

Questions and Answers

Q1: On this research thrust, "Hypoxia Monitoring, Alert and Mitigation System" (HAMS), would it be appropriate to respond with a project that only addresses the mitigation component?

A1: Yes. On page 1 of the announcement, it states "Offerors are invited to respond with proposal(s) for any combination of or all deliverables."

Q2: Our researcher has been studying the effects of gestation and birth related hypoxia (either traumatic births, or in some cases maternal smokers) on the brains of infants, and is investigating a promising pharmacological mitigation compound. Would such a proposal/project be appropriate for this call?

A2: ONR cannot make a decision on technical merit and applicability without viewing the full proposal package.

Q3: a) The announcement mentions it is a follow-on to 13-SN-003; is a pre-proposal and RFP required in order to submit to the current Special Notice? **b)** Are you accepting proposals which address only Topic A (Detection/Prediction Algorithm)? Finally, the announcement lists that a series of Grants and Contracts will be awarded; is a cost plus fixed fee (CPFF) type of contract available for this Special Notice?

A3: a) A pre-proposal is not required in order to submit to the current special notice. **b)** See A1. **c)** Yes.

Q4: Please advise if foreign institutions (i.e. Tel Aviv University, which is located in Israel), are eligible to apply to this notice.

A4: Yes.

Q5: Based on the RFP, we see a direct link to our expertise along with that of our industry/academia partners to the topic. Due to the short time frame for the proposal submission we wanted to reach out to you to determine our next steps. What would be a good time for you this week to plan a phone call to discuss what level of interest the ONR may have in our concept, and also get feedback from your point of view on the technical aspect?

A5: In a fair and open competitive RFP, ONR cannot hold individual discussions with proponents. All correspondence must be submitted in writing. Answers to all questions will be published on the ONR website and FedBizOps.

Q5: In reference to Special Notice 14-SN-0002, are there any guidelines for submission of a pre-proposal? I ask since the recommended full proposal submission date is 22 Nov 2013.

A5: Pre-proposals are *not* being accepted. All full proposals will be accepted for consideration no later than 22 NOV 2013. Full Proposals received after that date will be considered as time and availability of funding permit.

Q6: What are the page limits you will require?

A6: For contract submissions, use the provided Cost Proposal Spreadsheet, Technical Proposal Template (pdf) and Technical Content Template (word), found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/submit-proposal/contracts-proposal/cost-proposal.aspx>. The Cost Proposal is unlimited. The Required Technical Proposal is unlimited. Limit the Required Technical Content Template to 20 pages, Times New Roman, size 12 font, single spaced. Do not alter margins. Do not use appendices to work around page limits. Insert POA&M directly into document.

For grant submissions, please see the following link, found on the ONR website: <http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/submit-proposal/grants-proposal.aspx>. Grant applications must be submitted through Grants.gov, will all required documentation. Limit the Technical Proposal to 20 pages, Times New Roman, size 12 font, single spaced. Do not alter margins. Do not use appendices to work around page limits. Include a Program Objective, Actions & Milestones (POA&M) Gantt chart with your schedule and deliverable timeframe. Cost proposal is unlimited.

Overall, it is expected that offerors proposing to all potential funding opportunities presented in this SN (Algorithm, Metrics Determination, Sensor Suite and Integration, Warning Modalities, and Mitigation) would have a longer proposal length than those proposing to less than all of the areas of interest detailed in this SN. Brevity will be appreciated in all cases.

Q7: Does ONR expect to issue a FFP or CP contract?

A7: ONR's preference is CP (as long as you have an approved accounting system). Otherwise a FFP contract is allowed, with firmly established deliverables.

Q8: Funding- The Notice states that multiple awards will be funded to total \$6M. Do you have an idea of the number of awards that ONR is planning to fund under this and the target funding amount for each award? This information will help our technical team to scope the effort appropriately.

A8: No.

Q9: White papers- Do you require white papers submission prior to full proposals and are you open to receiving them and providing guidance prior to full proposal submission.

A9: ONR is not accepting white papers on this SN.

Q10: Page limit- The Notice references the BAA instructions for proposal preparation and the proposal states that page limits are set by the programs. What is the page limit for the RFP?

A10: See A6.

Q11: Is there an acquisition program that this is targeting and/or program of record it is aligned with? This information will allow our team to align our solutions with all stakeholders.

A11: Hypoxia Monitoring, Alert, and Mitigation System is currently in-progress and currently includes BUMED (Advanced Medical Development) as an interim/developmental transition partner.

Q12: The topic lends itself well to a scaled solution where wearable sensors will provide information in conditions other than CASEVAC and can be augmented with additional information and mitigations in CASEVAC. Is this scaled solution acceptable under this call?

A12: Yes.

Q13: Are you interested in solutions that can be applied in a similar fashion in diving conditions as well?

A13: Not for this effort.

Q14: Are there restrictions to communication formats (wireless or Bluetooth) that should be taken into account when completing the technical design?

A14: No. ONR is accepting proposals with any/all communication formats. However, any wireless or Bluetooth applications should consider bandwidth availability, security and electromagnetic interference issues in an operational environment.

Q15: Is there a target operational period that the system should be designed to support (8 hours, 12 hours, 24 hours) and a target down time that's acceptable for charging where applicable?

A15: The CASEVAC deliverable may require as much as 72 hours. The Ground Deliverable should target 8-12 hours.

Q16: Are there current systems that the design should integrate with? For example, are there current hypoxia mitigations available to ground troops at altitude or during CASEVAC?

A16: Any solution must integrate with current life support equipment and warfighter ensembles. It should be compatible with CASEVAC life support equipment/high altitude operations with supplemental oxygen cylinders.

Q17: Do we use the ONR BAA 14-001 SF424 form or the Special Notice 14-SN-0002 SF424 form?

A17: Both ONR BAA 14-001 and Special Notice 14-SN-0002 refer the offeror to Grants.gov. Please follow the instructions provided on Grants.gov.

Q18: On page 25 of the ONR BAA-14-001, there is a paragraph stating "For proposed subcontracts or inter-organizational transfers over \$150,000, Offerors must provide a separate fully completed Cost Proposal Spreadsheet in support of the proposed costs. This spreadsheet, along with supporting documentation, must be provided either in a sealed envelope with the prime's proposal or via e-mail directly to both the Program Officer and the Business Point of Contact 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 a subcontract, and should include a description of the effort to be performed by the subcontractor." Does this paragraph pertain to subcontractors under an organization pursuing a grant and not a contract, cooperative agreement, or other transaction agreement? Or does this apply to all subcontractors under this BAA?

A18: All subcontractors.

Q19: Is there guidance or templates for the following: Abstract, Equipment and Facilities, Bibliography and Other Resources, equipment, and Curricula Vitae?

A19: For contract applications, use the provided Cost Proposal Spreadsheet, Technical Proposal Template (pdf) and Technical Content Template (word), found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/submit-proposal/contracts-proposal/cost-proposal.aspx>.

For grant applications, guidance has been provided under **A6**. Otherwise, proposal format is at the discretion of the offeror.

Q20: Are there page limitations for the Current and Pending Support sections and the Curricula Vitae?

A20: No.

Q21: Is there a funding limitation per year for multiyear projects?

A21: No. However, offerors may be asked to revise proposals based on funding availability.

Q22: Where can we find the answers to questions submitted in response to this special notice?

A22: On the ONR website and FedBizOps.

Q23: Proposal page limit? The financial volume is straight forward; however the technical volume is not addressed.

A23: See **A6**.

Q24: Number of hard copies of proposal? Historically, we have hand-delivered proposals that were not delineated "electronic submission only".

A24: No hard copies will be accepted. Contract submissions are to be sent electronically directly to LCDR Steele (Christopher.steele4@navy.mil); grant submissions are to be sent electronically through Grants.gov. It is recommended that all offerors send an email to LCDR Steele, indicating that they have uploaded a proposal to Grants.gov. A positive acknowledgement will be provided.

Q25: The PDF template (Technical) which was downloaded from the website seemed a little fragmented. As this seems to be a fillable, but not "savable" PDF, is it meant for online submission?

A25: The PDF is savable using the "Save As" function. Contract submission is via email to LCDR Steele (Christopher.steele4@navy.mil).

Q26: Animal studies in core proposal? How will government know that the product works without some animal results? It would appear that the desired device is dual purpose, with the Casualty Evacuation (requiring FDA - trials) to come at a later date. How will this affect the acquisition of materials?

A26: ONR agrees that animal studies are necessary. To expedite funding, however, ONR suggests that contract proposals be structured such that the base period does not include animal studies, [as approvals for such investigations can take considerable time](#). Animal studies should therefore be included as Options. Note that the base and option periods may overlap temporally.

Q27: Please provide the number of units required at the conclusion.

- a. How many for validation?
- b. How many for testing?
- c. How many to fill operational requirement?

A27: Unit estimation for validation and testing should be considered by the offeror. With respect to filling the operational requirement, please note that ONR funds applied and advanced research and works with Acquisition Partners to determine operational requirements. At this time, the number of units is TBD.

Q28: If a HAMS device is currently being developed, will the Government allow for Program Expediting - from R&D to Acquisition?

A28: ONR cannot make a decision on technical merit and applicability without viewing the full proposal package.

Q29: What type contract may be expected? I.e. Firm Fixed Price, Cost Plus, etc.

A29: See A7.

Q30: May a company submit more than one proposal?

A30: Yes.

Q31: Could you provide us with your insights on whether the experimental design, described below, that we have originally designed for NASA-NSBRI space missions would be of interest for the ONR?

A31: In a fair and open competitive RFP, ONR cannot hold individual discussions with proponents. ONR cannot make a decision on technical merit and applicability without viewing the full proposal package.

Q32: On the instructions for 14-002 it tells me to follow the instructions for BAA 14-001. When reading the 14-001 instructions, it describes the requirements for the Technical Volume, it states the following on page 27:

Full Proposal Format – Volume 1 - Technical Proposal, and Volume 2 - Cost Proposal

- Paper Size – 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins – 1 inch
- Spacing – single spaced
- Font – Times New Roman, 12 point
- Discuss the limit on the number of pages for Volume I with the cognizant Program Officer. There are no page limitations to the Cost Proposal, Volume 2. The full proposal should be submitted electronically at <http://www.grants.gov/> as delineated in paragraph 5 below. What are the page limits for this opportunity?

A32: See A6.

Q33: We intend to apply for the above referenced special notice due on 22 November 2013 and I would like to inquire re: the page limit of the grant. I examined the parent grant and was unable to find a reliable answer.

A33: See A6.

Q34: I have a rough sketch for a proposal to measure and predict hypoxia adaptation. Would you be interested in hearing or reading my brief sketch?

A34: In a fair and open competitive RFP, ONR cannot hold individual discussions with proponents. All correspondence must be submitted in writing. Answers to all questions will be published on the ONR website and FedBizOps. ONR cannot make a decision on technical merit and applicability without viewing the full proposal package.

Q35: Regarding the CASEVAC monitoring, is this hypoxia monitoring for all casualties (illness, trauma, etc), or specific to only hypoxic-induced casualties?

A35: Hypoxia monitoring is for all casualties who might be subject to hypoxia while in transit.

Q36: Because of technical issues beyond my control, we at (government lab) cannot use Grants.gov for submission of grant proposals. Thus, I am planning to follow the instructions on page 33 of the BAA: "F. Submission of White Papers and Full Proposals for Contracts, Cooperative Agreements, and Other Transaction Agreements", and email the proposal directly to the Program Officer (you). Is this acceptable to you?

A36: Yes.

Q37: Are you looking for proposers to provide a complete solution to all components of the system, or would a proposal that addresses one or two components be acceptable (e.g. an improved sensor only or improved prediction algorithms only)?

A37: Yes. See **A1**.

Q38: Could you identify components that are lacking from the previous solicitation that need particular attention?

A38: No.

Q39: Are you interested in integration of existing technologies, or in the development of novel technologies for parameters such as cerebral tissue oxygen content?

A39: ONR will consider both integration efforts and development of novel technologies.

Q40: Are you anticipating any new starts on this program, or is it mostly a mechanism for renewals of the previous awardees?

A40: ONR anticipates awarding new starts.

Q41: I am writing in regards to ONRBAA14-001 to explore interest sensor technology that we are developing for hypoxia monitoring applications. Below is a brief description of our technology. I would appreciate any comments you might have on the promise of our new sensor for hypoxia monitoring.

A41: In a fair and open competitive RFP, ONR cannot hold individual discussions with proponents. All correspondence must be submitted in writing. Answers to all questions will be published on the ONR website and FedBizOps. ONR cannot make a decision on technical merit and applicability without viewing the full proposal package.

Q42: Re: Item 6 - Human Subject Use on the Technical Proposal Template... Are we supposed to get the IRB approvals before submitting the proposal? If not, at what point in the process must we submit that?

A42: IRB approvals are required before funding can be released. If Human Use is included as an option (vice in the base), then the base can be awarded while IRB approval is in process. If Human Use is included in the base, IRB approvals will need to be submitted upon notification of award. Once IRB approval is obtained, base and/or options containing Human Use can be exercised.