GENERAL INFORMATION

1. My research is not geared specifically to meet the ReVector program goals. Is there an alternate solicitation that I can respond to?

A: Yes. DARPA/BTO has an office-wide solicitation (HR001119S0048) for this purpose. Responses are being collected through April 23, 2020.

2. Is Dr. Sund available for a call to discuss our proposed research?

A: Due to scheduling limitations, and in the interest of fairness to all proposers, Dr. Sund will not be taking program related calls and meetings. 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. Specific questions may be submitted by email to ReVector@darpa.mil. Proposers should be aware that submitted questions and answers may be published on this FAQ page, with revisions to remove proprietary information.

3. Will the Proposers Day slides be posted online?

A: Yes, information relayed during the Proposers Day has been made available on the BTO section of the DARPA Opportunities page: http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities.

4. Do I need to submit an abstract? What is the advantage of submitting an abstract? Does my abstract need to match the full proposal submitted?

A: Proposers are strongly encouraged, but not required, to submit an abstract. DARPA will provide feedback for each abstract submitted.

DARPA will attempt to respond to abstracts within 14 calendar days of receipt with a statement indicating whether or not DARPA is interested in the proposed idea. Regardless of DARPA’s response to an abstract, proposers may submit a full proposal. DARPA will review all full proposals submitted using the published evaluation criteria and without regard to any comments resulting from the review of an abstract. If constructive feedback is provided following the abstract review process, proposers should endeavor to follow this advice.

Finally, DARPA understands that final concepts and team make-up may change from abstract phase to final proposal as the technical approach is solidified.
5. Will teaming be required?
A: While teaming is not required, it is strongly encouraged to meet the program goals across all Phases and both Technical Areas (TAs). Proposing teams should have a plan in place for managing team interactions and transitions.

6. Can a performer or individual participate on more than one team?
A: Yes. Proposers may join any number of teams as a subcontractor and still submit a separate proposal as the Principal Investigator (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.

7. Can Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) or other Government Entities submit proposals or apply as prime organizations?
A: Yes, FFRDCs and government entities can submit proposals if they meet certain criteria specified in BAA Section 3.1.1. Note that to avoid potential conflicts of interest, FFRDCs and other government entities will not be eligible for IV&V work if selected for proposer work.

8. Do proposed personnel have to be U.S. citizens?
A: No. DARPA welcomes the best ideas and research from any source. Principal Investigators (PIs), co-investigators, students, postdocs, employees, subcontractors, and institutions do not have to be U.S. citizens or based in the U.S. All proposed and awarded work must comply with U.S. laws and regulations. See BAA Section 3.1.2, “Non-U.S. Organizations” for details.

CONTRACTING/COST

9. How much funding is available? What is the expected size of an award?
A: DARPA has not predetermined award amounts but, rather proposers should base the cost upon how much funds are required to perform the tasks necessary to meet the objectives in the ReVector BAA. Proposers are required to provide a well-justified budget that covers the scope of the proposed work. This budget will be examined in detail for appropriateness. If the proposal is selected for award, a government contract officer will negotiate the terms of the contract. During this negotiation, every aspect of the statement of work and cost proposal will be reviewed. Please ensure that all of the instructions in HR001119S0048, including the required checklist in Appendix 1. This will enable the government contract office to expedite negotiations.

10. Is DARPA considering Grants for this effort?
A: No. The types of instruments that may be awarded are Procurement Contracts, Cooperative Agreements, or Other Transactions.

11. Can DARPA partially fund a proposal?
A: Yes. DARPA reserves the right to fully or partially fund a proposal. More details can be found in Section 2, “Award Information.”
12. Does a cost proposal need to account for materials needed for external verification by the Government lab in phase III?

A: Yes, please outline a plan and create a budget for sending technologies to and interfacing with the IV&V team for testing. Proposals do not need to budget for the actual performance of tests by the IV&V team.

13. For TA2, do you want all teams to have a mosquito expert (& facilities) or will there be a funded central “testing facility” to save costs?

A: The Government has no plans to provide such expertise or resources. Teams should include all necessary expertise and resources to complete the proposed research. The purpose of IV&V testing will be for testing specific technologies developed, not providing general mosquito testing resources.

14. What is Cost Realism?

A: One of the review criteria described in section 5.1.3 is Cost Realism. Reviewers will evaluate staffing, equipment, supplies, travel, etc. in the proposed cost estimate, to determine whether the estimated costs are realistic for the work to be performed, reflect a clear understanding of contract requirements, and are consistent with the methods of performances and materials described in the technical proposal.

During contract negotiation, the contracting officer will question the cost reasonableness of every item in the budget. Accordingly, please provide detailed quotes and justifications for proposed expenses.

15. Can you provide more information on seedling funding?

A: Seedlings are generally utilized to identify and address specific gaps in the program portfolio and no consideration will be given to funding seedling efforts at this time. Teams are encouraged to take advantage of our Office-Wide BAA for efforts that do not meet ReVector goals.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

16. Is there a down-select planned between Phase 1 and Phase 2?

A: There is no plan for down selection of performer teams for this program, however, the final program portfolio is dependent on the number and quality of proposals received.

17. When will we hear back about the abstract? If a proposal abstract is submitted early can we expect early feedback?

A: We plan to respond to abstracts within a 7-10 days, depending on the number of abstracts received. No, we will not respond early to abstracts received early.

18. How many teams are expected?

A: Multiple awards are possible (and anticipated). The amount of resources made available under this BAA will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the availability of funds.
19. Is there a down-select planned between Phase 1 and Phase 2?
A: There is no plan for down selection of performer teams for this program, however, funding may be discontinued for teams that do not keep pace with the proposed schedule.

20. Can you provide guidance on what will be entailed in the verification by the external Government lab?
A: A description of IV&V including schedule and metrics are included in the BAA. The goal of engaging the IV&V team is to provide impartial performance demonstrations of the developed systems.

21. Do you anticipate gaps between phases during IV&V?
A: No.

22. Does the DoD funding statement requirement (access to data) for informed consent restrict EU clinical testing due to the GDPR?
A: In the absence of an actual proposal (and protocols), we are not in a position to comment with any specificity regarding non-U.S. regulations. However, as a DoD entity, DARPA is required to adhere to any and all DoD regulations concerning funds used to support Human Subjects Research (HSR) – the funding statement is a part of those regulations.

23. The BAA seeks Human or Non-human primate research in Phase III; may we propose an alternative animal model if it is more appropriate for pre-clinical trials?
A: Yes, if human clinical trials require further validation than NHPs or other appropriate model organisms are proposed. The models chosen should be driven by what evidence FDA will require before moving to human trials. FDA requirements for human testing can vary, and it is strongly encouraged that proposing teams establish regulatory requirements for their proposed technology.

24. What is your attitude towards (fill in the blank) technology?
A: DARPA will not comment on specific technologies. Proposed technologies and approaches must fit within the boundaries and spirit of the ReVector Program.

25. Will you consider technology that repels all insects? What are the consideration of an engineered system getting into the population (i.e. affecting bee populations?)
A: Repellants are in scope of the program. As discussed in the BAA, safety and regulatory considerations are the responsibility of proposers.

26. Would a project focused on topical application of chemical compounds that change the microbiome composition be considered in scope?
A: Yes.