



BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT (BAA)

“Communications and Networking Technology”

INTRODUCTION

This publication constitutes a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) as contemplated in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2), the Department of Defense Grants and Agreements Regulations (DoDGARS) 22.315(a), and DoD’s Other Transaction Guide for Prototypes Projects, USD(AT&L), OT Guide, Jan 2001. A formal Request for Proposals (RFP), other solicitation, or additional information regarding this announcement will not be issued.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) will not issue paper copies of this announcement. The ONR reserves the right to fund all, some or none of the proposals received under this BAA. ONR provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs. Technical and cost proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to this BAA will not be returned. It is the policy of ONR to treat all proposals as sensitive competitive information and to disclose their contents only for the purposes of evaluation.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Agency Name

Office of Naval Research

2. Research Opportunity Title

Communications and Networking Technology

3. Program Name

Communications and Networking Science and Technology (D&I)

4. Research Opportunity Number

ONR BAA 08-008

5. Response Date

White Papers: Monday, 31 March 2008

Full Proposals: Monday, 30 June 2008

6. Research Opportunity Description

Communications technology that can provide seamless, robust, connectivity is at the foundation of the Sea Power 21 and FORCEnet Vision "... to have the right information, at the right place, at the right time ...". The performance of Command and Control (C2) systems and decision making at all levels of command depend critically on reliable, interoperable, survivable, secure and timely communications and networking, and the availability of high capacity multimedia (voice, data, imagery) communication networks is fundamental to nearly all Department of Navy missions. The current evolution of naval warfighting from a platform-centric to a network-centric paradigm depends on successfully meeting the implied need for significantly enhanced communications and networking capabilities, extending both to fixed shore facilities and to highly mobile air, surface, land and subsurface platforms, including the so-called "disadvantaged user", e.g., small-deck combatants, submarines, unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), dispersed ground units in urban and radio frequency (RF) challenged environments. The goal of the Communications and Networking Program within the Office of Naval Research (ONR 312) is to support the FORCEnet vision by developing measurable advances in technology that can directly enable and enhance end-to-end connectivity for mission-critical information exchange among such widely dispersed naval, joint and coalition forces.

7. Objective and Areas of Interest

White papers for potential FY 09 Exploratory Development/Applied Research (Budget category 6.2) projects are sought under the following *focus areas*:

1. Highly efficient diode-pumped techniques (either frequency doubling or parametric shifting of 1500-1550 nm commercial telecom DWDM wavelengths) to the 450-500 nm blue-green region for submarine communications at speed and depth. High energy, high repetition rate, short pulsed operation over 10^5 hrs.
2. Metamaterials based parabolic antenna in the Ka, Ku, X bands enabling superior gain and side lobe rejection characteristics.

3. Electronic protection for HF/UHF communications and covert/low-intercept waveforms/techniques.

ONR is also receptive to *highly innovative ideas* in other general communications and networking areas that are not designated focus areas as above, but nonetheless are important to Navy/Marine Corps, such as the following: (i) efficient power amplification (especially in the Ku and Ka bands); (ii) low-noise antennas and receivers; (iii) mitigation techniques to overcome poor optical propagation through aerosols/obscurants; (iv) mobile ad-hoc networking protocols with particular emphasis on link disruption/intermittency in sparse networks; and (v) algorithms and protocols for dynamic cognitive networking, with emphasis on spectrum awareness, power and rate adaptation, distributed signal combining and coding to achieve high degree of robustness and redundancy for multicast traffic over heterogeneous links (SATCOM, RF Line-of-Sight and Non line-of-sight, and optical).

8. Point(s) of Contact

- All Questions (of a general programmatic, thrust specific or business nature) shall be submitted in writing by electronic mail.
- Questions presented by telephone call, facsimile message, or other means will not be responded to.
- There will be **no** meetings between potential Offerors and ONR personnel.
- Questions regarding **white papers** must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on Monday, **17 MARCH 2008**. Questions after this date and time may not be answered, and the due date for submission of the white papers may not be extended.
- If invited to make an oral presentation, questions regarding **oral presentations** must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) one week prior to the scheduled presentation. Questions after this date and time may not be answered, and the date and time of the scheduled presentation may not be changed.
- Questions regarding **full proposals** must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on Monday, **16 JUNE 2008**. Questions after this date and time may not be answered, and the due date for submission of the full proposals may not be extended.

Questions of a **technical nature** shall be directed to the cognizant technical point of contact, as specified below.

Dr. Santanu Das
Program Officer
Communications and Networking Science and Technology Program Officer, Code 313
Email: Santanu.das@navy.mil

Questions of a **business nature** shall be directed to the cognizant Contracts Personnel, as specified below:

Primary Point of Contact

Ms. Gail Cunningham
Contract Specialist
Contracts and Grant Awards Management, Code 0251
Email: Gail.Cunningham@navy.mil

Secondary Point of Contact

Ms. Vera M. Carroll
Contracting Officer/Branch Head
Contract and Grants Awards Management, Code 0251
Email: Vera.Carroll@navy.mil

9. Instrument Type(s)

It is anticipated that primarily contracts will result from this announcement. However, ONR will consider awarding grants, cooperative agreements, or other transaction agreements as appropriate.

10. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers

12.300

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Titles

Department of Defense (DOD) Basic and Applied Scientific Research

12. Additional Information

This announcement is restricted to work relating to basic and applied research and that portion of advanced technology development not related to a specific system or hardware procurement. Contracts, grants and other awards made under this BAA are for scientific study and experimentation directed towards advancing the state of the art or increasing knowledge or understanding.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS NOT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING AND OTHER TYPES OF SUPPORT SERVICES.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) plans to award multiple technology development contracts (particularly cost plus fixed fee (CPFF) type contracts) that represent the best value to the Government in accordance with the evaluation criteria. The Office of Naval Research is seeking participants for this program that are capable of supporting the goals described in this announcement. Offerors have the opportunity to be creative in the selection of the technical and management processes and approaches to address the research topics.

ONR anticipates an annual budget of approximately \$2,000,000 for this program. ONR plans to fund \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year per award using Applied Research funds (Budget Category 6.2). However, lower and higher cost proposals will be considered. The average funding level of past awards was approximately \$500,000 per year. The period of performance for projects may be from one to three years, with an estimated start date of Monday, 3 November 2008, subject to date of final award and availability of new fiscal year funds.

ONR has funded related technology development under numerous programs. If Offerors are enhancing work performed under other ONR or DoD projects, they must clearly identify the point of departure and what existing work will be brought forward and what new work will be performed under this BAA.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

All responsible sources from academia and industry may submit proposals under this BAA. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged to submit proposals and join others in submitting proposals. However, no portion of this BAA will be set aside for HBCU and MI participation.

Federally Funded Research & Development Centers (FFRDCs), including Department of Energy National Laboratories, are not eligible to receive awards under this BAA. However, teaming arrangements between FFRDCs and eligible principal bidders are allowed so long as they are permitted under the sponsoring agreement between the Government and the specific FFRDC.

Navy laboratories and warfare centers as well as other Department of Defense and civilian agency laboratories are also not eligible to receive awards under this BAA and should not directly submit either white papers or full proposals in response to this BAA. If any such organization is interested in one or more of the programs described herein, the organization should contact an appropriate ONR POC to discuss its area of interest. The various scientific divisions of ONR are identified at <http://www.onr.navy.mil/>. As with FFRDCs, these types of federal organizations may team with other responsible sources from academia and industry that are submitting proposals under this BAA.

Teams are encouraged to submit proposals in any and all areas. However, Offerors must be willing to cooperate and exchange software, data and other information in an integrated program with other contractors, as well as with system integrators, selected by ONR.

Some topics cover export controlled technologies. Research in these areas is limited to "U.S. persons" as defined in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) - 22 CFR § 1201.1 et seq.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Application and Submission Process -

NOTE: White Papers and/or Full Proposals hand-delivered, sent by facsimile, or email will not be considered.

(A) White Papers:

White papers are required prior to submitting full proposals. Each white paper should state that it is submitted in response to this BAA. White papers received after the published due date will not be considered for funding in FY 09.

Due Date: The due date for white papers is no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on Monday, 31 MARCH 2008.

Evaluation/Notification: Initial Navy evaluations of the white papers will be issued via e-mail notification on or about Wednesday, 23 APRIL 2008. An expanded oral presentation will be subsequently requested from those Offerors whose proposed technologies have been identified through the aforementioned e-mail as being of "particular value" to the Navy. However, a positive email response to the white paper from ONR does not assure a subsequent award. Offerors whose white papers are not judged to be of "particular value" to the Navy may not submit an oral presentation or a final proposal under this BAA.

(B) Oral Presentations:

The purpose of the oral presentation is to better acquaint the Government with the Offeror's proposal, especially in its understanding of how the proposed technology will affect military applications. Offerors whose white papers are selected for oral presentations will be invited by email no less than five (5) working days before the scheduled event. The oral presentations are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 8 MAY 2008.

Process: A detailed format for the presentation will be provided in the e-mail invitation. Each presentation will be no longer than twenty five (25) minutes in duration. An additional five (5) minutes will be allowed for questions (if any) from the panel of government reviewers.

Notification/Evaluation: Following oral presentations, Offerors will be notified by e-mail regarding the Navy's response to their oral presentations. Those Offerors whose technology is still considered as having "particular value" to the Navy will be encouraged to submit detailed technical and cost proposals. However, such encouragement after oral presentations does not assure a subsequent award. If the Offeror receives notification that its technology is not considered at this point as having "particular value" to the Navy, it cannot submit a full proposal. Full proposals will not be considered under this BAA unless both a white paper was received by the due date and time specified above and a presentation was made during the Oral Presentation event. The evaluation provided after white papers and oral presentations should give Offerors some indication of whether a later full proposal would likely result in an award. Evaluation of oral presentations and subsequent encouragement to submit full proposals will be completed on or about Thursday, 29 MAY 2008.

(C) Full Proposals:

The due date for receipt of Full Proposals is 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) **Monday, 30 JUNE 2008**. ONR will select the efforts to be funded for FY 09 start-up contingent upon the quality and completeness of the proposal and the level of available funding. It is anticipated that final selections will be made within 30 days after proposal submission. As soon as the final proposal evaluation process is completed, the Offeror will be notified via e-mail of its project's selection or non-selection for FY 09 funding. Proposals received after the published due date and time will **not** be considered for funding in FY 09. Proposals exceeding the page limit may **not** be evaluated.

2. Content and Format of White Papers/Full Proposals

White Papers and Full Proposals submitted under the BAA are expected to be unclassified; however, confidential/classified proposals are permitted. If a classified proposal is submitted, the resultant contract will be unclassified.

Unclassified proposals shall be submitted directly to the Technical Point of Contract (TPOC). An 'unclassified' Statement of Work (SOW) must accompany any classified proposal.

Classified proposals shall be submitted directly to the attention of ONR's Document Control Unit at the following address:

Office of Naval Research
Document Control Unit
ONR Code 43
875 North Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203-1995

The inner wrapper of the classified proposal should be addressed to the attention of the TPOC.

Proposal submissions will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with FAR Subpart 15.207, applicable law, and DoD/DoN regulations. Offerors are expected to appropriately mark each page of their submission that contains proprietary information. The proposal shall include a severable, self-standing Statement of Work, which contains only unclassified information and does not include any proprietary restrictions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Titles given to the White Papers/Full Proposals should be descriptive of the work they cover and not be merely a copy of the title of this solicitation.

The proposal format and content identified below are applicable to the submission of proposals for contracts, cooperative agreements and other transactions. As noted in Paragraph 5 below, proposals selecting grant awards are to be formatted as required by Standard Form 424 (R&R), which is available via the internet at <http://www.grants.gov/>.

a. WHITE PAPERS

White Paper Format:

- Paper Size – 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins – 1 inch
- Spacing – single or double-spaced
- Font – Times New Roman, 12 point
- Total Number of Pages – No more than five (5) single-sided pages (**excluding cover page and resumes**). White Papers exceeding the page limit may not be evaluated.
- Copies – one (1) original, five (5) copies, and one (1) electronic copy on CD-ROM, (in Microsoft® Word, Excel 97 compatible, or .PDF format).

(1) White Paper Content:

- **Cover Page:** The cover page shall be labeled "WHITE PAPER" and shall include the BAA number, proposed title, technology area addressed, and technical points of contact with telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address.
- **Main Body:** There is considerable freedom to formulate the main body of the white paper (not to exceed four (4) pages) as the Offeror sees fit. Here is some general guidance on what may be included: a description of the project objectives, problem being solved, technical approach, what's new, relevance to Navy and the Marine Corps, the concept of operation for the new capabilities to be delivered and the expected operational performance improvements, a plan for demonstrating and evaluating the operational effectiveness of the Offeror's product in laboratory or simulated environment including evaluation metrics, transition potential to Navy communications networks, proprietary aspects of the project and any assertions of data rights applicable to the results of this effort.
- **Costs:** A one (1) page summary of costs segregated by **both** task and year. The task breakdown should enable the Government to determine which portion of the technology development costs are attributed to: (1) the costs related to attaining the claimed Naval Transformation Objective through development of the proposed technology deliverable (if possible), (2) the S&T project costs for technology integration into Naval systems' Spiral Development, and (3) the costs related to demonstration or other appropriate experimentation activities. Within the task summary there should be a top-level segregation of the loaded costs attributed to labor, material, and facilities (if applicable) for each task. A statement should also be made under each task in which the use of government facilities is proposed.
- **Resumes:** Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the primary investigator and any co-investigators.

b. FULL PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Format: Volume 1 - Technical and Volume 2 - Cost Proposal

- Paper Size – 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins – 1 inch
- Spacing – single or double-spaced
- Font – Times New Roman, 12 point
- Total Number of Pages – **Volume 1** is limited to no more than thirty (30) pages. **Volume 2** has no page limit. The cover page, table of contents, and resumes are excluded from the page limitations. Full Proposals exceeding Volume 1 page limit **may not** be evaluated.
- Copies – one (1) original, five (5) copies, and one (1) electronic copy on CD-ROM, (in Microsoft® Word, Excel 97 compatible, or .PDF format). If a grant is sought, the full proposal may be submitted electronically at <http://www.grants.gov/> as delineated below.

Content of Volumes 1 and 2

Volume 1: Technical Proposal

Volume 1 of the Full Proposal shall include the following sections, each starting on a new page. Please pay attention to the page limitations for each section as specified below.

- **Signed Cover Page:** (Not included in page limitations.) This should include the words "Technical Proposal" and the following information:
 - 1) BAA number;
 - 2) Title of Proposal;
 - 3) Identity of prime Offeror and complete list of subcontractors, if applicable;
 - 4) Principal Investigator (PI) contact (name, address, phone/facsimile, electronic mail address);
 - 5) Administrative/business contact (name, address, phone/facsimile, electronic mail address) with signature;

6) Duration of effort (differentiate basic effort and any options)

- Table of Contents: An alphabetical/numerical listing of the sections within the proposal, including corresponding page numbers. Not included in page limitations.
- Executive Summary: Summarize the technology you are proposing and the expected improvements to the Navy. Not to exceed two (2) pages.
- Concept of Operation for the Navy: A description of the project objectives, the concept of operation for the new capabilities to be delivered, and the expected performance improvements. Not to exceed two (2) pages.
- Statement of Work: A Statement of Work (SOW) clearly detailing the scope and objectives of the effort and the technical approach. It is anticipated that the proposed SOW will be incorporated as an attachment or by reference to the resultant award instrument. To this end, such proposals must include a severable self-standing SOW without any proprietary restrictions, which can be incorporated as an attachment or reference depending on the resultant award. Include a detailed listing of the technical tasks/subtasks organized by year. Not to exceed five (5) pages.
- Project Schedule and Milestones: A summary of the schedule of events and milestones. Not to exceed one (1) page.
- Assertion of Data Rights: For a contract award an Offeror may provide with its proposal assertions to restrict use, release or disclosure of data and/or computer software that will be provided in the course of contract performance. The rules governing these assertions are prescribed in Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) clauses 252.227-7013, -7014 and -7017. These clauses may be accessed at the following web address:

<http://farsite.hill.af.mil/VDFDARA.HTM>

The Government may challenge assertions that are provided in improper format or that do not properly acknowledge earlier federal funding of related research by the Offeror. Not to exceed one (1) page.

- Technical Approach: A detailed description of the approach planned, with sufficient detail to address technical risks and risk mitigation strategy. Not to exceed eight (8) pages.
- Deliverables: A detailed description of the results and products to be delivered inclusive of the timeframe in which they will be delivered. Not to exceed one (1) page. **Note: Products (as opposed to reports providing research results) are only obtained under contracts.**
- Operational Utility: A plan for demonstrating and evaluating the operational effectiveness of the Offeror's proposed products or processes in field experiments and/or tests in a simulated environment. Not to exceed two (2) pages.
- Qualifications: A discussion of previous accomplishments and work in this, or closely related, areas, and the qualifications of the investigators. Key personnel resumes shall be attached to the proposal and will not count toward the page limitations. Not to exceed three (3) pages.
- Management Approach: A discussion of the overall approach to the management of this effort, including brief discussions of the total organization, use of personnel, project/ function/ subcontractor relationships, government research interfaces, and planning, scheduling and control practice. Identify which personnel and subcontractors (if any) will be involved. Include a description of the facilities that are required for the proposed effort with a description of any Government Furnished Equipment/Hardware/Software/Information required, by version and/or configuration. Not to exceed five (5) pages.

- Other Agencies: Include the name(s) of any other agencies to which the proposal has also been submitted.

Volume II: Cost Proposal

The Cost Proposal shall consist of a cover page and two parts, Part 1 and Part 2. Part 1 will provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs by cost category by calendar and Government fiscal year and Part 2 will provide a cost breakdown by task/sub-task using the same task numbers in the Statement of Work. Options must be separately priced.

Although not required and provided for informational purposes only, detailed instructions, entitled "Instructions for Preparing Cost Proposals for Contracts and Agreements", including a sample template for preparing cost proposals for contracts and agreements may be found at ONR's website listed under the 'Acquisition Department - Contracts & Grants Submitting a Proposal' link at: http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/how_to.asp

- Signed Cover Page: The use of the SF 1411 is optional. This proposal should include the words "Cost Proposal" and the following:
 - 1) BAA number;
 - 2) Title of Proposal;
 - 3) Identity of prime Offeror and complete list of subcontractors, if applicable;
 - 4) Technical contact (name, address, phone/facsimile, electronic mail address);
 - 5) Administrative/business contact (name, address, phone/facsimile, electronic mail address) and signature;
 - 6) Duration of effort (separately identify basic effort and any proposed options) ; and
 - 7) Summary statement of proposed costs

Part 1: Detailed breakdown of all costs by cost category by calendar and Government fiscal year: ← - - - Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

- 1) Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates;
- 2) Indirect Costs - Fringe Benefits, Overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (Must show base amount and rate.);
- 3) Travel - Number of trips, number of days per trip, departure and arrival destinations, number of people, etc;
- 4) Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the Offeror's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. The subcontractor's cost proposal can be provided in a sealed envelope with the Offeror's cost proposal or will be obtained from the subcontractor prior to award;
- 5) Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document which verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate;
- 6) Materials - should be specifically itemized with description of proposed items and associated number of units, unit costs and total amount. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Please include a brief description of the Offeror's procurement method to be used;
- 7) Other Directs Costs - particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the contractor/recipient. (Justification must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the Offeror's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.);

- 8) Proposed Contractor-Acquired Equipment - such as computer hardware for proposed research projects should be specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Where possible, indicate purchasing method (competition, price comparison, market review, etc.);
- 9) Grant Specific Costs - Costs not normally associated with contracts, such as Graduate Assistant tuition, laboratory fees, report and publication costs, will be presented on SF 424(R&R) as discussed under Paragraph 3 below;
- 10) Proposed Fee/Profit - including fee percentage (contract proposals only).

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Part 2: Cost breakdown by task/sub-task corresponding to the same task breakdown in the proposed Statement of Work. When options are contemplated, options must be separately identified and priced by task/subtask.

3. Submission of Grant Proposals to Grants.gov (NOT APPLICABLE TO PROPOSALS FOR CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS)

Grant Proposals may be submitted through Grants.gov or by hard copy. Regardless of whether Grants.gov is used or "hardcopy" submission, the Offeror must use the Grants.gov forms from the application package template associated with the BAA on the Grants.gov website. To be considered for award, applicants must include the ONR Department Code in Block 4 entitled 'Federal Identifier' of the Standard Form (SF) 424 R&R. **Please be sure to enter the Department Code that best relates to your proposal in Block 4 (Federal Identifier) of the SF 424 R&R to ensure that it is properly routed to the correct Program Office (by completing Blocks 18 and 19 the Grant Applicant will also be providing the certification on lobbying required by 32 CFR Part 28. Refer to Section VI, 'Award Administration Information' entitled "Certifications" for further information). Only one Department Code may be selected.** Please choose at the sub-Department level wherever possible (i.e., for parent ONR Code 30, you should select at the 301, 302 or 303 level if possible). A list of the Department Codes can be found at <http://www.onr.navy.mil/> on the right side of the 10 screen. Applicants who fail to provide a Department Code identifier will receive notification that their proposal submission has been rejected. However, White Papers should not be submitted through the Grants.govApply process but rather be sent directly to ONR. White paper submissions may be either mailed, faxed, or emailed directly to the appropriate ONR Program Officer/Program Manager.

For electronic submission of grant full proposals, there are several one-time actions that must be completed in order to submit an application through Grants.gov (e.g., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the Central Contract Registry (CCR), register with the credential provider, and register with Grants.gov). See www.grants.gov, specifically www.grants.gov/GetStarted.

Use the Grants.gov Organization Registration Checklist at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/register_your_organization.jsp which will provide guidance through the process. Designating an E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called 'MPIN' are important steps in the CCR registration process. Applicants who are not registered with CCR and Grants.gov should allow at least 21 days to complete these requirements. It is suggested that the process be started as soon as possible. Additionally, in order to download the application package, applicants will need to install PureEdgeViewer. This small, free program will allow applicants to access, complete and submit applications electronically and securely. For a free version of the software, visit the following website: www.grants.gov/DownloadViewer. Any questions that may arise relating to the registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal process must be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

Detailed instructions entitled "Grants.Gov Electronic Application and Submission Information" on how to submit a Grant proposal through Grants.gov may be found at the ONR website listed under the 'Acquisition Department – Contracts & Grants Submitting a Proposal' link at: http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/how_to.asp

4. Address for the Submission of Hard Copy White Papers and Full Proposals for Contracts and Grants

Hard copies of white papers and full proposals for Contracts and Grants should be sent to the Office of Naval Research at the following address:

Office of Naval Research
 Attn: DR. SANTANU DAS
 ONR Department Code: 312
 875 North Randolph Street, Suite 1425
 Arlington, VA 22203-1995

5. Significant Dates and Times

Anticipated Schedule of Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME (EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME)
White Papers Due Date	31 March 2008	5:00 PM
Notification of Initial Navy Evaluations of White Papers*	23 April 2008	5:00 PM
Email Instruction for Oral Presentation *	25 April 2008	5:00 PM
Oral Presentation*	8 May 2008	TBD
Notification of Navy Evaluations of Oral Presentations*	3 June 2008	5:00 PM
Full Proposal Due Date	30 June 2008	5:00 PM
Notification of Selection for Award*	31 July 2008	5:00 PM
Awards Issued *	31 October 2008	5:00 PM
Kickoff Meeting	TBD	TBD

* These dates are estimates as of the date of this announcement.

NOTE: Due to changes in security procedures since September 11, 2001, the time required for hard-copy written materials to be received at the Office of Naval Research has increased. Thus it is recommended that any hard-copy proposal be mailed several days before the deadline established in the solicitation so that it will not be received late and thus be ineligible for award consideration.

6. Submission of Late Proposals

In accordance with FAR 15.208, any proposal, modification, or revision, that is received at the designated Government office after the exact time specified for receipt of proposals is "late" and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made, the contracting officer determines that accepting the late proposal would not unduly delay the acquisition and

- (a) If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the announcement, it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government infrastructure not later than 5:00 P.M. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals; or

- (b) There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the Government installation designed for receipt of proposals and was under the Government's control prior to the time set for receipt of proposals; or
- (c) It was the only proposal received.

However, a late modification of an otherwise timely and successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the Government will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

Acceptable evidence to establish the time or receipt at the Government installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government personnel.

If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal Government processes so that proposals cannot be received at the Government office designated for receipt of proposals by the exact time specified in the announcement, and urgent Government requirements preclude amendment of the announcement closing date, the time specified for receipt of proposals will be deemed to extend to the same time of day specified in the announcement on the first work day on which normal Government processes resume.

The contracting officer must promptly notify any Offeror if its proposal, modifications, or revision was received late and must inform the Offeror whether its proposal will be considered.

V. EVALUATION INFORMATION

1. Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria apply to both the White Papers and the Full Proposals.

These submissions will be selected through a technical/scientific/cost decision process with technical and scientific considerations being more important than cost. Criteria A-D are listed in descending order of priority. Due to the 6.2 Discovery & Invention (applied research emphasis) nature of the program, the Offeror needs to pay special attention to criterion A. Adequately address the technical issues and approach, going to technical depth where needed to show what's new and novel, clearly and unambiguously, with associated risks/payoffs. Transition potential is important to the extent that a clear path exists how and when the technology is able to move from the "Discovery and Invention" phase to the "Enabling and Maturing" phase in a 'vertically integrated' sense, for subsequent acquisition by the fleet and use by the warfighter. (Note the "Enabling and Maturing" phase is NOT part of this BAA.) Even though cost is of somewhat less importance, it will not be ignored. The degree of its importance will increase with the degree of equality of the proposals in relation to the other factors on which selection is to be based, or when the cost is so significantly high as to diminish the value of the technical superiority to the Government. Any sub-criteria listed under a particular criterion are of equal importance to each other.

- A. Overall scientific and technical merits of the proposal
 - 1. The degree of innovation
 - 2. The soundness of technical concept
 - 3. The Offeror's awareness of the state of the art and understanding of the scope of the problem
 - 4. The technical approach and effort needed to address/solve the problem
- B. Naval relevance, transition potential and anticipated contributions of the proposed technology to Communications and Networking
- C. Offeror's capabilities, related experience, and past performance, including the qualifications, capabilities and experience of the proposed principal personnel
 - 1. The quality of technical personnel proposed

2. The Offeror's experience in relevant efforts with similar resources
3. The ability to manage the proposed effort

D. The realism of the proposed cost

1. Total cost relative to benefit
2. Realism of cost levels for facilities and staffing

For proposed awards to be made as contracts to large businesses, the socio-economic merits of each proposal will be evaluated based on the extent of the Offeror's commitment in providing meaningful subcontracting opportunities for small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, woman-owned small businesses, HUBZone small businesses, veteran-owned small businesses, service disabled veteran-owned small businesses, historically black colleges and universities, and minority institutions.

The Government will evaluate options for award purposes by adding the total cost for all options to the total cost for the basic requirement. Evaluation of options will not obligate the Government to exercise the options during contract performance.

2. Evaluation Panel

Technical and cost proposals submitted under this BAA will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with FAR 3.104-4 and 15.207. The cognizant Program Officer and other Government scientific experts will perform the evaluation of technical proposals. Cost proposals will be evaluated by Government business professionals. Restrictive notices notwithstanding, one or more support contractors may be utilized as subject-matter-expert technical consultants. Similarly, support contractors may be utilized to evaluate cost proposals. However, proposal selection and award decisions are solely the responsibility of Government personnel. Each support contractor's employee having access to technical and cost proposals submitted in response to this BAA will be required to sign a non-disclosure statement prior to receipt of any proposal submissions.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Administrative Requirements

- The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code – The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for this announcement is "541712" with a small business size standard of "500 employees".
- Central Contractor Registry (CCR) - Successful Offerors not already registered in the CCR will be required to register in CCR prior to award of any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other transaction agreement. Information on CCR registration is available at <http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/ccr.htm>.
- Certifications – Proposals for contracts and assistance agreements should be accompanied by a completed certification package which can be accessed on the ONR Home Page at Contracts & Grants located at http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/rep_cert.asp.

Contracts:

For contracts, in accordance with FAR 4.1201, prospective contractors shall complete and submit electronic annual representations and certifications at <http://orca.bpn.gov>. In addition to completing the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), proposals must be accompanied with a completed DFARS and contract specific representations and certifications. These "DFARS and Contract Specific Representations and Certifications", i.e., Section K, may be accessed under the Contracts and Grants Section of the ONR Home Page at http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/rep_cert.asp. This requirement is also applicable for other transaction proposals involving prototypes (Section 845 agreements).

Assistance Agreements:

For grant proposals and proposals for cooperative agreements or other transaction agreements (other than for prototypes), the certification package is entitled, Certifications for Grants and Agreements.

Grant awards greater than \$100,000 require a certification of compliance with a national policy mandate concerning lobbying. Grant and other assistance applicants may provide this certification in one of three (3) ways:

- 1) By signing and submitting the Standard Form (SF) 424 (R&R) as a part of a hard copy grant proposal submission (complete Blocks 18 and 19);
- 2) By electronic submission of SF424 (R&R) as a part of an electronic proposal submitted via Grants.gov (complete Blocks 18 and 19); or
- 3) By hard copy submission of the full text lobbying certification found at http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/rep_cert.asp.

The following certification applies to each applicant seeking federal assistance funds exceeding \$100,000:

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the applicant, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the applicant shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The applicant shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, title 31, U.S.C. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

- Subcontracting Plans - Successful contract proposals that exceed \$550,000, submitted by all but small business concerns, will be required to submit prior to award a Small Business Subcontracting Plan in accordance with FAR 52.219-9.

2. Reporting

The following is a sample of reporting deliverables that could be required under a research effort. The following deliverables, primarily in contractor format, are anticipated as necessary. However, specific deliverables should be proposed by each Offeror and finalized with the contracting agent:

- Detailed Technical Data
- Technical and Financial Progress Reports

- Presentation Material(s)
- Other Documentation or Reports, as required
- Final Report

Additional data deliverables may be proposed and finalized during negotiations. Research performed under contracts may also include the delivery of software, prototypes, and other hardware deliverables.

VII. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Government Property/Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) and Facilities

Each Offeror must provide a very specific description of any equipment/hardware that it needs to acquire to perform the work. This description should indicate whether or not each particular piece of equipment/hardware will be included as part of a deliverable item under the resulting award. Also, this description should identify the component, nomenclature, and configuration of the equipment/hardware that it proposes to purchase for this effort. The purchase on a direct reimbursement basis of special test equipment or other equipment that is not included in a deliverable item will be evaluated for allowability on a case-by-case basis. Maximum use of Government integration, test, and experiment facilities is encouraged in each of the Offeror's proposals.

Government research facilities and operational military units are available and should be considered as potential government-furnished equipment/facilities. These facilities and resources are of high value and some are in constant demand by multiple programs. It is unlikely that all facilities would be used for any one specific program. The use of these facilities and resources will be negotiated as the program unfolds. Offerors should explain as part of their proposals which of these facilities are critical for the project's success.

2. Security Classification

In order to facilitate intra-program collaboration and technology transfer, the Government will attempt to enable technology developers to work at the unclassified level to the maximum extent possible. If access to classified material will be required at any point during performance, the Offeror must clearly identify such need prominently in its proposal.

3. Project Meetings & Reviews

Individual program reviews between the ONR sponsor and the performer may be held, as necessary.

Program status reviews may also be held to provide a forum for reviews of the latest results from experiments and any other incremental progress towards the major demonstrations. These meetings will be held at various sites throughout the country. For costing purposes, Offerors should assume that 40% of these meetings will be at or near ONR, Arlington VA and 60% at other contractor or government facilities. Interim meetings are likely, but these will be accomplished via video telephone conferences, telephone conferences, or via web-based collaboration tools.

4. Use of Animals and Human Subjects in Research

If animals are to be utilized in the research effort proposed, the Offeror must complete a DOD Animal Use Protocol with supporting documentation (copies of AALAC accreditation and/or NIH assurance, IACUC approval, research literature database searches, and the two most recent USDA inspection reports) prior to award. For assistance with submission of animal research related documentation, contact the ONR Animal/Human Use Administrator at (703) 696-4046.

Similarly, for any proposal for research involving human subjects the Offeror must submit prior to award: documentation of approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB); IRB-approved research protocol; IRB-approved informed consent form; proof of completed human research training (e.g., training certificate or institutional verification of training); an application for a DoD Navy Addendum to the Offeror's DHHS-issued Federalwide Assurance (FWA) or the Offeror's DoD Navy Addendum

number. In the event that an exemption criterion under 32 CFR.219.101(b) is claimed, provide documentation of the determination by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) Chair, IRB Vice Chair, designated IRB administrator or official of the human research protection program. Information about assurance applications and forms can be obtained by contacting ONR_343_contact@navy.mil. If the research is determined by the IRB to be greater than minimal risk, the Offeror also must provide the name and contact information for the independent medical monitor. [Note: for research involving human subjects that is greater than minimal risk, administrative procedures to protect human subjects from medical expenses (not otherwise provided or reimbursed) that are the direct result of participation in a research project must be addressed. Additional supporting documentation may be requested. For additional information on this topic, email ONR_343_contact@navy.mil.] For assistance with submission of human subject research related documentation, contact the ONR Animal/Human Use Administrator at (703) 696-4046.

5. Roles of the Navy Warfare Centers (Applicable only for contracts)

The Navy Warfare Centers will have the primary role for the integration and experimentation/ demonstration process. They will also participate in the development of technologies where there are unique capabilities and facilities of interest to the Electronic Warfare Discovery and Invention program. They will also assist ONR in the management, engineering, and administrative tasks and will provide government furnished equipment (GFE) and facilities that will be used for system level integration and portions of experiment execution.

6. Department of Defense High Performance Computing Program

The DoD High Performance Computing Program (HPCMP) furnishes the DoD S & T and DT & E communities with use-access to very powerful high performance computing systems. Awardees of ONR contracts, grants, and assistance instruments may be eligible to use HPCMP assets in support of their funded activities if ONR Program Officer approval is obtained and if security/screening requirements are favorably completed. Additional information and an application may be found at <http://www.hpcmo.hpc.mil/>.

7. Protection of Proprietary and Sensitive Information

The parties acknowledge that, during performance of the contract or grant agreement resulting from this BAA, the recipient may require access to certain proprietary and confidential information (whether in its original or derived form) submitted to or produced by the Government. Such information includes, but is not limited to, business practices, proposals, designs, mission or operation concepts, sketches, management policies, cost and operating expense, technical data and trade secrets, proposed Navy budgetary information, and acquisition planning or acquisition actions, obtained either directly or indirectly as a result of the effort performed on behalf of ONR. The recipient shall take appropriate steps not only to safeguard such information, but also to prevent disclosure of such information to any party other than the Government. The recipient agrees to indoctrinate company personnel who will have access to or custody of the information concerning the nature of the confidential terms under which the Government received such information and shall stress that the information shall not be disclosed to any other party or to recipient personnel who do not need to know the contents thereof for the performance of the contract/agreement. Recipient personnel shall also be informed that they shall not engage in any other action, venture, or employment wherein this information will be used for any purpose by any other party.