

BTO UPDATES!

SEPTEMBER 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:

Proposers Day: [Firefox](#)

Building on the success of prior investments, DARPA has developed a non-invasive coherent optical system capable of recording neural signals at cortical depth in humans. To expand this foundational technology and enable the development of revolutionary brain-computer interfaces (BCIs), DARPA is seeking approaches to overcome key technological hurdles.

The Biological Technologies Office (BTO) of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will host an in-person-only Proposers Day for the potential proposer community in support of a planned Program Solicitation (PS) for the Firefox Program. The Proposers Day will take place at the SPA Arlington Research Collaboration Center (SPARCC) in Arlington, VA, on Monday September 21, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EDT).

Notice ID: DARPA-SN-26-112

Contact: Firefox@darpa.mil

Registration Deadline: September 11, 2026 5:00 PM (ET)

[Read Special Notice](#)



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!



DARPA Open Mic: Hear from BTO PM Dr. Mark Salvador

Join us on **September 2 from 2:00–2:30 PM ET** for the next **DARPA Open Mic**, a monthly quick-hit session featuring updates on DARPA programs, funding opportunities, and ways to engage with the Agency.

This month's featured speaker is **Biological Technologies Office (BTO) Program Manager Dr. Mark Salvador**, who will discuss the **Convergence program**, the technical challenges it is designed to address, and the breakthroughs DARPA is seeking.

The session will also include a brief roundup of upcoming DARPA opportunities and events, followed by a **live, moderated Q&A** with Dr. Salvador.

September 2, 2026 | 2:00–2:30 PM ET | Virtual

[Register for the September DARPA Open Mic](#)

DARPAConnect account login is required to register.

PM Spotlight

"DARPA BTO has been an incredible experience in formulating insights that bridge today's fiction with tomorrow's science and day after tomorrow's technology!"

—*Dr. Abhishek Singharoy, BTO Program Manager*

More About Being a DARPA Program Manager:

[So, You Want to Become a DARPA PM?](#) — [Check this out!](#)

Contact: BTO_Recruiting@darpa.mil

[Learn How to Apply](#)



BTO Program Spotlights

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](#)

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.



Learn more about the [Convergence program](#)