan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>AFOSR</td>
<td>Complex Networks</td>
<td>Dr. Donald K. Wagner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>AFOSR</td>
<td>Atomic and Molecular Physics</td>
<td>Dr. Boyan Tabakov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ARO</td>
<td>Modeling of Complex Systems</td>
<td>Dr. Rad Balu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ARO</td>
<td>Biomathematics</td>
<td>Dr. Virginia Pasour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ARO</td>
<td>Solid Mechanics</td>
<td>Dr. Denise C. Ford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ARO</td>
<td>Environmental chemistry</td>
<td>Dr. Elizabeth King-Doonan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ARO</td>
<td>Electronic Sensing</td>
<td>Dr. Tania Paskova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>ONR</td>
<td>Nanoscale Computing Devices and Systems</td>
<td>Dr. Ian Appelbaum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>ONR</td>
<td>Marine Mammals and Biology</td>
<td>Dr. Mike Weise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>ONR</td>
<td>Additive Manufacturing</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Wolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>ONR</td>
<td>Social Networks and Computational Social Science</td>
<td>Dr. Rebecca Goolsby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ONR</td>
<td>Hypersonic Aerothermodynamics</td>
<td>Dr. Eric Marineau</td>
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</table>
Establishing a Collaboration

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

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

Discussing proposed research with the Program Officer could identify possible networking leads.
# Ways To Engage with tri-Service Program Officers

Email preferred for most POs

Phone (hit or miss due to travel)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFOSR</th>
<th>ARO</th>
<th>ONR</th>
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</table>

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 FA9550-19-S-0003

Select “Broad Agency Announcements” in the “Business” section to see the most recent ARO Core Broad Agency Announcement for Fundamental Research for 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2022

Select “Work With Us” then “Funding Opportunities” and then “BAAs, FOAs and Special Program Announcements” to see the Long Range Broad Agency Announcement for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology, N00014-21-S-B001. Navigate to [https://www.onr.navy.mil/our-research/our-program-managers](https://www.onr.navy.mil/our-research/our-program-managers) for a list of program officers and their specific program.
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Key Components

Capacity Building
DEPSCoR Competition

Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR Competition

Outreach & Education
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
  - $500K/year for 2 years
- FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2021-0008
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 exhibit a coherent focus on one DoD-related research area, and identification of the gaps in achieving full capacity. Please see the Services Broad Agency Announcements.

Applications must present a management plan for coordinating multiple thrusts working on a common basic research theme. 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.
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
## Important Dates for FY21 Competitions

### Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Eastern Standard Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nVision website open for registration and submission</td>
<td>23 June 2021</td>
<td>NLT 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(<a href="https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depscor">https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depscor</a>)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions Regarding White Paper and Supporting Documentation (submitted by)</td>
<td>16 September 2021</td>
<td>NLT 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nVision Registration (strongly suggested by)</td>
<td>16 September 2021</td>
<td>NLT 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Paper and Supporting Documentation submission on nVision website</td>
<td>20 September 2021</td>
<td>NLT 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(<a href="https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depscor">https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depscor</a>)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(required by)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of White Paper Selection</td>
<td>3 December 2021</td>
<td>NLT 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for written feedback on your white paper submission (required by)</td>
<td>10 December 2021</td>
<td>NLT 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Email request to: <a href="mailto:DEPSCoR-feedback@noblis.org">DEPSCoR-feedback@noblis.org</a>)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposal Submission (by invitation only) electronically on Grants.gov website (submitted by)</td>
<td>22 February 2022</td>
<td>NLT 11:59PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of Selection for Award</td>
<td>2 May 2022</td>
<td>NLT 11:59PM</td>
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Questions

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

@DoD_STIx