

BTO UPDATES!

OCTOBER 2026

Expect monthly updates on open solicitations, links to information sessions hosted by the Biological Technologies Office (BTO), and other relevant resources. Our goal is to provide a central space for the latest BTO updates while connecting you to opportunities and the broader network of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Please reference [the BTO homepage](#) for updates on open solicitations.

OPEN OPPORTUNITIES:

Program Solicitation: [Firefox](#)

For over five decades, advancing brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) has required navigating a strict trade-off between precision and invasiveness. Achieving single-neuron resolution at real-time speeds currently relies on surgically implanted electrodes, which exposes users to medical risks and could trigger a natural immune response that degrades the sensor over time. Conversely, current non-invasive methods, such as functional brain imaging, rely on slow biological proxies like changes in blood flow rather than capturing direct, rapid neural activity, fundamentally limiting their precision.

To address this gap, DARPA's Firefox program seeks to build upon recent conceptual breakthroughs in optical sensing.

Learn more about the [Firefox program](#)

Notice ID: DARPA-PS-26-137

Contact: Firefox@darpa.mil

Abstract Deadline: October 19, 2026 3:00 PM (ET)



Expedited Research Innovation System: ERIS

DARPA is initiating a long-term, open call for novel technology solutions to support the agency in advancing research, development, prototyping, experimentation, and adoption of disruptive, DARPA-relevant research and technology solutions. BTO is accepting submissions under the following topic areas:

Topic Area 4

Supports technologies for defense of humans and elements of the bioeconomy.

Topic Area 5

Supports technologies for human health and performance optimization.

ERIS is DARPA's digital environment for post-competition, readily awardable technology solutions delivered via 7-minute pitch videos. It offers a new mode of procurement – with low barriers to entry, increased speed-to-contract and streamlined submission requirements & process, through modern medium & processes.

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. ERIS is open to all U.S.-based innovators—startups, researchers, universities, nonprofits, large businesses, and individuals. If you have a solution, this is your moment!

Notice ID: DARPA-PS-25-05

Contact: ERIS@darpa.mil

Deadline: Oct. 31, 2031

Join the DARPAConnect Community for tips, tricks,
& lessons on applying to solicitations!



BTO Special Features

Read: [\\$1M to advance AI medical documentation and decision support](#)

"By leveraging artificial intelligence, we can provide warfighters with real-time clinical decision support and automated documentation, ensuring better care at the point of injury and a seamless handoff to higher echelons of care."

– *Dr. Jeremy C. Pamplin, D2 Sprint program manager*

Learn more about the [D2 Sprint](#)

Register Now!



Read: [\\$3.5M to advance autonomous trauma robotics](#)

Learn more about [DSC](#)

Register Now!

Read/Watch: [Hawaii tests 'living breakwater' to hold back the sea](#)

"Concrete reefs aim to blunt wave impact and restore marine habitats, shielding Hawai'i's shores from erosion."

Learn more about the [Reefense Program](#)



BTO Program Spotlight

Program: [High-throughput Unmasking of Biological Interactomes with Binding Landscape Emulators \(HUBBLE\)](#)



Program: [Convergence](#)

The Convergence program aims to integrate biology and engineering to develop advanced environmental biosensors designed to safeguard defense personnel. By using carefully designed, non-pathogenic microbial consortia (employing highly characterized and safe host species like *E. coli* as a biological platform), the program aims to enable the remote, distributed detection of environmental hazards, including chemical analytes, and pharmaceutical agents, in operational and austere environments.

