



AFRL

The White Paper

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The definition and history of a white paper!

White papers are intended to provide the contracting agency with a concise yet detailed overview of an applicant's proposed research, allowing the agency to select the projects that are the best aligned with their mission and capability gaps.

The term originated when government **papers** were coded by color to indicate distribution, with white designated for public access.

Thus, **white papers** are used in politics and business, as well as in technical fields, to educate readers and help people make decisions.

Essential Elements of an Effective White Paper

The white paper must be written with a specific goal in mind for the Program Officer. Think about the major question being asked in the BAA and write your response towards that goal.

Your white paper should match your universities strength. Be knowledgeable of the research area of interest of the organization – Air Force.

Make sure you identify and address a particular problem. The white paper can focus on issues or common problems, new trends or changing techniques but look to provide the solution or recommendation to fix the problem.

Preparation of the White Paper - Research

The topic must be researched. Do your homework and include references and documents if necessary.

Your white paper must be data focused and be supported by significant research. There is no specific format but include cited references or recent publications from reputable journals.

Become a peer reviewer within a DoD agency to be knowledgeable of gaps and opportunities within your university structure. Your ability will increase on what is novel and what has been repeated.

Writing the White Paper

There is no specific format but this is just a guide.

Start with an abstract of what problem you identified in the BAA. This will assure the Program Officer you are in the correct portfolio.

A problem statement will help set up the proper flow of what you propose to do if/when asked to write a full proposal. You may want to state explicitly what basic research questions you want to address and why they are important.

Many Program Officers want a white paper to contain a notional budget. Its presence can help them frame their thinking and responses.

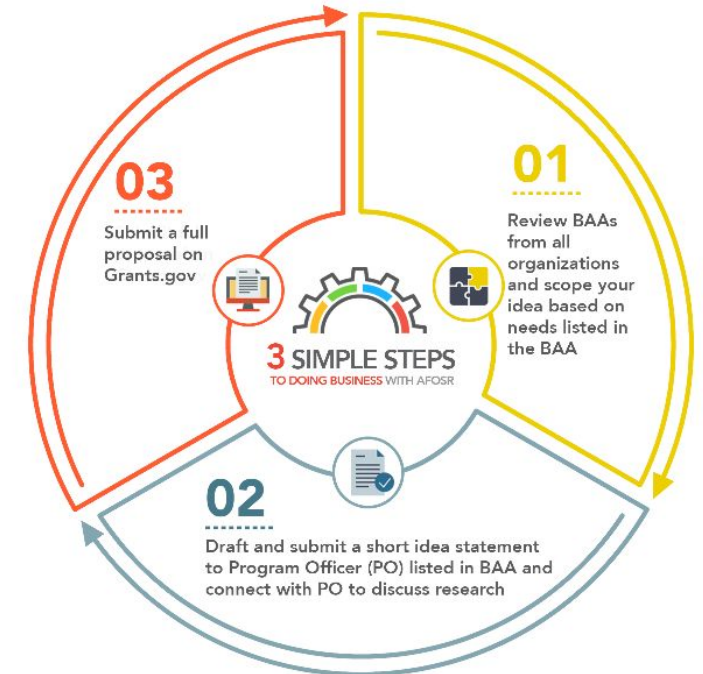
Provide a background on your experience and what your specific experience levels bring to the table.

Present the solution based on gathered evidence and expertise in that particular research area and summarize your based on solutions to the problem stated earlier.

Improving Your Competitiveness for Winning a Grant

Engage with AFOSR Program Officer's (PO) to discuss your idea before writing a white paper; most prefer Email

- Promising ideas may begin an ongoing dialogue leading to full proposal submission
- Throughout your working relationship with AFOSR, you can expect an AFOSR PO to take on a number of roles:
 - Subject Matter Expert
 - Educator / Communicator
 - Team Builder
 - Evaluator
 - Administrator
 - Active Member of AFRL, DoD & Scientific Communities



Improving Your Competitiveness for Winning a Grant

Attend grant writing courses

- In general, a good proposal is one that includes:
 - Strong technical merit
 - Air Force relevance
 - Solid budget justification
 - Consideration given to every requirement stated in the BAA



Understand funding considerations

- AFOSR receives far more good proposals than it is able to fund every year
- POs must factor many other considerations into funding decisions. Those include, but aren't limited to:
 - Overlap with program interests and connecting to DoD labs
 - Potential for scientific breakthroughs
 - Strategic directions
 - Budget realities
 - Peer review recommendations

Improving Your Competitiveness for Winning a Grant

Look for opportunities to forge partnerships

- Once funded, remain engaged and continue with the process by
 - Reviewing BAAs;
 - Attending program reviews, held annually
 - Collaborating with other PIs in the program
- Seek out Center of Excellence BAAs
 - University-led efforts, sponsored by 1+ AFRL Technology Directorate and AFOSR
 - Prime opportunity for academic engagement and student pipeline
 - Nominal three-year arrangement, with two-year renewal option
 - AFRL and University share costs (with AF investment up to \$500K/year)



Open Funding Opportunities - AFOSR

Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Posted Date	Close Date
FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2021-0001	Center of Excellence (COE) Radiation Effect in Electronic Materials, Circuits, Devices, and Systems	12/01/2020	03/31/2021
FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2020-0004	(FY20) Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR)	05/05/2020	02/15/2021
★ FA9550-19-S-0004	Military Medical Photonics Program	04/11/2019	Open until superseded
★ FA9550-19-S-0003	Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research	04/10/2019	Open until superseded
FA9550-19-S-0002	Military Medical Photonics Program (Small)	03/06/2019	Open until superseded
BAA-AFRL-AFOSR-2016-0008	Air Force Defense Research Sciences Conference and Workshop Support	07/22/2016	Open until superseded

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Questions