

PULSE proposers day, July 17th, 2012

Important disclaimer:

- **In the event of a disagreement between the contents of the BAA and the information in this document, please follow the BAA. No exceptions.**

Questions and Answers

1. Q: Are FFRDCs eligible for funding?
A: Yes. It is **imperative** that FFRDCs (and other government entities) refer to the Eligibility Information section of the BAA (when published) for details.
2. Q: Can you describe the teaming goals of PULSE? Should proposers summarize the accomplishments of the entire team in the proposal?
A: Each proposal should have an integrated team that should be described within the given page limits.
3. Q: Will this program require any level of classification?
A: No. There are no restrictions on personnel, universities, publications, teaming etc. Foreign universities are welcome to apply as a prime- or sub-contractor.
4. Q: If a proposal needs classification can it use 6.1 funds?
A: This program will likely only fund unclassified research. Proposers should contact the PM directly if they would like to include a classified element to their proposal.
5. Q: Does a proposal need a lead institution?
A: That is up to the proposer. They can be all primes if they wish – but there needs to be a primary point of contact.
6. Q: How with the proposals be technically reviewed?
A: Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of expert government personnel.
7. Q: Can one proposal result in multiple contracts?
A: No.
8. Q: When are proposers not permitted to communicate with DARPA concerning the PULSE program?
A: After proposal submission.
9. Q: How will the funding be divided among the 4 technical areas? Will they be reviewed separately?
A: Each proposal may propose to multiple technical areas if the research is connected. Each member of the government panel may review multiple areas. The quality of the proposals will determine the amount of funding in each technical area. If the quality of proposals is poor in a particular area, then that area could get no funding. DARPA would like to fund proposals in each of the 4 areas, but that is not guaranteed.
10. Q: Can one organization participate in several proposals?
A: Yes, but the proposers must ensure that they have the necessary personnel to achieve all their proposed milestones. In addition, DARPA will not pay for the same work multiple times and hence the work in each proposal must be separate, or if not, it will only be funded once.

11. Q: Can the government influence teaming? Can evaluators influence teaming?
A: No.
12. Q: If multiple PIs are in the same building – can this serve as the link so that they can all participate in a single proposal?
A: No. There should be technical justification for working together clearly described in the proposal.
13. Q: What is the funding profile of PULSE?
A: Proposers may assume that it is roughly flat, maybe a bit higher upfront to cover initial equipment costs.
14. Q: Must the program timeline/structure (2 years in Phase I, 2 years in Phase II and 1 year in Phase III) be followed exactly?
A: A proposal can have a more aggressive timeline if the proposers think that this would be best. However, it is helpful to DARPA to have all the funded research in-phase so that decisions can be made at the same time.
15. Q: Can you speak about applications in Phase III?
A: It would be good to have a demonstration in a relevant environment e.g. time transfer in a real network or teaming with RADAR people for a demonstration that makes use of ultra-low phase noise.
16. Q: In justifying teaming – should proposers describe a history of collaboration?
A: Yes, if they feel it is relevant to the success of the proposed effort.
17. Q: Should the application be tested by the team or will outside testing be provided?
A: DARPA may provide independent government testing/validation. However, teams will likely need access to their own test equipment to adequately characterize their system before any independent testing is done.
18. Q: Can you describe what happens to funding after the teams reach their milestones?
A: The milestones will be checked at the end of each phase. Note there is no guarantee that reaching the milestones will ensure continued funding. Also, not reaching milestones may not necessarily mean that funding will be stopped.
19. Q: Is there a formal connection/collaboration between DARPA and AFOSR with regards to this program?
A: There is no formal collaboration. AFOSR is acting as an interested government participant that aided in the development of the program.
20. Q: What is the definition of “practical device”?
A: It depends on the operating environment e.g. an x-ray source should be table-top; the comb based oscillator should be rack-mountable or chip-integrated.
21. Q: Should proposers work on medical applications?
A: This program seeks to develop tools that the medical community would find useful. DARPA is interested in medical applications, in general. However, medical applications are one of many DOD-relevant applications that will be considered.
22. Q: Is PULSE amenable to other applications?
A: Yes. PULSE would like to fund areas highlighted in the BAA – but is open to other potential applications that are aligned with the technical areas. However, it will be up to the proposers to

thoroughly justify how their applications would benefit the DOD e.g. PULSE likely would not be interested in applications such as detecting exo-planets or time variation of fundamental constants, etc.