

HR001125S0012 RESTORE
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
as of June 3, 2025

24Q: Regarding the May 14 memo from the Defense Department stating a 15% IDC rate cap for Institutions of Higher Education, does this apply to RESTORE proposals?

24A: The 15% IDC rate cap does not currently apply to RESTORE and will not apply until official guidance is issued by OUSD(R&E).

23Q: If a Department of Defense entity is part of a collaborating team, and funds go directly to them versus prime passthrough, do they need to be listed on the coversheet of Attachments D & E as “Other Team Members (subawardees and consultants), if any,” and should their budget amount be included in the Total Proposed Cost?

23A: Please include them on the coversheets, as well as Section 8 of Attachment D. The proposer must clearly define the proposed supporting role in their technical proposal, and ensure that proposed costs are segregable in the cost proposal, as DARPA will fund those activities separately through those entities existing agreements should the proposal be selected for funding.

22Q: Both Cooperative Agreement and Other Transactions seem to be applicable in terms of the type of agreement. What would be the deciding factor for an agreement type?

22A: Proposers may request a specific award type in their proposal. Award time is ultimately determined by the contracting officer based on several factors included institution type, IP considerations, and the work proposed.

21Q: Is Veterans Affairs eligible as a federal entity to submit as a primary performer? Can we discuss our proposal with an Administrator to ensure we are hitting the main points of the RESTORE BAA?

21A: Government Entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) are subject to applicable direct competition limitations. Government Entities must clearly demonstrate that the work is not otherwise available from the private sector and provide written documentation citing the specific statutory authority and contractual authority, if relevant, establishing their ability to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry. This information is required for Government Entities proposing to be awardees or subawardees. DARPA will not be providing feedback on any performers technical approach prior to abstract/proposal submission.

20Q: Should a certificate of cost or pricing data be submitted with the proposal or during award negotiations?

20A: A certificate of current cost or pricing data will be requested during negotiations if applicable.

19Q: If a subcontracting partner is a non-U.S. based business without a U.S. Business License (no UEI, TIN, Dunn's Number, or SAM.gov registration), what/if any additional documents are required (subcontracting plan for the non-U.S. based entity)? Is a subcontracting plan for all subcontractors required in the proposal?

19A: Subcontractors are not required to be registered in SAM, but any subawardees to a cooperative agreement must have a UEI. Subcontracting plans are required for procurement contracts expected to exceed \$750,000 that offer subcontracting possibilities. Content for subcontracting plans can be found in FAR 19.704, Subcontracting Plan Requirements.

-----↑↑↑↑New Q/A↑↑↑↑-----

18Q: How should technical approaches be justified in Full Proposals?

18A: Due to the ambitious nature of the RESTORE program's goals, proposals must provide clear and quantifiable evidence demonstrating the potential for achieving the program's specific metrics. These include a 25% improvement on the PVT, Task Switching, and DSST, along with measurable changes in targeted biomarkers. Data, calculations, models, or other forms of quantifiable justification are crucial for demonstrating feasibility and potential impact. Proposals failing to address these metrics with specific, quantifiable evidence will not be competitive.

17Q: The BAA asks for multi-modality interventions in RESTORE. Would audio stimulation to enhance slow-wave sleep and a different audio stimulation (theta stimulation or guided meditation) to induce sleep be considered as two separate modalities?

17A: Using the same method (e.g., audio stimulation) in different ways to target distinct brain wave patterns would be considered two separate modalities

14Q: Are Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) eligible to serve as subcontractors on this program?

Updated: 14A: While the RESTORE BAA does not preclude submission of proposals from any source, Government Civilian Employees, FFRDCs and Government labs are subject to the eligibility considerations outlined in the [Proposer Instructions: General Terms and Conditions](#), regardless of whether they are included in proposals. Prime proposers wishing to include these entities as part of their proposal should clearly indicate the aspects of their proposals that are dependent on the support of these entities

and include specific details on the entities providing that support, to include POCs from the organization along with their contact information. DARPA may contact those POCs separately regarding the work cited in your proposal. Prime proposals may include rough order of magnitude costs for these activities for planning purposes but should not include these costs in their price proposals. DARPA will fund these entities separately if deemed necessary.

16Q: Regarding testing protocol, the BAA states "3 hours of sleep over an acute period between 3 to 7 days". Does this mean that the subject should have no more than 3 hours of sleep per day over a minimum of 3 days, or that the subject should have a minimum of 3 hours of sleep over the entire 3-day period?

16A: The subject should have no more than 3 hours of sleep per 24-hour period for a minimum of 3 consecutive days.

15Q: Will DARPA be coordinating any teaming/networking facilitation (e.g. sharing teaming profiles or lightning slides)?

15A: No, DARPA will not be coordinating teaming for this solicitation.

13Q: Are government partners eligible to serve as subcontractors on this program?

13A: Government Partners interested in this solicitation, either as a prime or a subcontractor, should contact the Agency Point of Contact (POC) listed in the Overview section of the BAA prior to the proposal (or abstract) due date to discuss potential participation as part of the government team or eligibility as a technical performer.

12Q: If the prime is a non-profit organization, can the subcontract include a fee?

12A: Yes, contracts and subcontracts for non-profit organizations can include fee. Fee guidelines for non-profit organizations seeking procurement contracts can be found at FAR 15.404-4(c)(3) and DFARS 215.404-72

11Q: Does a submitted abstract require a rough order of magnitude (ROM)?

11A: Yes, the abstract does require a cost estimate.

10Q: Is there interest in collaborating with ICU (Critical Care physicians) to assess interventions?

10A: All approaches that meet the requirements outlined in the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) are encouraged. Proposed approaches, including collaborations with physicians, should be well explained and justified in the proposal.

9Q: Is this solicitation interested in preclinical animal models?

9A: No, this solicitation is not interested in preclinical animal models.

8Q: Is it expected or required that neuroimaging work will include experiments for whole brain neuroimaging (e.g., MRI/MEG) or are approaches focused on cortical capture (e.g., fMRI, EEG) acceptable?

8A: Proposed approach for neuroimaging work should be well explained and justified to support the solicitation objectives.

7Q: Is DARPA interested in constant vs. random sleep schedules for the restricted sleep?

7A: All approaches that meet the requirements outlined in the BAA are encouraged.

Proposed approaches, including sleep schedules, should be well explained and justified in the proposal.

6Q: Are non-U.S. applicants eligible to submit? Do they require a U.S. partner?

6A: Non-U.S. applicants are eligible to submit and do not require a U.S. partner. 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.

5Q: Is DARPA interested in adding a method to measure effectiveness of intervention in real world settings after project end?

5A: All approaches that meet the requirements outlined in the BAA are encouraged.

Proposed approaches, including measures of effectiveness, should be well explained and justified in the proposal.

4Q: Does this solicitation require costs for interim endpoints?

4A: Costing for interim endpoints are not required by this solicitation.

3Q: Is any other documentation (e.g., slides, prime or subcontractor budget) required to accompany the abstract submission on April 14?

3A: Abstract submissions must include Attachments A and B.

2Q: Can a PI or organization submit multiple abstracts/proposals?

2A: Yes, however, they should make clear the unique aspects of each approach and discuss how potential conflicts of interest would be handled should multiple proposals be selected for award.

1Q: Where can I find the slides and recording of the information session?

1A: Slides are available on <https://www.darpa.mil/research/programs/restore-reengineering-enabling-sleep>.