Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR)

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Basic Research Office (BRO)
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering (OUSD(R&E))

Northeastern Regional Meeting | September 26, 2019
Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) Team

Dr. Bindu Nair
Deputy Director for the Basic Research Office (BRO)

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BRO | AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow

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Scientific Advisors
Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA)

Ms. Lisa Pizarro
Grants Officer for Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)
Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was created by Congress in FY91 DoD appropriation, and legislatively authorized in 1994.

Appropriations ($12M): FY19 Defense Appropriations Congressional supplement to the Basic Research Initiatives program line dedicated to DEPSCoR.

Currently sponsored by Dr. Bindu Nair, Deputy Director for Basic Research Office (BRO), OUSD(R&E)
Program Eligibility

Congressionally-directed eligibility criteria: “States or territories that received less than 60% of 1/50th of the total DoD S&E research obligations to U.S. IHE are eligible if a commitment to developing S&E research is demonstrated.”

*Eligible territories include Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

The Department determined commitment by a State/Territory having at least one S&E graduate program
DEPSCoR Objectives as mandated by Congress:

1. **Enhance the capabilities** of institutions of higher education (IHE) in eligible State/Territories to develop, plan, and execute science and engineering (S&E) research that is relevant to the mission of the DoD and competitive under the peer-review systems used for awarding Federal research assistance.

2. **Increase the number of university researchers** in eligible States/Territories capable of performing S&E research responsive to the needs of the DoD.

3. **Increase the probability of long-term growth** in the competitively awarded financial assistance that IHE in eligible States/Territories receive from the Federal Government for S&E research.
Execution Approach

- Supplement Funding to Existing Service Programs
- Collaborative DEPSCoR Competition
- Outreach & Education
Supplement Funding to Service Programs

DoD-selected 6.1 programs with greatest capacity to meet DEPSCoR Objectives

1. Building faculty capacity via Young Investigator Programs:
   - Three Young Investigator Program (YIP) awards in each of the three services, each at the $150,000 per year over three years
     - ARO = Rolling Application Process

2. Building institutional capacity via Defense University Research Instrumentation Programs:
   - One Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP) award in each of the three services, each at the $300,000

DoD will award an additional 9 YIPs and 3 DURIPs to DEPSCoR-eligible researchers compared to the yearly average of the previous 5 years.
DEPSCoR Competition

Integrate new researchers from DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories into the DoD Research Enterprise through mentoring

Identified Perceived Barriers:

- DoD proposals are different in style and content to other federal agencies
- Building relationships with Program Officers (PO) are critical for program success
- Awareness of DoD opportunities

2-person team from DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories can apply
Expected: 6 awards with $200K/year (total cost) for three years

*denotes to DoD Research Enterprise
DEPSCoR Competition: grants.gov

Convenience Comes to Federal Grants
Download the Grants.gov Mobile App to search and submit on the go.

Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited.
**DEPSCoR Competition:**

[grants.gov](http://grants.gov)

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**SEARCH GRANTS**

**BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA:**
- **Keyword(s):** DEPSCoR
- **Opportunity Number:**
- **CFDA:**

**OPPORTUNITY STATUS:**
- Forecasted (0)
- Posted (3)
- Closed (0)
- Archived (0)

**FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE:**
- All Funding Instruments
- Cooperative Agreement (1)

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DEPSCoR Competition: grants.gov

VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2019-0004
Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR)
Department of Defense
Air Force Office of Scientific Research

SYNOPSIS  VERSION HISTORY  RELATED DOCUMENTS  PACKAGE

Notification History:

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<td>DEPSCoR - Amendment to Correct Proposal Due Date to 14 Feb 19 by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. (By Invitation Only)</td>
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<td>Second Set of Questions and Answers Received before deadline of 31 Jul 19.</td>
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<td>First Set of Questions Answered - 26 Jul 19</td>
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Click on the following file link(s) to download the related document(s):

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Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited.
DEPSCoR Competition: White Paper Submission

DEPSCoR White Paper Submission Update:
- Via AcquTrak™
- 33 registered Applicants

https://acqupass.noblis.org/ApplyDEPSCoR
**DEPSCoR Competition: Full Proposal (by invitation)**

**General Information**

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Grant Information

- Collaborative research grants
- Tenured and tenured-track faculty members at IHE in DEPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions are eligible to apply
- One white paper submission per Applicant/Principal Investigator
- One collaboration per Collaborator/co-Principal Investigator
- Strongly encouraged to flesh out proposal idea with a Program Officer in the TriService
- Security clearance is not required to receive award
- U.S. citizenship is not required
- Approximately six proposals will be selected for funding
**Competition Process Overview**

- AcquTrak - **Applicants** submit three page program description narrative (white paper) and supporting documentation
  - CV – *two (2) page limit, single-sided/team member*
- Each Service will hold an internal white paper review process in partnership with the Basic Research Office
- Panels discuss their papers and put forward names for consideration as semi-finalists
- Grants.gov – **IHE** of invited semi-finalists (~20) submit full proposals, CV, budget
- Proposals are reviewed online by specific subject matter experts in academia and government. The white paper panelists review all proposals from their panel
- Panels meet to recommend awards
- Basic Research leadership selects Fellows
Categories for White Paper Submission

- Chemistry
- Biology and Engineering Biology
- Physics, Electronics, and Sensors
- Engineering
- Materials
- Earth and Space Sciences
- Mathematical, Computer, and Information Sciences
- Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Systems
- Other
## Important Dates for FY20 Competition

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<td><a href="https://acquupass.noblis.org/ApplyDEPSCoR">https://acquupass.noblis.org/ApplyDEPSCoR</a></td>
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<td>Questions Regarding White Paper and Supporting Documentation (submitted by)</td>
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<td>White Paper and Supporting Documentation (required by)</td>
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<td>Notification of White Paper Selection</td>
<td>16 December 2019*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal (by invitation only)</td>
<td>14 February 2020</td>
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* Estimated date
Q: When determining whether someone is DOD-funded or non-previously DOD-funded, should we include funding through a sub-award? Also, does it matter if the person served as the PI, Co-PI, key personnel, or other?

A: Collaborator/co-Principal Investigator = served as the Principal Investigator on a previously DoD-funded grant (within the last seven years)

* Seven-year timeframe = FY12 - FY19

Applicant/Principal Investigator = not served as the Principal Investigator on a previously DoD-funded grant

A person who previously received DoD-funding through a sub-award or served as a co-PI/key personnel/other on a previously DoD-funded award must apply as the Applicant/Principal Investigator.
DEPSCoR Outreach

DEPSCoR is unique due to the DoD research enterprise structure and eligibility criteria.
THANK YOU

https://basicresearch.defense.gov/Pilots/DEPSCoR-Defense-Established-Program-to-Stimulate-Competitive-Research/

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