

Special Notice (SN) Amendment

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- Special Notice Number: DARPA-SN-26-17: Deep Thoughts Industry Day
- Changes Made: All changes below were made on January 28, 2026.
 - Title Page:
 - From:
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 - To:
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DATE OF AMMENDMENT: January 29, 2026
 - Page 2:
 - From:
DARPA anticipates releasing a draft CUI technical attachment prior to Industry Day. If released, instructions for accessing the CUI attachment will be made available at <https://sam.gov>.
 - To:
DARPA has released a CUI Technical Attachment, which may be requested through [this link](#) by those organizations with the ability to handle CUI. Requests must be made no later than **4:00 p.m. ET on February 4, 2026.**

Special Notice

Industry Day Special Notice:

Deep Thoughts

DARPA-SN-26-17

DATE OF ORIGINAL POSTING: January 20, 2026

DATE OF AMMENDMENT: January 29, 2026



Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Tactical Technology Office (TTO)

675 North Randolph Street

Arlington, VA 22203-2114

**Industry Day
Special Notice DARPA-SN-26-17**

**Deep Thoughts
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
Tactical Technology Office (TTO)**

Posting Date: January 20, 2026

Special Notice (SN) DARPA-SN-26-17: Deep Thoughts Industry Day

Date: February 6, 2026

Location: DARPA Conference Center (DCC) at 675 N Randolph St, Arlington, VA, 22203

Classification: The main Industry Day session will be held at the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) level. An afternoon session will be held at the SECRET level for those attendees with appropriate clearances. A security clearance is not required to attend the main session.

Registration Deadline: February 2, 2026, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)

Registration Website: <https://forms.osi.office365.us/r/qqSJ6kZXzL>

E-mail: DeepThoughts@darpa.mil

Technical POC: Mr. Kevin Sloan, TTO Program Manager

DEEP THOUGHTS INDUSTRY DAY:

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Tactical Technology Office (TTO) is sponsoring an in-person Industry Day in support of the DARPA Program Solicitation (PS) for Deep Thoughts on February 6, 2026, in the DARPA Conference Center (DCC), located at 675 N Randolph St, Arlington, VA, 22203 from **8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET**. **DARPA has released a CUI Technical Attachment, which may be requested through [this link](#) by those organizations with the ability to handle CUI. Requests must be made no later than **4:00 p.m. ET on February 4, 2026.****

To maximize the pool of innovative proposal concepts, DARPA strongly encourages participation by non-traditional proposers (including small business, academic and research institutions, and first-time government contractors) in events such as this and any subsequent solicitation. Advance registration is required (see "Registration Information"). Check-in will start at **7:45 a.m. ET**.

The goals of the Industry Day are:

1. To introduce the science and technology (S&T) community (industry, academia, and government) to the Deep Thoughts program vision and goals.
2. To facilitate interaction between the S&T community with capabilities and interests relevant to the Deep Thoughts program goals.
3. Explain the mechanics of a DARPA program and the milestones of this effort.
4. To encourage and promote collaboration among potential organizations that have relevant expertise, facilities, and capabilities for executing a research and development program responsive to the Deep Thoughts program goals.

5. To collect questions during the event that DARPA may answer and make available in a Question and Answer (Q&A) document.

The Industry Day will include overview presentations by government personnel and opportunities for collaboration and networking among the participants. The event will be organized into two primary sessions. All attendees are expected to attend the morning session. Attendance at the afternoon session is optional, and subject to applicable security requirements and access eligibility.

- Morning: Program Overview and Technical Area 1. Content presented will be Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).
- Afternoon: Technical Area 2. Content presented will be at the SECRET level.

Attendees should plan to arrive early to allow for additional time to check in. The café inside DARPA is available for coffee and breakfast starting at 7:00 a.m. ET. The day's schedule will include dedicated time slots, such as during the lunch break and in the afternoon, to allow for collaboration opportunities and discussions with other attendees.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Deep Thoughts seeks to develop novel small autonomous undersea vehicles (AUVs) that are:

- Independent of long-lead and architecturally constraining components.
- Quick to design, produce, integrate, and test (weeks-to-months instead of years).
- Easy to deploy from any possible host platform.

The program will leverage advancements in materials, manufacturing, and next-generation structural and mechanical design technologies to dramatically reduce the size, cost, and development time of deep-ocean systems.

Key areas of innovation include pressure-vessel design (materials, configurations, and manufacturing techniques) and novel approaches to the design, production, or integration of onboard components and subsystems. Performers will leverage digital engineering tools and workflows to conduct design-space exploration, optimize system concepts, and evaluate mission-relevant use cases.

To accelerate rapid innovation and enable rapid learning, performers must consider access to production capabilities to support a fast-paced iterative development-test cycle. Performers will be encouraged to rapidly develop new concepts, test them to their limits, and quickly apply the results to improve subsequent designs.

A core tenet of the program will be collaboration among the government and performer teams to accelerate the learning process.

The Deep Thoughts program is currently envisioned with a single-phase covered via a PS with milestone payments over a 24-month period of performance. The planned program structure includes multiple agile hardware development waves that increase deliverable complexity from only the pressure vessel to a mission-relevant AUV upon program completion.

Most of the effort will be conducted under Technical Area 1 (TA1) with focus on agile hardware development that incrementally matures to a full mission-capable AUV, which will be at the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) level. The remaining effort will be conducted under Technical Area 2 (TA2) with limited-scope payload prototyping, integration support, and mission studies, which will include elements at the SECRET level. Proposers may apply to one or both Technical Areas (separate submissions are required for each TA).

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Participants must register for the Industry Day through the registration website:

<https://forms.osi.office365.us/r/qqSJ6kZXzL>.

Due to space limitations of the facility, attendance will be limited to the first 150 registrants, and no more than three (3) representatives per organization. Each registrant must identify if they are their organization's primary, secondary, or tertiary representative. In the event of space limitations, representatives will be admitted in priority order.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration deadline on February 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. ET.

Visit requests, security clearances (to include the completion of the DARPA eForm 104), and other applicable documents should also be sent to DARPA by this time.

Upon entry to the event, all attendees will be required to present Government-issued photo identification that is compliant with the REAL ID Act of 2005, and an acceptable proof of U.S. citizenship. See <https://www.darpa.mil/policy/visitor-information> for additional information on identification requirements for entry.

DARPA eForm 104 "DARPA Conference Center Visitor Requirements for Unclassified Meetings," must be completed for all unclassified events and completed during registration. The submission link and instructions for completing the DARPA eForm 104 are provided under the Security tab of the registration website. Failure to complete and submit this form by February 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. ET will result in the cancellation of existing registration.

NOTE: Before individuals transmit Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or other sensitive data to DARPA, it is recommended that they apply appropriate physical, administrative, and technical protocols to safeguard their privacy. DARPA will secure all received PII and sensitive personal data in a controlled environment and protect it from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure.

SECURITY INFORMATION:

This Industry Day will include information that is International Traffic in Arms (ITAR) restricted; therefore, attendance is limited to individuals who are U.S. Citizens, representing U.S. companies only.

The Industry Day will be conducted at the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) level and is open only to U.S. Citizens. All attendees accessing CUI agree to protect CUI in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 5200.48 CUI and National Institute of Standards and

Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-171 Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Systems and Organizations. All attendees will be required to present government issued photo identification when requested by the security POC.

A portion of Industry Day will be classified at the SECRET level and will require security clearance transmittal to DARPA. For collateral-level visits, the requesting FSO may send a visit request via the Defense Information System for Security (DISS) with the SMO Code: DDAAUS4. A secondary option is to fax your clearance/visit request to DARPA at (703) 528-3655 or send it via encrypted e-mail to: SID-CPC@darpa.mil. The Technical POC is Kevin Sloan and the Security POC is Eric Baffour. The purpose is to attend the Deep Thoughts Industry Day (DARPA-SN-26-17).

For instructions on sending visit requests and security clearances to DARPA, please visit <http://www.darpa.mil/policy/visitor-information>.

No cell phones, electronic devices, recording, or photography will be permitted during Industry Day events at DARPA. Storage is available for small electronics.

ONE-ON-ONE OPPORTUNITIES:

There will be limited opportunity to meet individually with the Program Manager, Kevin Sloan, after the event. One-on-one meetings will be held virtually on Monday, February 9 and Tuesday, February 10. Please contact DeepThoughts@darpa.mil to request an individual session. Requests must be received no later than the registration cutoff date.

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES:

DARPA hosts Industry Days to promote collaboration arrangements between researchers; provide potential performers with information on whether and how they might respond to the Government's research and development solicitations; and to increase efficiency in proposal preparation and evaluation. Therefore, Industry Days are open only to registered potential proposers. To maximize the pool of innovative proposal concepts, DARPA strongly encourages participation in these events and subsequent solicitations by non-traditional performers, including small businesses, academic and research institutions, and first-time Government contractors.

A list of registrant contact information will be made available to attendees following the Industry Day to facilitate interchange among interested proposers. The registration website will ask registrants to indicate whether they approve distribution of their contact information.

DISCLAIMER AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Attendance at the Deep Thoughts Industry Day is voluntary and is not required to propose to a subsequent PS (if any) on this topic. The Industry Day does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. This announcement is issued solely for information and program planning purposes and is not a Request for Information (RFI). Since this is not an RFI, no submissions against this notice will be accepted by the Government. DARPA will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred to participate in this Industry Day.

DARPACONNECT:

Entities who have not worked with DARPA before are encouraged to learn more about DARPAConnect, an initiative established to facilitate collaboration between DARPA and potential performers. The DARPAConnect team offers customized support, resources, and guidance on how to prepare ideas for high-impact conversations with DARPA program managers. Please visit DARPAConnect at <https://www.darpaconnect.us> to access a digital hub of online resources, including a curriculum for self-paced learning, personalized support, and in-person and virtual events.