Funding Opportunity Announcement for Navy and Marine Corps Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Education, Outreach and Workforce Program

INTRODUCTION:

This publication constitutes a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) as contemplated in the Department of Defense Grants and Agreements regulations (DoDGARS) 22.315(a). A formal Request for Proposals (RFP), solicitation, and/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 select for award all, some, or none of the proposals in response to this announcement. ONR provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs. Technical and cost proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to this FOA 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.

This FOA is intended for proposals related to Navy and Marine Corps education, outreach and workforce projects in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. Proposals that do not meet the criteria specified by this document will not be reviewed.

For Research and Development proposals related to basic research, applied research, or advanced technology development, refer to the Long Range ONR BAA 14-001, which can be found at ONR Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Webpage-
http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities/Broad-Agency-Announcement.aspx.

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Agency Name –

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

B. Funding Opportunity Title –

FY14 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Navy and Marine Corps Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Education, Outreach and Workforce Program

C. Program Name –

ONR STEM Program

D. Funding Opportunity Number –

ONR FOA 14-002

E. Response Date –

This announcement will remain open until 31 December 2014, or until replaced by a successor FOA or BAA, whichever first occurs. White paper pre-proposals will be accepted through the end of fiscal year 2014 (September 30, 2014). Due to budgetary uncertainty, submissions received after 30 April 2014 may be less likely to be considered fully, and so consultation with program staff is suggested before submission after that date. Invited full proposals based on white papers submitted by 30 September may be accepted until the close of this announcement.

F. Funding Opportunity Description –
The Office of Naval Research (ONR) seeks proposals for developing innovative solutions that directly support the development and maintenance of a robust Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) workforce. The goal of any proposed effort should be to provide "game changing" solutions that will establish and maintain a diverse pipeline of U.S. citizens who are interested in uniformed or civilian Naval STEM related workforce opportunities.

While this announcement is relevant for any stage of the STEM pipeline, for FY14, funding efforts will be targeted primarily towards High School, Undergraduate, and Graduate STEM education and outreach designed to enhance the Navy and Marine Corps STEM workforce and its mission readiness. Emphasis will be given both to key engineering and scientific areas outlined in the Naval S&T Strategic Plan such as our National Naval Responsibilities (see ONR website), and to identified STEM –related workforce gaps and new strategic goals on the uniformed and civilian side. Currently, we are especially interested in efforts related to

developing information technology/ computer science/ cyber security expertise, strengthening the engineering disciplines across all Naval activities, as well as improving our technician pipeline. While not a formal requirement or program focus of this FOA, applicants are strongly encouraged to consider under-represented populations including women and minorities in program plans.

Applicants are encouraged to understand the significant reorganization of STEM funding across the Federal government for FY14. Applicants seeking to improve general national STEM performance rather than a focus on Naval needs, and particularly efforts aimed at the P/K-9 levels, are encouraged to seek funding from one of the designated lead agencies: The Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, or the Smithsonian Institution.

Successful proposals will clearly demonstrate that they:

• Will invest in either the development of nationally scalable innovative capabilities and educational tools OR in significantly scaling proven models and approaches;
• Will create meaningful content and participant experiences that meet Naval STEM education and workforce priorities, and that will expose participants to elements such as Navy and Marine Corps STEM skills, content, careers, facilities and personnel (uniformed, civilian, active duty or retired);
• Will collect a set of program-specific measures of performance and measures of effectiveness;
• Contain a strategy for self-sufficiency, such that following the completion of ONR's investment, the effort will have a clear financial sustainability path and enduring organizational capability;
• Are distinct from those types of efforts requested by ONR's Long Range BAA.

Additionally, all funded programs will be required to provide an evaluation plan and, as appropriate, to provide DoN-specified output measures that demonstrate whether the program is operating successfully according to its intended purpose. All programs requesting more than $200,000 annually will also be required to collect and provide a set of DoN-specified impact measures designed to show whether and how these programs are achieving their intended goals and changing the behavior of program participants. Grantees will be required to work with existing metrics effort performers and to provide data on an ongoing and timely basis.

Specific evaluation criteria for this FOA are included in Section V.

Efforts that focus solely (or primarily) on localized instructional, educational or physical infrastructure improvement, single special outreach events including conferences and workshops, continuation of existing efforts (either the Offeror's own or those currently or previously supported by ONR), the purchase of supplies and material, or providing salary and/or travel support are discouraged from applying to this FOA.

G. Point(s) of Contact (POC) –

White paper submission is via email ONLY to onr_stem@navy.mil following the detailed instructions below.

Questions of a technical nature should be submitted to:

Dr. Chris Fall
Deputy Director of Research for STEM
Code 03R
Office of Naval Research
875 North Randolph Street
Arlington VA 22203-1995
onr_stem@navy.mil

Questions of a business nature, and suggestions for improvement should be submitted to:

Elizabeth Ford
Grants Officer
Code BD0255
Office of Naval Research
875 North Randolph Street
Arlington VA 22203-1995
Elizabeth.Ford@navy.mil

Comments or questions should be concise and to the point, eliminating any unnecessary verbiage. In addition, the relevant part and paragraph of the FOA should be referenced. All questions shall be submitted in writing by email.

Amendments will be posted to one or more of the following webpages:

- Grants.gov Webpage - http://www.grants.gov/
- ONR Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Webpage - http://www.onr.navy.mil/en/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities/Broad-Agency-Announcements.aspx

H. Instrument Type(s) –

Awards will take the form of Grants.

I. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers –

12.330

J. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Titles –

ONR Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Program

II. AWARD INFORMATION

The amount and period of performance of each selected proposal may vary depending on the research area and the technical approach to be pursued by the selected Offeror. The Office of Naval Research (ONR) plans to make multiple awards under this FOA, selecting those that represent the greatest overall value to the Government in accordance with the evaluation criteria contained in Section V, Evaluation Criteria of FOA 14-002.

Offerors are encouraged to be creative in the selection of the technical and management processes and approaches to address the areas of interest described above. The programs should take into consideration the greatest and broadest impact possible.

The period of performance of the awards will typically range from twelve (12) months to thirty-six (36) months. Due to budget limitations, ONR anticipates very limited funding for the STEM FY14 FOA. ONR plans to fund individual awards up to $200,000 per year. Cost proposals for larger amounts will be considered where appropriate.

Due to the time required for reviewing and commenting on the white paper and subsequently invited full proposal, and taking into account the time required for funding an award and a very limited budget, performers selected for award should anticipate that funds may not be available until well into FY14 or even FY15.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

All responsible sources from academia, the nonprofit sector, and industry may submit proposals under this FOA. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged to submit proposals and to join others in submitting proposals. However, no portion of this FOA will be set aside for HBCU and MI participation, due to the impracticality of reserving discrete or severable items of this opportunity for exclusive competition among the entities.

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 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 FOA and should not directly submit either white papers or full proposals in response to this FOA. If any such organization is interested in the program described herein, the organization should contact ONR STEM Program Office, onr_stem@navy.mil , to discuss its area of interest. As with FFRDCs, these types of Federal organizations may team with other responsible sources from academia, non-profits, and industry that are submitting proposals under this FOA.

University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) are eligible to submit proposals under this FOA unless precluded from doing so by their Department of Defense UARC contracts.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Application and Submission Process –

Initial submissions are to the take form of white papers. White papers will be accepted through the period of this FOA subject to "response dates" information presented in Section I.E above. White papers are to be submitted only as a PDF or Microsoft Word 2007 compatible file via email to the submission contact listed in Section I.G, above. If an Offeror does not submit a white paper, it is not eligible to participate in the remaining Full Proposal submission process and is not eligible for funding. Each white paper should state that it is submitted in response to this FOA. A separate white paper is required for submission for each idea.

White papers submitted within 120 days of the end of Fiscal Year 2014 (30 Sept 2014) may not be reviewed in time to be part of the FY14 awards. Budget considerations cause white papers submitted after May to be less likely considered.

B. Content and Format of White Papers/Full Proposals –

1. General Instructions

White Papers and Full Proposals submitted under this FOA are to be unclassified.

All proposal submissions will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with applicable law, and DoD/DoN regulations. Offerors are expected to appropriately mark each page of their submission that contains proprietary information.

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.

2. White Papers
   <u>Format</u>

- Paper Size - 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins - 1 inch
- Spacing - single spaced
- Font - Times New Roman, 12 point
- Max. Number of Pages permitted: **<u>3 pages total</u>**
  - excluding cover page, resumes, bibliographies, table of contents, and summary page;
  - NOTE that an Offeror may adjust the length of each section described below such that the total number of pages is 3)

   <u>White Paper Submission</u>

   Electronic (email) submissions should be sent to the attention of the POC at: onr_stem@navy.mil . The subject line of the email shall read "ONR BAA 14-002

White Paper Submission". The white paper must be a Microsoft Word 2007 compatible, or PDF format attachment to the email. There is an email size limit of 5MB per email.

NOTE: Do not send:
 1) hardcopies of White Papers (including Facsimiles) as only electronic submissions will be accepted and reviewed;
2) .ZIP files; and
3) password protected files.

In order to provide traceability and evidence of submission, Offerors may wish to use the "Delivery Receipt" option available from Microsoft Outlook and other email programs that will automatically generate a response when the subject email is delivered to the recipient's email system. Consult the User's Manual for your email software for further details on this feature.

Content

- **Cover Page:** The Cover Page shall be labeled **"WHITE PAPER"**, and shall include the FOA 14-002, proposed title, Offeror's administrative and technical points of contact, telephone numbers, facsimile numbers, and Internet addresses.

- **Technical Concept:** A description of the proposed effort and how it advances the Office of Naval Research's STEM mission. Description must include a discussion of the new capability being proposed, indicating how it will result in new technologies, principles, methodologies or approaches for developing and maintaining a robust STEM workforce and addresses the funding announcement criteria stated in Section I.F.

   The suggested specific page breakout is:

   1) Summary – a one paragraph summary of the proposed effort (On separate page; does not contribute to 3 page limit);
   2) Project idea and technical rationale and approach – describes the proposed idea, arguments to substantiate the claims made, and approach including methods and capacities of the offers to achieve success (Two Pages);
   3) Rough Order of Magnitude Cost - White paper submissions shall include a rough order of magnitude cost showing requested funding per year, total cost, and suggests spending priorities to satisfy Section I.F. (One-half page);
   4) Naval Relevance - A description of potential STEM Education and Naval STEM relevance and contributions of the effort to the agency's specific mission (One-half page).

3. Proposals

The Offeror **must** use the Grants.gov forms from the application package template associated

with the FOA on the Grants.Gov website located at http://www.grants.gov/ . If options are proposed, the cost proposal must provide the pricing information for the option periods; failure to include the proposed costs for the option periods will result in the options not being included in the award. Assume that performance will start <u>no earlier than</u> three (3) months after the date the cost proposal is submitted. A separate Adobe PDF document should be included in the application that provides appropriate justification and/or supporting documentation for each element of cost proposed.

The following information must be completed as follows in the SF 424 to ensure that the application is directed to the correct individual for review: Block 4a, Federal Identifier: Enter the previous ONR award number, or N00014 if the application is not a renewal or expansion of an existing award; Block 4b, Agency Routing Number: Enter the three (3) digit Program Office Code [03R] and the Program Officer's name, last name first, in brackets [Fall, Chris]. Applicants who fail to provide a Department code identifier may receive a notice that their proposal will be rejected.

Please note that Volume 1, Technical Proposal should be submitted as an attachment to the SF 424 rather than being inserted into Block 8, Project Narrative. Block 8 should be completed with a statement that Volume 1 is attached.

To attach the Technical Proposal in Grants.gov, download the application package:
-Click on "Research and Related Other Project Information."
-Click on "Move form to Submission List."
-Click on "Open Form."

You will see a new PDF document titled "Research & Related Other Project Information." Block 7 is the Project Summary/Abstract.

-Click on "Add attachment" and attach the project summary/abstract. (You will not be able to type in the box; therefore, save the file you want to attach as Project Summary or Abstract).

Block 8 is the Project Narrative.
-Click on Add attachment and attach the technical proposal.

(Save the file as Volume I- Technical Proposal since you will not be able to type in the box).

Full Proposal Format

- Paper Size - 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins - 1 inch
- Spacing - single-spaced
- Font - Times New Roman, 12 point
- Number of Pages –
  - Volume (Vol.) 1 (Technical Proposal) is limited to no more than **20 pages**. Limitations within sections of the proposal, if any, are indicated in the individual descriptions shown below.

- - The cover page, table of contents, resumes, curricula vitae, and current and pending project and proposal submissions information are excluded from the page limitations.
    - Full Proposals exceeding the page limit may not be evaluated.
  - Volume (Vol.) 2 has no page limitations.

Full Proposal Submission

The full proposal should be submitted electronically at http://www.grants.gov as delineated in Section IV, D below.

Volume 1: Technical Proposal

Cover Page: This should include the words "Technical Proposal" and the following:

1. FOA Number 14-002;
2. Title of Proposal;
3. Identity of prime Offeror and complete list of subawards, if applicable;
4. Technical contact (name, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address);
5. Administrative/business contact (name, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address);
6. Proposed period of performance (identify both the base period and any options, if included).

- **Table of Contents:** An alphabetical/numerical listing of the sections within the proposal, including corresponding page numbers.

- **Technical Approach and Justification:** The proposal should consist of a clear description of the technical approach being proposed and its potential Naval or defense relevance and contribution to the agency's specific education and science and engineering workforce. Discuss scientific and technical merits and its potential to achieve the objectives of the program, including the extent to which the proposed effort would enhance current capabilities. Identify metrics used to determine impact and/or success of the program and the methodology for obtaining and validating the metrics. Identify proposed effort for increasing or maintaining the educational pipeline and the potential of the proposed program to educate future scientists and engineers in STEM disciplines critical to the defense mission. Discuss increased or enhanced opportunities to disseminate information on Navy or defense programs and careers. Discuss impact of the initiatives toward improving science and engineering education in the United States. Discuss potential and extent to which the proposed program engages Naval or defense laboratories as active participants in program execution. Limit the number of pages for this section to 13.

- **Project Schedule and Milestones:** A summary of the schedule of events and milestones. Limit the number of pages for this section to 2.

- **Reports:** The following are sample reports that are typically required under a grant research effort:

  -Quarterly Technical and Financial Progress Reports including information regarding but not limited to progress on Navy-relevant education materials, evaluation and assessment data, and impact on target audiences
  -Presentation Materials
  -Final Report

  Metrics and evaluation are expected to be part of the report contents at the earliest report interval as data are available. Metrics and evaluation components should include but not be limited to:
  -Scale of impact: number of students, teachers, and others experiencing the project;
  -Duration: the length of time participants are exposed to the project;
  -Pre/post surveys: to measure impact of participation in the education project. Surveys should be aligned to project goals and may include attitude and engagement of students towards STEM, improved learning in STEM, and awareness of career pathways.

  Grants do not include the delivery of software, prototypes, and other hardware deliverables.

- **Management Approach:** A discussion of the overall approach to the management of this effort, including brief discussions of the total organization; use of only citizen or eligible noncitizen personnel; project/function/subcontractor/subrecipient relationships; government research interfaces; and planning, scheduling and control practice. Identify which personnel and subcontractors/subrecipients (if any) will be involved. Limit the number of pages for this section to 4.

- **Current and Pending Project and Proposal Submissions:** Offerors are required to provide information on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals, including subsequent funding in the case of continuing contracts, grants, and other assistance agreements. Offerors shall provide the following information for any related previous or concurrent proposal submissions to whatever sources (e.g., ONR, Federal, State, local or foreign government agencies, public or private foundations, industrial or other commercial organizations). The information must be provided for all proposals already submitted or submitted concurrently to other possible sponsors, including ONR.Concurrent submission of a proposal to other organizations will not prejudice its review by ONR:

  1) Title of Proposal and Summary;
  2) Source and amount of funding (annual direct costs; provide contract and/or grant numbers for current contracts/grants);
  3) Percentage effort devoted to each project;

4) Identity of prime Offeror and complete list of subawards, if applicable;
5) Technical contact (name, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address)
6) Administrative/business contact (name, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address);
7) Duration of effort (differentiate basic effort);
8) The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the Principal Investigator and other senior personnel must be included, even if they receive no salary support from the project(s);
9) The total award amount for the entire award period covered (including indirect costs) must be shown as well as the number of person-months or labor hours per year to be devoted to the project, regardless of source of support; and
10) State how projects are related to the proposed effort and indicate degree of overlap.

- **Qualifications:** A discussion of the qualifications of the proposed Principal Investigator and any other key personnel. Include resumes for the Principal Investigator and other key personnel and full curricula vitae for Principal Investigators and consultants. Limit the number of pages for this section to 2.

Volume 2: Cost Proposal

Part 1: The itemized budget must include the following:

- Direct Labor – Individual labor categories or persons, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates. Provide escalation rates for out years.

- Administrative and Clerical Labor – Salaries of administrative and clerical staff are normally indirect costs (and included in an indirect cost rate). Direct charging of these costs may be appropriate when a major project requires an extensive amount of administrative or clerical support significantly greater than normal and routine levels of support. Budgets proposing direct charging of administrative or clerical salaries must be supported with a budget justification which adequately describes the major project and the administrative and/or clerical work to be performed.

- Fringe Benefits and Indirect Costs – (i.e., F&A, Overhead, G&A, etc.) – The proposal should show the rates and calculation of the costs for each rate category. If the rates have been approved/negotiated by a Government agency, provide a copy of the memorandum/agreement. If the rates have not been approved/negotiated, provide sufficient detail to enable a determination of allowability, allocability and reasonableness of the allocation bases, and how the rates are calculated. Additional information may be requested, if needed. If composite rates are used, provide the calculations used in deriving the composite rates.

- Travel – The proposed travel cost should include the following for each trip: the purpose of the trip, origin and destination if known, approximate duration, the number of travelers, and the estimated cost per trip must be justified based on the

organizations historical average cost per trip or other reasonable basis for estimation. Such estimates and the resultant costs claimed must conform to the applicable Federal cost principals.

- Subawards – Provide a description of the work to be performed by the subrecipients. For each subaward, a detailed cost proposal is required to be submitted by the subrecipient(s). The proposed subawardee's or subrecipient's cost proposal can be provided in a sealed envelope with the recipient's cost proposal or via e-mail directly the Program Officer at the same time the prime proposal is submitted. The e-mail should identify the proposal title, the prime Offeror and that the attached proposal is for either a subcontract or a sub-agreement. A proposal and supporting documentation must be received and reviewed before the Government can complete its cost analysis of the proposal.

- Consultants – Provide a breakdown of the consultant's hours, the hourly rate proposed, any other proposed consultant costs, a copy of the signed Consulting Agreement or other documentation supporting the proposed consultant rate/cost, and a copy of the consultant's proposed statement of work if it is not already separately identified in the prime contractor's proposal.

- Materials & Supplies – Provide an itemized list of all proposed materials and supplies including quantities, unit prices, and the basis for the estimate (e.g., quotes, prior purchases, catalog price lists).

- Recipient Acquired Equipment or Facilities – Equipment and/or facilities are normally furnished by the Recipient. If acquisition of equipment and/or facilities is proposed, a justification for the purchase of the items must be provided. Provide an itemized list of all equipment and/or facilities costs and the basis for the estimate (e.g., quotes, prior purchases, catalog price lists). Allowable items normally would be limited to research equipment not already available for the project. General purpose equipment (i.e., equipment not used exclusively for research, scientific or other technical activities, such as personal computers, laptops, office equipment) should not be requested unless they will be used primarily or exclusively for the project.

- Other Direct Costs – Provide an itemized list of all other proposed other direct costs such as report and publication costs, licensing and certification fees of education materials, necessary items not covered above, and the basis for the estimate (e.g., quotes, prior purchases, catalog price lists).

- Fee/Profit – Fee/profit is unallowable under grants at either the prime or subaward level but may be permitted on any subcontracts issued by the prime awardee.

Part 2: Cost breakdown by Government fiscal year and 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.

C. Significant Dates and Times –

The applicable dates for this announcement are given in Section I.E, above.

D. Submission of Grant Proposals through Grants.gov –

Detailed instructions entitled "Grants.Gov Electronic Application and Submission Information" on how to submit a Grant proposal through Grants.gov are under the Submit Proposals section of the website at http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/submit-proposal/grants-proposal/grants-gov.aspx

White Papers should not be submitted through the Grants.gov Apply process. White paper submissions should be e-mailed directly to the ONR STEM Program Office. White paper format requirements are found in Section IV, B, above.

By completing Block 17 of the SF 424 R&R, the Grant Applicant is providing the certification on lobbying required by 32 CFR Part 28. Refer to Section VI, "Award Administration Information" entitled "Certification regarding Restrictions on Lobbying" for further information.

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. These include obtaining a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, registering with the System for Award Management (SAM), registering with the credential provider, and registering with Grants.gov. See www.grants.gov.

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 SAM registration process. Applicants who are not registered with CCR and Grants.gov should allow at least 21 days to complete these requirements. The process should be started as soon as possible. Any questions 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 (1-606-545-5035 for foreign applicants) or support@grants.gov.

Special Notices Relative to Grant Applications to be submitted through Grants.gov:

All attachments to grant applications submitted through Grants.gov must be in Adobe Portable Document Format (i.e., .PDF files). Proposals with attachments submitted in word processing, spreadsheet, or any format other than Adobe Portable Document Format will not be considered for award.

Proposal Receipt Notices:

After a full proposal is submitted through Grants.gov, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will receive a series of three e-mails. You will know that your proposal has reached ONR when the AOR receives e-mail Number 3. You will need the Submission

Receipt Number (e-mail Number 1) to track a submission. The three e-mails are:

Number 1 – The applicant will receive a confirmation page upon completing the submission to Grants.gov. This confirmation page is a record of the time and date stamp that is used to determine whether the proposal was submitted.

Number 2 – The applicant will receive an e-mail indicating that the proposal has been validated by Grants.gov within two days of submission (this means that all of the required fields have been completed). After an institution submits an application, Grants.gov generates a submission receipt via email and also sets the application status to "Received." This receipt verifies the Application has been successfully delivered to the Grants.gov system. Next, Grants.gov verifies the submission is valid by ensuring it does not contain viruses, the opportunity is still open, and the applicant login and applicant DUNS number match. If the submission is valid, Grants.gov generates a submission validation receipt via email and sets the application status to "Validated." If the application is not validated, the application status is set to "Rejected." The system sends a rejection email notification to the institution, and the institution must resubmit the application package. Applicants can track the status of their application by logging in to Grants.gov.

Number 3 – The third notice is an acknowledgement of receipt in e-mail form from ONR within ten days from the proposal due date, if applicable. The e-mail is sent to the authorized representative for the institution. The e-mail for proposals notes that the proposal has been received and provides the assigned tracking number.

V. EVALUATION INFORMATION

A. Evaluation Criteria –

Awards under this FOA will be made to proposers on the basis of the evaluation criteria listed below, and program balance including existing efforts, in order to provide overall value to the Government. The Government reserves the right to request any additional, necessary documentation once it makes the award instrument determination. The Government reserves the right to remove proposers from award consideration should the parties fail to reach agreement on award terms, conditions, and cost/price within a reasonable time, or the proposer fails to timely provide requested additional information. Evaluations will be conducted using the following evaluation criteria:

1. Degree of innovation and novelty presented by the proposed effort;
2. Naval / Defense relevance, impact and contributions of the effort to ONR's mission to advance STEM education and outreach and to improve the future STEM workforce;
3. The Offeror's capabilities, related experience, facilities, techniques or unique combinations of these which are integral factors for achieving the proposal objectives;
4. The qualifications, capabilities and experience of the proposed Principal Investigator (PI), team leader and key personnel who are critical in achieving the proposal objectives;
5. Contribution to overall Navy STEM portfolio and STEM priorities, with opportunities to increase the STEM pipeline and expand nationally. "STEM reach," impact, self-sufficiency after initial funding, and related factors as discussed in Section I.F;
6. Cost effectiveness, the availability of funds, and the degree to which proposed costs align with the proposed efforts.

The ultimate recommendation for award of proposals is made by ONR's scientific/technical/STEM community. Recommended proposals will be forwarded to the ONR grants department. Any notification received from ONR indicating that the Offeror's full proposal has been recommended does not ultimately guarantee an award will be made. This notice indicates that the proposal has been selected in accordance with the evaluation criteria above and has been sent to the contracting department to conduct cost analysis, determine the offeror's responsibility, and to take other relevant steps necessary prior to award of a new grant.

ONR encourages partnering among industry, academia, nonprofits, and with Government when partnerships may enhance the incorporation of STEM education advances into educational settings, increase the scale and impact, improve the sustainability of projects, and increase Naval relevance.

B. Options –

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 the period of performance.

C. Evaluation Panel –

Technical and cost proposals submitted under this FOA will be protected from unauthorized disclosure. The cognizant Program Officer and other Government experts will perform the evaluation of technical proposals. Restrictive notices notwithstanding, one or more support contractors may be utilized as subject-matter-expert technical consultants. However, proposal selection and award decisions are solely the responsibility of Government personnel. Each support contractor employee having access to technical and cost proposals submitted in response to this FOA is required to sign a non-disclosure statement prior to receipt of any proposal submissions.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. System for Award Management (SAM) –

All Offerors submitting proposals or applications must:

1) be registered in the SAM prior to submission;
2) maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration by any agency; and
3) provide its DUNS number in each application or proposal it submits to the   agency.

The System for Award Management (SAM) is a FREE WEBSITE that consolidates the capabilities you used to find in CCR/FedReg, ORCA, and EPLS. Future phases of SAM will add the capabilities of other systems used in Federal procurement and awards processes.

SAM may be accessed at https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/

NOTE TO FORMER CCR REGISTRANTS: If you had an active record in CCR, you have an active record in SAM. You do not need to do anything in SAM at this time, unless a change in your business circumstances requires a change in SAM in order for you to be paid or to receive an award. SAM will send notifications to the registered user via email 60, 30, and 15 days prior to expiration of the record. You can search for registered entities in SAM by typing the DUNS number or business name into the search box.

B. Access to your Grant Award –

All Office of Naval Research (ONR) award/modification documents will be available via the Department of Defense (DoD) Electronic Document Access System (EDA) or ONR AwardWeb.

> 1. EDA is a web-based system that provides secure online access, storage, and retrieval of awards and modifications to DoD employees and vendors.

If you do not currently have access to EDA, complete a self-registration request as a "Vendor" via http://eda.ogden.disa.mil following the steps below:

Click "New User Registration" (from the left Menu)
Click "Begin VENDOR User Registration Process"
Click "EDA Registration Form" under Username/Password (enter the appropriate data)
Complete & Submit Registration form

Allow five (5) business days for your registration to be processed. EDA will notify you by email when your account is approved.

Registration questions may be directed to the EDA help desk toll free at 1-866-618-5988, Commercial at 801-605-7095, or via email at cscassig@csd.disa.mil (Subject: EDA Assistance).

2. ONR AwardWeb. See ONR Website @ http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/manage-grant/access-award.aspx for instructions on registering for awardweb.

Multiple users from your organization can register for EDA; only one POC or email address is available under ONR AwardWeb.

VII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 –

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-282), as amended by Section 6202 of Public Law 110-252, requires that all agencies establish requirements for recipients reporting information on subawards and executive total compensation as codified in 2 CFR 33.110. Any company, non-profit agency or university that applies for financial assistance (either grants, cooperative agreements or other transaction agreements) as either a prime or sub-recipient under this BAA must provide information in its proposal that describes the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements identified in 2 CFR 33.220. An entity is **exempt** from this requirement **UNLESS** in the preceding fiscal year it received: a) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenue in Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants), and cooperative agreements; b) $25 million or more in annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants), and cooperative agreements; and c) the public does not have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

B. Military Recruiting On Campus–

Military Recruiting on Campus (DoDGARS Part 22.520) applies to domestic U. S. colleges and universities. Appropriate language from 32CFR22.520 Campus access for military recruiting and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) will be incorporated in all university grant awards.

C. Certification regarding Restrictions on Lobbying –

Grant and Cooperative Agreement awards greater than $100,000, as well as OTAs not under Section 845, require a certification of compliance with a national policy mandate concerning lobbying. Grant, applicants shall provide this certification by electronic submission of SF424 (R&R) as a part of the electronic proposal submitted via Grants.gov (complete Block 17). The following certification applies likewise to each cooperating agreement and normal OTA applicant seeking federal assistance funds exceeding $100,000:

(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.

D. Representation Regarding an Unpaid Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction Under any Federal Law - DOD Appropriations –

All grant applicants are required to complete the "Representation on Tax Delinquency and Felony Conviction" found at http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/submit-proposal/grants-proposal.aspx by checking the "I agree" box in block 17 and attaching the representation to block 18. of the SF424 (R&R) as part of the electronic proposal submitted via Grants.gov. The representation reads as follows:

(1) The applicant represents that it is ___ is not___ a corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability

(2) The applicant represents that it is__ is not __a corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months.

NOTE: If an applicant responds in the affirmative to either of the above representations, the applicant is ineligible to receive an award unless the agency suspension and debarment official (SDO) has considered suspension or debarment and determined that further action is not required to protect the Government's interests. The applicant therefore should provide information about its tax liability or conviction to the agency's SDO as soon as it can do so, to facilitate completion of the required consideration before award decisions are made.