DARPA-BAA-15-39
Defense Sciences Office (DSO) Office-wide BAA
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
as of 4/5/2016

Q106: In DARPA-SN-16-27, the scope is very prescribed in the sub-tasks in spite of the breadth of the general call (DARPA-BAA-15-39). Is there latitude to address issues that P&W believes are the primary issues?
A: The Primary Task in the SN should take precedent in proposed efforts. The Supporting/Secondary Sub-Tasks in the SN are not presumed to be exhaustive; however, they are presumed to be key elements for transition of AM for aircraft structural application. DARPA is not interested in additional sub-tasks because of limited funding.

Q105: For the studies requested by DARPA-SN-16-27, is there guidance with respect to the period of performance or award amounts?
A: DARPA anticipates awards to be for two to four months both in length and level of manpower.

Q104: DARPA-BAA-15-39 requests that prior to submitting a full proposal, proposers are strongly encouraged to submit an executive summary and/or abstract and full proposals are due on June 30, 2016. DARPA-SN-16-27 only requests full proposals due April 18. Do I need to submit an executive summary and/or abstract prior to a full proposal requested by DARPA-SN-16-27? Is the April 18 date the date I should be working toward instead of the June 30 date?
A: DARPA-SN-16-27 is a call for full proposals. Full proposals for the Open Manufacturing Transition Study are requested on or before 4:00 p.m., April 18, 2016. DARPA-BAA-15-39's full proposal submission deadline is June 30, 2016; however, proposers are warned that the likelihood of available funding in the targeted area outlined in this Special Notice is greatly reduced for proposals submitted after 4:00 p.m., April 18, 2016.

Q103: Is it beneficial to be teamed with an aircraft OEM for the studies requested by DARPA-SN-16-27?
A: It will be beneficial to be, or teamed with, someone that thoroughly understands system requirements, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulatory processes, manufacturing variability, and quality assurance impact.

Q102: DARPA-SN-16-27 is written very broadly in terms of both A.M. processes and materials. Is there a target set of material systems you are most interested in (i.e., steel, titanium and aluminum only) or is your intent to include other material systems such as plastics, composites, ceramics, etc.?
A: The SN indicates a focus on additively manufactured structural parts, which naturally includes metal and some plastic materials. In this case, DARPA does not consider conventional

composite manufacturing to be considered additive manufacturing. Ceramics additive is considered too nascent to be considered for qualification and certification.

Q101: In reference to DARPA-SN-16-27, is there a target set of Additive Manufacturing (A.M.) processes you are most interested in (i.e., laser-sintering and e-beam), or is your intent to look broadly at all A.M. processes?
A: DARPA-SN-16-27 is not set on any particular AM process.

Q100: DARPA-SN-16-27 refers to "other study participants." Will awards be detailed to look at specific areas (repair only), or will all awards have the same scope answering the question in the broadest sense?
A: There will potentially be multiple awards. It is not DARPAs intention to consider additive repair.

Q99: Is it acceptable to provide cost estimates in the cost proposal?
A: All full proposals must include a complete Cost Volume as outlined in the BAA. Estimates are acceptable; however, in accordance with the BAA, proposals must include supporting documentation providing the basis of estimate (i.e., the method used to estimate the costs). Cost information must be provided in sufficient detail to substantiate the proposed prices.

▼▼▼ Q/A as of 8/26/2015 ▼▼▼

Q98: On the proposal cover page, what is the Proposal validity period and where would I find the Proposer reference number?
A: The proposal validity period is the length of time that the information contained in your proposal is valid. For example, if the proposed labor rates will expire after 120 days, you would put a date that is 120 days after the date you plan to submit the proposal. The proposer reference number is an identifying number that is generated by your organization (not all organizations have them).

Q97: For proposals, is the Summary Slide to be submitted in addition to Volume 1 and Volume 2? What about an editable Excel Budget?
A: The summary slide is a separate PowerPoint file to be included with Volume 1 and Volume 2. You may include an editable Excel spreadsheet if you wish, but it is not required.

Q96: The DARPA BAA Submission website (https://baa.darpa.mil/) appears to have an invalid certificate making it impossible to upload my submission. What should I do?
A: The DoD-issued certificate associated with the DARPA BAA Submission website is not recognized by all commercial certificate authorities, resulting in untrusted connection errors/messages. You can either bypass the warning (possibly by adding https://baa.darpa.mil to your listed of trusted sites, or darpa.mil as a trusted domain), or visit the Defense

Information Systems Agency (DISA) website (http://dodpki.c3pki.chamb.disa.mil/rootca.html) to download the Root Certificate Authority (CA).

Q95: If I am having trouble submitting via the DARPA BAA Submission website, who should I contact?
A: Technical support for the DARPA BAA Submission website is available during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Requests for technical support must be emailed to BAAT_Support@darpa.mil with a copy to DARPA-BAA-15-39@darpa.mil. Questions regarding submission contents, format, deadlines, etc. should be emailed to DARPA-BAA-15-39@darpa.mil.

Q94: If I am having trouble submitting via the grants.gov website, can you help?
A: If the issue is related to the grants.gov website, we are unable to assist because that website is completely separate from DARPA. You would need to contact the grants.gov technical support at support@grants.gov or 1-800-518-4726. However, if your question is regarding submission contents, format, deadlines, etc., you should email it to DARPA-BAA-15-39@darpa.mil.

Q93: What is the earliest start date I can propose?
A: You should propose whatever period of performance is appropriate for the proposed work. If your proposal is selected for award negotiation, that negotiation will include setting a feasible start date that is acceptable to both you and the Government.

Q92: The BAA asks for costs by Government Fiscal Year. Is the fiscal year October 1-September 30?
A: Yes, that is correct.

Q91: Can I email you my BAA submission?
A: No. See Section IV.E of the BAA for the accepted methods of submitting an executive summary, abstract or proposal to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q90: What are the DSO Focus Areas?
A: Information about the DSO focus areas can be found in the DSO Office-wide BAA (DARPA-BAA-15-39) and on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). After reviewing the BAA and website, if you feel that you have an idea that addresses a DSO focus area, you may either contact a DSO Program Manager to help you determine who, if anyone, is interested in your idea or you may simply submit an executive summary to the BAA. Any new program-specific opportunities will be posted to the Federal Business Opportunities (https://www.fbo.gov) and, as applicable, Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) websites.

Q89: What classes of materials are of current interest to DSO?

A: Information about the classes of materials that are of current interest to the office can be found in the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). Also see Q/A #90.

Q88: Is DSO interested in concepts that fully automate the preparation of materials?
A: There are no specific programs addressing automated preparation of materials. We suggest that you review can the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) for potential areas where you think your ideas might make an impact. Also see Q/A #90.

Q87: What are specific topics of interest in the mathematics of stochastic, complex systems and representational and computational foundations?
A: Information about mathematics of stochastic, complex systems and representational and computational foundations of current interest to the office can be found in the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). Also see Q/A #90.

Q86: Please provide additional information and challenge problems regarding DSO Human Systems Interaction vision and Mathematics, Modeling and Design vision.
A: Currently there are no challenge problems regarding Human Systems Interactions, Mathematics and/or Design. Information regarding DSO's interest in these areas can be found in the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). Also see Q/A #90.

Q85: Is there any interest in DSO for developing a new representation for design and manufacturing based on new advancements in manufacturing techniques?
A: Yes, DSO is interested in new ideas in representation for design and manufacturing based on new advancements in manufacturing. Also see Q/A #90.

Q84: Are applications particularly related to photonics and simulation relevant for DSO?
A: Yes, DSO is interested in new ideas in photonics and simulation relevant to DSO. Also see Q/A #90.

Q83: Are there current or future programs that are interested in human machine interfaces, modeling human interest and context, automation for decision support or to improve user performance?
A: Information about human machine interfaces, modeling human interest and context, automation for decision support or to improve user performance of current interest to the office can be found in the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). Also see Q/A #90.

Q82: What are DSO's Current / Future Technology Areas of Interest?
A: See Q/A #90.

Q81: Is there DSO interest in novel neuromorphic tactile sensors or dexterous robotics/prostheses?
A: Although these topics are possibly more appropriate for DARPA's Biological Technologies Office (BTO), we encourage you to talk to the DSO Program Managers to help you determine who, if anyone, is interested in your idea.

Q80: Please provide information regarding the detailed content of the DSO Office-wide BAA referenced at the DSO Proposers Day, e.g., the specific focus areas of interest to DSO.
A: Please see the DSO Office-wide BAA (DARPA-BAA-15-39) posted at www.fbo.gov and on the DARPA solicitations website (http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities). Also see Q/A #90.

Q79: Are domains/problems of interest for next generation technologies (e.g., military flying IEDs, or searching forests for insurgents) relevant to DSO?
A: Yes, the office is interested in domains/problems of interest for next generation technologies, particularly the development of sciences and technologies that enable solutions to anticipated as well as unanticipated problems. Also see Q/A #90.

Q78: What are the future DSO program directions?
A: Future DSO program directions can be found at DARPA's website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). Any new program-specific opportunities will be posted to the Federal Business Opportunities (https://www.fbo.gov) and/or Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov websites.

Q77: Please provide more details on the Human-Machine Systems topic.
A: Information about the Human-Machine Systems areas can be found in the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). Also see Q/A #90.

Q76: Is there DSO interest in Analog Computing?
A: Yes, the office is interested in analog computing. See Q/A #90.

Q75: What are the interests of the individual DSO PMs?
A: Information about individual PMs can be found on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso).

Q74: Is an enabling technology for tissue engineering of interest to DSO?
A: The short answer is Yes. If the technology is exclusively for biology, about biology, by biology, it would probably make more sense to submit the idea to DARPA/BTO

(http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/bto). However, there are some crossover technologies that lead to multiple applications and/or are multidisciplinary with biological elements that may be applicable to both DSO and BTO. If you are unsure which office is a better fit for the technology, we suggest you review the DSO and BTO websites for their Program Managers' specific interests, then reach out to the individual(s) you think might be interested in the idea to receive feedback and find out about next steps.

Q73: Is computational biology of interest at DSO?
A: See Q/A #74.

Q72: Is there DSO interest in the following topics: Human Robot Interaction? Computational Social Science as applied to large scale systems as well as to small group interactions? New dynamic stochastic models for various real-life phenomena?
A: Yes. Also see Q/A #90.

Q71: Is there DSO interest in radiation protection?
A: Currently DSO is not pursuing any efforts in this area. We suggest that you contact Program Managers in BTO for possible interest.

Q70: Science suffers from a reproducibility problem, particularly in the natural and social sciences, leading to serious reliability concerns regarding novel findings. How could interested researchers help DARPA address this problem?
A: We suggest you review the DSO Office-wide BAA and the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) to determine if your ideas could impact the Human-Machine Systems area and which Program Managers might be interested in your idea. If you are still in doubt, we suggest you submit your idea as an executive summary to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q69: What is the scope of human-machine systems interests for DSO?
A: See Q/A #77.

Q68: Is DSO interested in research related to AI and machine learning and, if so, are there any upcoming opportunities in these areas?
A: DSO is interested in AI and machine learning as part of the Human-Machine Systems area described in the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DARPA/DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). Also see Q/A #90.

Q67: Are nonlinear photonic devices, physical authentication devices and quantum optics relevant to the DSO Office-wide BAA?
A: We suggest you review the DSO Office-wide BAA and the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) to determine if your ideas could impact the Physical Systems area and which Program Managers might be interested in your idea. If you

are still in doubt, we suggest you submit your idea as an executive summary to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q66: What algorithmic/optimization topics would be of most interest to DSO?
A: We suggest you review the DSO Office-wide BAA and the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) to determine if your ideas could impact the Mathematics/Modeling/Design area and which Program Managers might be interested in your idea. If you are still in doubt, we suggest you submit your idea as an executive summary to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q65: What are the DSO interests and focus in the areas of fundamentals, materials, and sensors/detectors in this current and the next several fiscal years? Which program managers are interested in these specifically areas?
A: We suggest you review the DSO Office-wide BAA and the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) to determine if your ideas could impact the Physical Systems area and which Program Managers might be interested in your idea. If you are still in doubt, we suggest you submit your idea as an executive summary to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q64: What are the areas of special interest to DSO? If we can help in those areas, how can we contract with DSO to provide that support?
A: See Q/A #90.

Q63: What are the new FY16 and 17 POM areas for DSO?
A: The FY16 and FY17 POM topics are not specifically described on the DSO website; however, the current technical areas of interest to DSO outlined in the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) encompass the POM topics.

Q62: What are the specific interest areas? Are there any additional details regarding the selection criteria?
A: DSO's focus areas are described in the DSO Office-wide BAA and on the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). All details regarding the selection criteria for the DSO Office-wide BAA are outlined in that BAA.

Q61: What are the top 5 most pressing problems/issues that DSO would like to address/solve?
A: The problems/issues that DSO is tackling have no ranking. They are all important to national security.

Q60: What are the top three priorities for the DoD that industry and academia can address (e.g., cyber-security, munitions without gunpowder, energy efficiency, etc.)? Has the DARPA vision changed significantly in the past few years? How can DARPA get the most bang for its buck? More commercial and less defense-contractor participants?

A: The top priorities for DSO can be found on the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) and do change from year to year, reflecting the ever changing national security concerns. We encourage you to review the website and the DSO Office-wide BAA, and if you feel that you have an idea that addresses a focus area, contact a DSO Program Manager to help you determine who, if anyone, is interested in your idea. Also see Q/A #90.

Q59: What is an exemplary use case or problem you would like to be addressed? What data sets may be required or made available to address that problem? What are acceptable or unacceptable technologies? Are there any prerequisites?
A: Each DSO focus area describes the general objectives and goals of the initiative. There is no priority given to these focus areas, and each one has unique requirements. Also see Q/A #90.

Q58: Is DSO interested in Energy-related research?
A: Yes. Also see Q/A #90.

Q57: What is the program lineup for DARPA DSO for FY 2016 and 2017?
A: See Q/A #78.

Q56: What new programs are on the horizon, and is DARPA getting back into energy research this year?
A: See Q/A #78.

Q55: What programs are upcoming on what schedule from which Program Managers? What are the general interests of each PM?
A: See Q/A #78 and Q/A #75.

Q54: What specific "stochastic, complex systems" are under consideration for the uncertainty propagation calculations?
A: We encourage you to review the description of the EQUiPS program found at http://www.darpa.mil/program/equips. If you think you have an interesting idea that could impact the program then contact Dr. Fariba Fahroo to see if she is interested in your idea.

Q53: What specific directions is the DSO pursuing in Human Machine Understanding? Does DSO plan to pursue areas in Personalized Sensing and Analytics? What are DSO's interests in pushing the frontiers on Multimodal Semantic Understanding?
A: We suggest you review the DSO Office-wide BAA and the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) to determine if your ideas could impact the Human-Machine Systems area and which Program Managers might be interested in your idea. If you are still in doubt, we suggest you submit your idea as an executive summary to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q52: What type of mathematical modelling capability is DARPA looking for?

A: We suggest you review the DSO Office-wide BAA and the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) to determine if your ideas could impact the Mathematics/Modeling/Design area and which Program Managers might be interested in your idea. If you are still in doubt, we suggest you submit your idea as an executive summary to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q51: Is DSO interested in the area of Neuroscience and Human Performance Optimization?
A: See Q/A #74.

Q50: Would physical science demonstrating that a counterintuitive medical treatment is plausible be covered under DSO programs?
A: No. This topic likely falls within the BTO mission statement. We encourage you to discuss your ideas with BTO Program Managers.

Q49: Would you be interested in modeling human emotional cognition?
A: Yes. We suggest you review the DSO Office-wide BAA and the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso) to determine if your ideas could impact the Human-Machine Systems area and which Program Managers might be interested in your idea. If you are still in doubt, we suggest you submit your idea as an executive summary to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q48: Where can I find information about the technical and acquisition approach for upcoming BAAs?
A: Information about current BAAs and their specific acquisition approach can be found on the DARPA solicitation website (http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities). Any new opportunities will be posted to the Federal Business Opportunities (https://www.fbo.gov) and/or Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov websites.

Q47: What is the best way to proceed if there appears to be overlap between DSO and other DARPA programs (e.g., novel computing architectures and software programmability)?
A: If you are unsure which office the technology would fit best, you can reach out to the Program Managers you think might be interested in the idea to receive feedback and find out about next steps.

Q46: Are Non-US Citizen Investigators eligible for participation in the DSO Office-wide BAA?
A: Per Section III.A.2 of the BAA, non-U.S. organizations and/or individuals may participate to the extent that such participants comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances. Information related to ITAR and export restrictions can be found on the Department of State website.

Q45: Describe how we may perform with DARPA on a research project.

A: Please see the "Work With Us" link on the DARPA website (http://www.darpa.mil).

Q44: What venues are available for idea discussion with DSO program officers?
A: You may directly contact DSO Program Managers via the DSO website (e.g., http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). We also encourage you to monitor the DARPA solicitations website (http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities) for Proposer Day opportunities.

Q43: What's the best way to get an introduction to DARPA so we know how best to navigate with the DARPA team?
A: Start by reviewing the DSO website (http://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/dso). After reviewing the website, if you feel that you have an idea that addresses a focus area, then contact a DSO Program Manager to help you determine who, if anyone, is interested in your idea. Also see Q/A #44.

Q42: What is the expected team size, composition, and funding level for efforts under DSO BAAs?
A: Each BAA has unique goals and objectives which are dependent on the nature of the program being solicited by DSO; any expectations for team size, composition, and/or funding level will be outlined in that BAA.

Q41: What is the explicit and implicit proposal evaluation criteria and funding?
A: Proposal evaluation criteria and funding (if applicable) are specific to a BAA and will be specified in that BAA. Each BAA is unique; therefore, there are no general evaluation criteria or funding metrics.

Q40: How can I commercialize DARPA-funded technology?
A: This is a difficult question to answer because there could be intellectual property issues, government purpose rights, ITAR/export restrictions, and other issues that need to be answered before a technology can be commercialized. We suggest that you discuss your ideas for commercialization with the DARPA Program Manager who sponsored the technology development.

Q39: How do I get in touch with the right technical monitor? Also, if I would like to team with someone having expertise in a specific area, will DARPA facilitate that collaboration?
A: We encourage you to reach out to the DSO Program Managers to discuss your ideas and to determine which Program Manager might have interest in your topic. Some DSO program-specific BAAs do facilitate teaming/collaboration and will provide details in the BAA. For the DSO Office-wide BAA, registrants for the DSO Proposers Day were asked if they were willing to share their contact information. If they concurred, their contact information was included in the attendee list provided to registered attendees.

Q38: Is industrial collaboration needed? Can Universities act as the lead?
A: A university can act as a prime or subcontractor. Industrial collaboration is only required to the extent that it may be called for in a specific BAA.

Q37: Is it possible for Canadian companies to apply for DARPA funding? What is the US government right in the IP created through DARPA funding?
A: Each BAA will outline any eligibility requirements specific to that BAA. This information can generally be found in Section III of any DARPA BAA. The US government obtains a minimum of government purpose rights to all IP developed under DARPA sponsored contract work. See Q/A #23.

Q36: Provide examples of past small business successes under the DSO Office.
A: DARPA's Small Business Programs Office (SBPO) is available to provide information regarding how small businesses may find success in DSO and throughout DARPA. You can read about opportunities for small businesses on DARPA's website (http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/for-small-businesses). You may also contact the SBPO Help Desk directly at SBIR@darpa.mil or (703) 526-4170.

Q35: What are the opportunities for small, minority owned businesses?
A: See Q/A #36.

Q34: What is the best way to get access to DARPA Program Manager interest areas or DARPA classified capability gaps to determine whether research areas and/or IRAD fills a need? This is to focus whitepaper writing efforts against interest areas.
A: You are encouraged to talk to the DSO Program Managers about their interest areas and for help in determining classified capability gaps that IRAD could help fill.

Q33: How is the DARPA FY16 Budget impacted by continued Sequestration in FY16? Will there be more or fewer research projects funded?
A: The FY16 appropriation for the Department of Defense (DoD) has not been enacted by Congress at this writing; therefore, DARPA has not received its FY16 budget from DoD. Decisions regarding number of projects to fund in a given fiscal year rely on a number of factors, only one of which is budget availability.

Q32: What do you do when Program officers don't answer your email after several attempts?
A: You can email the DSO Director and/or DSO Deputy Director

Q31: Do you ever suggest connections between performers/researchers if you see an obvious intersection of activity/interest/foci? This includes potential leveraging and complementarity through coupling (i.e., potentially, if these people got together they could expand the range

of knowledge, accelerate discovery and/or better understand the range of outcomes/applications of a project)?
A: Yes – with performers' permission this happens often. We always protect IP. This helps the potential performer who only has part of the solution on a new breakthrough.

Q30: How can I be sure I have all the latest announcements or calls for DARPA? Can I do that in an automated fashion?
A: All DARPA solicitations, Requests for Information (RFIs), and Special Notices (SNs) are posted on the FBO.gov and, as applicable, grants.gov websites. Both websites allow interested parties to register for automatic notification of new postings.

Q29: How have the DARPA budgets changed since 2012 as a result of overall government sequestration. What is the projection over the next POM?
A: DARPA's current budget is $2.9B.

Q28: How is DARPA funded and what is the Cycle?
A: DARPA is funded via the President's Budget and the Annual Department of Defense Appropriations Act. We are funded with 2 year Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) money.

Q27: Are there metrics which DARPA needs to justify funding to their sponsor?
A: Congress is our sponsor and we brief the Appropriators' and Authorizers' staffs annually.

Q26: Is proprietary research & development permissible or is open research preferred?
A: It depends on the Program Manager and the program.

Q25: Is it possible to get a list of the DARPA start date for each of the DSO PMs?
A: See the PM bios on the DSO website for information regarding DARPA tenure.

Q24: Was the Proposers Day meeting recorded?
A: No, the meeting was not recorded; however, the briefings which were presented are available at http://www.darpa.mil/attachments/2015DSOProposersDay_Websitefinal.pdf.

Q23: With regard to DARPA's IP policy for the IP created within the framework of a contract through one of the DSO programs, who owns the IP, what is the DARPA and DOD stake in the IP, and what will the contractor own at the end?
A: Pursuant to the Defense FAR Supplement (DFARS) intellectual property regulations – any intellectual property funded wholly by the government results in unlimited rights in data. Mixed funding results in government purpose rights (GPR). However, the government never owns the IP. Unlimited rights mean the government can use the IP for any purpose. GPR means the government can use the IP for government purposes only to include procurement,

i.e., we can share it with potential proposers, but not for commercial purposes. After 5 years, GPR revert to unlimited rights unless negotiated otherwise. Other Transactions offer greater flexibility because they are not subject to DFARS.

Q22: Are there publishing restrictions?
A: It depends on the nature of the research, i.e., whether it is considered fundamental research. It is DoD policy that the publication of products of fundamental research will remain unrestricted to the maximum extent possible. Section II.B of each DARPA BAA outlines DARPA's expectations regarding the nature of the research anticipated under that specific BAA.

Q21: What is DARPA's policy about collaborating with other DOD agencies such as Naval Research Lab, Air Force Research Lab, to jointly write proposals for work on projects?
A: Section III of all DARPA BAAs will outline any eligibility requirements specific to that BAA. This includes government or government-funded entities (e.g., national labs, FFRDCs). In general, these entities cannot compete directly with the private sector unless they have been granted specific statutory authority to do so.

Q20: Will DSO be interested in funding research topics that have been funded by other government agencies?
A: No, we expressly do not want to duplicate funding for efforts already funded by DARPA or by other agencies. However, we do entertain co-funding with other agencies.

Q19: How similar or different do proposed concepts have to be from other programs (idea or program topic)?
A: We are interested in revolutionary research and not incremental improvements on existing technologies.

Q18: How frequently are BAAs similar to the DSO Office-wide BAA published?
A: We issue the DSO Office-wide BAA on an annual basis.

Q17: For the DSO Office-wide BAA, when is the money "spent" for programs formed? Does an executive summary in May have the same chance of generating interest as an executive summary in August?
A: The DSO Office-wide BAA is open for approximately one year for receipt of executive summaries, abstracts and full proposals. The Office-wide BAA timeline does not impact the ability to select and fund proposals submitted in response to it. For example, a proposal received on the day the BAA expires will be reviewed and may be funded, even though the BAA has expired by the time the review process has completed. We entertain rolling submissions. There is no one time in the course of the year that has a higher likelihood of success for an executive summary, abstract or proposal.

Q16: Can you please provide email and phone contact information for the Program Managers?
A: See Q/A #44.

Q15: What resources are available for industry/university teaming?
A: Some DSO program-specific BAAs facilitate teaming/collaboration and will include details in the BAA. For the DSO Office-wide BAA, registrants for the DSO Proposers Day were asked if they were willing to share their contact information. If they concurred, their contact information was included in the attendee list provided to registered attendees.

Q14: Is there a forum to network/team with other interested parties?
A: See Q/A #15.

Q13: How is team science being supported or encouraged for bidders?
A: See Q/A #15.

Q12: It appears that the DSO Office-wide BAA is mainly for seedlings. Could you please specify any dollar limit on seedlings?
A: There is no set level of funding for individual seedlings nor is there a predetermined level of funding assigned to the DSO Office-wide BAA. Seedlings are ordinarily valued at 1-2 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs).

Q11: If a program is already underway, and a team new to DARPA creates a new approach that was not proposed under that program's BAA, should a new seedling be proposed or should the team try to join the existing program?
A: Submit the idea as an executive summary to the Office-wide BAA for consideration.

Q10: Would like to hear more about DSO's outreach to small businesses and international collaborators.
A: Per Section III.A.2 of the BAA, non-U.S. organizations and/or individuals may participate to the extent that such participants comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances. Information related to ITAR and export restrictions can be found on the Department of State website.

Q9: If we have been awarded a SBIR on a topic, does that automatically mean the research is too "old" for DSO?
A: Not at all. If you can address the Heilmeier questions regarding how to advance your SBIR idea to the next level, we would be interested in hearing about it.

Q8: Describe the general procedures for application to a DSO BAA.

A: Instructions for submitting proposals and other preliminary documents to include abstracts and executive summaries, as appropriate, are included in every DSO BAA.

Q7: Are photos and videos allowed or encouraged in executive summaries and white papers?
A: Each BAA will contain specific requirements regarding content (to include formatting, page limits, file types, etc.) which are strictly enforced.

Q6: What are some common submission errors made by proposers, especially with regard to proposal content?
A: Proposers should carefully read and follow the instructions outlined in each BAA. Each BAA is unique so just because you followed the instructions in one BAA does not mean you can apply those same requirements to another. Following the BAA instructions will ensure the proposal is conforming and that it will receive a review for potential funding as described in the BAA.

Q5: How important is it for proposers to tie their concepts to actual defense missions, e.g., vivid "killer app" but requiring first fundamental research? Do you entertain bridging efforts between different DARPA offices or even other agencies, i.e., is there cross-office coordination, and are you amenable to suggestions that are well-defended?
A: One mandatory criteria in all DARPA BAAs addresses the relevance of the proposed technology to DARPA's mission. If you are unsure which office might be the best fit for the technology, you can reach out to the Program Managers you think might be interested in the idea to receive feedback and find out about next steps.

Q4: How much contact is allowed between proposers and program officers during the white paper and proposal development process?
A: It is DARPA policy to encourage PMs to maintain open communications with proposers after release of a BAA and prior to receipt of proposals, including during the white paper phase.

Q3: What would be a funded proposal to DARPA look like?
A: Briefings presented at the DSO Proposers Day covered this topic. The Proposal Day briefings materials can be found at http://www.darpa.mil/attachments/2015DSOProposersDay_Websitefinal.pdf.

Q2: What are the expected levels of effort and support?
A: There is no predetermined level of funding or level of effort anticipated for proposals submitted to the DSO Office-wide BAA.

Q1: How much funding has DARPA/DSO allocated to the open office BAA?
A: There is no predetermined amount of funding for the DSO Office-wide BAA. Funds will be made available for proposals selected for funding under the Office Wide BAA.