Submitting an Idea or Proposal to the Pentagon/DoD

How do I submit an idea or proposal useful to the Pentagon?
We have offices within the Department of Defense (DoD) that can evaluate your invention or idea and offer guidance on submitting your proposal. Each office within DoD and the Military Departments are responsible for soliciting and evaluating proposals in areas important to their particular defense mission. To assist you, we've listed mailing addresses, telephone numbers and web sites of offices where information may be obtained.

Office of Naval Research
One Liberty Center
875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 1425
Arlington, VA 22203-1995

Web Site - http://www.onr.navy.mil

Air Force Office of Scientific Research
875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 325, Room 3112
Arlington, VA 22203
E-Mail: public.affairs@afosr.af.mil


Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
675 North Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203-2114


The URI seeks to improve the quality of defense research conducted by universities and supports the education of engineers and scientists in disciplines critical to national defense needs. The initiative is a collection of specialized research programs performed by academic research institutions.

- Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP)
- Multidisciplinary Research Program of the University Research Initiative (MURI)
- Presidential Early Career Award in Science & Engineering (PECASE)
The Discovery and Invention portfolio makes broad investments in basic and applied research that will increase fundamental knowledge, foster opportunities for breakthroughs and provide technology options for future naval capabilities and systems. Discovery and Invention programs nurture creativity and seek a balance between risk, opportunity and potential naval impact.

Work With Us
The Office of Naval Research (ONR) provides resources for the public sector, commercial contractors, nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities to obtain research funding:

- **Search current funding opportunities**
- **Review proposal submittal guidelines**
- **Learn how to use Grants.gov**
- **Find and apply for grants on Grants.gov**

Sponsored Research
ONR's discovery and invention portfolio sponsors research in multiple research areas. Key research initiatives include core basic and applied research programs executed by ONR program officers, performed at naval laboratories and managed by the director of research:

- **Basic Research Challenge**
- **University Research Initiative**
- **Young Investigator Program**


Solicitations

- **Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs):** A BAA announces an agency's research interests including criteria for selecting proposals and soliciting the participation of all offerors capable of satisfying the government's needs. [See current BAAs](http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities.aspx)

- **Requests for Information (RFIs):** An RFI is used when a government agency does not presently intend to award a contract, but wants to obtain price, delivery, other market information or capabilities for planning purposes. Responses to these notices are not offers and cannot be accepted by the government to form a binding contract. [See current RFIs](http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities.aspx)

- **Requests for Proposals (RFPs):** An RFP is used in negotiated acquisitions to communicate government requirements to prospective contractors and to solicit proposals. [See current RFPs](http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities.aspx)

- **Requests for Quotes (RFQs):** An RFQ is a solicitation that provides in exacting detail a list or description of all relevant parameters of the requirement. RFQs are best suited to commercial products and services. [See current RFQs](http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities.aspx)

- **Special Notices:** These notices provide information about Industry Days, other events and other information that, while not captured in one of the other funding announcements, may be relevant to a given opportunity. [See current Special Notices](http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities.aspx)

- **Multiple-Award Task Order Contracts (MATOCs):** MATOCs were previously used by ONR for acquiring support services. As of Oct. 1, 2009, ONR now uses SeaPort-e for acquiring support services.

- **SeaPort-e:** This portal is the Navy's electronic platform for acquiring support services in 22 functional areas including engineering, financial management and program management. Get information on [SeaPort-e](http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities.aspx).
Doing Business with AFOSR
We discover, shape, and champion basic research that profoundly impacts the future Air Force. Learn more about AFOSR and how we accomplish our mission.

AFOSR: Funding Overview

Funding Opportunities
Apply for a grant
List of Broad Agency Announcements (BAA)
Manage your grant
Submit annual reports, technical reports and more online.
Share your stories
Tell us about the research you're doing or see in the news.

AFOSR plans, coordinates, and executes the Air Force Research Laboratory's (AFRL) basic research program in response to technical guidance from AFRL and requirements of the Air Force; fosters, supports, and conducts research within Air Force, university, and industry laboratories; and ensures transition of research results to support U.S. Air Force needs. The focus of AFOSR is on research areas that offer significant and comprehensive benefits to our national warfighting and peacekeeping capabilities. These areas are organized and managed in five scientific departments:

- **Dynamical Systems and Control Division**
  Leads the discovery and development of the fundamental and integrated science that advances future air and space flight.

- **Quantum and Non-Equilibrium Processes Division**
  Leads the discovery and transition of foundational physical science to enable air, space, and cyber power.

- **Information, Decision and Complex Networks Division**
  Leads the discovery and development of advancement in space situational awareness, autonomy, and cyber for the U.S. Air Force.

- **Complex Materials and Devices Division**
  Leads the discovery and development of the fundamental and integrated science that provides novel options that increase operational flexibility and performance of systems and environments of relevance to the U.S. Air Force.

- **Energy, Power and Propulsion Division**
  Leads the discovery and development of innovative fundamental science addressing a broad spectrum of energy-related issues.

Funding Opportunities:  http://www.wpafb.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=8981
As a part of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), AFOSR's technical experts foster and fund research within AFRL, universities, and industry laboratories to ensure the transition of research results to support USAF needs. To accomplish this task, AFOSR solicits proposals for research through various Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs) as well as various other programs outlined below.

**Broad Agency Announcements**
Broad Agency Announcements are used to communicate the needs and interests of AFOSR. AFOSR keeps specific requirements of each BAA up-to-date on Grants.gov, the United States government's one source to find and apply for federal grants. See the latest BAAs.
Educational Programs
The Scientific and Technology Departments of AFOSR, Business Integration Department (RP), and the International Office (IO) are responsible for the management of several programs that improve science and engineering education in the U.S., and stimulate interactions between Air Force researchers and the broader international, as well as domestic, research community. Applications for these programs do not always require proposals but generally have specific deadlines, formats, and qualifications. Researchers applying for these programs should communicate with the point-of-contact (POC) listed in each program description.

- Air Force Visiting Scientist Program
- Awards to Stimulate and Support Undergraduate Research Experiences (ASSURE)
- Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program (ESEP)
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship Program
- USAF National Research Council Resident Research Associateship (NRC/RRA) Program
- USAF-Summer Faculty Fellowship Program (SFFP)
- Window on Science (WOS) Program
- Windows on the World (WOW) Program

Special Programs
AFOSR provides support for research and education through the following unique programs: The Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) program, the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR); and the University Research Initiative (URI) Program. Other support deemed appropriate by AFOSR, such as conferences and workshops, may also be available.

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) Program
- Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR)
- Young Investigator Research Program (YIP)

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
http://www.darpa.mil/our_work/

DARPA was established in 1958 to prevent strategic surprise from negatively impacting U.S. national security and create strategic surprise for U.S. adversaries by maintaining the technological superiority of the U.S. military. As the DoD’s primary innovation engine, DARPA undertakes projects for development of emerging technologies of interest to the US military that are finite in duration but that create lasting revolutionary change.


General guidance for seeking research funding:

- DARPA’s approach to research awards has a focused mission for the proposed work on specific areas of interest (unlike NSF/NIH which support more fundamental long term research). Publications are not the most important goal for funded research.
- BAA’s from the different offices are posted on the DARPA website.
- Contact the program manager via email with an attached short white paper detailing your research interest before developing a proposal
- DARPA program managers have 3-4 year terms. It is important to look out for workshops they announce prior to sending out a funding opportunity call and be a part of these – to help them specify the contents of a solicitation.
Address all the ‘must’ and ‘shall’ statements on the BAA. Provide detailed budget justification for the proposed budget. DARPA awards typically do not under resource but provide enough funds to get the desired outcomes in the given time.

DARPA offices

- **Biological Technologies Office** fosters, demonstrates, and transitions breakthrough fundamental research, discoveries, and applications that integrate biology, engineering, and computer science for national security.
- **Defense Sciences Office** vigorously pursues the most promising technologies within a broad spectrum of the science and engineering research communities and develops those technologies into important, radically new military capabilities
- **Information Innovation Office**
- **Microsystems Technology Office** mission focuses on the heterogeneous microchip-scale integration of electronics, photonics, and microelectromechanical systems (MEMS).
- **Strategic Technology Office** mission is to focus on technologies that have a global theater-wide impact and that involve multiple Services
- **Tactical Technology Office** engages in high-risk, high-payoff advanced military research, emphasizing the "system" and "subsystem" approach to the development of aeronautic, space, and land systems as well as embedded processors and control systems. This research includes an effort within the TTO to develop a small satellite launch vehicle. This vehicle is under development by AirLaunch LLC. This is part of the Force Application and Launch from Continental United States (FALCON) effort

Notes: