

Crystal Palace Program Announcement: DARPA-PA-26-03

Proposers Day

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Niko Georgakopoulos
Agreements Officer
DARPA Contracts Management Office





Proposers Day Disclaimer

The purpose of Proposers Day is to make general information available to potential proposers to clarify program goals/objectives and proposal preparation instructions.

However:

- The information/instructions in the PA takes precedence over any other source of information to include Proposers Day.
- Proposals will only be evaluated in accordance with the instructions provided in the PA.
- Any response provided by the Government in the FAQ that's different than what is provided in the PA will be made formal by an amendment to the PA.
- Only a duly authorized Contracting/Agreements Officer may obligate the Government



Crystal Palace Overview

- The Crystal Palace PA
 - Permits a variety of technical solutions
 - Defines the problem set, the proposer defines the solution
- Program Structure
 - Phase 1 – 18 months
 - Phase 2 OPTION – 18 months
- Types of Instruments that may be awarded:
 - Other Transaction for Research Agreements under 10 U.S.C. 4021
- **DARPA Scientific Review Process**
 - Proposals are evaluated on individual merit and relevance as it relates to the stated research goals/objectives rather than against one another
 - Selections will be made to proposers whose proposals are determined to be most advantageous to the Government, all factors considered, including potential contributions to research program and availability of funding
 - Evaluation Criteria are outlined in the PA

Phase 2 Challenge Opportunities *(not solicited as a part of this PA; provided for informational purposes only)*

- Opportunities for Performers to demonstrate enhanced capabilities based on inputs from transition partners
- Fixed challenge milestones would be added to the current agreement

10 USC § 4023 OT for Experimental Purposes *(not solicited as a part of this PA; provided for informational purposes only)*

- Allow for the US government (DARPA or transition partners) to acquire quantities of the Phase 2 integrated systems on a non-competitive basis, when necessary for (1) continued experimentation and technical evaluation; (2) assessment of operational utility in realistic environments; or (3) maintaining a limited residual operational capability for assessment purposes
- Allow for rapid transition of emerging technologies



Crystal Palace PA Timeline

Dates/Time: All Times are Eastern Time Zone (ET)

- Posting Date: 4 December 2025
- Proposers' Day: 5 December 2025
- Abstracts Due: 19 December 2025, 1:00 PM
- Question Submittal Closed: 16 January 2026, 5:00 PM
- Proposal Due: 30 January 2026, 1:00 PM
- Estimated Oral Presentation Dates: 23 February - 27 February 2026
- Estimated Period of Performance Start: 1 August 2026

***See Final PA in SAM.gov for complete date/time information; monitor PA amendment(s)**



Other Transaction for Research (10 USC § 4021)

- Award Type
 - Other Transaction for Research (10 USC § 4021)
 - Fixed Milestones
- Deliverables:
 - End of Phase 1, performers will deliver:
 - one new complex material uniformly fabricated at minimum 2-inch scale,
 - three new complex materials demonstrated with projections on how to achieve growth at 2 inches minimum,
 - a report detailing the physics, design, and operation of the tool; growth methodologies, control algorithms, and experimental data; and models, simulations, and characterization data of materials and growth, and
 - a commercialization plan that outlines the transition path to mature the material growth technology into rapid adoption by the government, defense industrial base (DIB), and/or industry
 - End of Phase 2, performers will deliver:
 - four new complex materials uniformly fabricated at minimum 2-inch scale,
 - an updated report including all Phase 1 items, and
 - an updated commercialization plan that includes any outputs from the Materials Fair and Transition Tank events.



Other Transaction for Research (10 USC § 4021), cont'd

- Overview
 - Basic, applied, and advanced research projects
 - Intent is to spur dual-use R&D projects
 - Deliverable items can be created, built, and delivered for testing & validation
- Resource Share
 - Highlight the dual-use focus of an effort
 - Show commitment on the part of the performer to pursue and/or commercialize the technology
 - Default position is generally 50/50; the **final amount of the share is flexible** and should be **based on full consideration of the factors** such as the performer's available resources, prior investment in the technology, commercial vs. military relevance, and the precompetitive nature of the project. **This includes IP considerations.**
 - **NOT REQUIRED for award; will be consider to the maximum extent practicable**



Resource Share

- Cash or non-cash, direct or indirect
- Contribution can come from any other source other than the federal government
- Value should be verifiable and reasonable
- Asset must be available under control of the proposer
- A resource-shared agreement will not include payment of fee or profit

- **Cash(!):** direct labor, materials, equipment, software, facilities costs directly related to the project; easy to value
- **In-kind:** material, reasonable use cost/depreciated value for equipment, facilities; harder to assess

- Foregone Fee/Profit on this or any other relevant award
- Pre-existing IP/sunk costs
- Internal R&D conducted prior to the OT
- Cost of Money

Contribution should be allowable, allocable, reasonable, and consistently accounted for by the awardee



Data Rights

- Government expects a minimum of GPR for all data or software to be delivered - however....
- When asserting less than Unlimited Rights (e.g., Restrictions):
 1. Identify the specific tasks within the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) or Task Description Document (TDD) to which the item applies and explain its relevance.
 2. Specify the data or software to be delivered (not just the title). Indicate whether the item is a standalone deliverable. If it is not a standalone deliverable, describe its connection to or integration with other contract deliverables.
 3. For items developed wholly or partially at private expense, provide a development timeline with key milestones and supporting documentation, such as private funding records, evidence of development history, and any proprietary information to confirm no Government funds were used.
 4. Certify the item will not be developed, modified, or altered using Government funds during contract performance.
 - ✓ This information is assessed during evaluations (barriers to transition)

Proposal should focus on what the government can do with data; not a long list of restricted or limited rights.



Other Considerations

- Crystal Palace is subject to the program-specific CUI Guide
 - It is the expectation that the Prime contractor will be capable of handling and protecting CUI
 - Technical approach should include a plan to meet the CUI requirements
 - Review the PA regarding DARPA's ability to facilitate
- Fundamental Research:
 - If you believe an effort includes fundamental research, it is the **proposer's responsibility** to (1) identify the work; and (2) explain why it qualifies as fundamental; and (3) intended results of the research.
 - The government shall have the sole discretion to determine fundamental research designation
 - Given the nature of the program, both fundamental and non-fundamental research **may** prescribe publication requirements and other restrictions, as appropriate



Other Considerations, cont'd

DARPA Fundamental Research Risk-Based Security Review (FRRBS)

Effective June 30, 2025:

- FRRBS will apply to all fundamental research awards executed under non-FAR instruments.
- The review is an adaptive risk management process intended to protect critical program technologies and performer intellectual property by assessing potential undue foreign influence.
- DARPA will create risk assessments for all proposed Senior/Key Personnel selected for negotiation. This review is separate from the scientific evaluation and will be resolved prior to final award.

Proposal Requirements for Fundamental Research:

- Submission of the Common Biographical Sketch Form and Common Current & Pending (Other) Support Form for all covered individuals.
- Forms are available through the NSF site under NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance.

*****Please review the DARPA Fundamental Research Risk-Based Security Review Process detailed at Proposer Instructions: Other Transactions*****



Proposer Eligibility Considerations

- UARCs, FFRDCs, and government laboratories **are prohibited** from proposing as performers. UARCs, FFRDCs, and government laboratories interested in this solicitation must contact the Agency Point of Contact (POC) listed in the Overview section to discuss **potential participation as part of the government team.** Please note that this paragraph supersedes the "*Special Eligibility Considerations for Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and Government Entities*" section found at [Proposer Instructions and General Terms and Conditions.](#)
- 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.
- Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCI):
 - Cannot simultaneously serve in advisory (i.e., SETA, IV&V, etc.) and performer role
 - Identify any conflicts
 - If any are identified, a mitigation plan must be included



Proposer Eligibility Considerations, cont'd

At the time of proposal submission:

- Proposers must have a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code and a Unique Entity ID (UEI) registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) at SAM.gov.

At the time of contract award:

- Proposers must be registered in the prescribed Government invoicing system (Wide Area Work Flow (WAWF): <https://wawf.eb.mil/xhtml/unauth/registration/notice.xhtml>).



Proposal Abstracts

- Abstracts are strongly encouraged:
 1. They minimize unnecessary effort in proposal preparation and review
 2. They reduce the potential expense of preparing an out-of-scope proposal
- The abstract provides a synopsis of the proposed project (tech and budget)
- Government will reply by letter with one of two possible responses:
 1. Encourage full proposal, and may provide feedback
 2. Discourage full proposal, and will provide rationale
- DARPA will not communicate further (verbally or in writing)
- Regardless of DARPA's response to an abstract, proposers may submit a full proposal
 - DARPA will review all full proposals submitted without regard to abstract recommendation/feedback



Tips for a compliant proposal

- **Submit the proposal on time!**
 - Proposal due date and PA closing date are the same – **do not be late!**
- **Submit all required Attachments!**
 - **READ** instructions contained within each Attachment!
 - **This includes attachments for any subcontractors!**
 - All proposals must include a detailed list of key, observable payment milestones (Milestone Plan)
 - All proposals must include a list of identified deliverables (PA requested and additional proposed)
- **Submit within the page limitations described in the PA!**
 - Pages beyond the limit will not be reviewed



- **Prior to Receipt of Proposals (Solicitation Phase):** No restrictions, however Gov't (PM/PCO) shall not dictate solutions or transfer technology
 - Typically handled through the FAQ, but see PA exceptions
- **After Receipt of Proposals/Prior to Selections (Scientific Review Phase):** Limited to Contracting Officer/Agreements Officer or PA Coordinator (with approval) to address clarifications requested by the review team
 - Proposal cannot be changed in response to clarification requests
- **After Selection/Prior to Award (Negotiation Phase):** Negotiations are conducted by the Contracting/Agreements Officer
 - PM and/or AOR typically tasked with finalizing the TDD (with PI)
 - PM and/or AOR typically involved in any technical discussions (i.e., partial selection discussions)
 - Pre-award costs will not be reimbursed unless a pre-award cost agreement is negotiated prior to award
- **Informal Feedback Sessions (Post Selection):** May be requested/provided once the selection(s) are made
 - If made on a timely basis (~2 wks. after letter), all requests will be accepted



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