

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

**THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD)
FISCAL YEAR 2024**

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program

AFOSR: FOAAFRLAFOSR20240002

FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE

Friday, April 12, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

SPECIAL NOTE: The STEM program is a stand-alone opportunity. Applications must be **'VALIDATED'** by Grants.gov by the application deadline which can take up to 48 hours after successful submission. See [Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission](#).

INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS DEADLINE

Friday, March 29, 2024

Amendment 2 to this FOA updates the link to “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research,” BAA FA9550-23-S-0001, in Section A (p. 09).

Air Force Office of Scientific Research
(AFOSR)

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) announces the Fiscal Year 2024 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program.

The AFOSR STEM program provides funds to support professional development, education and outreach programming. DODI 1025.11 gives Laboratories and Personnel Office (L&PO) the ability to: “Identify actions that the DoD may take to improve all levels of education in STEM skills [through the use of eligible entities]... pursuant to [Section 2192 of Title 10 U.S.C.](#)” And “[e]stablish programs to improve science and mathematics knowledge and skills of elementary and secondary school students and faculty members, pursuant to [Section 2193a of Title 10, U.S.C.](#)”

The AFOSR reserves the right to fund all, some, or none of the proposals received under this FOA. AFOSR provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs. Technical and budget proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to this FOA will not be returned. It is the policy of AFOSR to treat all white papers and proposals submitted under this FOA as sensitive competitive information and to disclose their contents only for the purposes of evaluation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Applicants should be alert for any amendments that may modify the announcement. Amendments to the original funding opportunity announcement (FOA) will be posted to the Grants.gov Webpage: <https://www.grants.gov/>.

SUMMARY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION

1. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY NAME

Air Force Office of Scientific Research
875 North Randolph Street, STE 325, Room 3112
Arlington, VA 22203

2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE

FISCAL YEAR 2024 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program

3. ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE

Amendment 2 to Initial Announcement

4. ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER

FOAAFRLAFOSR20240002

5. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBERS

12.800 Air Force Defense Research Sciences Program (AFOSR)

6. KEY DATES

Proposals must be received electronically through Grants.gov by **Friday, April 12, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time.**

Pre-proposal inquiries and questions must be submitted not later than **Friday, March 29, 2024.**

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) seeks a broad range of applications for augmenting existing and/or developing innovative solutions that directly maintain and/or cultivate a diverse, world-class Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) workforce to maintain the U.S. Air Force and Space Force's technological superiority. The goal of proposed efforts must provide solutions that establish, build, and/or maintain STEM educational pathways and workforce opportunities for diverse U.S. citizens directly relevant to AFOSR science and technology areas.

As the capacity of the Department of the Air Force (DAF) Science and Technology (S&T) workforce is interconnected with STEM education and outreach, AFOSR recognizes the need to support efforts that can jointly improve STEM student outcomes and align education and outreach efforts with DAF S&T current and future workforce needs. This announcement explicitly encourages projects that improve the capacity of education systems and communities to create impactful STEM educational experiences for students of all ages and the air and space-related workforce. Projects must aim to increase engagement in STEM, from students to the current workforce, and enhance people with needed DAF STEM skills, knowledge and abilities. AFOSR encourages applications to utilize current STEM education research for informing project design and advancing STEM careers and opportunities of DAF relevance.

This FOA is specifically seeking STEM education and outreach projects that address scientific and technical areas identified in the following thrust areas. Project scope may range in size and complexity. While not a formal requirement or program focus of this FOA, applicants are strongly encouraged to consider under-represented and under-served populations including women and minorities in project plans. Special audience priority areas may include, but not be limited to, military connected students, veteran initiatives, and education systems integral to DAF science and technology.

AFOSR STEM topic areas include (see How to Find Our Research Interests on page 9):

- Engineering and Complex Systems
- Information and Networks
- Physical Sciences
- Chemistry and Biological Sciences

STEM interests include a broad range of STEM educational and training opportunities for career and workforce development, including but not limited to:

- Internships for veterans and underrepresented groups in STEM
- Professional development opportunities
- Programs to stimulate analytical/thinking skills
- Development of educational resources
- STEM education outreach activities
- Education and community engagement workshops
- Target age groups may require different levels of educational tools
- Coordinating and partnering with activities and organizations that support DAF research areas

DoD STEM goals are as follows:

Goal 1.0: Inspire community engagement in DoD STEM education programs and activities to provide meaningful STEM learning opportunities for students and educators.

Goal 2.0: Attract the Nation's and DoD's current and future STEM workforce through multiple pathways to educational and career opportunities.

Goal 3.0: Increase participation of underserved and underrepresented groups in STEM education.

Goal 4.0: Advance the efficiency and effectiveness of STEM education and workforce development programs, activities, and outreach through evaluation and assessment. Relevant information includes, but is not limited to, details of any other Federal funds to be used, and any funds to be contributed by non-Federal sources toward STEM outreach and education.

Our areas of research interest are published at the following internet locations:

ADMINISTERING AGENCY	HOW TO FIND OUR RESEARCH INTERESTS
Air Force Office of Scientific Research https://www.afrl.af.mil/AFOSR/	Navigate to https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/345653 to view the “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research,” BAA FA9550-23-S-0001.

You must refer to the website cited above for detailed technical information and our technical goals. We encourage you to contact the Program Managers listed in the cited announcements before submitting proposals to explore research areas of mutual interest to you and us.

Applicants may submit proposals for 1 award per academic year. We discuss this again in sections [C.3.b Amount of Requested AFOSR Funding](#).

We reserve the right to select and fund for award, all, some, part, or none of the proposals received. There is no guarantee of award.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Awards are made under the authority of [10 U.S.C. 4001](#) in the form of grants or cooperative agreements. We rely on discretionary appropriated funds for this program. Awards under

this STEM FOA are subject to the availability of funds for fiscal year 2024. We select what kind of award instrument we can use based on requirements in the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act [31 U.S.C. 6301 – 31 U.S.C. 6308](#).

We can make awards to universities conducting, or demonstrably capable of conducting, education and outreach in areas of interest to the AFOSR.

Approximately \$1.8M is anticipated to support the awards under this announcement, subject to availability of funds. Proposals can be made for up to three (3) years in duration; that is, one (1) Base Year with two (2) Option Years. Proposals can request up to \$150,000 per year, totaling \$450,000 at the end of three (3) years. Proposals must use September 1, 2024, as the anticipated start date; however, the actual effective date is not final until an award is made.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All responsible sources from academia, non-profit organizations, and industry (for-profit) organizations may submit applications under this FOA. Multiple Principal Investigators from the same organization may apply for a STEM Program award, but each proposal must be distinctive. The STEM Program award also allows for CO-Principal Investigators.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges or Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, Native-Hawaiian-serving institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, Native American-serving nontribal institutions, Minority Institutions, and covered educational institutions in [10 U.S.C 4144](#) are especially encouraged to apply.

Federally Funded Research & Development Centers (FFRDCs), including Department of Energy National Laboratories, are not eligible to receive awards under this FOA.

However, teaming arrangements between FFRDCs and eligible principal applicants are allowed so long as they are permitted under the sponsoring agreement between the Government and the specific FFRDC.

Air Force Research laboratories, military universities, and warfare centers as well as other DoD and civilian agency laboratories are also not eligible to receive awards under this FOA and must not submit either white papers or applications in response to this FOA.

University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) are eligible to submit white papers under this FOA unless precluded from doing so by their DoD UARC contract.

To assess risk posed by applicants, we review your application, proposal, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designated repositories of government-wide public and non-public data, including comments you have made, as required by [31 U.S.C. 3321](#) and [41 U.S.C. 2313](#) and described in [2 CFR 200.206](#) and [32 CFR 22.410](#) to confirm you are qualified, responsible, and eligible to receive an award.

2. COST SHARING OR MATCHING

We do not require cost sharing or matching for proposals under this announcement. You are not prohibited from including voluntary committed cost sharing or matching in your proposal. Cost sharing or matching is not an evaluation factor.

3. OTHER

a. Types of Eligible Programs

STEM Program funds are available for supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new Federal awards under this FOA.

b. Amount of Requested AFOSR Funding

Applicants may submit proposals for 1 award per Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Proposals may not exceed three (3) years in duration; that is, one (1) Base Year with two (2) Option Years.

Proposals may not exceed \$150,000 in funding per year; that is, the sum of \$450,000 for all three years.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

AFOSR participates in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. We encourage applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

We will not provide paper copies of this announcement or accept paper applications. You can also search Grants.gov using the administering agency CFDA Number.

ADMINISTERING AGENCY	CFDA NUMBER AND TITLE
Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)	12.800 Air Force Defense Research Sciences Program

2. HOW TO REGISTER TO APPLY THROUGH GRANTS.GOV

a. Instructions

Read the instructions below about registering to apply for administering agency's funds. Applicants should read the registration carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last minute searches for required information.

The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

If individual applicants are eligible to apply for this grant funding opportunity, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>.

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.

- (1) Obtain a UEI Number: All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a UEI Number. Applicants must enter the UEI number in the data entry field labeled "UEI" on the Standard Form (SF) 424 in Block 5.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number, refer to: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>

- (2) Register with SAM: In addition to having a UEI number, organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM. All organizations must register with SAM in order to apply online. Registrations in SAM now include the acceptance of Certifications and Assurances. Entities creating new registrations and existing entities completing their annual registration renewals will be required to review financial assistance representations and certification before their registration can be activated. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.

- (3) Create a Grants.gov Account: The next step in the registration process is to create an account with Grants.gov. Applicants must know their organization's UEI number to complete this process. Completing this process automatically triggers an email request for applicant roles to the organization's E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) for review. The EBiz POC is a representative from your organization who is the contact listed for SAM. To apply for grants on behalf of your

organization, you will need the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) role.

For more detailed instructions about creating a Grants.gov account, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>.

- (4) Authorize Grants.gov Roles: After creating an account on Grants.gov, the EBiz POC receives an email notifying them of your registration and request for roles. The EBiz POC will then log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been approved as an AOR.

For more detailed instructions on creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html>.

- (5) Track Role Status: To track your role request, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html>.

b. Electronic Signature

When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization's AOR that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize individuals who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as an AOR, this step is often missed and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.

3. HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE ADMINISTERING AGENCY VIA GRANTS.GOV

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each FOA, you can create individual instances of a workspace.

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>.

a. Create a Workspace

Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting

b. Complete a Workspace

Add participants to the workspace, complete all the required forms, and check for errors before submission.

- (1) Adobe Reader: If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms, you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace so that they will appear similar to other Standard or administering agency forms. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drive(s), then accessed through AdobeReader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>.

- (2) Mandatory Fields in Forms: In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.
- (3) Complete SF 424 Fields First: The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and UEI number. To trigger this feature, an applicant must complete the SF 424 information first. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.

c. Submit a Workspace

An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt application submission.

d. Track a Workspace

After successfully submitting a workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracing Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>.

Applicant Support: Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed on the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist the administering agency with tracking your issue and understanding background information

on the issue.

4. CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION

a. Pre-Proposal Inquiries and Questions Encouraged

If you need help with general questions or problems, the appropriate individual listed in [section G. Agency Contacts](#) should be contacted.

Your pre-proposal inquiries and questions should be submitted not later than **Friday, March 29, 2024**. We may not be able to answer questions received later. We discuss this more in section [7. Submission Dates and Times](#).

Program Managers and technical contacts do not have the authority to make commitment for us. Grants Officers acting within their warranted capacity are the only people authorized to make commitments for the Government.

b. The Application as a Whole

You must use the electronic SF 424 Research & Related (R&R) Form Family, OMB Number 4040-0001. The SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance form must be your cover page. No pages may precede the SF 424 (R&R).

Your proposal must describe the research and related science and engineering that enables your STEM education program. Your proposal must adequately describe the research and research-related education so that we can assess relevance to our research priorities and DoD missions. You are encouraged to clarify the extent to which your research interests coincide with ours by:

(1) Contacting the administering agency Program Manager listed in [section G. Agency Contacts](#).

You must submit your proposal electronically through Grants.gov. DO NOT password protect attachments. You must mark your application with the announcement number.

We created a summary of what is required for a complete proposal in the table below.

- **We require the forms and attachments in bold text with all applications**
- *Some applications require the attachments in italics*
- We provide more instructions in section [D.5. Component Pieces of the Application](#)

R&R FORM, OMB 4040-0001	FIELD	ATTACHMENT
SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance, including an authorized signature	18.	Certification Regarding Lobbying Form, or SFLLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities per instructions in D.5.b
R&R Other Project Information Form	7.	Project Summary/Abstract
	8.	Project Narrative
	9.	Bibliography and References Cited
	<i>10.</i>	<i>Facilities and Other Resources</i>
	<i>12.</i>	<i>Other Attachments</i>
R&R Senior/Key Person (Expanded) Profile Form	N/A	Biographical Sketch Current & Pending Support
R&R Budget Form	N/A	Budget Justification + Any Quotes
R&R Personal Data Form	N/A	None
R&R Project /Performance Site Locations Form	N/A	None

The SF 424 (R&R) must include the signature of an authorized applicant representative. Your signature is affixed electronically by [Grants.gov](#) upon submission. This signature is considered the signature for the application as a whole.

We give you more instructions in section [D.5. Component Pieces of the Application](#).

c. Proposal Format

- **Paper Size:** 8.5 x 11-inch paper

- **Margins:** 1 inch
- **Spacing:** 1.0-line spacing
- **Font:** Times New Roman, 12 point
- **Page Limitation:** 25 pages*
- **Content:** as described below

d. Proposal Length

The total length of your project summary/abstract, project narrative, bibliography and references cited, and all curriculum vitae attached to the R&R Senior/Key Person (Expanded) Profile form must be no longer than twenty-five (25) pages. We will not read or evaluate any pages in excess of the twenty-five (25) page limit.

We describe what is included in the page count in the table below.

D.4.d. Page Count Table

*INCLUDED IN PAGE COUNT	NOT INCLUDED IN PAGE COUNT
Project Summary/Abstract	Everything else
Project Narrative	
Bibliography and References Cited	
Senior/Key Person Curriculum Vitae	

We do not include Grants.gov forms in the page count. We do not include budget related information or required representations in the page count. Not having enough information to understand if your costs are reasonable and realistic is the most common reason awards are delayed. We cannot make an award unless we can determine you are eligible, the cost of your proposal is reasonable and realistic, and complies with [2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles](#).

e. Conflict of Interest/Conflict of Commitment Review:

This announcement requires that all current and pending research support, as defined by Section 223 of the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act must be disclosed at the time of proposal, for all covered individuals. Such disclosure will be updated annually during the performance of any research project selected for funding, and whenever covered individual are added or identified as performing under this project. Covered Individuals are those who are listed as key personnel

on proposals including but not restricted to the principal investigator or co-principal investigator.

Any decision to accept a proposal for funding under this announcement will include full reliance on the applicant's statements. Failure to report fully and completely all sources of project support and outside positions and affiliations may be considered a materials statement within the meaning of the federal False Claims Act, and constitute a violation of law.

The funding agency may conduct a pre-award conflict of interest/conflict of commitment review of any proposal selected for funding as described in the DoD Component Decision Matrix to Inform Fundamental Research Proposal Mitigation Decisions. Offerors are advised that any significant conflict of interest/conflict of commitment identified may be a basis for the rejection of an otherwise awardable proposal.

f. Electronic Form and Proposal Attachments

Your application and proposal attachments must be in electronic file formats using Workspace.

DO NOT password protect attachments.

Grants.gov provides information about Adobe software compatibility at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>.

g. Marking of Proposals with Confidential or Proprietary Information

You must mark your proposal and proposal sections that contain proprietary or confidential information. You must use the protective legend found at [FAR 52.215-1\(e\) Instructions to Offerors – Competitive Acquisition](#) modified to permit release to our outside evaluators.

We make every effort to protect the confidentiality of proposals, including any proposal evaluations; however, under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements, some or all proposal information may be subject to release.

Your entire proposal, or any portions thereof, without protective markings or otherwise identified as requiring protection will be considered voluntarily furnished to us without restriction and will be treated as such for all purposes.

h. Advance Preparation for Electronic Submission through Grants.gov

Your proposal must be submitted electronically through [Grants.gov](#). Your organization must complete several one-time actions before electronic submission. Registration with Grants.gov may take up to twenty-one (21) days.

- (1) You should verify that the person authorized to submit proposals for your organization has completed registration well in advance of the submission deadline. Grants.gov electronic proposal submissions cannot be accomplished before your organization is fully registered.
- (2) A Grants.gov getting started checklist is available at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grants-101/getting-started-checklist.html>.
- (3) Guidance for registering with Grants.gov as an organization may be found at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.
- (4) Questions relating to the Grants.gov registration process, system requirements, how an application works, or the proposal submittal process can be answered by email at support@grants.gov, telephone at (800) 518-4726 or (606) 545-5035, or at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>.
- (5) An active [SAM](#) registration and an active UEI number are required to register through Grants.gov. Sections [D.2.a](#) and [D.6](#) provide more information.

5. COMPONENT PIECES OF THE APPLICATION

We have arranged this section to generally follow the table in section [D.4.b. The Application as a Whole](#).

a. SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance

*You must use the electronic SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance form as your application cover page. No pages may precede the SF 424 (R&R). This form is **not** included in your page count.*

You must **use September 1, 2024 as the anticipated start date** in your proposal and budget; however, the actual effective date is not final until an award is made.

- (1) Complete all required fields in accordance with the “pop-up” instructions on the SF 424 (R&R) form. The completion of most fields is self-explanatory.
- (2) You can turn on Grants.gov “Help Mode” to provide additional instructions on a form-specific basis. “Help Mode” is turned on by the icon with the pointer and question mark located at the top of the form.

We have special instructions for completing several SF 424 (R&R) form fields for applications under this announcement. Our instructions are:

FIELD	INSTRUCTION
	2. You may leave “Applicant Identifier” blank
	3. You may leave “Date Received by State” and “State Application Identifier” blank
	4.a. AFOSR Submissions: Leave “Federal Identifier” blank
	4.b. AFOSR Submissions: Enter the Program Manager’s name: Dr. Kimberly Jacoby Morris
	8. Complete as indicated. Provide the name(s) and phone number(s) of the Point(s) of Contact at the agency. <i>If you run out of space in field 8, include an attachment to field 12 of the R&R Other Project Information form. Name that attachment “Continuation of SF 424 (R&R) Field 8.” This attachment is included in your page count.</i>
	9. List the appropriate DoD administering agency name: Air Force Office of Scientific Research <i>This field is usually pre-populated by Grants.gov.</i>
	11. Enter a descriptive title for your project. <i>Using one phrase or sentence, title the proposal so that it is STEM program oriented. For example, “STEM - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Test Flights in Enclosed UAV Test Facility for K12 Education Training”.</i> <i>DO NOT</i> use the word “ <i>WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT,</i> ” “ <i>FACILITY,</i> ” “ <i>OUTREACH,</i> ” or the Program Manager’s name in your title.
	16. Check “No,” and “Program is Not Covered by Executive Order 12372.”
	17. Select “I Agree” to: Certify that all statements in the proposal and Internal Confidentially Agreement, written or otherwise, are true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge

See section [F.3. Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#) for more information and links to the full text of these items.

Additionally, this provides the certification regarding lobbying that is required by [31 U.S.C. 1352](#) as implemented by the DoD in [32 CFR Part 28](#)

The full text of this certification may be found in Appendix A to Part 28 of 32 CFR at <https://www.ecfr.gov/> or we will provide you a copy if you ask for one.

18. You must attach the completed [D.5.b. SFLLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](#) if you have lobbying activity that you must disclose under [31 U.S.C. 1352](#) as implemented by the DoD in [32 CFR Part 28](#).

b. SFLLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

*When required, the SFLLL form is attached to field 18 of the R&R Other Project Information form. This attachment is **not** included in your page count.*

If you have lobbying activity that you must disclose under [31 U.S.C. 1352](#) as implemented by the DoD at [32 CFR Part 28](#), you must attach the completed SFLLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.

You can find instructions for completing this form at: https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/instructions/SFLLL_2_0-V2.0-Instructions.pdf.

c. R&R Other Project Information Form

*This form is **not** included in your page count.*

Complete all information as requested. You must attach the publicly releasable Project Summary/Abstract and Project Narrative to this form.

FIELD	INSTRUCTION
1, 1a.	You must address all prospective human subject involvement by answering these questions. Additional documentation pursuant to National Policy and U.S. Air Force and Space Force standards is required for all proposals with human use research or involvement.

2, 2a. You must address all prospective animal subject and/or recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (rDNA) involvement by answering these questions. We will not consider any application for conference or workshop support that requires evaluation or approval of with animal or rDNA use or involvement protocol.
4a. For any proposal that has an actual or potential impact on the environment, answer yes and provide the answers and attachments required for fields 4b, 4c, and 4d. Additional documentation in accordance with National Policy and U.S. Air Force standards is required for any proposal with an actual or potential impact on the environment. We will not consider any application for conference or workshop support that requires any form of environmental impact study.
7 Attach your D.5.d. Publicly Releasable Abstract
8. Attach your D.5.e. Project Narrative
9. Attach your D.5.f. Bibliography and References Cited if necessary
10. Attach a Facilities and Other Resources description document here if you need to supplement your D.5.e. Project Narrative facilities and resources section.
11. N/A
12. You may supplement your D.5.k. Budget Justification by attaching quotes for training materials & supplies, local travel, etc.

d. Publicly Releasable Project Summary/Abstract

You must attach the Project Summary/Abstract to field 7 of the R&R Other Project Information form. This attachment is included in your page count.

You must provide a concise abstract of 4,000 characters or less with your proposal. Spaces are included in the character count. **Your abstract must be marked as publicly releasable.** Your abstract should use terms the public can understand to describe your STEM program and the related education.

Enter the Project Summary/Abstract on the form as a single block of plain text. Do not use special formatting such as line breaks, tables, or superscript/subscript. Do not use

special characters or symbols such as μ , λ , γ , π , &, :, /, \, “, or ?.

Your abstract header should include the Agency Program Manager or Officer’s name(s) and directorate(s) you listed in SF 424 (R&R) field 4.b. as discussed in section [D.5.a. SF 424 \(R&R\) Application for Federal Assistance](#).

If you receive an award, we must publish your abstract to a searchable website available to the general public as required by statute. The website address is <https://dodgrantawards.dtic.mil/grants/#/home>.

e. Project Narrative

You must attach the Project Narrative to field 8 of the R&R Other Project Information form. The narrative must be complete and self-contained to qualify for review. This attachment is included in your page count.

In developing the Project Narrative, keep in mind the AFOSR Research Interests and DoD STEM goals stated in [Section A, Program Description](#).

You must clearly describe your proposed STEM program, including objective and approach. Your project narrative will be evaluated using the criteria listed in [section E.1. Criteria](#). You should show strength in as many of the evaluation and selection areas as practicable to demonstrate maximum competitiveness.

Your narrative shall include the following elements:

(1) Statement of Objectives

You must fit your proposed STEM program on a single page titled “Statement of Objectives.” AFOSR may decide to incorporate your statement of objectives into the award instead of incorporating the whole technical proposal.

You should use active verbs when you prepare the statement of objectives, e.g., “conduct” training in a subject area, “investigate” a problem, “determine” to test a hypothesis.

(2) STEM Program Effort

Draft your STEM program curriculum and include your STEM program evaluation plans. You must clearly describe your STEM program in detail.

- Describe the unique educational programming and best practices for demonstrations, training materials and/or hands-on experiential learning opportunities for K-16 learners; specifically, detail the connections to AFOSR research interests.
- How it will enhance the quality of STEM and research-related education; specifically, describe the amount of proposed support for the research-related education to be facilitated.

- How it will establish outreach strategies to promote research-related education in areas of interest to the AFOSR and DoD; specifically, detail your proposed K-16 participation recruitment plan, and indicate how your STEM program will support workforce development for the AFOSR and DoD.

The adequacy of this information will influence the overall evaluation in accordance with the criteria and procedures specified in section [E. Application Review Information](#).

(3) Your Facilities

- Describe the facilities available for performing the proposed research or outreach, and any additional facilities or equipment the organization proposes to acquire at its own expense for the project.
- Indicate any government-owned facilities that will be used. Indicate any government-owned equipment possessed presently that will be used. The facilities contract number, or in absence of a facilities contract, the specifics of the facilities or equipment, and the number of the award under which they are accountable are required.

f. Bibliography and References Cited

*You must attach your Bibliography and references Cited to field 9 of the R&R Other Project Information form. If you are unsure if you need to include this attachment, please contact the agency contact to make sure. This attachment **is** included in your page count.*

Your bibliography and references should encompass your recruitment plan.

g. Facilities and Other Resources

*You may attach your Facilities and Other Resources information to field 10 of the R&R Other Project Information form. This attachment **is not** included in your page count.*

h. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile Form

You must attach a short biographical sketch and list of significant publications (vitae) for each Senior/Key Person, whether or not the individuals' efforts under the project are to be funded by the DoD. You must also attach a list of current and pending support as discussed in the aforementioned vitae.

You must list all key persons proposed for the research on the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) form. Key persons are generally the PI, and Co-PIs, and senior staff. We use this information to evaluate the qualifications of you and your research team.

To evaluate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. A subsection 1681 Et. Seq.), the DoD is collecting certain demographic and career

information to be able to assess the success rates of women who are proposed for key roles in applications in STEM disciplines.

To enable this assessment, each applicant must include this form completed as indicated. The Degree Type and Degree Year fields will be used by the DoD as the source for career information. In addition to the required fields on the form applicants must complete these two fields for all individuals that are identified as having the project role of Project Director (PD)/PI or Co-PD/PI on the form. Additional senior/key persons can be added by selecting the “Next Person” button.

Failure to submit this information may cause the proposal to be returned without further review. Additionally, DoD reserves the right to request further details from the proposer before making a final determination on the funding effort.

This information will be used to support protection of intellectual property, controlled information, key personnel, and information about critical technologies relevant to national security. Additionally, this information will be used to limit undue influence, including foreign talent programs, by countries that desire to exploit the United States’ technology within the DoD research, science and technology, and innovation enterprise.

i. R&R Personal Data Form

This form will be used by the DoD as the source of demographic information, such as gender, race, ethnicity, and disability information for the PD/PI and all other persons identified as Co-PDs/Pis. Each application must include this form with the name fields of the PD/PI and any Co-PDs/Pis completed; however, provision of the demographic information in the form is voluntary. If completing the form for multiple individuals, each Co-PD/PI can be added by selecting the “Next person” button. The demographic information, if provided, will be used for statistical purposes only and will not be made available to merit reviewers. Applicants who do not wish to provide some or all of the information should check or select the “Do not wish to provide” option.

NOTE: The Government Accountability Office (GAO), in its report GAO-16-14, WOMEN IN STEM RESEARCH: Better Data and Information Sharing Could Improve Oversight of Federal Grant Making and Title IX Compliance, December 3, 2015, recommended that the DoD collect certain demographic and career information to be able to assess the success rates of women who are proposed for key roles in applications in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics disciplines. To enable this assessment, each application must include the following forms completed as indicated: R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (expanded) form, and the R&R Personal Data form.

j. R&R Budget Form

*You must include a budget that identifies the program administration costs per item, and the total cost. Cite the proposed sources of the program management on the budget justification attachment. This form **is not** included in your page count.*

Your costs should be based on recent quotations from manufacturers or distributors. Itemize supplies for education outreach on the R&R Budget form to the extent possible, or provide an itemization on the budget justification attachment.

You must use **September 1, 2024** as the anticipated start date in your proposal and budget; however the actual effective date is not final until an award is made.

k. Budget Justification

*You must provide a detailed budget justification. The entire budget justification and supporting documentation must be combined into a single file and attached to field K of the R&R Budget form. This attachment is **not** included in your page count.*

- (1) Compensation—Personal Services: Employee pay will undergo internal review for reasonableness, in accordance with [2 CFR 200.430](#).
- (2) Materials & Supplies: Itemize all material & supplies by type and kind with associated costs. Indicate what your costs are based on, such as vendor quotes, and/or historical data. **You should include vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data if available.**
- (3) Tuition remission: Tuition remission and other forms of compensation paid as, or in lieu of, wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that the guidance at [2 CFR 200.466](#) is followed. **Please attach a copy of your institution’s established tuition remission policy.**
- (4) Stipends: “Participant support costs” means direct costs for items such as stipends or lodging and subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects ([2 CFR 200.75](#)). Participant support costs are allowable provided that the rates are based on prevailing rates, such as local wages, or local or federal government stipend rates (e.g., [AFRL Scholars Program](#)). **Please explain your methodology and provide references for coming up with this rate.**

Note: Participant support costs are excluded from the Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) base, in accordance with [2 CFR 200.68](#).

- (5) Local Travel: Provide itinerary information for any proposed local travel: modes of transportation, potential dates, routes, and connection information, approximate number of travelers, and contingency plans.

Note: Separate direct cost lines for Lodging and Subsistence are not allowed for employees under this announcement.

Below is a sample of Local Travel planning:

Local Travel	Unit	Trips	Travelers	Departure Time & Location	Arrival Time & Location	Unit Cost	Total Travel
School Bus Rental + Insurance	Round trip	1	45	ABC Public School 8:00 AM	XYZ University 9:00 AM	\$800	\$800
				XYZ University 1:00 PM	ABC Public School 2:00 PM		
Mini Bus Rental + Insurance	Round trip	1	15	ABC Public School 8:00 AM	XYZ University 9:00 AM	\$600	\$600
				XYZ University 1:00 PM	ABC Public School 2:00 PM		
Subtotal Local Travel Costs		2	60			\$1,400	\$1,400

- (6) Indirect Cost Rates: If you use a Government rate agreement (e.g., DHHS or ONR rate agreement) to propose indirect cost rates (facilities and administrative cost rates) and/or fringe benefit rates, **please attach a copy of the agreement.**
- (7) Fringe Rates: Fringe rates are allowable provided that the benefits are reasonable and are required by law, non-Federal entity-employee agreement, or an established policy of your institution ([2 CFR 200.431](#)). **Please attach a copy of your institution's fringe benefits rate agreement.**
- (8) Advertising and Public Relations: Itemize all costs associated with advertising and public relations. Indicate what your costs are based on, such as catalog/web listings, vendor quotes, and/or historical data. Adhere to the guidance in [2 CFR 200.421](#) for your plan. **Please include vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data if available.**
- (9) Helpful Cost Principle Reference Information
- [2 CFR 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles](#)
 - General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost in [2 CFR 200.420 through 2 CFR 200.475](#)

1. R&R Project/Performance Site Locations Form

This form is not included in your page count.

You must complete all information as requested. You must include the ZIP+4 for each performance location you list.

m. Information Successful Applicants Must Submit After Selection for a Possible Award

Our Grants Officer may request additional necessary information from you during negotiations, or as required to inform their consideration for award. You must provide timely responses.

If you do not fully comply with our information requests by the time we are ready to make an award, we may determine that you are not qualified to receive an award and make an award to someone else.

6. UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER (UEI), COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT ENTITY (CAGE), AND SYSTEM FOR AWARDMANAGEMENT (SAM)

a. SAM Registration Required

- (1) [2 CFR 25, Subpart A](#) requires that all applicants, unless exempted, must be registered in [SAM.gov](#) before submitting an application; Provide a valid UEI unique identifier; and,

Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which any applicant has an active Federal award or an application under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

- (2) A Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code is obtained or specified as part of the SAM registration process. A CAGE code is required.
- (3) SAM exemption or exceptions not available under this announcement:

We will not issue an Agency level exemption to SAM registration under [2 CFR 25.110\(c\)\(1\)](#) for applicants under this announcement. You must comply with SAM registration requirements and include a UEI and CAGE code on your application.

NOTE: Applicants must include a tax liability form in order to be successfully registered in SAM. Therefore, a tax liability form does not need to be included in the STEM application package.

b. Questions about SAM Registration and Updates

You can get questions about SAM registration and entity updates answered by live chat at https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp and telephone at (866) 606-8220 or (324) 206- 7828. Top help topics for SAM.gov are available at https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp.

c. Consequences of Non-Compliance with SAM Registration Requirements

We cannot make an award to you unless you comply with SAM requirements. If you are non-compliant, we may determine you are not qualified to receive an award, and use that determination to make an award to someone else as authorized by [2 CFR 25.205\(b\)](#).

You cannot receive payments without an active SAM record and CAGE code.

7. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

a. Pre-Proposal Inquiries and Questions Deadline

You must submit all pre-proposal inquiries and questions not later than **Friday, March 29, 2024**. You should submit your questions in writing by electronic mail. You should include the announcement number in the subject line. You may contact the administering agency contacts by telephone, but email is preferred. We discuss this again in section [G. Agency Contacts](#).

Our replies will be provided as soon as practicable. We estimate all our answers will be provided not later than **March 29, 2024**.

b. How Submission Time for Pre-Proposal Inquiries and Questions is Determined

We use the date and time stamp on your email to determine when you submitted pre-proposal correspondence.

c. Effect of Missing Pre-Proposal Inquiries and Questions Deadlines

We may not be able to provide responses or answers to late inquiries or questions.

d. Proposal Submission Deadline

We must receive your **validated** proposal electronically through Grants.gov not later than **Friday, April 12, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time**. This is the final due date.

You are responsible for making sure your application is submitted, received, and validated by Grants.gov before the application deadline. If you submit your application late, your proposal cannot be evaluated or considered for an award.

(1) Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

Online Submission: All applications must be **validated** by Grants.gov by **Friday, April 12, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time**. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an

acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/time stamp and Grants.gov tracking number in an email.

A second confirmation is provided by email when your application has passed Grants.gov validation and the status is updated from received to validated. **Your application is not complete until you receive the validation confirmation.** Your submission must be validated before the submission deadline.

When the administering agency successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgement of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role.

Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date will be counted as late and will not be considered for funding by the administering agency.

- (2) Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.

e. Grants.gov Tracking Number is Application Receipt

Grants.gov generates a confirmation page when you submit your application. A second confirmation is provided by email when your application has passed Grants.gov validation and the status is updated from received to validated. **Your application is not complete until you receive the validation confirmation.**

The validation confirmation page includes a system-generated Grants.gov tracking number; this serves as your receipt. Please keep a copy of all confirmations.

You can verify the submission time and application status with your tracking number through Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/track-my-application.html?inheritRedirect=true>.

f. Effect of Missing the Proposal Submission Deadline

Grants.gov will not accept your proposal after the submission deadline.

We will not accept proposals submitted other than electronically through Grants.gov.

8. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

N/A – This program is excluded from coverage under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372.

9. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

a. Award Value Limits and Exceptions

With few exceptions, a STEM award can provide up to three (3) years of funding at \$150,000 per year to support the recipient’s STEM outreach program; that is, the sum of \$450,000 for all three years. Section [C.3.b. Amount of Requested AFOSR Funding](#) contains this information as well.

b. STEM Specific Funding Restrictions

This section supplements the information in section [C.3.a. Types of Equipment and Instrumentation](#). You can contact us using the information in section [G. Agency Contacts](#) if you want to find out if we can consider an item you are not sure about.

ALLOWABLE STEM COSTS (See Section D.5.k for Budget Justification Information)	UNALLOWABLE STEM COSTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compensation—Personal Services.• Materials & Supplies for Education Outreach.• Tuition Remission.• Stipends and Lodging and Subsistence for participants and trainees, but not employees. (This cost is excluded from MTDC base).• Local Travel.• Advertising and Public Relations Materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition of major equipment or instrumentation.• Direct costs for continued operation and maintenance, including extended warranties.• General purpose computing facilities• Subawards, as defined at 2 CFR 200.1.• Commercial and other than commercial Air Travel.• Stipends and lodging and subsistence for employees.• Costs that are unallowable under 2 CFR 200 Subpart E Cost Principles.

c. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

- (1) We expect to announce our selection in **Summer 2024** followed by acceptance/declination letters or emails to applicants. These notices are not an authorization to commit or expend funds.
- (2) We anticipate awards will be in place by September 1, 2024, subject to availability of funds. You must use **September 1, 2024**, as the anticipated start date in your proposal and budget. The actual effective date is not final until a grant is awarded.
- (3) Grants will be awarded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

d. Pre-Award Costs

- (1) Grants include up to ninety (90) calendar days pre-award costs in accordance with [2 CFR 200.308\(e\)\(1\)](#) and/or the most current [DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions](#) (DoD T&C).
- (2) The date pre-award costs become allowable is determined by subtracting ninety (90) days from the beginning of the period of performance listed on the awarded grant unless your grant specifies otherwise.
- (3) All costs incurred before grant award are at the recipient risk as described in [2 CFR 200.308\(e\)\(1\)](#). We are under no obligation to reimburse your costs if for any reason you do not receive an award, or if your award is less than anticipated and inadequate to reimburse your pre-award costs.
- (4) Our prior written approval is required by [2 CFR 200.308\(e\)](#) for more than ninety (90) days pre-award costs. Approval of more than ninety (90) days pre-award costs will only be considered before an award is made. Requests for more than one hundred-eighty (180) days pre-award costs will not be considered.

Your business office must request prior approval of more than ninety (90) days pre-award costs during negotiations. This request must be in writing and include a specific date you want us to consider.

You are responsible for documenting why pre-award costs are necessary and essential to the effort.

If we approve your request, the date pre-award costs become allowable will be the specific date specified in the grant document.

e. Post-Award Budget Revisions

- (1) Follow the guidance under [2 CFR 200.407](#) and [2 CFR 200.308](#) to seek prior written approval for certain cost categories to be funded under a proposed budget revision.

f. Additional Funding Restrictions

You may not use any funds we provide or propose any cost to pay any Federal government employee for support, subsistence, or services in connection with the proposed conference or workshop.

g. Other Submission Requirements

You must submit your application through [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov).

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. CRITERIA

You should show strength in as many of the evaluation and selection areas as practicable to demonstrate maximum competitiveness.

a. Evaluation Criteria

We have three (3) evaluation criteria for this competition. The criteria are of equal importance to each other.

- (1) The impact and unique approach of your proposed program on K-16 education and outreach workforce development;
- (2) The importance and priority to AFOSR/DoD missions of research your proposed topic area alignment; and,
- (3) The potential your proposed program offers to enhance your institution's ability to educate future scientists and engineers through skills and awareness-building instrumentation in disciplines important to AFOSR/DoD missions.

You should show strength in as many of the evaluation areas as practicable to demonstrate maximum competitiveness.

b. No further evaluation criterion or criteria will be used for proposal selection.

2. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

a. Merit-Based, Competitive Procedures

We select proposals for possible funding on a competitive basis according to [Public Law 98-369, the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984](#), [10 U.S.C. 4141](#), and [10 U.S.C. 4023](#) using the merit-based, competitive procedures described in [32 CFR 22.315](#), incorporated here by reference.

We will use a multi-stage evaluation procedure as follows:

- (1) The responsible administering agency Program Manager or Officer and other Government technical experts will evaluate proposals;
- (2) Administering agency officials will recommend proposal for funding based on the technical evaluators' evaluations;
- (3) In coordination with the Office of the Director for Basic Research in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, we will reconcile overlaps and coordinate complimentary efforts to ensure the greatest possible impact with the funds available.

Proposal selection and award decisions are solely the responsibility of Government personnel. We may use support contractors or peers external to the Government to administratively process proposals, act as subject-matter-expert technical consultants, or review proposed costs. We require each support contractor employee or peer to sign a non-disclosure and conflict of interest statement prior to providing or disclosing any proposal information received under this announcement.

If you include the restrictive notice described in [D.4.g. Marking of Proposals with Confidential or Proprietary Information](#), you must include language that lets us provide your proposal information to our support contractors or peers. We may not be able to consider your proposal if you do not include this release.

b. Cost Analysis

If your proposal is selected for possible award, we will analyze the cost of the work for realism and reasonableness. The cost of your proposal is considered, but is not an evaluation factor or criterion.

We must make sure the costs you propose are reasonable and realistic before we can make an award.

3. NO GUARANTEED AWARD

We do not guarantee that any award will be made under this competition.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. SELECTION NOTICES

a. Electronic Notification

If your proposal is selected for possible award, you will receive a notice.

b. Selection for Possible Award Does Not Authorize Work

A selection notice **is not** an authorization to start work, and **is not** an award guarantee.

The administering agency will contact your business office to get answers to any questions about your proposal and negotiate specific award terms.

2. AWARD NOTICES

a. Federal Award Document

A grant signed by a warranted Grants Officer is the only official notice that an award has been made.

b. Electronic of Mail Federal Award Distribution

AFOSR award documents are sent to your business office by email or mail. This is called award distribution. We always ask your business office to forward the award to the Principal Investigator indicated on the award document.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

a. Reporting on Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

You must report recipient integrity and performance information as required by [Appendix XII to 2 CFR Part 200 – Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters](#), incorporated here by reference. You should read the full text of this award term now using the link above to make sure you understand the requirements.

b. Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants

(1) AFOSR must review information available about you and entities included in your proposal through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification and financial integrity information. Our risk review is required by [31 U.S.C. 3321](#) and [41 U.S.C. 2313](#), and includes both public and non-public information. You must be qualified as described at [32 CFR 22.415](#) to receive an award.

(2) AFOSR must consider the non-public segment of the [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System \(FAPIIS\)](#) for all awards exceeding the current simplified acquisition threshold of \$250,000.

(3) At a minimum, the information in the system for a prior Federal award recipient

must demonstrate a satisfactory record of executing programs or activities under Federal grants, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards with integrity and business ethics. AFOSR will consider any comments you provide, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, when making our risk judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards.

AFOSR may make an award to a recipient who does not fully meet our standards as described at [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)\(2\)](#) if it is determined that the information is not relevant to the current Federal award under consideration or there are specific conditions that can appropriately mitigate the effects of the non-Federal entity's risk in accordance with [2 CFR 200.208](#).

- (4) AFOSR must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment described in [2 CFR 200.213](#), and must require you to comply with these provisions. These provisions restrict Federal awards, sub-awards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal programs or activities.

c. Cross-Cutting National Policy Requirements

You must comply with all applicable national policy requirements. Key national policy requirements may be found in the [DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions](#) (DoD T&C), and [Appendix A to Part 1122 - Terms and Conditions for NP Article I, "Nondiscrimination National Policy Requirements,"](#) incorporated here by reference.

The full internet address for the DoD T&C is provided in section [F.3.e](#) below.

d. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

Grants are governed by the guidance in [Title 2, Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Part 200](#), "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" as modified and supplemented by the Department of Defense's (DoD) interim implementation in [2 CFR Part 1104](#) [79 FR 76047, December, 19, 2014]. Provisions of [Chapter 1, Subchapter C of Title 32, CFR](#), "DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations," other than parts 32 and 33, continue to be in effect and apply as stated.

These terms and conditions are incorporated by reference into this announcement.

e. DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions

DoD Research and Development General Terms and Conditions (DoDT&C) found at <https://www.nre.navy.mil/work-with-us/manage-your-award/manage-grant-award/grants-terms-conditions> may apply to your award. If DoD updates our DoD T&C, the updated version may apply to your award.

These terms and conditions are incorporated by reference into this announcement.

f. Recipients Other Than Individuals

You must agree to comply with the requirements at [2 CFR Part 182, Subpart B](#) “Requirements for Recipients Other Than Individuals” as a condition of award.

g. Minimum Record Retention Requirements

You must keep records related to our awards for at least three (3) years after it is completed and the final Federal Financial Report is submitted. This requirement is described further in [2 CFR 200.334](#), incorporated here by reference.

Sometimes records must be retained for more than three (3) years.

h. Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019

Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 ([Public Law 115-232](#)) prohibits the head of an executive agency from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to procure or obtain, extend, or renew a contract to procure or obtain, or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain the equipment, services, or systems prohibited systems as identified in section 889 of the NDAA for FY 2019.

(1) In accordance with 2 CFR 200.216 and 200.471, all awards that are issued on or after August 13, 2020, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to:

1. Procure or obtain;
2. Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or,
3. Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Public Law 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
 - (a) For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced

by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

(b) Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.

(c) Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

(2) In implementing the prohibition under Public Law 115-232, section 889, subsection (f), paragraph (1), heads of executive agencies administering loan, grant, or subsidy programs shall prioritize available funding and technical support to assist affected businesses, institutions and organizations as is reasonably necessary for those affected entities to transition from covered communications equipment and services, to procure replacement equipment and services, and to ensure that communications service to users and customers is sustained.

(3) See Public Law 115-232, section 889 for additional information.

COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY means the People's Republic of China.

i. Certification Regarding Disclosure of Funding Sources (Supplement to SF42 (R&R), block 17, Financial Assistance Certifications and Representations)

By checking "I Agree" on the SF 424 (R&R) block 17 you agree to abide by the following statement: "By signing this application, I certify the proposing entity is in compliance with [Section 223\(a\) of the William M. \(Mac\) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021](#) which requires that: (a) the PI and other key personnel certify that the current and pending support provided on the proposal is current, accurate and complete; (B) agree to update such disclosure at the request of the agency prior to the award of support and at any subsequent time the agency determines appropriate during the term of the award; and (c) the PI and other key personnel have been made aware of the requirements under Section 223(a)(1) of this Act. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. code, Title 18, Section 1001)."

4. REPORTING

a. Monitoring and Reporting Program Performance

All of our awards require at least annual and final technical performance reports as required in [2 CFR 200.329](#). The DoD T&C REP Article I. Performance reporting

will apply to grant or cooperative agreement awards. Some of our awards require more frequent technical reports.

You must provide your reports on time. Our awards include a schedule specifying the latest date for submission of each required report. Failure to provide required reports, or providing reports after required due dates, could lead to being considered ineligible for future awards.

You may use a SF 298 Report Documentation Page for interim progress reports.

You must use a completed SF 298 Report Documentation Page as the first page of the final report. You can download an electronic SF 298 from <https://www.gsa.gov/reference/forms/report-documentation-page>.

b. Technical Performance Report Format

Federal-wide Research Progress Performance Report (RPPR) Format (All grant awards)

We now use the [Federal-wide Research Progress Performance Report \(RPPR\)](#) for annual and final research performance reports. The reporting requirements will be detailed in the grant award documents.

c. Standard Form (SF) 425 Federal Financial Report

You must provide a completed SF 425 Federal Financial Report submission. You can download an electronic copy of the form at: <https://www.gsa.gov/reference/forms/federal-financial-report>.

d. Electronic Payment Requests and Electronic Payment

- (1) You must submit payment requests through the Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) button in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE) at <https://piee.eb.mil>. All payments must be made using the electronic funds transfer (EFT) method.
- (2) You must register to use PIEE. You accomplish registration using the e-Business Suite at <https://piee.eb.mil>. The website includes registration instructions.
- (3) If you have PIEE or WAWF questions or problems, you can get help by telephone at (866) 618-5988 or (801) 605-7095, by electronic mail at disa.ogden.esd.mbx.cscassig@mail.mil, or by Internet at <https://piee.eb.mil/xhtml/unauth/web/homepage/vendorCustomerSupport.xhtml>

e. Electronic Submission of Technical and SF 425 Reports

You must plan on submitting reports electronically. Your award document will provide specific instructions.

f. Acknowledgement of Support and Disclaimer Requirements

- (1) Award recipients must include an acknowledgment of the Government's support when publishing any material based on or developed under this award in any medium. The acknowledgment must be stated in the following terms, using the grant award number: "This material is based upon work supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research under award number FA9550-24-XXXX."
- (2) All materials except scientific articles or papers published in scientific journals must also include the following disclaimer: "Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Air Force."

G. AGENCY CONTACTS

You should submit your questions in writing by electronic mail. You should include the announcement number in the subject line. You may contact administering agency contacts by telephone, but email is preferred.

1. ADMINISTERING AGENCY CONTACTS

If you need help with general questions or problems, please contact one of the administering agency contacts below.

You must contact us not later than March 29, 2024 or we may not be able to reply.

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Program Officer:
Dr. Kimberly Jacoby Morris
Phone: (703) 696-9562
Email: kimberly.jacoby_morris@us.af.mil

Grants Officer:
Mr. Jorge A. Gallegos
Phone: (703) 696-8421
Email: jorge.gallegos@us.af.mil

H. OTHER INFORMATION

1. AIR FORCE OMBUDSMAN

- (a) An Ombudsman has been appointed to hear and facilitate the resolution of concerns

from offerors, potential offerors, and others for this agreement. When requested, the Ombudsman will maintain strict confidentiality as to the source of the concern. The existence of the Ombudsman does not affect the authority of the Government Program Officer, Grants Officer, or evaluation officials. Further, the Ombudsman does not participate in the evaluation of proposals, the source selection process, or the adjudication of protests or formal grant/cooperative agreement disputes. The Ombudsman may refer the party to another official who can resolve the concern.

- (b) Before consulting with an ombudsman, interested parties must first address their concerns, issues, disagreements, and/or recommendations to the Grants Officer for resolution. Consulting the Ombudsman does not alter or postpone the timelines for any other processes.
- (c) If resolution cannot be made by the Grants Officer, concerned parties may contact the AFRL Ombudsman, Director of Contracting, HQ AFRL/PK. The AFRL Alternate Ombudsman is the Deputy Director of Contracting, HQ AFRL/PK. Please send an email to afrl.pk.workflow@us.af.mil with the subject of "Ombudsman".
- (d) The ombudsman has no authority to render a decision that binds the agency.
- (e) Do not contact the ombudsman to request copies of the solicitation, verify offer due date, or clarify technical requirements. Such inquiries must be directed to the Grants Officer.

2. GRANTS OFFICER'S AUTHORITY

Grants Officers acting within their warranted capacity are the only individuals legally authorized to make commitments or bind the Government for any matter related to this announcement.

No other individuals are authorized to make commitments or otherwise bind the Government.