Precision Guidance & Navigation
IR Night Vision
Communications/Networking
Stealth
Radar Arrays
UAVs
Microelectronics
Internet
Information Technology
Materials Science

Space Air Ground Maritime Undersea
Biotechnology Information Spectrum Microsystems Future Frontiers

Distribution Statement “A” (Approved for Public Release, Distribution Unlimited)
Important questions to consider when approaching DARPA with ideas:

• What are you trying to do? (no jargon!)
• How does this get done today?
• What is new about your approach?
• If you succeed, what difference do you think it will make?
• How long do you think it will take?
• Can your work transition (to the DoD or others)?
• How much will it cost?
Elements Driving DARPA’s Magic
The objective of the DARPA Young Faculty Award (YFA) program is to identify and engage **rising stars** in junior faculty positions, emphasizing those without prior DARPA funding, and expose them to DoD needs and DARPA's program development process.

The YFA program provides:
- Research funding
- DoD contacts
- Military visits/exercises
- PM Mentor

The YFA program yields:
- Insight into DoD problems
- Novel ideas
- Career development
- Future DARPA performers

The goal of the YFA program is to develop the next generation of academics who will focus a portion of their career on DoD and National Security issues.
Engagement with DARPA

- **PM Mentors**: Each YFA Awardee has a PM Mentor with closely aligned research interests.

- **Annual YFA Kick-off/PI Meeting**: The annual meeting provides networking opportunities and presentations from DARPA Technical Offices, military liaisons, and industry representatives.

- **Military Visits**: YFA Awardees have the opportunity to visit military installations, defense-relevant research facilities, or participation in training exercises.

- **Participation in Program Reviews**: YFA awardees are invited to present their work at Program Review meetings, providing networking opportunities with PMs and other performers.

- **Director’s Fellowship Nominations**: PM Mentors can nominate YFA Awardees to receive an additional $500K Director’s Fellowship option.
Timeline and Funding for Awardees

- YFA grants have a 24 month period of performance
- Base awards are funded up to $250K per year ($500K max funding)
- Option - 12 month Director’s Fellowship ($500K max funding)
- In addition to funding selected proposals with YFA program funding, PMs may fund YFA proposals out of their core program funds or other means they might identify.

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YFA Eligibility Requirements

• Proposers must be one of the following (excluding any personal leaves of absence):
  • current Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professors;
  • current Tenured faculty within 3 years of their Tenure date; or
  • an equivalent at a non-profit research institution within 12 years of the receipt of their Ph.D.

• All proposers must be employed at a U.S. Institution.

• Previous YFA Award recipients are not eligible for this or any future YFA program.

• Former DARPA Program Managers are not eligible to apply for funding under this program.

• Researchers working at Federally Funded Research and Development Centers and DoD and other Government Laboratories are not eligible to apply for funding under this program.
• Direct ALL Questions and Communication to RA Inbox
  YFA2018@darpa.mil

• DARPA will update the YFA FAQ on a regular basis

• It is recommended that you submit question(s) at least 15 days prior to the submission deadline listed in the RA

• These slides, an FAQ, and any other relevant information will be posted under the solicitation announcement on the DARPA Opportunities page

The Business of DARPA’s Young Faculty Awards

Ms. Kristen Fuller
Assistant Director, Program Management
Defense Sciences Office

YFA Proposers Day Webinar

August 29, 2017
Overview

• Understanding Research Announcements (RAs)
• Communicating your ideas
• Proposing to the YFA RA
• Important take-aways
What is a RA?

- RAs are used by DARPA to solicit proposals for assistance instruments, i.e. grants, cooperative agreements, or Technology Investment Agreements.

- RAs are similar to Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs) in many ways:
  - Solicit research and development proposals directed toward advancing the state-of-the-art.
  - Describe a problem or general research area(s) of interest rather than providing a common work statement.
  - Anticipate varying scientific/technical approaches.

- RAs mainly differ from BAAs in that contracts and Other Transactions for Prototype may not be awarded.
Where to access the YFA RA

Find the YFA RA at:

http://www.grants.gov

Anticipate RA release in early September

DARPA is interested in revolutionary ideas that advance DoD’s mission
When and how to communicate with DARPA PMs

- Any time prior to submission of a proposal
- Via E-mails, phone calls, or face-to-face meetings
- Find PM bios, program information, and contact PMs at [https://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/](https://www.darpa.mil/about-us/offices/), then select the PM’s office
- Use the Heilmeier Questions as a tool for communicating your ideas
- If you have a question specific to the YFA RA, send it to YFA2018@darpa.mil

Program Managers recommend all research awarded by DARPA
What is an Executive Summary?

• An executive summary is a brief (1 page + cover) outline of the proposed research idea
  • Succinctly summarize the effort and convey the problem space you will explore, expected impact, and method/approach you will use
  • Include identifying information only on the cover page

• Submission of executive summaries allows proposers to –
  – Quickly ascertain whether the proposed concept is of interest to DARPA
  – Save bid and proposal costs

If your proposal was not encouraged, it is less likely to receive funding
Executive Summary Submission

Executive summaries should include:

A. Topic Area
B. Title
C. Summary of effort
D. Intro/Background
E. Impact
F. Methods/Approach

• 1 page limit - required to use provided templates.

• Do not include identifying information of the PI, Organization, or Team Members on this page. All identifying information should be included on the Cover Sheet pages and the optional Bibliography, only.

• You may submit a full proposal even if you did not submit an Executive Summary.

• You may submit multiple Executive Summaries – not to exceed 1 per Topic.

DARPA will respond to executive summaries with a statement as to whether DARPA is interested in receiving a full proposal.
How do I write a Successful Full Proposal?

- Follow ALL directions in the RA
  - The YFA RA includes content/formatting/submission requirements
  - Non-conforming proposals will not be reviewed and will not be eligible for award
- Include a straightforward, concise description of the technical solution and a fully supported cost proposal
- Ensure your proposal responds to the Heilmeier Questions
Nonconforming proposals may be rejected without review.

Volume I – Technical and Management Proposal

A. Executive Summary Slide
B. Executive Summary
C. Goals and Impact
D. Technical Plan
E. Management Plan
F. Personnel, Qualifications, and Commitments
G. Capabilities
H. Statement of Work (SOW)
I. Schedule and Milestones
J. Cost Summary

You may NOT submit multiple Proposals; PIs may only submit 1 proposal to the RA
Nonconforming proposals may be rejected without review.

Volume II – Cost Proposal

• Detailed cost breakdown by:
  a. major program tasks
  b. government fiscal year
  c. funding Period (phase)
  d. calendar fiscal year
• Summary of total program costs by funding period and task
• Summary of projected funding requirements by month
• Don’t forget travel funds for all key personnel to attend the Kickoff Meeting and site visits
• Subcontractor proposals **must** be prepared at the same level of detail as that required of the prime

Required to use provided templates; cost proposal does not have a page limit
Nonconforming proposals may be rejected without review.

Volume III – Administrative and National Policy Requirements

- Team Member Identification
- Requirements for teams that include Government Entities and/or Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDCs)
  - Proof of Eligibility to Propose
  - Statement of Unique Capability
- Organizational Conflict of Interest Affirmations and Disclosure
- Intellectual Property
  - Technical Data and Computer Software
  - Patents
- Human Subjects Research (HSR)
- Animal Use
- Representations Regarding Unpaid Delinquent Tax Liability or a felony Conviction under Any Federal Law

Volume III has no page limit
Teaming

To fully address the RA you might need to team with other entities

- You must find collaborators on your own
- Your team should submit a unified proposal under a single PI
- You may team with educational institutions, government labs, and/or private companies up to no more than 30% of total grant value
  - Foreign entities may join a team
- Note that the cost volume for each team member must be at the same level of detail as for the PI
What are the Evaluation Criteria and Relative Importance?

• Evaluation criteria are listed in descending order of importance
• YFA RA criteria are:
  • Overall Scientific and Technical Merit
  • Potential Contribution and Relevance to the DARPA Mission
  • Cost Realism
• Cost or price is rarely, if ever, the deciding selection factor
• Proposals contain unique solutions - they are not compared one to another
How do I send My Submission to DARPA?

- Grants or Cooperative Agreements proposals: www.grants.gov
- All executive summaries: https://baat.darpa.mil
- Mail/Hand-carry full proposal submission: See instructions in the RA
How can I get Answers to Questions about the RA?

- Send all questions (technical, contractual, administrative) about the RA to the email listed in the RA.

- FAQs will be posted under the RA at http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities (filter by “Defense Sciences Office”)

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Once proposal evaluations are complete, proposers will be notified whether or not their proposal was selected for award negotiation

• Successful proposers will be contacted by a contracting officer to begin negotiations
• You may request informal feedback from the PM regarding your proposal
• Proposals may be selected for partial funding
• Grants are the only type of award under the YFA RA
• Award is subject to successful negotiation and availability of funds

What Happens Next?

Distribution Statement “A” (Approved for Public Release, Distribution Unlimited)
What are the Most Important Take-aways?

• Read the RA and follow the instructions
• Answer the Heilmeier Questions
• Start with an Executive Summary
• Ensure proposal is “conforming”
• Be concise, but detailed
• Do not submit proposals for ongoing work that do not comply with RA
• Do not submit proposals for work already funded by another agency
• Ask questions if you don’t understand
Evaluation Criteria

• Overall Scientific and Technical Merit
  – The proposed technical approach is feasible, achievable, complete and supported by a proposed technical team that has the expertise and experience to accomplish the proposed tasks
Potential Contribution and Relevance to the DARPA Mission

- The potential contributions of the proposed effort are relevant to the national technology base
  
  - Specifically, DARPA’s mission is to maintain the technological superiority of the U.S. military and prevent technological surprise from harming national security by sponsoring revolutionary, high-payoff research that bridges the gap between fundamental discoveries and their application
Evaluation Criteria

• Cost Realism
  – The proposed costs are realistic for the technical and management approach and accurately reflect the technical goals and objectives of the solicitation
  – The proposed costs are consistent with the proposer's Statement of Work and reflect a sufficient understanding of the costs and level of effort needed to successfully accomplish the proposed technical approach
  – The costs for the prime proposer and proposed subawardees are substantiated by the details provided in the proposal (e.g., the type and number of labor hours proposed per task, the types and quantities of materials, equipment and fabrication costs, travel and any other applicable costs)