

**Microsystems Exploration
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated 2/25/2019**

Updated 8/1/2019

Q1. Can I submit a proposal to DARPA-PA-19-04?

A1. No, DARPA-PA-19-04 is not open for proposals. Proposals must be submitted in response to an active Microsystems Exploration Topic (μ E), following the instructions provided in DARPA-PA-19-04.

Q2. Who should we contact regarding questions about the upcoming μ E topics detailed in the Microsystems Exploration Research Area Announcement Special Notice (DARPA-SN-19-69) prior to full topics being released?

A2. As of this FAQ posting, the Safeguards against Hidden Effects and Anomalous Trojans in Hardware (SHEATH) DARPA-PA-19-04-01 μ E topic has been published with Mr. Keith Rebello as technical POC. The following PMs are interested in future topics (as published in the Special Notice):

Mr. Andreas Olofsson: Massively Parallel Heterogeneous Computing

Dr. Ronald Polcawich: Ferroelectric Nitride Materials and Non-Volatile Memory

Additional clarification about potential future topics or inquiries about the relevance of a technical approach cannot be provided at this time. Clarifications on specific topics may be directed to the POC listed in each individual μ E topic announcement.

Q3. Can private companies propose in response to μ E topics?

A3. Yes, private companies may propose to μ E topics. As stated in DARPA-PA-19-04, "All reasonable sources capable of satisfying the Government's needs may submit a proposal that will be considered by DARPA."

Q4. Are foreign individuals/organizations eligible to propose to μ E topics?

A4. Yes, foreign entities are eligible to propose to μ E topics. As stated in DARPA-PA-19-04, "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."

Q5. Will there be a Proposers Day for the program solicitation, and if so, when/where will it be held?

A5. No, DARPA will not hold a Proposers Day.

Q6. There is a TDD template as a separate attachment (with no page limit) as well as a section in the technical volume for the TDD (which counts against page limit). Do we need to send a duplicate of the attachment in the technical volume?

A6. No. DARPA-PA-19-04 amendment 1 dated August 5, 2019 clarifies that the TDD does not count against the page limit for Volume 1. You may refer to the separate TDD attachment within your Volume 1 proposal narrative.

Q7. Is it possible to attach a paper to the proposal?

A7. Per the Volume 1: Technical and Management Volume Template, if desired, proposers may provide a brief (no more than 2 pages) bibliography with *links* to relevant papers, references, reports, resumes of key members, etc.

Q8. The solicitation contains an Organizational Conflict of Interest clause that requires proposal teams to affirm whether they are providing SETA or similar support to any DARPA offices through an active award or subaward.

- a.** Can you please confirm if we need to check against just active or both active and completed? If we're to check against completed contracts, how many years back is required?
- b.** Are we only required to provide contracts that have SETA, A&AS, IV&V or similar support in the same subject area as the solicitation we're responding to? Or is it meant to be for any DARPA support, regardless of the connection?

A8. a. A proposer must affirm whether the proposer or any proposed team member (subawardee, consultant) is providing SETA, A&AS, or similar support to any DARPA office(s) under: (a) a current award or subaward; or (b) a past award or subaward that ended within one calendar year prior to the proposal's submission date.

b. Any and all DARPA support contracts.

Q9. Can other Government or DoD organizations submit proposals?

A9. ~~Yes, all eligibility requirements for Government entities are detailed in the program announcement section 4.1.1.2.~~ As of DARPA-PA-19-04, Amendment 4 dated October 28, 2019, FFRCCs and Government Entities are NOT permitted to submit proposals in response to μ E topic announcements. FFRDCs and Government Entities are reminded that they engage with any DARPA PM directly on any research topic of mutual interests.

Updated 9/25/2019

Q10. Is there any preference on behalf of DARPA given to proposals that would partner with a US organization (or indeed a proposal that is entirely focused on the research efforts of one organization vs. a number of different organizations)?

A10. All proposals will be equally reviewed for selection, whether U.S. or non-U.S. organizations or teams that include non-U.S. organizations. Regarding teaming, a proposal, and any team composition, will be reviewed for its ability to meet solicitation requirements.

Q11. As a non-US company, we do not have a Tax Identification Number (TIN), but have a registered CAGE code. Can we leave the TIN line blank in our submission?

A11. Yes.

Updated 10/25/2019

Q12. Can FFRDCs or Government Entities propose to a μ E topic announcement?

A12. As of DARPA-PA-19-04, Amendment 4 dated October 28, 2019, FFRCCs and Government Entities are NOT permitted to submit proposals in response to μ E topic announcements. FFRDCs and Government Entities are reminded that they engage with any DARPA PM directly on any research topic of mutual interests.

Updated 11/25/2019

Q13. Can National Labs (i.e. Air Force Research Lab) be part of the proposal submitted by a university?

A13. No, National Labs are not eligible to participate in Microsystems Exploration announcements as they are unable to accept an Other Transaction agreement.

Q14. We are a foreign organization that is considered a non-profit and beneficiary of public funds. Would we also be treated like an FFRDC and considered ineligible to apply?

A14. Per Amendment No. 4, FFRDCs and Government Agencies may not propose to the Microsystems Exploration announcements. For clarification, this refers specifically to U.S. Government sponsored FFRDCs as established and administered in accordance with U.S. Code of Federal Regulations.

Q15. Can you clarify if an FFRDC can be part of an Institute of Higher Education's submission?

A15. No, FFRDCs are not able to propose as a Microsystems Exploration team.

Updated 2/25/2020

Q16. Is there any limitation on the number of PI and Co-PI that can be on the proposal for this solicitation?

A16. No, there is no limitation.

Q17. Is there an option to submit abstracts or summaries or review?

A17. No, this solicitation will not be accepting any abstracts. For any abstracts that do not fall under solicitations currently open, the MTO Office-wide BAA remains open for abstracts at any time.

Q18 The Model OT for Prototype repeatedly references the requirement of the Schedule of Milestones and Payments template. However, per the Amendment 6 to the Microsystems Exploration announcement, this template is not required. Will an updated OT be provided to the public that removes this language/requirement, or should repeated redlines be submitted?

A18 PA Amendment No. 6 merely deleted a proposal template document (originally requested for pricing purposes). Its removal as a proposal pricing template does not change the Model OT - there will still be priced payable milestones as indicated in the PA and individual topics.

Q19 Please clarify which document will be referenced to determine milestone amounts and monthly payments, since the Schedule of Milestone and Payments template is removed?

A19 The Volume 2 Price Summary Template - as noted in the PA Amendment No. 6 summary of changes: "The new Price Summary spreadsheet also provides additional notes for the proposers regarding the use of fully loaded cost elements, period of performance, and milestone amounts."

Q20 Can you please clarify if both the Price Volume Template and Price Summary Template documents are required in submitted proposals?

A20 Yes, per the PA (through Amendment No. 6), in addition to other documents/information, both the "Volume 2: Price Volume Template" (MS Word document which serves as the narrative portion of the cost proposal) and the "Volume 2: Price Summary Template" (MS Excel document which serves as the cost build-up portion of the cost proposal) are required in submitted proposals.