

Intrinsic Market Resilience (IMR)

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Industry Day Briefing

October 1, 2026





IMR Proposers Day Agenda



Unclassified Session
Executive Conference Center (ECC)
4075 Wilson Blvd, Suite 300

Classified Session
DARPA
675 North Randolph St

Please submit questions to IMR@darpa.mil



Intrinsic Market Resilience (IMR)

Develop repair methods to protect economic sectors containing modern markets* against devastating attacks that exploit public interfaces.

* Modern markets digitally enable buyers and sellers to interact and to make deals, like cloud computing spot markets, digital stock markets, or electricity trading markets.



IMR Execution Space

Public Interfaces

Artificial shortages, ghost orders, circuit breaker triggers, distributed mispricing ...



NYSE today: Electronic trading



IMR Focus

Cyber Infrastructure

Buffer overflow attacks, network malware, phishing attacks, denial of service ...



1985 NYSE: Open outcry, electronic records



Not IMR Focus

Investor Protection

Insider trading, corporate opacity, fraudulent transactions, wash sales ...



1900 NYSE: Open outcry, paper records



Not IMR Focus



Public interfaces used against California energy market

Event: From 2000-2001, California's newly deregulated energy market experienced fluctuating and soaring wholesale electricity prices.

Cause: Traders created artificial energy shortages to drive up prices for massive profits. **Public interfaces** were used to create emergent behavior that included monopolizing power transmission lines through fake power transactions to block legitimate power distribution.

Impact: Widespread blackouts, cost to California of an estimated \$40-45 billion, and the bankruptcy of California's largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E).

Investigations led to the prosecution of energy traders involved in market manipulation.

www.mresearch.com/pdfs/19.pdf



Source: California Independent System Operator

Impact on National Defense: In January 2001, the federal government invoked the Defense Production Act to compel continued natural gas supply to PG&E, ensuring service for military and defense facilities.

www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-107shrg76811/html/CHRG-107shrg76811.htm

Public interfaces abused for profit can be used to create emergent behaviors that disrupt civilian power and military readiness



Public interfaces used against US stock market

Event: In 2010 markets experienced a sudden 9% decline across US equity markets.

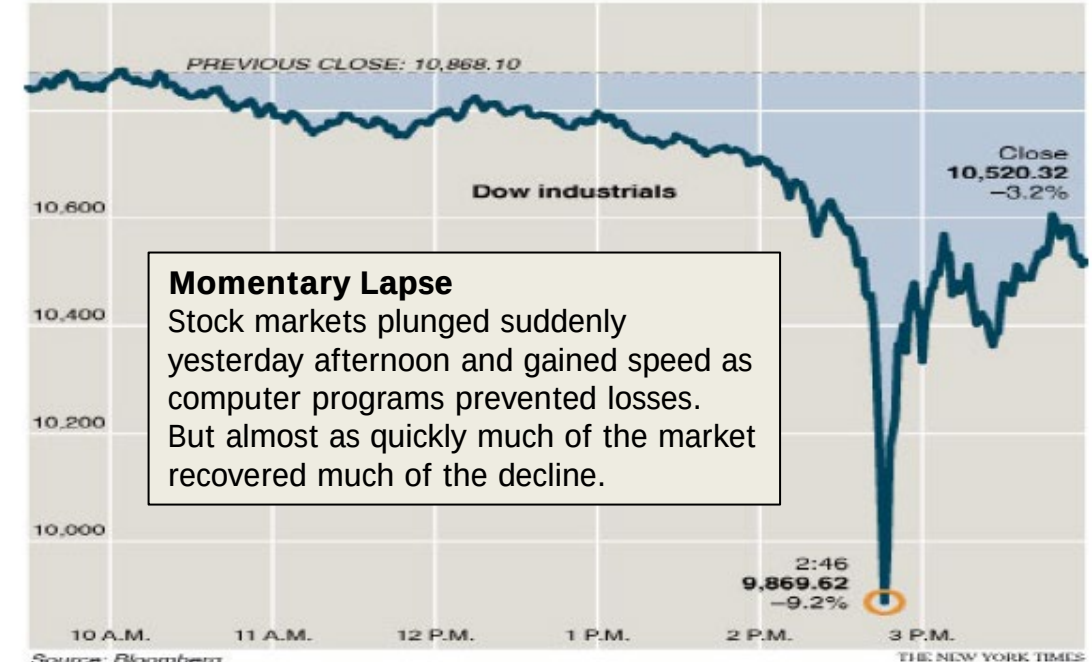
Cause: A flash crash was precipitated by spoofing activity using unexecutable orders in the public order book ("ghost orders"). **Public interfaces** were used to place and cancel artfully timed high speed orders to create emergent behaviors.

Impact: Dramatic price market movements. No cost for submitting ghost orders and significant profit from buying during price drop.

A UK resident was convicted of electronic fraud and spoofing related to the flash crash.

www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/7486-16

\$1T+ loss in minutes



doi.org/10.20944/preprints202106.0478.v1

Public interfaces abused for profit can be used by adversaries to create emergent behaviors that disrupt financial markets



Pervasive modern markets

Modern markets operate in many diverse economic sectors

Sector	 Electricity	 Equity	 Cloud Computing	 Currencies	 Transport	 Rare Earths	 Debt
Example Participants	- Energy producers - Consumers - Grid operators - Healthcare backups - Market operators - Retailers - Regulators - Fuel suppliers	- Investors - Corporations - Market makers & brokers - Regulators - Automated systems	- Application developers - Miners & validators - Compute-based companies - Consumers - Decentralized apps	- Central banks - Investment management firms - Int'l banks - Hedge funds - Corporations - Retail traders - Governments - Speculators	- Trucks and drivers - Cars and drivers - Train schedules - Passengers - Restaurants - Consumers - Freight reliant companies	- Producers (miners) - Processors (refiners) - Consumers - Governments - Regulators - Investors - Recycling and technology development	- Issuers (borrowers) - Investors (lenders) - Central banks - Credit rating agencies - Investment banks and dealers - Economic data
Example Emergent Behavior	California Energy Crisis (2001)	US Equity Market Flash Crash (2010)	AWS East Region Outage (2025)	British Pound Flash Crash (2016)	Uber Recruitment (2014)	Rare Earth Crisis (2010)	Taper Tantrum (2013)
Example Modern Markets	US regional transmission orgs	Public stock exchanges and dark pools	Pay-as-you-go pricing systems	Forex (FX) global currency exchange	Freight spot markets, food distribution	Distributor direct contracts	OTC markets (ex. Tradeweb)
Example Market Public Interfaces	Power allocation commitments, generation schedule	Order submits, order books, market coordination	Compute resource allocation, satellite comm bandwidth	Currency risk hedging, buy/sell commitments	Delivery quotes, material distrib and planning	Stockpile planning, rare earth price acceptance	Corporate bond rate setting, bond structures, buy/sell commitments

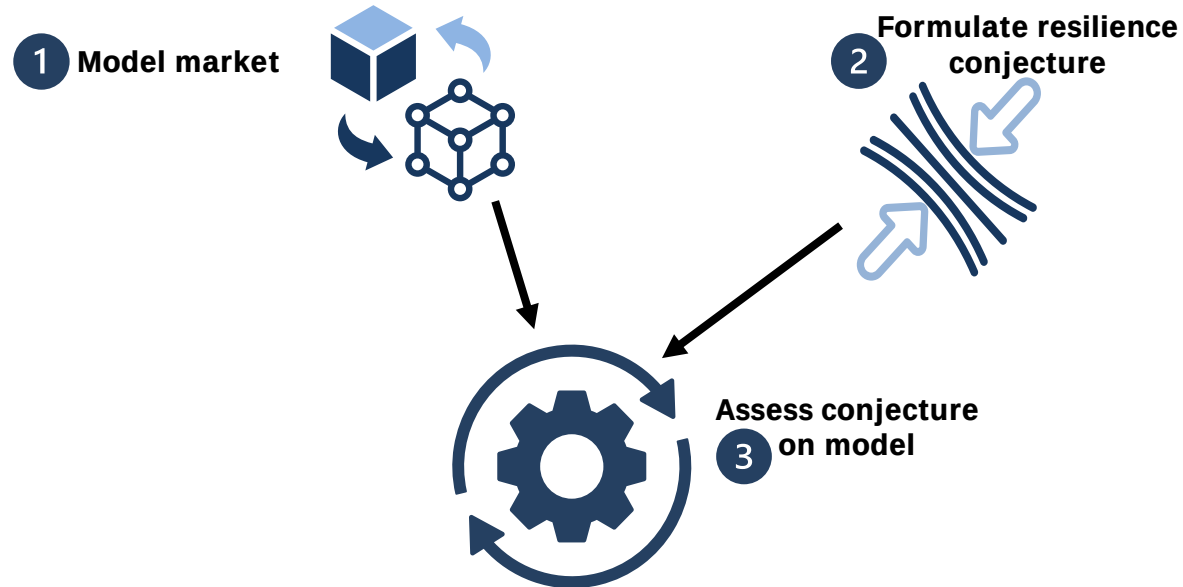


Vision: Intrinsic Market Resilience

TA1: Model and Analysis

Mathematical conjecture about a market's resilience is formulated and assessed

1 2 3





Vision: Intrinsic Market Resilience

TA1: Model and Analysis

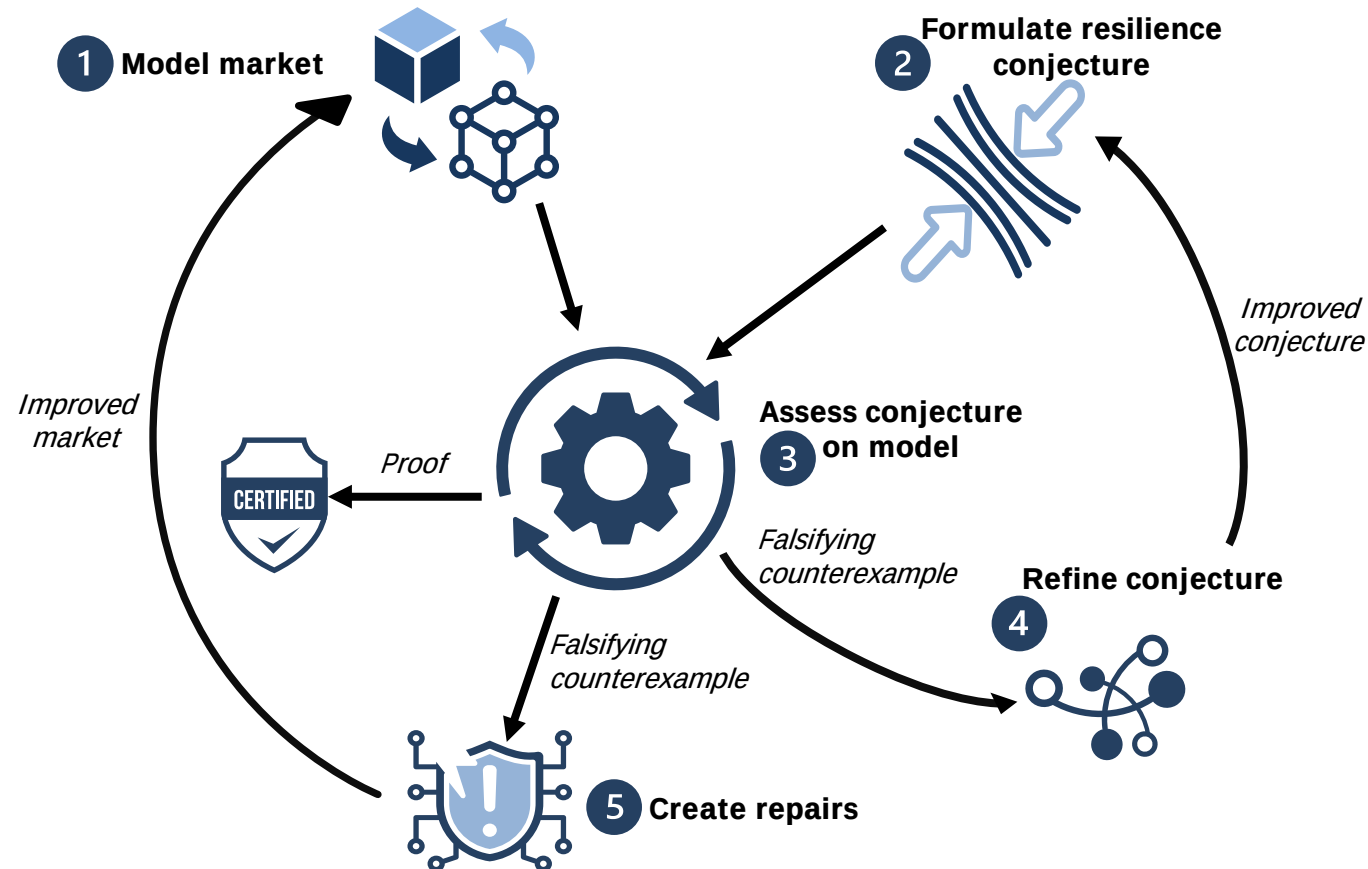
Mathematical conjecture about a market's resilience is formulated and assessed

1 2 3

TA2: Resiliency and Repair

Mathematical conjecture certified or falsifying counterexample improves conjecture or falsifying counterexample improves market

4 5





Vision: Intrinsic Market Resilience

TA1: Model and Analysis

Mathematical conjecture about a market's resilience is formulated and assessed

1 2 3

TA2: Resiliency and Repair

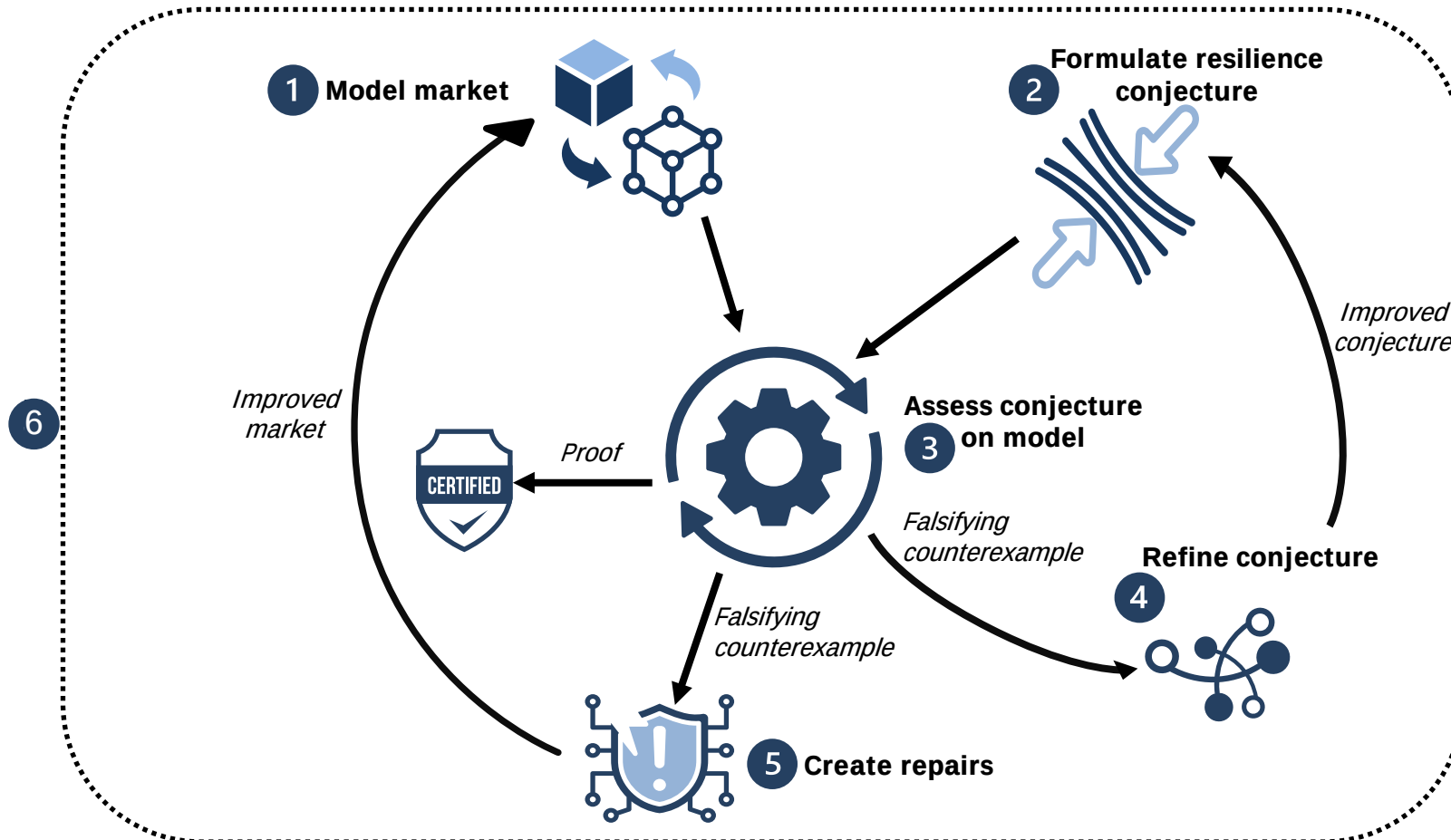
Mathematical conjecture certified or falsifying counterexample improves conjecture or falsifying counterexample improves market

4 5

TA3: Evaluation

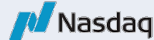
Market models, conjectures, and repairs are assessed

6





A Technical Approach Basis of Confidence

Technology Challenge		Seedling Demonstration		
1	Modelled market		Manually built a fragment (~10%) of order processing in OCaml based on Nasdaq regulatory filings available on SEC website	 
2	Formulated a resilience conjecture		Wrote a mathematical conjecture that the Nasdaq order book contains only executable orders	
3	Assessed conjecture on model		Used an automated reasoning engine to generate counterexamples showing how the conjecture is false	
4	Refined conjecture	 LLM	Repeatedly added assumptions to conjecture based on counterexamples using LLM to avoid identification of trivial flaws	
5	Created repair		Manually identified a fix that disallows a bizarre order type use confirmed by proving conjecture on the repaired market model	

IPTO study found a counterexample to a property potentially useful for resilience.

Z places attributable market
peg buy 900 offset -\$0.02

B cancels sell order and reoffers
at a higher price; Z order reprices

A: Sell 30 \$100.08	A: Sell 30 \$100.08	A: Sell 30 \$100.08
B: Sell 40 \$100.05	B: Sell 40 \$100.05	B: Sell 40 \$100.07
C: Buy 30 \$100.00	Z: Buy 900 \$100.03	Z: Buy 900 \$100.05
D: Buy 40 \$100.00	C: Buy 30 \$100.00	C: Buy 30 \$100.00
E: Buy 30 \$99.97	D: Buy 40 \$100.00	D: Buy 40 \$100.00

Z places a ghost order
that will never execute

Fix: Disallow negative offset
pegged, attributable orders

Nasdaq Order Book



TA1 Modeling and Analysis

1. Model Market



Study model example: Nasdaq order matching fragment manually written in Ocaml programming language

IMR challenges

Scale and complexity: Capturing the scale, diversity, and intricate interconnections of modern markets

Informal rules: Translating informal, natural-language market rules into formal, analyzable models

Inter-venue dynamics: Modeling subtle, complex interactions between multiple coordinating market venues

Goal: Modeling that represents modern markets accurately, completely, and reproducibly

Measure	Performer-selected markets	DARPA-selected markets	Transition partner informed markets
Number of validated market models	3	6	9

2. Formulate resilience conjectures



Study conjecture example: "No ghost orders in the public order book" expressed in a mathematical logic

IMR challenges

Formalization: Translating intuitive goals like "market stability" into precise, mathematical, and testable conjectures

Creating useful conjectures: Defining "resilience" for the specific domain under study

Weakness classification: Systematically identifying and categorizing potential types of weaknesses across a vast and diverse range of market domains

Goal: Mathematical conjectures that characterize avoidance of market weakness classes

Measure	Performer-selected markets	DARPA-selected markets	Transition partner informed markets
Number of validated conjectures	6	15	24

3. Assess conjectures on models



Study assessment example: Application of the Imandra automated theorem proving system

IMR challenges

State space explosion: Developing scalable tools to intelligently explore the very large number of states and situations in a real market model

Usable reasoning interfaces: Designing interfaces to the reasoning tools that make conjecture analysis and results interpretation possible

Goal: Conjecture analysis provides actionable results

Measure	Performer-selected markets	DARPA-selected markets	Transition partner informed markets
Percent of conjectures with proof or counterexample	70%	80%	95%



4. Refine conjectures



Study refinement example: LLM added “obvious” assumptions to a conjecture that avoid trivial falsifying counterexamples

IMR challenges

Automated refinement: Automatically and intelligently focusing conjectures on “interesting” behaviors

Avoiding trivial loops: Ensuring the refinement process proposes significant modifications and doesn't get stuck in endless loops

Goal: Market repairs do no harm

Measure	Performer-selected markets	DARPA-selected markets	Transition partner informed markets
Percent of repaired markets validated to function	70%	80%	95%

5. Recommend repairs



Study repair example: Elimination of an unusual use of a market order based on manual analysis

IMR challenges

Comprehensiveness: Finding all behaviors that contradict the desired resilience

Creative problem solving: Automatically generating a concrete, practical, and effective market repair based on a specific counterexample to avoid

Holistic impact analysis: Ensuring recommended repairs do not negatively impact overall market operation or inadvertently create new, unforeseen weaknesses

Goal: Comprehensive repairs

Measure	Performer-selected markets	DARPA-selected markets	Transition partner informed markets
Percent of seeded weaknesses detected	70%	80%	95%



Test and Evaluation



IMR challenges

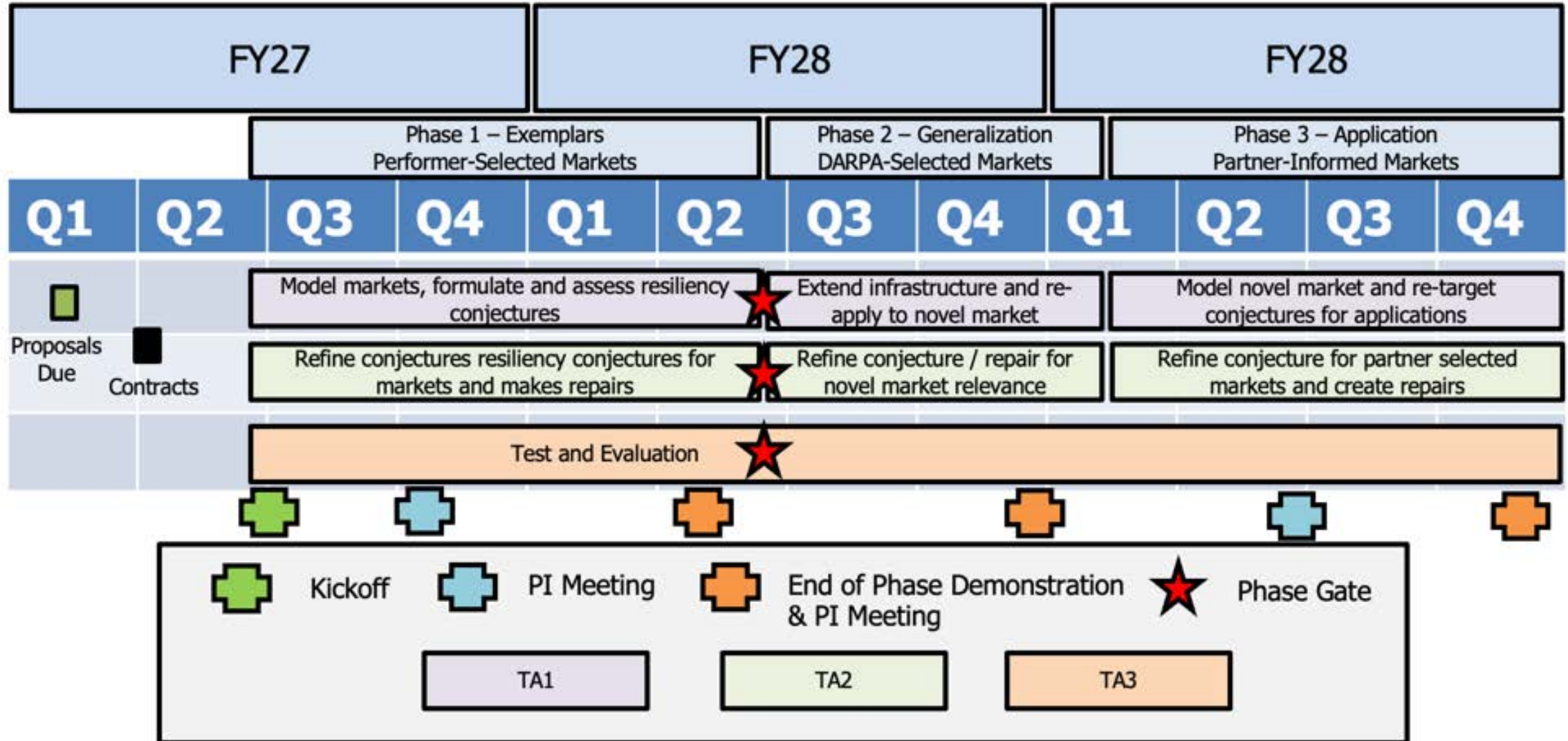
Validation Standards: Creation of validation standards for market models, conjectures, and repairs

Attack repair completeness: Ability to seed weaknesses in a market model for purposes of evaluation

Goal: Usable standards and measurements



IMR Program Plan





IMR Metrics

Technology Challenge		Goal	Measure	Lead TA	Phase 1 Performer-selected markets	Phase 2 DARPA-selected markets	Phase 3 Transition partner informed markets
1. Model Market		Modeling represents modern markets accurately, completely, and reproducibly	Number of validated market models	TA1	3	6	9
2. Formulate resilience conjecture		Conjectures lead to avoidance of classes of market weaknesses	Number of validated conjectures	TA1	6	15	24
3. Assess conjecture on model		Conjecture analysis provides actionable results	Percent of conjectures resulting in a proof or counterexample	TA1	70%	80%	95%
4. Refine conjecture		Market repairs do no harm	Percent of fixed markets validated to function	TA2	70%	80%	95%
5. Create repairs		Comprehensive repairs	Percent of seeded weaknesses detected	TA2	70%	80%	95%



IMR solicitation

- An invitation is required to submit a proposal.
- Invitations will only be extended based on abstracts.
- The anticipated award amount for each TA1 performer will range between \$4.5M-\$5.0M.
- The anticipated award amount for each TA2 performer will range between \$2.5M-\$3.0M.
- The anticipated award amount for the TA3 performer will range between \$5M-\$6.5M.
- Abstracts and proposals must indicate “TA1”, “TA2”, “TA1 and TA2”, or “TA3”.
- Involvement of an organization on multiple IMR proposals is allowed.
- No TA3 and non-TA3 prime or sub overlap.



Evaluation Criteria (listed in order of importance)

Abstracts

1. **Technical Comprehension:** The proposed technical solution is innovative and feasible. Key technical challenges and risks are identified.
2. **Technical Ability:** The proposers demonstrate an ability to achieve the goals of the program.

Proposals

1. **Technical Approach:** The proposed technical approach is innovative, feasible, and aligned with the program metrics. The core methodologies (modeling frameworks, automated analytics, repair pipelines, and validation strategies) are robust and technically sound. Major technical risks are identified, and feasible mitigation efforts are defined. Combined TA1/TA2 proposals cohesively address both technical areas.
2. **Technical Qualifications:** The proposed team (prime and subcontractors) possess the expertise, experience, and commitment necessary to execute the technical approach.
3. **Technology Transition and Intellectual Property:** The proposed transition plan demonstrates a viable and realistic pathway to transition developed capabilities to defense, industrial, or operational end-users. The proposed intellectual property (IP) rights and data assertions will not restrict the Government's ability to transition the technology.
4. **Price:** The proposed solution is realistic and affordable. The resources proposed are necessary, realistic, defensible, and affordable for the level of effort anticipated to accomplish the proposed technical approach. The proposed effort leverages all available relevant prior research in order to obtain the maximum benefit from the available funding. Aggressive pricing strategies (such as providing resource sharing or low overhead OTs) that maximize the use of available funding for direct support of program research activities will be a positive factor in the evaluation.
5. **Security:** A TA3 proposer plans to conduct the technical approach at the appropriate classification levels. The security plan is complete, realistic and mitigates risk to critical information. Risk to price, technology transition and technical approach stemming from security requirements is mitigated. The proposed team has appropriate facility clearance letters (FCLs) and Facility Accreditations (FA) and an appropriately authorized or certified Information System, or a realistic plan to obtain them. Key personnel and staff have security clearances or eligibility appropriate for the proposed solution.
 - A non-TA3 proposer meets CUI requirements consistent with the technical approach.



Strong TA1 proposals will...

- Propose a specific market for Phase 1 of the program, the expected sources of design data about the selected market, and anticipated market aspects to be modeled.
- Identify characteristics of markets to which the technology developed in Phase 1 applies.
- Describe a modeling and analysis technical approach, including automation to create the model.
- Estimate the complexity (in terms of size or other concrete measures) of the market model to be created in Phase 1.
- Identify some anticipated resilience conjectures and explain why they would be valuable for protecting the economic sector in which the market operates.
- Describe an analysis approach for conjectures.
- Explain how the technical approach plausibly achieves program metrics 1, 2, and 3.
- Demonstrate that the prime and any subcontractors have an execution plan that is realistic and will be executed by staff with appropriate experience/background.
- Summarize anticipated interactions with TA2 and TA3.



Strong TA2 proposals will...

- Describe an intended technical approach that uses automation to improve conjectures.
- Describe an intended technical approach for recommending market repairs.
- Identify potential methods to vet proposed repairs to ensure that they do not interfere with nominal market operation.
- Explain how program metrics 4 and 5 are plausibly achievable with the technical approach.
- Demonstrate that the prime and any subcontractors have an execution plan that is realistic and will be executed by staff with appropriate experience/background.
- Summarize anticipated interactions with TA1 and TA3.



Strong combined TA1 and TA2 proposals will...

- Include the elements listed above for strong TA1 and strong TA2 proposals.
- Organize the technical and financial aspects of the proposal to clearly identify what planned work and what budget is required to meet TA1 objectives, and what planned work and what budget is required to meet TA2 objectives.



Strong TA3 proposals will...

- Outline an approach for defining validation for IMR models, conjectures, and repairs.
- Describe a process for developing or procuring test data for use in model validation.
- Present a taxonomy of types of markets indicating a broad understanding of modern markets.
- Demonstrate that the prime and any subcontractors have an execution plan that is realistic and will be executed by staff with appropriate experience/background.
- Demonstrate that the prime and any subcontractors have a security plan that is realistic and specific to the proposed solution.
- Summarize anticipated interactions with TA1 and TA2.



IMR Solicitation Schedule

All Times are Eastern Time Zone (ET)

Due Dates:

- Program Solicitation Posting Date: September 25, 2026
- Proposers Day: October 1, 2026
- Abstract Due: October 22, 2026 by 2:00 PM
- Question Submittal Close: November 20, 2026 by 5:00 PM
- Proposal Due: December 7, 2026 by 2:00 PM

Classified Due Dates:

- Classified Addendum Discussion (TA3): October 1, 2026
- Late Classified Addendum Request Due (TA3): October 5, 2026 by 5:00 PM
- Classified Addendum Release: October 7, 2026 by 5:00 PM
- Notice of Classified Abstract Intent Due (TA3): October 9, 2026 by 5:00 PM
- Subcontractor/Alternate Location DD-254 Due (TA3): October 15, 2026 by 5:00 PM
- SCIF Joint Use Request Due (TA3): October 15, 2026 by 5:00 PM
- Notice of Classified Proposal Intent Due (TA3): November 13th, 2026 by 5:00 PM



Intrinsic Market Resilience (IMR)

Develop repair methods to protect economic sectors containing modern markets against devastating attacks that exploit public interfaces.





www.darpa.mil

Next Up CMO

INFORMATION PROCESSING TECHNIQUES OFFICE
Intrinsic Market Resilience (IMR)
Program Solicitation: DARPA-PS-26-138

DARPA Contracts Management Office
Rachita Varma-Jain–Agreements Officer
“Doing Business with DARPA”

Information Session
Thursday, October 1, 2026





Program Solicitation (PS) #: DARPA-PS-26-138

Please pay attention to due dates in the PS and any special instructions.

Important Dates:

- Program Solicitation Posting Date: **September 25, 2026**
- Proposer's Day: **October 1, 2026**
- Abstract Due: **October 22, 2026, by 2PM EST**
- Questions Due: **November 20, 2026, by 5PM EST**
- Proposal Due: **December 7, 2026, by 2PM EST**

Important CLASSIFIED Dates (TA3):

- Addendum Discussion: **October 1, 2026**
- Addendum Release: ***Estimated October 7, 2026***

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



Other Transaction (OT) Authority

- The Government reserves the right to award an **Other Transaction (OT)** **for Prototypes** under **10 U.S.C. § 4022** or make no award at all.
- Not a Request for Proposal (RFP)- FAR Part 15 does not apply.
- Not a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)- FAR Part 35 does not apply.

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Use of OTs for Prototypes

10 U.S.C 4022 (d) (1) permits DARPA's OT authority to be used when at least **one** of the following conditions are met:

- (A) **There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor, nonprofit research** institution participating to a significant extent in the prototype project;
- (B) **All significant participants** in the transaction other than the Federal **Government are small businesses (15 U.S.C. 638) or nontraditional defense contractor;**
- (C) At least one third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by sources other than the Federal Government; or
- (D) The senior procurement executive for the agency determines in writing that exceptional circumstances justify the use of a transaction that provides for innovative business arrangements or structures that would not be feasible or appropriate under a contract, or would provide an opportunity to expand the defense supply base in a manner that would not be practical or feasible under a contract.

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“Non-Traditional” Defense Contractor

10 U.S.C 3014 Non-Traditional Definition:

- nontraditional defense contractor, with respect to a procurement or with respect to a transaction means an entity that is **not** currently performing and has not performed, for at least the one-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by the Department of Defense for the procurement or transaction, any contract or subcontract for the Department of Defense that is **subject to full coverage under the cost accounting standards** and the regulations implementing such section.
- To be considered as participating to a significant extent, the proposal should substantiate that the effort being performed by the nontraditional defense contractor is critical to the technical success of the project.

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- Upon favorable review of the abstract, proposal submission, and subject to the availability of funds, the Government may choose to award an OT for Prototypes agreement.
 - The Government Agreements Officer (AO) shall have sole discretion to select the award agreement type and to negotiate all agreement terms and conditions with selected Proposer(s).
 - The AO is the only one duly authorized to obligate the Government.
- DARPA reserves the right to remove Proposers from award consideration should the parties fail to reach mutual agreement on award terms, conditions and/or price.

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



OT Eligibility

- All responsible enterprises capable of satisfying the Government's needs (i.e., industrial/commercial concerns to include small businesses, accredited degree-granting colleges/universities, non-profit and not-for-profit organizations).
- Non-U.S. organizations/individuals need an export license to participate as prime contractor (Performer). Non-U.S. organization and/or individuals may act as subcontractor to the extent that the Performer can ensure that participants comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances.
- Unclassified submissions may contain CUI per the solicitation but must **not** contain any classified information.
- Classified submissions will *only* be accepted as outlined in the solicitation.

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



OT Eligibility (Continued)

- In order to receive an award, proposers must:
 - Have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) and must register in System for Award Management (SAM) at SAM.gov.
 - Registrations must be for “Full Awards” for contracts and OT agreements.
 - Register in the prescribed Government invoicing system (Wide Area Work Flow (WAWF): <https://wawf.eb.mil/xhtml/unauth/registration/notice.xhtml>).
 - DARPA Contracts Management Office (CMO) personnel may provide assistance to those proposers from whom a proposal is requested.
- Be determined to be responsible by the AO and must not be suspended or debarred from award by the Government nor be prohibited by Presidential Executive Order and/or law from receiving an award.

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OT Eligibility (Continued)

DARPA Fundamental Research Risk Based Security Review Process (FRRBS)

- Fundamental research means basic and applied research in science and engineering, the results of which ordinarily are published and shared broadly within the scientific community, as distinguished from proprietary research and from industrial development, design, production, and product utilization, the results of which ordinarily are restricted for proprietary or national security reasons.
- Our FRRBS review process is designed to help critical technology and performer IP associated with DARPA research projects by identifying areas of possible undue foreign influence.
- This assessment is done for all proposed senior/key personnel selected for negotiations.
- This process is separate from the DARPA Scientific Review Process and must be adjudicated prior to final award.

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OT Eligibility (Continued)

Organizational Conflicts of Interest

- Without prior approval or a waiver from the DARPA Deputy Director, a performer cannot simultaneously provide scientific, engineering, technical assistance (SETA); advisory and assistance services (A&AS); or similar support and also be a technical performer.
- Proposers must address in the proposal if providing SETA or similar support to any DARPA office(s) through an active award or sub-award.
- Contact DARPA *in advance* of submitting a proposal.

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



OT Eligibility (Continued)

Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Requirements

- *A//* DARPA-awarded Contracts and Other Transactions, including those involving Fundamental Research, at a minimum require prime performers and subcontractors to demonstrate compliance with **CMMC Level 1**, which focuses on the protection of FCI and consists of the security requirements that correspond to the 15 basic safeguarding requirements specified in 48 CFR 52.204-21.
- To be eligible for award under this solicitation, the CMMC Unique Identifier (UID) associated with the prime proposer must reflect a current CMMC status (representing either Final or Conditional status) posted in the Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS) indicating compliance at the required level above.
 - Prime proposers are responsible for verifying subcontractor compliance.
 - Start the process by registering at <https://piee.eb.mil>
- The required CMMC level for *this solicitation* is Level 1 if handling FCI only and Level 2 if handling CUI.

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Competition Sensitive Information

DARPA policy is to treat all submissions as competition sensitive, and to disclose their contents only for the purpose of evaluation.

- Restrictive notices notwithstanding, during the evaluation process, submissions may be handled by support contractors (SETAs, etc.) for administrative purposes and/or to assist with technical evaluation.
- All DARPA support contractors performing this role are expressly prohibited from performing DARPA sponsored technical research and are bound by appropriate nondisclosure agreements.
- Input on technical aspects of the proposals may be requested by DARPA from non-Government consultants/experts who are also strictly bound by the appropriate non-disclosure requirements.

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



Intellectual Property / Data Rights Assertions

- DARPA anticipates Unlimited Rights on all deliverables developed with DARPA or mixed funding.
 - Government Purpose Rights or Limited Rights should only be asserted by proposers for deliverables developed exclusively at private expense and is furthered outlined in the solicitation.
- Proposers must articulate their IP Assertions in their proposal submission.
 - Assertions are required for Performer (Prime) and all Subs
- Avoid broad/vague assertions
 - Use defined “Basis of Assertion” and “Asserted Rights Category”
 - Justify “Basis of Assertion” with substantiating documentation (i.e. identify commercial items or provide patent and contract numbers).

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



Acquisition Process

Step 1: Submit Abstract

- Abstracts are **REQUIRED**

Step 2: Invitations for Proposal sent

- *Do **not** submit a proposal unless invited.*

Step 3: Notification Letters sent

- *If not selected, proposer may request an informal feedback session. (No formal "debriefing" per FAR 15.506 is provided, as OTs are not subject to the FAR or DFARs.)*

Step 4: Negotiate an OT for Prototype Agreement

Step 5: Multiple OTs for Prototype Agreements Awarded

Note: Government will not pay Proposers responding to this solicitation for any costs associated with Abstract and/or Proposal submissions.

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Award Information

- Multiple Awards are anticipated
- Three distinct Technical Areas
 - Unclassified: TA1 and TA2
 - Classified: TA3
- This is a 3-Phased effort with a Base and 2 Options
 - Phase 1 (Base) is for 12 months
 - Phase 2 (Option) is for 8 months
 - Phase 3 (Option) is for 12 months

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Evaluation Criteria

In Descending Order of Importance (ABSTRACTS):

- Technical Comprehension
- Technical Ability

In Descending Order of Importance (PROPOSALS):

Must wait for an Invitation to Proceed before submitting a Proposal

- Technical Approach
- Technical Qualifications
- Technology Transition and IP
- Price
- Security

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



Read the solicitation in its entirety – **several times!!!!**

Pay special attention to:

- Evaluation Criteria
 - Proposal instructions – cover all required elements
 - Any links (such as for CMMC, FRRBS, etc.)
-
- Take advantage of templates & links provided
 - Submit questions by due date and time
 - Be detailed and thorough
 - Write the abstract and/or proposal with the evaluation criteria in mind

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



Only Awarding OTs... but WHY?

Promote commercial best practices!

- Proposers may be a commercial business. DARPA want proposers to approach this as a commercial effort and award.
- Not restricted by FAR and DFAR regulations.

Dynamic performance

- Need greater flexibility to allow for unknowns that will most likely occur during testing and evaluation.
- Reduces administrative burden and promotes teamwork between DARPA and performer.

To learn more about OTs visit:

- DARPACONnect - <https://www.darpaconnect.us/home>
- DARPA's Acquisition Innovation - <https://acquisitioninnovation.darpa.mil/>
 - Review or Attend a Live OT Comprehensive Training: <https://acquisitioninnovation.darpa.mil/samples-and-resources/training>

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OT Articles and Attachments – Example

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ARTICLES

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ARTICLE VII	Data Rights
ARTICLE VIII	Foreign Access to Technology
ARTICLE IX	Title to and Disposition of Property
ARTICLE X	Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting
ARTICLE XI	Follow-On Production Contracts or Other Transactions
ARTICLE XII	Civil Rights Act
ARTICLE XIII	Public Release or Dissemination of Information
ARTICLE XIV	Order of Precedence
ARTICLE XV	Execution
ARTICLE XVI	Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment
ARTICLE XVII	Applicable Law
ARTICLE XVIII	Severability
ARTICLE XIX	Key Personnel
ARTICLE XX	Fundamental Research Risk-Based Security (FRRBS) <i>(IF APPLICABLE)</i>
ARTICLE XXI	Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) <i>(IF APPLICABLE)</i>

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1	Task Description Document
ATTACHMENT 2	Report Requirements
ATTACHMENT 3	Schedule of Milestones and Payments
ATTACHMENT 4	Wide Area Workflow Instructions
ATTACHMENT 5	Definitions
ATTACHMENT 6	Agreement Administration
ATTACHMENT 7	Certifications for Agreement
ATTACHMENT 8	Agreements Officer's Representative Appointment Memorandum
ATTACHMENT 9	Property/Equipment <i>(IF PERFORMER ACQUIRING PROPERTY >\$10K)</i>
ATTACHMENT 10	Intellectual Property Assertions <i>(IF APPLICABLE)</i>
ATTACHMENT 11	FRRBS Mitigation Plan <i>(IF APPLICABLE)</i>

NOTE: if there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.



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Our home for live events, including webinars, office hours, and one-on-one coaching sessions. Check out the full calendar of events and register now to secure your spot!

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Explore high-impact lessons to help you effectively work with DARPA. Whether you're a new potential performer or a well-seasoned alum, you'll find a wealth of materials to make sure you're in the best position to engage with DARPA.

On-Demand Learning



Upcoming Events
Check out our events calendar for upcoming opportunities to learn, network, and engage. Missed an event? Visit the archive for recordings and resources.

Events Calendar



DARPA ERIS Marketplace
Introducing the Expedited Research Implementation Series (ERIS) Marketplace - our newest effort to accelerate acquisition velocity and provide a rapid procurement pathway to work with DARPA.

ERIS Marketplace



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Regional Pop-Up Events



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Deep Dive into DARPA

These full-day events cover a breadth of topics key to working with DARPA. Hear directly from a speaker list packed with DARPA program managers, leadership, and staff on hand to give you insider insights.

Sessions Include:

- Engaging DARPA Program Managers
- Heilmeier Catechism: Understanding Effective DARPA Communication
- Understanding DARPA Announcements and Contract Vehicles
- Reviewing and Analyzing a DARPA Opportunity
- DARPA SBIR and STTR Program
- Understanding DARPA Security Resources
- Preparing Your DARPA Proposal
- Tying It All Together: Strategies for Success
- Opportunities for Networking

DARPAConnect 2026 Pop-Up Events



St. Louis, MO
February 2026



Virtual
July 2026



Portland, Maine
September 2026

NEW: Mission Connect Events



Bringing DARPA's Vision to Life

Introducing new, technology-integrated Mission Connect pop-up events designed to showcase DARPA interests and priorities.

Sessions Include:

- Specific insights from DARPA's technological leadership, including office leaders, staff, and a robust cohort of program managers
- Technology-focused deep dives, expert panels, demos, and showcases
- Extensive one-on-one networking and feedback opportunities



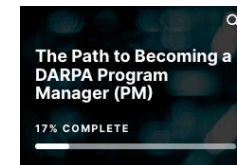


Customized Curriculum

Current Lessons Include:

- DARPA101: Introduction to DARPA
- The Heilmeier Catechism
- DARPA Award Vehicles and Solicitations
- Understanding DARPA Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs)
- Making the Most of a DARPA Proposers Day
- Introduction to DARPA Security
- DARPA SBIR/STTR Small Business Programs
- Tips for DARPA Proposal Success
- Opportunities to Work with DARPA
- Working with DARPA: Global Participation and Engagements

And more!



- Overview
- Understanding the Role of a DARPA Program Manager
- The Application Process and Expectations
- Tips and Strategies for Success**
- The PM Legacy: Life After DARPA
- Conclusion

Tips and Strategies for Success

PAGE 4 OF 6

Be Audacious, Not Incremental



DARPA's mission is to create and prevent technological surprise for national security. Program ideas should be focused on creating fundamental shifts in technological trajectory, not incremental improvement on what exists today. If the program is guaranteed to work, it is not a DARPA problem to solve. Embrace the high-risk, high-reward mandate.

> 1 2 3 4 5

The Connect Corner



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Webinars

Online sessions that offer a unique opportunity to learn about the mechanics of working with DARPA directly from DARPA presenters.



Ask Me Anything

An open forum where participants send in their questions and DARPA presenters answer them in a group setting



One-on-One Coaching

30-minute private session where participants introduce their research interests and explore how they may fit at DARPA



Office Hours

10-minute sessions during which participants ask specific questions about working with DARPA in a private setting



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open mic

DARPA's new monthly 30-minute quick-hit session that brings you the latest from DARPA's tech offices— key announcements, funding opportunities, upcoming events, and more.



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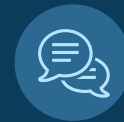
NAVIGATE THE DARPA ENTERPRISE

We offer a one-stop-shop to navigate the changes and opportunities at DARPA



ENGAGE PROGRAM MANAGERS

Identify and engage PMs whose research interests align with your research



SPEAK THE HEILMEIER

Frame your ideas using DARPA's Heilmeier Catechism

NOT FOR QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO AN OPEN BAA.

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Sana Hoda Sood

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IMR Lightning Talks

AI Security Assurance: Lori Pickering
Aten Security: Nyah Check
Avometric LLC: Kurt Rohloff
Boss Level Security: Austin Fletcher
Cornell University: Alexander Silva
Cybermonic: Howie Huang
Eniram: Freddy Blanco
GE Aerospace: John Carbone
GE Vernova: Scott Evans
Infraclear Inc: Giridhar Srinivasan
JHU APL: Vincent Pagan
Kitware Inc: Brian Hu
Leidos: Evan Austin
M2 Foundry: Catherine Havasi
Pensar AI: Michael Willing
RoarTech Inc: Dev Roy
Smart Information Flow Technologies: Ugur Kuter
Southern Methodist University: Darrell Young
SRI International: Ajay Divakaran
Trusted Science and Technology: Thomas Wahl
Two Six: Michael McAnally
Uncharted Field Services: Amanda Towler
Union Dynamics: Michael McMinn
University of Virginia: Robert Webb
Vanderbilt University: Taylor Johnson
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Please submit questions to IMR@darpa.mil