

SOLICITATION FOR PROPOSALS
FOR THE JOINT
NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION/
AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY



BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013 AWARDS (BAA13)
REGARDING NUCLEAR EXPLOSION MONITORING
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SOLICITATION NUMBER DE-SOL-0003766

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U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration

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This Solicitation and any Amendments are available via the Internet at:

www.fedconnect.net

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I. Solicitation Scope and Research Topics

A. Summary

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) hereafter referred to as the funding organizations, are jointly soliciting proposals for the research and development needs described herein. This Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) constitutes the actual solicitation for this requirement as publicly synopsisized with a Notice of Interest posted on February 29, 2012, at Fedbizopps.gov. The solicitation is posted at FedConnect (www.fedconnect.net), and www.Fedbizopps.gov. The BAA closes and proposals are due on May 23, 2012.

The funding organizations invite proposals for research and development (R&D) to improve national capabilities to detect, locate and identify nuclear explosions. The NNSA Office of Nuclear Detonation Detection (NA-222) within the Office of Nonproliferation and Verification Research and Development (NA-22) has the responsibility to apply the broad base of U.S. expertise that has been acquired in testing nuclear weapons and support disciplines to improve national capabilities to detect, locate and identify nuclear explosions and to provide cost-effective technologies, algorithms, hardware, and software to U.S. government agencies that are responsible for nuclear explosion monitoring. The AFRL executes Department of Defense (DoD) R&D related to nuclear explosion monitoring. Research products developed under this solicitation shall support Air Force requirements for improving nuclear explosion monitoring capabilities, NNSA nuclear nonproliferation initiatives and U.S. verification needs. The Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC), is the U.S. government agency serving as the U.S. National Data Center, and is responsible for operation of the U.S. nuclear explosion monitoring systems.

The objective of this solicitation is to enhance U.S. capabilities in nuclear explosion monitoring primarily with ground-based systems. Capability enhancement will be achieved through advances in the state-of-the-art for nuclear explosion monitoring, basic and applied research that enhances understanding of the underlying phenomena, developing new methods of tackling monitoring problems, or gathering new data for use in nuclear explosion monitoring. Proposals that enhance U.S. capabilities that also benefit the international monitoring capabilities in the context of preparations for a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty may be submitted.

Proposals must be submitted to receive an award. The funding organizations reserve the right to determine the type of award instrument to use, and which is appropriate to the scope of work. In general, contracts are used when definitive products, hardware, or software will be delivered, when there is extensive coordination and direction required from the government during the execution of the Statement of Work, or when the deliverables directly contribute to a specific government program. We anticipate most awards from this solicitation to be contracts.

Responses are requested from responsible organizations (foreign and domestic) including those from private industry, academic institutions, research institutions and non-profit organizations. The funding organizations are strong advocates for the small business community and interested small businesses, small business-lead teams, and joint ventures that qualify as small businesses are especially encouraged to submit proposals under this BAA. Federal agencies may submit proposals subject to appropriations language, but may not partner with Federally Funded Research Development Centers (FFRDCs) in order to not violate Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) FAR 35.017 (a) (2), which prohibits competition with the private sector. Similarly, FFRDCs, including

the NNSA national laboratories, cannot directly respond to this solicitation as prime/lead contractors, but can participate in this solicitation as subcontractors or team members. For-profit organizations that respond to this notice should indicate whether or not they are a small business, a socially and economically disadvantaged business, or a woman-owned business. Educational institutions that respond to this solicitation should indicate if they are Historically Black Colleges or Universities or Minority Institutions. Offerors are to be registered in Central Contractor Registration (CCR) at <http://www.ccr.gov/>.

Awards under this solicitation are subject to the availability of funds. It is estimated that 5 to 10 awards will be made under this solicitation, but the exact number of awards is unknown. Due to anticipated low funding availability, low-cost proposals, focused on validation or proof-of-concept, have increased programmatic value. Acceptance of a proposal for evaluation does not obligate the funding organizations to make an award. The funding organizations reserve the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all or none of the proposals submitted in response to this solicitation. Other Federal funding organizations may join this BAA action and award funding instruments based on proposals submitted in response to this BAA action. The funding organizations do not intend to conduct discussions, but may do so at their discretion.

B. Nuclear Explosion Monitoring Research and Development Background

The funding organizations invite proposals for nuclear explosion monitoring research and development under Solicitation Number DE-SOL-0003766. NNSA's Office of Nuclear Detonation Detection (NA-222) within the Office of Nonproliferation and Verification Research and Development (NA-22) is managing this solicitation in partnership with the other funding organizations. The Threat Detection Section of the Battlespace Surveillance Innovation Center of the Space Vehicles Directorate is managing this solicitation for AFRL. This solicitation requires proposals to be submitted electronically, as explained in the Section III. B. "Electronic Submission of Proposals".

C. Technical Scope and Research Topics

Individual proposals should be directed to only one of the topic sub-areas described below, but the Offeror may submit proposals in more than one topic sub-area. All topic sub-areas are of importance. However, depending on the proposals received and programmatic needs, funding may not be distributed evenly among the topic sub-areas.

Research is sought in the following topic areas:

TOPIC 1: Seismic Source Physics: Local and Regional Monitoring and Discrimination

TOPIC 2: Infrasound Source Physics and Propagation

TOPIC 3: Seismic Signal Propagation

TOPIC 4: Signal Analysis

TOPIC 5: Synthetic Seismograms

Topic 1: Seismic Source Physics: Local and Regional Monitoring and Discrimination

Proposals are sought that would produce new understanding of the properties of small seismic events and their seismic waveforms at local (200 km or less) and regional (2,000 km or less) distances. Of interest are: innovative methods of event detection and location that are appropriate for local events; methods for estimating yields of seismic events recorded at local distances with low

uncertainty; new methods for discriminating explosions from earthquakes that have a firm physical and statistical basis; methods that can discriminate chemical from nuclear explosions; and the physics of small seismic events, including the effects of emplacement conditions, such as depth, scaled depth, near source topography, and source media properties including heterogeneity. A subject of interest, closely tied to Topics 3a and 3b, is the impact on source characterization of the development, evolution, and stability of seismic phases as they propagate to local and regional distances through laterally-varying structures, including the effects of 3-D scattering.

Topic 2: Infrasound Source Physics and Propagation

Proposals that enhance capabilities to distinguish above ground, partially buried, and fully contained explosions are of interest. Because propagation is considered the largest and most poorly understood cause of infrasound amplitude variability, proposals are sought that characterize the effect of propagation on the distribution of infrasound amplitudes from seismo-acoustic sources with known signatures. Studies that provide predictive capability for propagation effects on infrasound amplitudes and their uncertainties, and physical understanding of the dependence of the predictive capability on the details of atmospheric models are of particular interest. Regarding proposals using repeating sources, preference will be given to those that include measurements at the source and that are well-recorded in distance and azimuth over multiple regions of the Earth and over all seasons. Understanding and prediction of propagation effects out to 1000 km, and especially within the zone of silence, are of particular interest. Understanding of other propagation effects that affect detection, location, and identification is also of some interest. Modeling and experimental studies focused on source generation are not being solicited at this time.

Topic 3: Seismic Signal Propagation

3a. Attenuation Models: Proposals are sought to develop local and regional attenuation models, with emphasis on their ability to match observed amplitudes of Pn, Pg, Sn, and Lg phases, their codas, and surface waves. A question of particular interest is whether shear phases will be seen above the P coda over a particular path and at what distances and useful frequency range. Proposals to develop new methods for measuring attenuation, to estimate uncertainty (confidence, resolution, and variance) in attenuation models and predicted amplitudes, and to develop models that fit multiple datasets (e.g. body wave and surface wave amplitudes), are of interest.

3b. Velocity Models: Proposals are sought that develop advanced models of the Earth's velocity structure that will improve location capability. Priority will be given to studies of poorly calibrated regions within Eurasia. Of particular interest are: new techniques of determining 3-D, spatially variable velocity models; new techniques for building models by fitting multiple datasets, especially of different types of data; techniques to estimate the uncertainty in geophysical models and assess the tradeoffs between different parameters of the models, as well as the uncertainty (confidence, resolution, and variance) in predicted observables, such as travel times; new techniques for determining velocity structure in aseismic regions; studies that compare different methods to show their strengths and weaknesses; and models that can predict structural effects on seismic amplitudes at 1 Hz and higher as well as travel times.

3c. Location and Discrimination Ground Truth: Proposals are sought for collection of ground truth at a GT5 level (absolute location and depth errors less than 5 kilometers) or better in uncalibrated or very poorly calibrated areas. Studies that generate new discrimination ground truth events, along with source geometry and other characterizing information are sought. Calibration of regional coda magnitude is of interest. Improved techniques for event location using models and/or ground truth at local, regional or near-teleseismic distances, particularly methods that use more than a single type of data jointly are of interest. Techniques for accurately predicting P-wave travel times from surface wave based models are of interest. Robust estimation of uncertainty is an important consideration.

Topic 4: Signal Analysis

We seek new and innovative signal processing methods for data from local (less than 200 km) and regional (less than 2,000 km) distances that significantly lower the thresholds at which detection, location and identification functions can be performed at an acceptable false alarm rate. Methods that make use of more of the waveforms than simply arrival times and amplitudes are sought. Methods that make use of full waveforms, including waveform matching, are of particular interest. Studies should assess success and failure rates and the effect of less than perfect waveform matching. Estimating improvements in detection, including testing of detection processes using superposition of actual signals in increasing noise, is of interest. Tuning studies, either of specific arrays or of techniques in general, are not sought.

Topic 5: Synthetic Seismograms

Innovative methods of computing synthetic seismograms for local, regional, and near teleseismic distances are of interest. Some topics of particular interest are 3-D computations in large models, efficient methods for 2.5-D calculations, hybrid or approximate methods that have significant advantages over other methods, methods that calculate spectra or envelopes, and computations at frequencies of 1 Hz and higher.

*****END OF TOPICS*****

D. Teaming Considerations

Teaming with organizations of advanced technical and scientific competencies enhances programmatic value and is encouraged. Low-cost proposals focused on validation or proof-of-principle issues will enhance programmatic value. Teaming is an interesting way to add value; for example, teaming to facilitate integration of research products into the AFTAC Knowledge Base will enhance programmatic value. Teaming which results in training of graduate students (in particular university/industry teams working on real world problems with Ph.D. candidates) will enhance programmatic value. Programmatic value is one aspect of the selection criteria. Teaming may be proposed among organizations including those from universities, the private sector, Federal agencies, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), and other organizations. Federal agencies may submit proposals subject to appropriations language for the Fiscal Year (FY) for which awards will be made, but may not partner with FFRDCs in order to not violate the FAR [see FAR 35.017 (a)(2)] prohibition of competition with the private sector. One organization must be designated the lead organization and one individual from the lead organization must be designated as the lead principal investigator. The lead organization will be accountable for the full team effort and will be responsible for integration, management, and reporting for the team.

Proposals from teams should state the intended benefits of the teaming arrangement, particularly in terms of the proposed research product. The team, for merit review and product management purposes, should submit one integrated proposal, including one Technical Proposal. However, to effectively manage funding allocated to this solicitation, the funding organizations may choose to fund team members that are Federal agencies or FFRDCs directly through appropriate funding vehicles, such as Work for Others Agreements, Interagency Agreements, or NNSA Approved Funding Plan (AFP) Process, rather than through the team leader (i.e. through the prime contractor or prime financial assistance recipient). For this reason, the technical approach, deliverables, and costs must be clearly separable and delineated for each team member to allow separate funding of each Federal agency or FFRDC on the team. Although the funding organization

may choose to directly fund any federal agency or FFRDC team member, such team member's role in the team effort shall continue to be limited to that which is described in the statement of work for the prime award, and each team member shall continue to be subject to the direction and control of the team leader in accordance with any applicable agreements between the funding organization, the team leader, and the FFRDC or Federal Agency. Team leaders shall continue to be responsible for the conduct and outcome of the overall project. Refer to Section II for more detail on team proposal requirements. The lead organization will be responsible for awarding subcontracts to team members who are not Federal agencies or FFRDCs.

Under this solicitation, FFRDCs, including the NNSA national laboratories, can only participate as team members. FFRDCs, including the NNSA national laboratories, will be accessible to any lead organization wishing to discuss teaming arrangements, and will equally evaluate and accommodate all requests for teaming arrangements.

1. Participation by Federally Funded Research and Development Centers

FFRDCs are not eligible for a prime contract award under this solicitation, but they may be proposed as a team member subject to the following guidelines:

Authorization for non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCs. The Federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the proposal. The use of a FFRDC must be consistent with the FFRDCs authority under its contract and must not place the FFRDC in direct competition with the private sector per the FAR.

Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs. The DOE/NNSA Site Office Contracting Officer for the participating FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of a DOE/NNSA FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the proposal. The following wording is acceptable for this authorization.

“Authorization is granted for the _____ Laboratory to participate in the proposed project. The work proposed for the laboratory is consistent with or complimentary to the missions of the laboratory, will not adversely impact execution of the DOE assigned programs at the laboratory, and will not place the laboratory in direct competition with the domestic private sector.”

The FFRDC effort shall not approach or exceed 50% of the total effort. The intent of the FAR is that the FFRDC may not play more than a minor role in the teaming arrangement and work effort.

2. Responsibility

The offeror, if successful, will be the responsible authority regarding the settlement and satisfaction of all contractual and administrative issues, including but not limited to disputes and claims, arising out of any agreement between the offeror and the FFRDC.

E. Performance Period

The performance period will begin after selection and award (planned for early in the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2013) and will be between 1 and 3 years. (See Section V.A, “Award and Notification.”)

II. Proposal Requirements

A. Proposal Preparation Requirements

Proposal information is requested to be submitted in four volumes. The information content of each volume is used in different parts of the acquisition process and facilitates different tasks. Volume 1/Proposal Summary is used for accounting and identification purposes in a variety of ways. The top level cost information in Volume 1 is the primary cost information used during the merit review. Volume 2/Technical Proposal is used for the technical merit review and is evaluated according to Criteria 1-4 [see Section IV.B for definitions]. Also, the section in Volume 2c is the starting point for Statements of Work for successful offerors. Volume 3/Cost Proposal and Volume 4/Business Management Proposal are not part of the merit review but are available reference material to the Source Evaluation Board in their ranking discussions. The primary purpose of Volume 3 and 4 is to provide the detailed information needed by the procurement process of those few proposals that are selected by the Source Evaluation Board to go to negotiations. SEB consideration of Criteria 5 draws on information primarily from Volumes 1 and 2 but also draws on information in Volumes 3 and 4 as necessary.

The Proposal must contain the following information by volume (see Section III.B “Electronic Submission of Proposals”).

1. Volume 1/Proposal Summary

The following information must be included in Volume 1/Proposal Summary:

- a. Statement that the document is a Proposal;
- b. Solicitation Number;
- c. Topic/subtopic number that the proposal is submitted under;
- d. Proposal Title;
- e. Statement of whether or not proposal was submitted to last year’s BAA;
- f. Name and address of Lead Institution;
- g. Full Name (including title and middle initial), mailing address, telephone number, electronic mail address of Lead Principal Investigator;
- h. Full Name (including title and middle initial), mailing address, telephone number, electronic mail address of Lead Institution Contract Administrator point of contact;
- i. Name(s) of Team Organizations;
- j. Full Name(s) (including title and middle initial), mailing address, telephone(s), email(s) of Principal Investigator(s) of Team Organizations;
- k. Full Name (including title and middle initial), mailing address, telephone number, electronic mail address of Proposal Preparer;
- l. Any concerns regarding the use of non-Government reviewers during the review process;
- m. Summary table showing total proposed costs and costs by year for lead organization and for each team member;
- n. Total equipment costs and first year’s equipment costs;
- o. Submission date, proposed period of performance, offer acceptance period;
- p. Indicate if the Lead Institution is a Historically Black College or University or Minority Institution;
- q. State if proposal contains any proprietary information, see Section II.B.3;

- r. Indicate if the Lead Institution is a small business, a socially and economically disadvantaged small business, or a woman-owned small business;
- s. Statement of whether or not use of IRIS PASSCAL seismic equipment is proposed; and
- t. Abstract: a brief (350 words or less) summary of the proposal that succinctly states the major technical deliverable(s) intended from the proposed work.

2. Volume 2/Technical Proposal

The Technical Proposal should comply with the following rules. Proposals are to be formatted for 8.5 x 11-inch paper with 1-inch margins in type not smaller than 12 point. The Technical Proposal length shall not exceed 30 single-spaced pages. For a proposal that contains a Technical Proposal that exceeds the applicable page limit, only the first 30 pages of the Technical Proposal will be used for evaluation purposes. The Technical Proposal should have any proprietary data clearly identified and separable as described under Section II.B.3 “Proprietary Proposal Information”. The Technical Proposal should specifically address the Evaluation Criteria in Section IV.B of this Solicitation.

Do not attach imbedded electronic files, such as movies, which require large areas of file space. These types of electronic files that are included with your submission are unlikely to be reviewed and may even be deleted prior to being uploaded to servers in order to conserve file space.

The Technical Proposal is comprised of the following components:

- a. Technical Proposal Identifier Information and Abstract (approx. 1 page). The technical proposal identifier information must repeat key information from Volume 1, specifically,
 - Solicitation Number;
 - Topic Number;
 - Proposal Title;
 - Statement of whether or not the proposal was submitted to last year’s BAA
 - Name of Lead Institution;
 - Name, mailing address, telephone number, and electronic mail address of Lead Principal Investigator;
 - Name(s) of Team Organizations;
 - Name(s), mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and electronic mail addresses of Principal Investigator(s) of Team Organizations;
 - Statement whether or not use of IRIS PASSCAL seismic equipment is proposed;
 - Statement of Equipment to be purchased, if any, and purpose for equipment; and
 - Abstract: a brief (350 words or less) summary of the proposal that succinctly states the major technical deliverable(s) intended from the proposed work. If this proposal is a resubmission of a prior year proposal, please state what improvements were made to the proposal (e.g., to address previous review comments).
 - Add the following as a footer to all pages of Volume 2/Technical Proposal:

“This proposal shall be used and disclosed for evaluation purposes only, and a copy of this Government notice shall be applied to any reproduction or abstract thereof. Any authorized restrictive notices which the submitter places on this proposal shall also be strictly complied with. Disclosure of this proposal outside the Government for evaluation purposes shall be made only to the extent authorized.”

b. Technical Narrative (approx. 15 – 20 pages). The technical narrative is to provide a detailed description of the proposed research, including the research objectives, the methodology and approaches for accomplishing those objectives, the anticipated results of the research, the value of these results to enhancing U.S. national security, the relevance of the proposed research and anticipated results to the program objectives stated in Section I.C, “Technical Scope and Research Topics.” It should describe the purpose of the research, provide a review of previous and ongoing work, and identify any technical issues that need to be solved.

The technical narrative should be written as a clear, concise statement of the work proposed and specifically address review Criteria 1-4 (see Section IV.B): Mission Relevance, Overall Scientific and Technical Merit, Achievability, and Uniqueness. Regarding the Relevance to Mission section, a clear statement of how the work proposed will improve national capabilities and advance national technical means to detect, locate and identify nuclear explosions will help reviewers know that the offeror has focused the research on what is important. Any proposal that is to improve the international capabilities associated with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty must state how such international improvement benefits the U.S. national security. Similarly, to facilitate review of the Overall Scientific and Technical Merit section, a concise and clear description of the methods, approach, possible sources of error, and validation of research results (if appropriate) will provide evidence to the reviewer that the offeror understands the technical approach being proposed. It may be appropriate to include information that offeror considers obvious, to avoid the possibility of a reviewer down-rating the proposal because information (e.g. particularly the statement of the method of statistical validation) was omitted. In the section on Achievability, proposals should explain why the research proposed is likely to be successful in producing useful results. The discussion of Uniqueness section should provide evidence about whether or not the research proposed would duplicate or complement other research. This section should also state which other “calls for proposals” the ideas in this proposal have been submitted to in whole or in part.

The narrative includes any tables, figures, and references. Facilities, equipment and other resources of the offeror that will be used in the performance of the proposed research should be described. Any proposed usage of PASSCAL equipment must be explicitly detailed. Any collaborators are to be identified. Proposals from teams should state the intended benefits of the teaming arrangement.

c. Work Plan and Schedule (approx. 4 – 6 pages). This component provides a prose description of the work breakdown structure for the project. What the Government is attempting to accomplish with this proposal component is to have the offeror provide an almost contract-ready Statement of Work. The research objectives are to be identified along with the major tasks that must be completed to accomplish the stated objectives; including their duration with projected start and end dates. Each task is to be divided into its subordinate subtasks and associated key decision points (milestones) and specify which team organization participates in each task. Include a table of tasks versus time (in weeks or quarters).

Deliverables and their due dates are to be identified separately by task. Deliverables include reports, data, hardware, software, and documentation, as applicable. For team proposals, the lead organization’s technical proposal is to distinguish the technical role and contributions of each team member. The offeror should plan on attending and fully participating in the annual program review(s), including paper preparation and submission, and travel. Any other proposed travel such as attending a professional society meeting, meeting with the Product Integrator, or any international travel must also be listed including a statement of purpose and value to the US government for the travel.

d. Key Personnel. The proposal must identify all key senior personnel involved in the project. The proposal must include curricula vitae (background and experience information including a list of relevant publications, if any) of the principal investigator and other key personnel. Any changes to key personnel during the project will need the concurrence of the appropriate funding organization's Contracting Officer.

3. Volume 3/Cost Proposal

The Cost Proposal includes a statement of the offeror's costs to perform the proposed work. The costs should be commensurate with the proposed tasks.

The Cost Proposal must include detailed supporting cost schedules and breakdowns for the phases identified in the proposed Technical Approach by task and subtask, and include yearly cost information with written justification for each cost item, especially items of equipment.

All facilities, equipment, and supplies needed to implement the proposed research must be identified in the cost proposal and must specify whether the dollars requested cover purchase, rental, or borrowing of each item. Any facilities, equipment, or any other non-monetary resources that are required of the Government must be itemized. Any intention of borrowing equipment from the IRIS PASSCAL Equipment Center must be made explicitly in the proposal.

Direct labor costs and associated fringe are to be provided for each proposed labor category. Travel costs are to be itemized by airfare, local travel, per diem and miscellaneous expenses per traveler per destination. The purpose of the trip(s) must also be included. Overhead rates, fees (if applicable), and taxes are also to be specified. Sufficient costs should be proposed to cover appropriate travel costs including, but not limited to, the annual program review(s) (e.g., <http://www.monitoringresearchreview.com>), other program reviews, coordination meetings with NNSA Product Integrators, and fieldwork.

Separate cost proposals should be submitted for each research organization including the lead organization and each member on the team.

If a proposal is selected and a cost reimbursement contract will be awarded, the cost proposal may require revision to meet the requirements of FAR 15.408, Table 15-2, "Instructions for Submitting Cost/Price Proposals when Cost or Pricing Data are Required."

4. Volume 4/Business Management Proposal

The Business Management Proposal consists of administrative forms and certifications. All administrative forms are available electronically as file attachments to this solicitation as described in Section III.B.4, "Forms". The following Business Management Proposal requirements apply only for the lead organization. Business Management Proposal information for federal agencies or FFRDCs is not required.

The Business Management Proposal must include the following:

- a. Standard Form SF-33, Solicitation, Offer and Award.
- b. Negotiated indirect rate information. Please provide the name of the negotiating agency and point of contact with e-mail and/or telephone number, in addition to a copy of the latest approved rates from your cognizant federal agency.
- c. Representation, Certification, and Other Statements of Offeror (Reps & Certs): Required to register on the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) website at <https://orca.bpn.gov/>. (Funding organizations may require supplemental Reps & Certs after selection for negotiations leading to award.)
- d. Contract and Financial Assistance List: A list of current and pending government contracts and financial assistance agreements is to be provided by title, sponsoring agency, solicitation reference, and brief description.
- e. Past and Present Performance Information: Description/results of related past and present efforts during the past 5 years are to be provided along with points-of-contact/reference and contract numbers.
- f. NEPA Environmental Checklist Form (See Section II.B.5) is required from the Lead Organization only if the proposed work involves using explosives, energetic materials, or chemicals.

B. Other Proposal Preparation Factors

This section addresses other considerations and requirements or further explains proposal requirements.

1. Eligibility Requirements

Proposals must be: 1) signed by an individual who is authorized to commit the Proposing Organization; and 2) must commit the offeror Organization to comply with the terms and conditions of the award, if awarded. (Principal Investigators are not generally authorized to act for their institutions). FFRDCs, including the NNSA national laboratories, cannot respond to this solicitation as the prime/lead organization.

2. False Statements

Proposals must set forth full, accurate, and complete information as required by this solicitation. The penalty for making false statements is prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

3. Proprietary Proposal Information

Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation may in principle contain trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, which the offeror does not want used or disclosed for any purpose other than evaluation of the proposal. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted, provided the offeror marks the cover sheet (Volume 1/Proposals Summary) of the proposal with the following legend and specifies the pages of the proposal which are to be restricted in accordance with the conditions of the legend:

"The data contained on pages (specify) of this proposal have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this offeror receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this proposal, The funding organizations shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government's right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the offeror."

Further, to protect such data, each page containing such data must be specifically identified and marked, including each line or paragraph containing the data to be protected with a legend similar to the following:

"Use or disclosure of the data set forth above is subject to the restriction in Volume 1/Proposal Summary portion of this proposal."

It should be noted, however, that data bearing the aforementioned legend may be subject to release under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), if the funding agencies or a court determines that the material so marked is not exempt under the FOIA. The Government assumes no liability for disclosure or use of unmarked data and may use or disclose such data for any purpose. The offeror may request that proprietary information not be disclosed to non-Government reviewers. Such information should be clearly marked and separable, so that the information may be removed prior to submitting the proposal for review.

4. Proposal Preparation Costs

No funding will be available under the NNSA Minority Economic Impact (MEI) loan program for preparation of proposals in response to this solicitation. NNSA assumes no responsibility for any costs associated with the proposal preparation or submission of proposal if an Award is not made. If a contract is awarded, such costs may be allowable as provided in the applicable cost principles, the contractor's approved accounting system, and the FAR.

5. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements

Only proposals that propose work using explosive, energetic material, or chemicals must include an Environmental Checklist. For proposals with a teaming arrangement, only the lead offeror need complete an Environmental Checklist that covers the team's efforts. This checklist is to be completed at the time of proposal submission and be included in the Business Management Proposal as indicated in Section II.A.4. The Environmental Checklist consists of a series of questions designed to gather information in the following general areas as related to the proposed project: chemicals, waste generation, emissions, permitting, natural resources and any unique or controversial issues. The requested information will be used by the funding organizations to evaluate any potential impacts (positive and negative) on the environment and, accordingly, contain sufficient detail for each Agency to meet its requirements under NEPA.

Offerors are restricted from taking any irreversible action prior to the funding organizations reaching a final NEPA decision regarding the proposed project. Irreversible actions include demolition of existing buildings, site clearing, ground breaking, construction, and/or detailed design. This restriction, however, does not preclude the offeror from developing plans, preliminary designs, or performing other necessary support work prior to the funding organization reaching its final NEPA decision, provided the work has been authorized by the funding organization.

III. Proposal Submission Requirements

A. Overview

Proposals must be received prior to 5:00 PM Eastern Time (3:00 PM Mountain Time) on May 23, 2012. Proposals will be considered late and disqualified from consideration if any part of the proposal is submitted/time-stamped after the 5:00 PM Eastern Time (3:00 PM Mountain Time) on the deadline date.

Proposals must be submitted electronically using FedConnect in accordance with the instructions in Section III. B, "Electronic Submission of Proposals." Proposals submitted through any other method such as, the U.S. Postal Service, facsimile, telegraphically, courier companies, or hand-delivered hard copies will be considered non-responsive and will be disqualified from further consideration. Proposals will not be returned to the offerors. Proposals shall consist of four volumes: Volume 1/Proposal Summary, Volume 2/Technical Proposal, Volume 3/Cost Proposal, and Volume 4/Business Management Proposal, as described in this solicitation. No administrative or cost data shall be included in the Technical Proposal.

It is anticipated that research under this solicitation shall generally be unclassified. Some efforts, however, may be classified. Offerors for classified efforts may use up to five pages of the 30-page limit on the Technical Proposal for a classified annex, following appropriate classification guides. Since some of the guides are classified, personnel and facility clearances must accompany the request. Do not submit any classified information in FedConnect. To obtain instructions on the process for submission of classified proposals, such offerors may contact the Contracting Specialist. If classified information is required to be submitted as part of a proposal and that proposal is selected for negotiations leading to award, then that award must be a contract since financial assistance awards do not allow for the production of classified information.

The Proposal must contain the following information broken into volumes as described in Section III.B.1.

B. Electronic Submission of Proposals

Proposals must be submitted electronically through FedConnect, which is accessed online at: www.fedconnect.net. Offerors are advised to begin submission at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline in order to avoid any submission difficulties. FedConnect provides the medium for disseminating solicitations, receiving proposals, and awarding proposals in a paperless environment. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS BY MEANS OTHER THAN FedConnect IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

Individuals who have the authority to enter their institution into a legally binding contract/agreement and intend to submit proposals via FedConnect must register and receive confirmation that they are registered prior to being able to submit a proposal on FedConnect.

FedConnect Ready, Set, Go Guide

Use the following guide to assist you with FedConnect:

https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf

1. Registration Requirements.

To submit a proposal in response to this announcement, Offerors must be registered with FedConnect. Before you can register with FedConnect, you will need the following:

A. Your organization's DUNS (including plus 4 extension if applicable). If you don't know your organization's DUNS or if your organization does not have a DUNS, you can search for it or request one at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>.

B. A federal Central Contractor Registration (CCR) account. If your organization is not currently registered with CCR, please register at www.ccr.gov before continuing with your FedConnect registration.

C. Possibly, your organization's CCR Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN). If you are the first person from your organization to register, FedConnect will need to create an organization account. Only a person who knows your organization's CCR MPIN can do this. To find out who this is in your organization, go to <http://www.ccr.gov/> and click Search CCR. Once you've found your organization, locate the Electronic Business Point of Contact.

After the initial FedConnect account is created, employees can register themselves without the MPIN. If you are not sure whether your organization has an account with FedConnect, complete the registration form and FedConnect will let you know if your organization is registered. (PLEASE REFER TO THE FEDCONNECT READY, SET, GO GUIDE).

Applicants who are not registered with CCR and FedConnect, should allow at least 21 days to complete these requirements. It is suggested that the process be started as soon as possible. For those Applicants already registered in CCR, the CCR registration must be updated annually at <http://www.ccr.gov/Renew.aspx>.

There may be a waiting period between registration and the acceptance of registration. Offerors are strongly encouraged to register with FedConnect as soon as possible after receipt of this solicitation. Submission of electronic proposals via FedConnect will constitute submission of signed copies of the required documents. The name of the authorized company official shall be entered (typed) in the appropriate space shown on the form(s) (e.g., Block 17 of SF-33). Subcontractor submissions of proprietary information may (i) register in FedConnect and submit their information separately identifying in the subject line, the solicitation number and to whom they are a subcontractor; or (ii) provide a password protected document (file) to the prime and share the password with the Contract Specialist. Regardless of the option chosen, the subcontractor proposal must adhere to the proposal due date/time stated in the solicitation. See "Tips for Electronic Proposal Submission through FedConnect" below (Section III.B.3.) for contact information, guidance, and instructions on using FedConnect.

Proposals must be submitted as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file, a Microsoft Word file, or a Microsoft Excel file via FedConnect in accordance with the instructions outlined in this solicitation and the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go Guide identified above. However, the Technical Proposal (Volume 2) must also be submitted as a Microsoft Word file.

ALL PROPOSALS MUST HAVE A FEDCONNECT SUBMISSION TIME STAMP PRIOR TO 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME (3:00 P.M. MOUNTAIN TIME) ON THE DUE DATE.

2. Submission Instructions

Review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go Guide identified above before you compile and upload your proposal documents. Questions pertaining to the submission of proposals through FedConnect should be directed by e-mail to support@FedConnect.net or by phone to FedConnect Support at 1-800-899-6665.

Proposals must be complete and all documents must be submitted in one session prior to 5:00PM Eastern Time (3:00PM Mountain Time) on the due date. Failure to complete the transmission of all documents in one session prior to the deadline will result in an incomplete proposal. FedConnect cannot combine partial proposals so incomplete proposals are disqualified from further consideration. Offerors may combine the documents for a specific volume into one file provided that file contains only those documents required for that volume. Documents and forms may also be submitted as individual files. Proposals must be filed as an “Acquisition” and proposal documents must be “saved as” Volume 1/Proposal Summary, Volume 2/Technical Proposal, etc... and uploaded as follows:

Volume 1/Proposal Summary:
(See Section II.A.1)
Proposal Summary Information

Volume 2/Technical Proposal:
(See Section II.A.2)
Technical Proposal Identifying Information & Abstract
Technical Narrative
Work Plan and Schedule
Key Personnel

Volume 3/Cost Proposal:
(See Section II.A.3 and Section V. D)
Cost Proposal on Excel spreadsheets
Cost Proposal Justification
Equipment (if requested by offeror, include statement of purpose)
Program travel requirements below (include a breakout of costs for travel)
Annual Program Review with funding organization
Annual Meeting with Product Integrator (may be dual purpose with travel to MRR)
Annual Monitoring Research Review (MRR) [if MRR is cancelled for any reason funds may be used to attend professional society meetings or other meetings with the sponsor or Product Integration]

Volume 4/Business Management Proposal:
(See Section II.A.4)
Solicitation, Offer and Award (SF-33)
Negotiated indirect rate information (from cognizant federal agency)
Representations and Certifications (Reps & Certs):
(Required to register if selected for an award to the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) website at <https://orca.bpn.gov/>)
(Funding organizations may require supplemental Reps & Certs after selection for negotiations leading to award.)
Contract and Financial Assistance List

Past and Present Performance Information
 NEPA Environmental Checklist (if required)
 Travel Summary
 Equipment Quotes and Specifications

If you make an error uploading files, log out of FedConnect and start over. You must resubmit the entire proposal. See below further instructions on resubmitting proposals.

3. Amendments and Withdrawal of Proposals

Corrections and Changes: Proposals cannot be altered once they have been submitted to FedConnect. Offerors are required to resubmit an entire proposal package when making any change. Failure to resubmit a full proposal package including all required documents will result in an incomplete proposal. Contractors who wish to have a proposal corrected or changed should submit a request directly to FedConnect Support prior to the response due date/time in writing via e-mail (support@FedConnect.net). FedConnect Support will remove the entire proposal. Changes and corrections cannot be accepted after the closing date and time.

Removing Proposals: If you wish to withdraw or make any change to your proposal, the individual who submitted the proposal must make a written request to FedConnect Support as stated above. The request must include the submitter's name, organization, title of the proposal, and the date and time the proposal was submitted. The entire original proposal will be removed. The entire replacement proposal, if any, must be resubmitted.

Duplicate Submissions: In the event an offeror submits two or more proposals with the same title, the proposal with the latest date and time stamp is the proposal that will be accepted. It is not possible to combine submissions. Please follow the guidance above for removing incorrect proposals so that duplicate proposals are not processed in FedConnect.

4. Tips for Electronic Proposal Submission through FedConnect

Refer to the "FedConnect Ready, Set, Go Guide" at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf. The Guide provides instructions for registering, managing your profile, searching for opportunities, creating a response, receiving an award, sending and receiving messages, managing users, and quick answers. If you need additional assistance after reviewing the Guide, please contact FedConnect Support as noted below.

FedConnect Support: Phone: 1-800-899-6665
 E-mail: support@FedConnect.net

5. Forms

All applicable forms available for this solicitation are included as file attachments to this solicitation. These forms are in writable PDF, MS Word, and MS Excel formats and include:

- a. Standard Form 33, Solicitation, Offer and Award.
- b. Cost Proposal Instructions.

- c. Standard Form 328, List of foreign nationals planned to be supported by this effort at the time of submission and Certificate Pertaining to Foreign Interests.
- d. NEPA Environmental Checklist Form (See Section II.B.5) is required from the Lead Organization only if the proposed work involves using explosives, energetic materials, or chemicals.

6. Preparing Your Submission

Register Early: If you and your contracting or grants office have not already done so, register in FedConnect. The individual(s) in your organization who have the authority to enter the institution in a legally binding contract or agreement will need to register, as they are the ones who are required to submit the final proposal into FedConnect. We strongly recommend all parties register at least two weeks prior to the closing date. Registration confirmation can take some time. Do not wait until the closing date to begin this process.

7. Submitting Your Proposal

Transmit Early: Do not wait until the last minute. Submit your proposal into FedConnect at least 48 hours prior to the deadline. If you encounter any submission problems, connectivity issues, etc. you may or may not have time to work them out before the solicitation closes. Proposals will not be able to transmit after the submission deadline.

FedConnect will provide confirmation of a successful submission. If you encounter difficulties uploading your files, contact FedConnect Support for assistance.

8. Questions

Questions concerning this solicitation must be submitted through FedConnect. You must register with FedConnect to submit questions and to receive responses to questions. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the announcement as possible to have the benefit of all responses. More information is available at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf.

Questions will be accepted from April 23 – May 4, 2012. Responses to questions will be posted through FedConnect by May 14, 2012. We may respond publicly to any message you send, so be sure not to include any proprietary information. To submit a question, follow the instructions in the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go Guide identified above.

9. Amendments to the Solicitation

Amendments will only be placed on FedConnect. Hard copies will not be mailed. Offerors are responsible for monitoring FedConnect (www.fedconnect.net) and www.fedbizopps.gov for the release of any amendments and information. NNSA reserves the right to extend the closing date for Proposals, if necessary.

IV. Proposal Evaluation

A. Review Process

A merit review process by subject matter experts will accomplish the merit review. The review and evaluation process will be conducted jointly by the funding organizations.

Multiple on-line reviewers will evaluate proposals from June 25 – August 3, 2012, then the Merit Review Panels will meet August 28 -31, 2012, to objectively evaluate the proposals on its own merit against the Evaluation Criteria 1-4 described in Section IV.B. The on-line and panel merit reviewers will consist of experts from academic institutions, private industry, FFRDCs, Air Force, NNSA, and/or other Government personnel. Non-Government evaluators are only advisors to the SEB. Finally, a Source Evaluation Board (SEB), which consists solely of Government personnel, will meet October 4, 2012, in line with the goal of making awards as early as possible in fiscal year 2013. The SEB will conduct the technical evaluation by evaluating the Technical Proposals according to all five Evaluation Criteria described in Section IV.B before making their recommendations for negotiation. The funding organizations will determine which proposals will be accepted by each funding organization, with recommendations from the SEB.

The Government reserves the right to determine which funding organization funds which proposal.

Note: Non-Government evaluators may be used for reviewing the Technical Proposals. Non-Government evaluators are only advisors to the SEB. All reviewers are required to sign statements prior to reviewing a proposal attesting to no conflict-of-interest and non-disclosure or personal use of proposal/proprietary information. If the offeror has any concerns regarding the use of non-Government reviewers they should indicate their reasons for such concerns on the cover page. Additional questions or concerns may be directed to the Contract Specialist.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The criteria against which proposals will be reviewed are: Mission Relevance; Overall Scientific and Technical Merit; Achievability; Uniqueness; and Management Plan and Budget taking into account Programmatic Balance & Value and Present & Past Performance. These criteria are detailed below.

1. Mission Relevance – Will the results improve National capabilities by advancing national technical means to detect, locate and identify nuclear explosions? What is the improvement over existing capabilities or capabilities under development?

2. Overall Scientific and Technical Merit – Does the proposed work advance the state-of-the-art of science and technology?

3. Achievability – What is the likelihood the research is achievable as proposed in pursuit of the stated mission objective? The qualifications, capabilities, and experience of the principal investigator, team leader, and key personnel as well as corporate capabilities and relevant experience will factor into this assessment.

4. Uniqueness – To what extent is the proposed work unique? Alternatively or in addition, does the proposed work complement and/or corroborate (confirm work that is uncertain) other ongoing or completed work? Is the proposed work duplicative (repeats without adding value) of ongoing or completed work? Specify any tasks that could strengthen the proposal if deleted because they duplicate ongoing or completed work or “reinvent the wheel”.

5. Management Plan and Budget taking into account Programmatic Balance & Value and Present & Past Performance – Are the budget and management plan reasonable?

The on-line and panel merit review will be based on Criteria 1-4, which are listed in descending order of importance. Criteria 1, 2, and 3 individually are significantly more important than Criterion 4.

The source evaluation board will evaluate the proposals against all five evaluation criteria. The combined evaluation of Criteria 1-4 is significantly more important than Criterion 5.

It is anticipated that the budget, which includes cost and pricing of this action will be based on adequate price competition. However, in-depth price or cost analysis will be conducted after selection prior to negotiation leading to award. The evaluation factors other than cost or price, when combined, are significantly more important than cost or price.

Past performance is taken into account but is not a separate evaluation criteria. In general, past performance will not be evaluated since research requires the contractor to push the edge of scientific and technological knowledge and the requirements of the contract may involve work that has never before been attempted. Under these circumstances, there is not likely to be past "similar" circumstances against which to compare. Description of relevant prior work is requested in the BAA to provide information relating to the experience of the offeror in the various topic areas.

Applicable to NNSA Awards Only: NNSA intends to optimize awards to small businesses, small business lead teams, and joint ventures that qualify as small businesses. NNSA reserves the right to give preference to small businesses in the event the merit review outcomes contain equivalent ratings received by small business and large business/educational institution within the same topic area for the purpose of NNSA contract award.

C. Disclosure of Access to Contractor Technical and Financial Information Beyond Government Employees

The Air Force Research Laboratory, Space Vehicles Directorate, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, have entered into contracts with Universal Technologies Corporation, CC&G Company, LLC and Corporate Allocation Services, Inc., and Boston College Institute for Scientific Research, for services to provide technical, strategic planning and administrative support. All service contracts contain an organizational conflict of interest clause that requires the service contractor to protect data and prohibits the service contractor from using the data for any purpose other than that for which the data was presented.

The NNSA Office of Nuclear Detonation Detection (NA-222) in Washington, D.C. and the NNSA in Albuquerque, New Mexico, have contractor support personnel that provide technical and administrative assistance to the government program/project managers. The employers of these support personnel are Westech International, and Los Alamos National Security, LLC. In the

performance of their duties they have full access to funding information as well as for Official Use Only (OUO). A non-disclosure agreement is in force for each individual.

V. Negotiation, Award, and Post-Award Requirements

A. Award and Notification

It is anticipated that selection decisions will be made during the first or second quarter of Fiscal Year 2013.

Written decision notifications will also be provided to the offerors. For successful proposals, written notification will be made by the funding organization. For unsuccessful proposals, NNSA will provide written notification. Unsuccessful proposals will be retained by the Government and will not be returned to unsuccessful offerors. After the decisions are announced, unsuccessful offerors may request a debriefing on an unsuccessful proposal to obtain more information on its strengths and weaknesses. A debriefing does not allow a proposal to be re-reviewed.

In addition, proposals selected to begin negotiations will be posted within three weeks of completion of the selection process at the NNSA/NA-22 Announcements website <https://na22.nnsa.doe.gov/cgi-bin/prod/coord/index.cgi?Page=Proposals> .

B. Award Instrument

1. Contracts

The funding organizations will comply with the applicable Federal Statues, Executive Orders, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars, in addition to agency-specific regulations. The resulting awards will incorporate the appropriate contract clauses, as applicable. Pursuant to DEAR 935.070, the regulations at 10 C.F.R. Part 733 regarding research misconduct will apply to the NNSA award(s).

2. Financial Assistance

In the event that a determination is made that award as a Financial Assistance Instrument is more appropriate, then additional forms will be required and recipients and sub-recipients of Financial Assistance shall comply with the applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 600, Federal Statues, the OMB Circulars, and other Government-wide guidance implementing 10 CFR Part 600; and the requirements identified in Appendix A of 10 CFR Part 600. Appropriate provisions will be incorporated into any resulting financial assistance instrument as determined by the Contracting Officer. A Technology Investment Agreement in accordance with 10 CFR Part 603 is a potential award instrument; however, it may be used only when no other type of contract or financial assistance instrument is feasible or appropriate.

C. Patents, Data, and Copyrights

Appropriate intellectual property provisions will be incorporated in any resulting agreement in accordance with appropriate regulations as determined by the status of the offeror organization and the particular project.

Intellectual property (patents, data, and copyrights) will be treated for NNSA awards in accordance with 48 CFR 52.227(-1 through -23), 48 CFR 952.227 (DEAR), and 48 CFR 27 (contracts) and 10 CFR 600 (financial assistance).

For AFRL awards, intellectual property will be treated in accordance with FAR 52.227-11 and DoD FAR Supplements.

D. Program Management Requirements

Funding Organization Program Management

The funding organization federal program managers may conduct periodic reviews of the contractor to monitor progress and ensure alignment with the objectives of the program.

1. Reporting Requirements

The following reports will be required:

Quarterly technical project status reports;
 Monthly invoicing with backup accounting ledger information;
 Annual technical progress report (e.g., MRR paper if appropriate); and
 Final technical report.

2. Coordination with Product Integrator

For all awards, the lead principal investigator will be assigned to work with an NNSA Product Integrator “subject matter expert” who will ensure that data and research products resulting from the proposal can be considered for integration into operationally useful products called Integrated Research Products (IRPs). IRPs may be input to the AFTAC Knowledge Base (see definitions), or otherwise transitioned to operations, as appropriate. Information about the Knowledge Base and the integration process can be found at <https://na22.nnsa.doe.gov/KnowledgeBase>. The product integrator will be specified upon award and can be looked up along with the specific award identification information at <https://na22.nnsa.doe.gov/cgi-bin/prod/coord/index.cgi?Page=AdvancedSearchAwards>.

Offerors should plan for at least annual meetings with the assigned Product Integrator to facilitate the appropriate integration of research products into the Knowledge Base or other IRPs. This meeting can be accomplished at the Monitoring Research Review (if there is one scheduled for that year) or may be a separate meeting(s).

3. Program Reviews

For proposal preparation purposes, two program reviews will be held per year.

One review may be the Monitoring Research Review (MRR) where the lead Principal Investigator will be required to prepare a paper and a poster presentation. The MRR is typically held in September alternating between the east and west coasts. The date and location for the MRR2012 is September 18-20, 2012 in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Information regarding the MRR can be found on <http://www.monitoringresearchreview.com>. The second review will be a smaller focused review (10-20 contracts) where the lead investigator will provide a summary of work in progress. For

proposal preparation purposes, it may be assumed the second review will be in the Albuquerque, NM area with the funding organization and will not require a conference fee.

4. Use of PASSCAL Instruments

Offerors who plan to use PASSCAL instruments should state in the proposal the instruments that will be requested and when they will be required.

5. Explosives/Energetic Experiments

Offerors who plan to conduct experiments with explosives or energetic devices should plan for activities and documentation to assure that experiments are well designed with design reviews held with all stakeholders, are coordinated with all stakeholders, are evaluated for NEPA/environmental issues, are in compliance with local requirements/permits, are conducted in a safe manner, and are conducted to not interfere/affect the operations of other already installed measurement/detection systems.

E. Other Requirements

1. NAICS and CDFFA

For Acquisition awards, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) applies. The NAICS code that applies to this solicitation is 541710. (See <http://www.naics.com>)

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this solicitation is 81.113, Nonproliferation and National Security Research. This information is provided for completion of block 10 of the Proposal for Federal Assistance, Standard Form 424, in the event any awards are made as Financial Assistance Instruments (See www.cfda.gov/).

2. Export Control

Awardees will be required to comply with U.S. regulations on export control. Additional information may be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (Formerly Bureau of Export Administration) at <http://www.bis.doc.gov/>.

3. Sub-Contracts to Debarred and Suspended Parties

Contractors, recipients, and participants, at any tier, must not make any subcontract or permit any subcontract to any party which is debarred, suspended, or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal Assistance and Acquisition programs under Executive Order 12549, "Debarment and Suspension" or is otherwise ineligible hereunder.

4. Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities

Eligible activities under this program include those which describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those that

encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.

5. Lobbying Restrictions

None of the funds obligated shall be made available for any activity or the publication or distribution of literature that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal on which Congressional action is not complete. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation.

6. Notice Regarding Purchase of American-Made Equipment and Products - Sense of Congress

It is the sense of the Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available should be American-made.

7. Compliance with Buy American Act

Compliance will be required with Sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 10a – 10d, popularly known as the “Buy American Act”). The offeror should review the provisions of the Act to ensure that expenditures made under an Award are in accordance with the Buy American Act.

8. Additional Information

Offerors are advised that only Contracting Officers are legally authorized to commit the Government. It is highly recommended that proposals contain a thoroughly realized technical approach with clear and descriptive narrative and a detailed cost breakdown with rationale for the proposed costs.

Awards by NNSA as a result of this solicitation will be administered by the NNSA Services Acquisition Branch Headquarters Team (NA-APM-124). Negotiation, award, and administration will be in accordance with 48 CFR Chapters 1 and 9 [Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation (DEAR)] if a contract is awarded. The FAR may be accessed at <http://www.acqnet.gov/far/>. The DEAR may be accessed at <http://management.energy.gov/DEAR.htm>. If a financial assistance instrument is awarded, it will be governed by the DOE financial assistance regulations at 10 CFR 600.

Awards by AFRL as a result of this solicitation will be administered by the AFRL, Space Vehicles Contracting Directorate, located at Kirtland AFB. Negotiation, award, and administration will be in accordance with FAR, DoD, and Air Force acquisition regulations.

VI. Solicitation Definitions

“Award” means the written documentation executed by a NNSA or AFRL Contracting Officer, after an offeror is selected, which contains the terms and conditions for providing a contract or financial assistance to the offeror(s).

“Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)” means a general announcement of an agency’s research interest including criteria for selecting proposals and soliciting the participation of all offerors capable of satisfying the Government’s needs (see FAR [6.102\(d\)\(2\)](#)).

“Budget” means the cost expenditure plan submitted in the Proposal, including both the funding organizations contribution and that provided by the offeror institution(s).

“Budget Period” means an interval of time, specified in the award, into which a project is divided for budgeting and funding purposes.

“CFDA” is the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. The CFDA provides information on Federal Assistance Programs. Information on Federal Grant Programs can be found at <http://www.cfda.gov>.

“Contract” means a mutually binding legal relationship obligating the seller (offeror) to furnish the supplies or services and the buyer (the Government) to pay for them. It includes all types of commitments that obligate the Government to an expenditure of appropriated funds and that, except as otherwise authorized, are in writing.

“Contracting Officer” means a person with the authority to enter into, administer, and/or terminate contracts and make related determinations and findings. The term includes certain authorized representatives of the contracting officer acting within the limits of their authority as delegated by the contracting officer.

“Export Control” refers to government rules and regulations that govern the transfer of commodities (equipment, hardware, or materiel), technologies (technical data, information, or assistance), and software (commercial or custom) to any non-U.S. entity or individual, wherever the transfer may take place.

“FedConnect” means the Internet based, electronic system used to submit proposals. (www.fedconnect.net)

“FFRDC” refers to a Federally Funded Research and Development Center such as the NNSA National Laboratories.

“Financial Assistance” means the transfer of money or property to a recipient or sub-recipient to accomplish a public purpose of support authorized by Federal Statute through Research Grants or Cooperative Agreements and sub-contracts. In NNSA, it does not include direct loans, loan guarantees, price agreements, purchase agreements, Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs), or any other type of financial incentive instrument.

“Key Personnel” mean the individuals who will have significant roles in planning and implementation of the proposed project.

“Knowledge Base” means the state-of-art computerized database of research products (primarily seismic) that are structured for operational use in the US National Data Center. Product integration from research to operations is a central thrust of the NNSA Ground-Based Nuclear Explosion Monitoring Research and Development Program and the Knowledge Base is instrumental in successful transitioning of research to operations. For more information see <https://na22.nnsa.doe.gov/KnowledgeBase>.

“Late Proposal Submission” means that if any part of the proposal submitted into the Strategic Integrated Procurement Enterprise System (STRIPES) was time-stamped after the submission deadline it will be disqualified from further consideration.

“Merit Review” means a thorough, consistent, and objective examination of proposals based on pre-established criteria by persons who are independent of those submitting the proposals and who are subject matter experts in the field of endeavor.

“Offeror” the term “Offeror” is synonymous with “Applicant”. Offeror as used in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and as applied to this solicitation means the university, company, government agency, or other organization committed to the execution of the proposed project under the direction of its Principal Investigator.

“Principal Investigator” as applied to proposals under this solicitation means the single individual responsible for the management of the proposal/project. In the case of teams, each organization will specify a principal investigator, with one principal investigator designated as the “lead.” The lead principal investigator will be from the organization designated the overall technical lead and will be accountable for the full team effort.

“Product Integrator” means the NNSA person assigned in an award to be responsible for facilitating integration of data and research results and products developed under awards from this solicitation into operational form for use by monitoring agencies.

“Project” means the set of activities described in a Proposal or other document that is approved by the funding organizations for financial assistance or a contract (whether such funding represents all or only a portion of the support necessary to carry out those activities).

“Project Period” means the total period of time indicated in an award during which NNSA expects to provide support contingent upon satisfactory progress and available funds. A Project Period may consist of one or more Budget Periods and may be extended by the funding organization.

“Proposal” means the documentation submitted in response to this solicitation.

“Recipient” or “Awardee” means the entity that receives an award from a funding organization and is financially accountable for the use of any Government funds provided for the performance of the project, and is legally responsible for carrying out the terms and conditions of the award.

“Subcontract” means any contract (See “Contract” above) entered into by a subcontractor to furnish supplies or services for performance of a prime contract or a subcontract.

“Solicitation” means any request to submit offers or quotations to the Government. As used in this document, “solicitation” is synonymous with “Broad Agency Announcement” or “BAA.”

“Teaming” means an arrangement in which two or more organizations work together on a proposal and subsequent award with one individual designated as the lead principal investigator responsible for the integration, management, and reporting for the team.