

# DARPA-BAA-16-35

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Last Updated: 5/4/16**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Q: If my research is relevant in this field, but is not geared specifically to meet these goals, is there a solicitation that I can respond to?**

A: Yes. DARPA/BTO has an Open solicitation (DARPA-BAA-16-33) for which responses are being collected through 28 Apr 2017.

**Q: Is Dr. Gimlett available for a call to discuss our proposed approach?**

A: The best way to receive feedback on an approach is through the submission of a proposal abstract prior to the deadline specified in the BAA. The BAA describes the program, including metrics, in detail. If you have specific questions, please submit them by email to [DARPA-BAA-16-35@darpa.mil](mailto:DARPA-BAA-16-35@darpa.mil). Please be aware that your question and its answer may be published on this FAQ page, after the question has been revised to remove proprietary information.

**Q: Are Federal Laboratories and International Universities eligible to participate as collaborators in response to the BAA?**

A: Per the BAA, "All responsible sources capable of satisfying the Government's needs may submit a proposal that shall be considered by DARPA." Federally Funded Research and Development Centers must adhere to the guidelines listed in Section 3.1.1 of the BAA, found on page 20. Information about Non-U.S. Organizations can be found in the following Section (3.1.2), though there are no funding restrictions applicable to any organizations responding (per Section 4.5, page 35).

**Q: If we have a foreign performer doing animal research - does ACURO need an official translation of the protocol and IACUC approval submitted by the performer or will a personal translation suffice?**

A: No official translation is required. Any translation will be OK as long as ACURO can understand it. The performer's translation will suffice.

### PROPOSALS

**Q: Can proposers participate in more than one team submission?**

A: Yes. Proposers may join any number of teams as a subcontractor and still submit a separate proposal as the PI (with or without subcontractors). The proposer should be very clear as to how hours will be charged in each proposed effort and describe what safeguards are in place to ensure that time is not double billed.

## **PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

**Q: As someone new to DARPA funding, can you please comment on my assumption that the program can involve numerous different collaborators working on different aspects at different stages and that the intention is not just to fund one proposal.**

A: We intend to fund more than one proposer. DARPA contracts with a single principal investigator (PI) and it is their responsibility to have a sub-contractor agreement with other co-principal investigators or collaborators within a team. We expect one PI to manage multiple co-PIs. Collaboration across teams is permitted.

**Q: What are the timings for proposal submission and funding award and project commencing?**

A: We strongly encourage the submission of White Papers (or Abstracts). This allows DARPA to provide feedback on whether the WP aligns with program goals, and provides proposers with feedback without having to invest the time and resources to generate a full proposal (FP). Abstracts are due on May 19. Feedback is expected within one to two weeks of submission deadline. Full Proposals are due on July 7. The expected start date will be by the end of the calendar year.

**Q: How many teams do you envision? What is the available funding for the program? What are the budget limits (if any)? What is the expected funding level per year?**

A: Teaming relationships must be defined before the proposal is submitted.

**Q: How important is it to show a path to commercialization?**

A: Path to commercialization is not the dominant consideration for the program at this point.

**Q: What is the data-sharing solution envisioned during and after the project?**

A: We envision that data will be publically available to the community. However, DARPA does not wish to jeopardize performer proprietary matters and publications; performers have full control over the timing of data sharing to meet their publication goals. Please refer to the BAA for more information

**Q: What happens in terms of IP ownership for commercial entities working on DARPA funded programs? (i.e. does the IP remain with the commercial organization or does it become DARPA IP? Similarly, does the commercial organization have any control of publications content and timing of the DARPA-funded research, which can also affect IP in terms of patent submission timings?**

A: IP and patents belongs to the performer. Performers have full control over the timing of data sharing to meet their publication goals. Please refer to the BAA for more information.

## **COST/FUNDING**

**Q: What are some possible contractual mechanisms between co-PIs?**

A: DARPA will develop funding agreements through a single Principal Investigator (PI). The PI will describe how and with whom to subcontract in the proposal (see BAA).

## **TECHNICAL**

**Q: What time scale of evolutionary stability needs to be demonstrated in the program?**

A: It will depend on the virus use case pursued, whether the virus selected is acute or chronic infection. This should be determined by the proposer.

**Q: To what degree can evolutionary stability demonstrations be mathematical (e.g. show that stable parameters are being expressed) vs. experimental (e.g. actual transmitted infections in actual mice)?**

A: Please refer to BAA (description and metrics for TA2) where you can find information in response to this question.

**Q: What is the desired balance between cell culture vs. in vivo work?**

A: This is up to the proposer to determine. The proposer should describe an approach that is feasible within the timeframe of the proposed work. It is up to the community to determine the balance

**Q: Is it OK for in vivo work to stop in mouse (or other model organisms) or does it need to move further towards humans in the program?**

A: This is up to the proposer to assess. The proposer should describe an approach that is feasible within the timeframe of the proposed work.

**Q: Can we work with less dangerous model viruses or does it need to be the actual human pathogens? What bio safety level do you envision work taking place at?**

A: Initial work with model viruses that can be translated to pathogens of interest is acceptable (see BAA). However, a clear path to meet the program goals to address one or more viruses listed in table 1 of the BAA should be clearly described in the proposal. BSL will depend on virus use case selected by the proposer.

**Q: Is the development of synthetic DIPs containing an engineered antiviral payload (e.g. CRISPRs, etc) considered “in-scope” for this program? Or is the program primarily concerned with the optimization of “classical” DIPs as TIPs?**

A: Yes. Engineered payloads are within program scope.

**Q: How does delivery of WT virus compare to delivery of DIPs and TIPs?**

A: It is not specified that the delivery mechanism needs to be the same for the TIP as that for virus. Proposer may propose a different delivery approach.

**Q: How long is the typical TIP genome?**

A: Among the program goals is to determine the characteristics underlying most effective TIPs, including genome length.

**Q: What property of the DIP/TIP genome allows for competition of viral packaging resource?**

A: This is one of the objectives of the program that we hope to understand better. There are references in the BAA that can provide guidance to proposers.

**Q: Viral load is typically not an endpoint (a primary endpoint) acceptable to FDA. How much attention does DARPA expect to see on morbidity and mortality outcomes that will likely be more acceptable to FDA, when that time comes?**

A: Proposers are welcome to describe approaches for meeting FDA requirements. However, given that this program is primarily exploratory, consideration of FDA-endorsed endpoints is not required in proposals. Please refer to BAA.

**Q: Would VSV and CDV studies be permissible?**

A: We will consider viruses not listed in the table to develop initial concepts and models, especially if good platforms and models already exist that can be leveraged. However, proposers are expected to outline how they will transition from these initial test platforms to address one or more of the viruses of interest specified in table 1 of the BAA by 9-12 months into the program.