

**Special Notice N00014-19-S-SN04**  
**Office of Naval Research (ONR)**  
**Task Force Ocean**



## **I. INTRODUCTION.**

This notice describes ONR's interest in research to support the Task Force Ocean (TFO) initiative, funding for which will be under the authority of the ONR FY18 Long Range Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology, N00014-18-S-B001, which is found at <http://www.onr.navy.mil/ContractsGrants/Funding-Opportunities/Broad-Agency-Announcements.aspx>.

The purpose of this notice is (1) to identify technical areas of particular interest to the Task Force Ocean initiative, (2) to highlight ONR's interest in supporting Graduate Students and Post Doctoral researchers in association with Task Force Ocean research, and (3) to delineate the process for submission of white papers and proposals.

Task Force Ocean is directed by RDML John Okon, Oceanographer of the Navy, in coordination with RADM David J. Hahn, Chief of Naval Research. TFO research will build upon ONR's existing strategy in the area of undersea warfare in order to sustain the U.S. Navy's decisive competitive advantage in tactical exploitation of the environment.

To learn more about Task Force Ocean, please go to the TFO website at: <https://www.onr.navy.mil/en/task-force-ocean>

## **II. TECHNICAL AREA OF INTEREST**

Under Task Force Ocean, ONR plans to initiate new research to better understand and exploit the ocean environment. FY19 objectives include improved ocean and acoustic sensing, signal processing, and data analysis capabilities. It is anticipated that future TFO themes will include distributed sensing systems and non-acoustic sensing,

For FY19, ONR seeks proposals for research in the following high-priority areas:

- Exploration of analytic techniques linking physical oceanographic variability with acoustic propagation, including field efforts to collect relevant data sets

- Analysis of large oceanographic and acoustic data sets, including the development and use of artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques
- Through-the-sensor environmental characterization, including assimilation into nested local environmental prediction models
- Exploration and development of advanced signal processing techniques that incorporate local ocean structure, including ambient noise characterization

Cross-discipline teaming (in particular the integration of physical oceanography, acoustics, and signal processing) is encouraged, but not required.

Periods of performance may be up to 3 years.

Graduate student and post-doctoral researcher participation in Navy-funded undersea research under the TFO initiative is strongly encouraged.

White papers addressing topics deemed to be outside of TFO interests will be forwarded to the appropriate Code 32 team for consideration under core funding.

### **III. WHITE PAPER SUBMISSION**

White Papers will be evaluated by the Government to determine whether the scientific advancement proposed appears to be of sufficient value and relevance to Task Force Ocean. Initial Government feedback will be issued via e-mail to convey (1) a sense of whether the concept is likely to be funded, (2) any recommendations for refocusing, and (3) any recommended changes in scope. Encouragement to submit a Full Proposal should not be taken as an assurance of a subsequent award.

White papers should not exceed 5 single-sided pages, exclusive of cover page and principal investigator CV, and should be in 12-point Times New Roman font with margins not less than one inch. White papers shall be in Adobe PDF format (preferred) or in Microsoft Word format compatible with MS Office 2007. Cover pages should be labeled “White Paper for N00014-19-S-SN04: Task Force Ocean.”

White Papers should include the following information:

- (1) Title of the proposed effort, principal investigator (only one), organization, telephone number, and e-mail address
- (2) Relevance of the proposed effort to the research areas described in Section II of this Special Notice
- (3) Objective of the proposed effort
- (4) Approach that will be pursued to meet the objective
- (5) Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) cost estimate
- (6) Proposed Period of Performance

- (7) Resume of PI
- (8) Names of Graduate Students and/or Post Doctoral researchers associated with the research for whom funding is being requested.

To ensure full, timely consideration for funding, white papers should be submitted **no later than 11:59 PM (EST) on 31 January 2019**. It is the responsibility of the submitting individual to ensure he/she receives an email confirming receipt of the White Paper from the ONR TFO Coordinator (listed below).

White Papers will be evaluated on a rolling basis, in accordance with the evaluation criteria outlined in the FY18 ONR Long Range BAA, N00014-18-S-B001, Section II, E. Feedback will be provided as soon as available and Full Proposal due dates will be tied to White Paper feedback notification dates. ONR anticipates completing reviews and providing all feedback by **28 February 2019**.

Unclassified or classified (up to GENSER SECRET) White Papers and Proposals may be submitted.

Unclassified Submission:

Email unclassified submissions to [taskforceocean.fct@navy.mil](mailto:taskforceocean.fct@navy.mil). The subject line of the email should read: N00014-19-S-SN04 Task Force Ocean White Paper.

Classified Submission:

Classified submissions can be emailed via SIPR (preferred) or mailed. Email submissions to [casey.church.ctr@navy.smil.mil](mailto:casey.church.ctr@navy.smil.mil). The subject line of the email should read: N00014-19-S-SN04 Task Force Ocean White Paper. Classified submissions mailed to the ONR Document Control Unit should be addressed and marked in the following manner:

**OUTSIDE ENVELOPE**

**(no classification marking):**

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

The inner wrapper of the classified white paper or proposal shall be addressed to the attention of the cognizant Technical Point of Contact (TPOC), ONR Code 321, and marked in the following manner:

**INNER ENVELOPE**

**(stamped with the overall classification of the material)**

Program Name: Task Force Ocean  
Office of Naval Research  
ATTN: Dr. Casey Church

ONR Code: 321  
875 North Randolph Street  
Arlington, VA 22203-1995

All response 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.

#### **IV. FULL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND AWARD INFORMATION**

Full proposals should be submitted under the FY18 Long Range BAA, N00014-18-S-B001, within 30 calendar days of email notification of encouragement to propose. It is the responsibility of the submitting individual to ensure he/she receives an email confirming receipt of the Full Proposal from the ONR TFO Coordinator (listed below).

ONR anticipates that both grants and contracts will be issued for this effort. ONR will provide (within the White Paper feedback) guidance on a case-by-case basis whether a grant or contract award is considered appropriate.

Instructions for full proposal submission are located at:

<https://www.onr.navy.mil/ContractsGrants/Funding-Opportunities/Broad-Agency-Announcements> under the FY18 Long Range BAA, N00014-18-S-B001 in Appendix III – Requirements Applicable to Contracts and Other Transaction Agreements.

For purposes of this Special Notice only, the following documents comprise a complete proposal package and must be completed and submitted for consideration:

- [Proposal checklist](#)
- [Technical proposal template](#)
- [Statement of work template](#)
- [Cost Proposal](#)
- [ONR-contract specific representations and certifications](#)

The Cost Proposal Format section of the proposal must include a breakout of the total cost proposed by each respective cost element (labor, fringe benefit, overhead, G&A etc...). Supporting data and justification for labor, equipment/material, team member/subcontractor, consultants, travel, other direct costs, and indirect costs used in developing the cost breakdown must also be included. Please be advised that the Offeror must provide sufficient details to allow a full understanding of and justification for the proposed costs.

Full proposals for grants should be submitted in accordance with the specific grant submission instructions in BAA N00014-18-S-B001. **All full proposals for grants must be submitted through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).** 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 “N00014”; Block 4b, Agency Routing Number, Enter the three (3) digit Program Office Code “321”. When asked for the Program Officer’s name, enter “Task Force Ocean”. All attachments to the application should also include this Code 321 identifier to ensure the proposal and its attachments are received by the appropriate Program Office.

Full proposals for contracts should be submitted following the instructions provided in Section III above. Files exceeding 10MB in size should be mailed.

## V. POINTS OF CONTACT

Process POC:

ONR TFO Coordinator, [taskforceocean.fct@navy.mil](mailto:taskforceocean.fct@navy.mil).

Business Point of Contact:

Sean Palmer, ONR Contracting Officer, [sean.m.palmer@navy.mil](mailto:sean.m.palmer@navy.mil)