

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD)

FISCAL YEAR 2008

DEFENSE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE
RESEARCH (DEPSCoR)

Broad Agency Announcement No.: W911NF-07-R-0011

FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE:

Must be received no later than 4:00 PM Eastern Time
Friday, 26 October 2007

Army Research Office

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Office of Naval Research

In cooperation with the Office of
the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for
Laboratories and Basic Sciences

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

- **Agency Name(s)** - This Department of Defense program will be administered through the Army Research Office (ARO), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR).
- **Funding Opportunity Title** - Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR)
- **Announcement Type** - This is the initial announcement.
- **Funding Opportunity Number** - W911NF-07-R-0011
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s)** - 12.431, Basic Scientific Research (ARO)
- **Dates** - Proposals are due no later than 4:00 PM Eastern Time, Friday, 26 October 2007

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the fiscal year 2008 Department of Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR). The program is executed under the policy guidance of the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Laboratories and Basic Sciences [ODUSD (LABS)] and administered through the Army Research Office (ARO), Office of Naval Research (ONR), and Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) with the cooperation of the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) State Committees. The DoD plans to award fiscal year 2008 DEPSCoR appropriations through this announcement. ARO, ONR, and AFOSR (henceforth referred to as "agencies") will award research grants based on this announcement. It is anticipated that each agency will receive an equal portion of the FY2008 funds available to support proposals accepted under this BAA.

The program statute for DEPSCoR (section 257 of Public Law 103-337, as amended) states that DEPSCoR's objectives are to: (1) enhance the capabilities of institutions of higher education ("universities") in eligible States to develop, plan, and execute science and engineering research that is competitive under the peer-review systems used for awarding Federal research assistance; and (2) increase the probability of long-term growth in the competitively awarded financial assistance that universities in eligible States receive from the Federal Government for science and engineering research. Consistent with these long-term objectives of building research infrastructure,

the DoD intends to competitively make, and fund from fiscal year 2008 appropriations, multiyear awards for research and for associated graduate education of scientists and engineers in areas important to national defense.

DEPSCoR funds may be used to enhance existing or develop new research capabilities in support of DoD research goals. Proposals may contain requests for equipment necessary for the completion of the proposed research. General-purpose computing facilities and purely instructional equipment are not appropriate for DEPSCoR funding, but requests for funding for specialized computers required for specific DEPSCoR research programs are appropriate. DoD recognizes that the infrastructure aspect of DEPSCoR may lead to the purchase of equipment that has utility beyond the specific research effort proposed. Funds under DEPSCoR may not be used for construction or modification of buildings or facilities; therefore, proposals for the construction or refurbishment of buildings will not be considered under this BAA.

DEPSCoR may fund single investigator or multiple investigator research proposals and, to a lesser extent, center of excellence research proposals. Multiple institution or multiple investigator research projects that are not fully integrated to address one focused technical issue are not normally funded and are discouraged. Given the intent of the DEPSCoR program to build infrastructure, DEPSCoR can provide more funding for critical research-infrastructure elements than traditional, single-investigator awards. Therefore, to support the proposed research, a DEPSCoR proposal appropriately may request more funding for infrastructure elements than a single-investigator proposal. For example, funding for graduate student education, for acquiring or refurbishing instrumentation, and for postdoctoral fellows or faculty needed to conduct the proposed research are appropriate infrastructure expenditures. The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Laboratories and Basic Sciences, in particular, recognizes student training as an important component of the program. The awards are to be forward funded, generally for activities not to exceed a three-year period. In this way, DEPSCoR contributes to the States/Territories' goals of developing new research capabilities and infrastructure while simultaneously supporting DoD research goals.

Administrative costs incurred by the EPSCoR State Committees, associated with either the preparation of proposals or related to the administration of grants resulting from this solicitation are the responsibility of the EPSCoR State Committees and are nonreimbursable by DoD. State Committees are encouraged to include proposal sections from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (as determined by the Secretary of Education to meet requirements of 34 CFR Section 608.2) and from Minority Institutions (HBCU/MIs) (as defined by 10 U.S.C. § 2323 (a)(1)(C)) in their proposal recommendations. However, no funds are specifically allocated for HBCU/MI participation.

The Army, Navy, and Air Force publish their specific research areas of interest in separate Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs). DEPSCoR research projects may address any of the technical areas listed in the respective Army, Navy, and Air Force BAAs.

BAAs and program descriptions are available on-line at the following addresses:

U.S. Army Research Office:

<http://www.aro.army.mil> (select "For The Researcher" followed by "Funding Opportunities," see BAA W911NF-07-R-0003)

Office of Naval Research:

<http://www.onr.navy.mil> (select "ONR Science and Technology Departments")

Air Force Office of Scientific Research:

<http://www.afosr.af.mil> (select " Broad Agency Announcement BAA 2007-1" on Homepage)

Proposals to perform research in listed technical areas, or other areas important to national defense, will be considered. For detailed information regarding technical goals, individuals preparing proposals are advised to consult these announcements and to contact DoD program managers listed therein to explore possible mutual interest before submitting proposals.

Sufficient funds are not available to meet all research and infrastructure needs of the universities in all DEPSCoR States/Territories. It is the responsibility of the EPSCoR State Committee to encourage and identify proposals which are most likely to: (1) enhance the capabilities of universities to become more competitive under the peer-review systems used for awarding Federal research assistance; and (2) increase the probability of long-term growth in DoD research support for focused areas of interest within each State. Awards will be restricted to universities doing or demonstrably capable of doing research of interest to DoD. Each separately fundable proposal identified by the States/Territories may be used for support of equipment and either a single investigator, multiple investigators, or to a lesser extent, center of excellence research proposal in a focused research area.

Although the DEPSCoR is a multi-agency program with multiple contacts for technical discussion, one DoD agency (ARO, AFOSR, or ONR) must be listed as the "lead reviewer" of each separately fundable proposal of the State's identified proposals. If a lead reviewer (i.e. agency) is not listed, one will be assigned. If possible, each proposal should also list the specific Division/Directorate in the agency's organization requested to review each proposal (listed in the agency's BAA), and the Technical Area/Program Manager. The listed lead reviewer will have primary responsibility for

reviewing that separately fundable proposal of the State’s identified proposals. Other agencies may choose to do a full review of a proposal for which they are not the lead reviewer in order to determine their possible interest in funding or co-funding that proposal.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Through this DEPSCoR competition, the DoD intends to award approximately \$5.9 million for FY 2008, subject to the availability of funds. These funds will be awarded via grants made by the ARO, ONR, and AFOSR. Awards are generally for a period not to exceed three years. Proposals must request a minimum of \$250,000 and may not exceed \$2 million.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

Only universities in EPSCoR States and Territories with degree granting programs in science, mathematics, and/or engineering are eligible to submit proposals for DEPSCoR research grants. Proposals must first be reviewed and approved by the respective EPSCoR State Committee. Each State Committee will decide which DEPSCoR proposals submitted to it will be identified to DoD for consideration (see limits described below). Proposals not identified through an EPSCoR State Committee will be rejected. Universities in 23 States and Territories (listed below and henceforth referred to as the States/Territories) are eligible to receive awards under this announcement.

STATES / TERRITORIES CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE FOR DEPSCoR AWARDS

Alaska	Arkansas	Delaware	Idaho	Kansas
Kentucky	Louisiana	Maine	Montana	Nebraska
Nevada	New Hampshire	North Dakota	Oklahoma	Puerto Rico
Rhode Island	South Carolina	South Dakota	Tennessee	US Virgin Islands
Vermont	West Virginia	Wyoming		

Only the 23 EPSCoR State Committees listed at **Appendix A** are currently eligible under the DEPSCoR program authority and may identify proposals for consideration in response to this announcement. Awards made as a result of this announcement will be limited to universities in States/Territories that are eligible under the DEPSCoR program authority at the time awards are announced.

Should additional States/Territories become eligible in the period between publishing of this BAA and the announcement of selections for award, submission of their proposals must conform to the guidance in this BAA including timely receipt. Should proposals be received from States/Territories in anticipation of being eligible and those States/Territories are determined not to be eligible by the time of the announcement of selections, their proposals will be considered non-responsive and excluded from consideration. The decision to submit a proposal while eligibility is being determined is discretionary on the part of the offerors. The Government accepts no liability for proposal preparation costs or for any other expenses incurred should States/Territories not be determined eligible by the time of the announcement of selections.

Eligible NSF EPSCoR State Committees may identify **up to three (3) separately fundable proposals** requesting support from DoD for a 36-month period. See Section IV.2.

2. Cost Sharing/Matching

To maximize the DEPSCoR program objectives, all DEPSCoR awards require a minimum, non-federal cost sharing or matching of one-to-two (i.e., at least one dollar from State, institutional, and/or private sector sources to match each two dollars of DEPSCoR support being provided). Matching funds may support items such as salaries, indirect costs, operating expenses, or new equipment.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Address to Request Application Package

This DESPCoR announcement may be accessed from the ARO website <http://www.aro.army.mil/baa> under Funding Opportunities, Open Broad Agency Announcements (BAA). Paper copies may be obtained by writing to US Army RDECOM Acquisition Center, RTP Division, AMSRD-ACC-R, PO Box 12211, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2211, or by leaving a message on the ARO Voice Mailbox at (919) 549-4375.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

EPSCoR State Committee Requirements - EPSCoR State Committees must submit an executive summary not exceeding ten (10 pages) identifying up to three (3) separately fundable proposals and relating the proposed research to both DoD needs and State goals for stimulating competitive research capabilities. The executive summary should also indicate if the three (3) proposals are being submitted electronically or in hard copy; proposals should **not** be submitted by both methods. Proposals not identified by

EPSCOR State Committees as one of the three (3) submitted for consideration shall be ineligible. The executive summary should be submitted in hard copy to U.S. Army Research Office, ATTN: AMSRD-ARL-RO-EV (Dr. Kurt Preston), P.O. Box 12211, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2211, and be received by the proposal submission deadline specified in Section IV.3.

Each separately fundable proposal must be complete and self-contained to qualify for review. The DoD is interested primarily in the research and related science and engineering education and the research related infrastructure development that the research facilitates. For this reason, the proposal must adequately describe the effort so that judgments can be made on relevance to DoD research goals and the infrastructure benefit.

Proposals approved by each state committee may be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, or in hard copy. All proposals, electronic and hard copy, should be no longer than 25 pages, not counting the three SF 424 (Research and Related) (R&R) forms and Financial Portion described below. Page size should be 8 ½ inches with 1-inch margins; font size should not be smaller than 10 point. Hard copy proposals should be submitted on white paper and be bound or stapled separately. Separate attachments such as brochures or reprints will not be accepted. Proposals submitted in whole or in part by electronic media (computer disk or tape, facsimile machine, electronic mail, etc.) will not be accepted.

Advanced Preparation for Electronic Submission - Electronic proposal submission through Grants.gov requires advanced preparation. There are several one-time actions your organization must complete before it will be able to submit applications through Grants.gov. **It may take two or more weeks to complete the actions before being able to submit proposals.** Well before the DEPSCoR submission deadline, you should verify that the persons authorized to submit proposals for your organization have completed those actions. Go to http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp for further information. Use the Grants.Gov Organization Registration Checklist, which may be accessed at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/register_your_organization.jsp to guide you through the process. Should you have questions relating to the registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal process, you may contact Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at support@grants.gov. Please note that Grants.gov does not currently support the new Microsoft Vista Operating systems. See Section VIII.3.

Submitting the Application

For Electronics Submission - Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, select “Apply for Grants,” and then select “Download Application Package.” Enter the CFDA number 12.431, Basic Scientific Research (ARO). You could also enter the funding opportunity

number for this announcement, W911NF-07-R-0011. Follow the prompts to download the appropriate application package. There are three application packages available for this announcement number, each identifying a different lead reviewing agency (ARO, ONR, or AFOSR) under “Competition ID.” The package you select to download will determine which agency reviews your proposal.

For Hard Copy Submission – The original and six (6) copies of the signed original must be delivered to the ARO. The original must be marked “Original.” Plastic covers (clear or otherwise) or binders shall not be used. Mailing and commercial carrier addresses are listed under Section IV.5.

Application Forms – Specific forms are required for submission of a proposal. The application forms will not count against the 25-page limit. The forms are contained in the Application Package available through the Grants.gov application process. For hard copy submissions, the forms are available for downloading at <http://www.aro.army.mil/forms/forms2.htm> under Forms - Broad Agency Announcements (BAA). Complete all required fields (those marked with an asterisk) unless otherwise specified. Under Grants.gov, utilize the “pop-up” instructions on the form. To activate the instructions, turn on the “Help Mode” in Grants.gov. (The “Help Mode” is turned on by the icon with the pointer and question mark. This is located at the top of the form.)

SF 424 (R&R) (Mandatory) - The SF 424 (R&R) form is to be used as the cover page for all proposals. No other sheets of paper may precede the signed SF 424 (R&R) for a hard copy proposal. The form must be signed and dated in block 19 by an authorized representative for the hard copy submission. Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) usernames and passwords serve as “electronic signatures” when your organization submits applications through Grants.gov. By using the SF 424 (R&R), proposers are providing the certification required by 32 CFR Part 28 regarding lobbying as contained in Section VI. 2.

Research & Related Other Project Information (Mandatory) - The project abstract, project narrative, and budget discussed below must be attached to this form under the Grants.gov application process. For hard copy submissions, these documents will be placed after this form.

Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Optional) - Provide information on any Co-Investigator for the project under “Profile – Senior/Key Person” section of the form. All applicable blocks must be completed.

Content

Project Abstract - The abstract should be no more than one page and will count against the 25-page limit. **Attach the project abstract to Field 6 on the Research and Related Other Project Information form.**

The abstract shall provide a concise description of the proposed research. It should also provide recommended proposal reviewer information in the following format:

- (a) Lead Reviewer to Receive the Proposal: Specify ARO, ONR, or AFOSR
- (b) Division/Directorate, and
- (c) Technical Area/Program Officer

To assist in directing the proposal to the most appropriate component of the reviewing agency, refer to the list of research websites cited in Section I of this announcement.

Project Narrative - The project narrative will count against the 25-page limit. **Attach the project narrative to Field 7 on the Research and Related Other Project Information form.**

The project narrative of each separately fundable proposal shall contain the following:

(a) Describe in detail the research to be undertaken. State the objectives and approach and the relationship to the state of knowledge in the field and to comparable work elsewhere. Include an appropriate bibliography and list of literature citations. Discuss the nature of the expected results.

(b) Describe how this effort relates to and advances the research infrastructure development goals of the university or the State.

(c) Describe plans for the education of graduate students in the specified research areas of interest. Estimate the number of graduate students and of other technical personnel who will be directly associated with the project.

(d) Describe plans for the involvement and interaction with DoD, other federal laboratories, industry or other existing research centers of excellence.

(e) Describe facilities available for performing the proposed research and any additional facilities or equipment that the organization proposes to acquire at its own expense.

(f) Provide a rationale for each item of equipment requested in the budget and how this equipment will contribute to the infrastructure building goals of the proposal.

(g) Identify other parties who will receive the proposal or who will partially fund the proposed effort or activity.

(h) Furnish a brief vita for key personnel critical to the research, including senior investigators. Provide short biographical sketches and list relevant publications.

(i) Furnish a list of current and pending support for the principal investigator and other senior personnel. The list should include the project title and brief description, name of the organization or agency funding the work or requested to perform the work, award amount or dollar value, period of performance, and breakdown of the time required of the principal investigator and other senior personnel.

Financial Portion (Budget) - The financial portion will not count against the 25-page limit. **Attach the financial portion to Field 11 on the Research & Related Other Project Information form.**

The financial portion of each separately fundable proposal should contain a cost estimate for the proposed effort that is sufficiently detailed by element of cost for meaningful evaluation. The budget must include the period-of-performance (with a proposed **June 1, 2008** start date), a total estimated cost of the project, and the amount and source of project funding (i.e., funds requested from DoD, any funds provided under current grants or contracts with DoD or other federal agencies, and non-federal funds to be provided as cost sharing or matching). The estimated project costs must be shown in total as well as broken down for each year of the program to show the following cost elements:

(a) Salary Costs: For all employees, indicate the amount of time being charged to this proposed project (e.g., number of months) and show resulting costs based on current or projected salary and benefits.

(b) Supplies and Materials: Estimate costs of supplies and materials.

(c) Equipment: Describe any equipment to be acquired and the basis of cost estimates. Costs should be based on recent quotations from manufacturers or distributors.

(d) Travel Costs: Estimate the required amount of travel and state its relationship to the research. List the proposed destinations and basis of cost estimates.

(e) Publication and Report Costs: Estimate the costs of publishing and reporting research results.

(f) Subaward Costs: Support the estimate of subaward work by indicating the specific items or portion of the work to be subawarded, type of subaward anticipated, name of subawardee, and a detailed cost summary.

(g) Consultant Costs: State the planned daily consultant fee and travel expenses, the nature of the consulting effort, and the reason consultants are required to complete the effort.

(h) Communication Costs: Estimate communication costs (i.e., long distance telephone calls, telegrams, and postage) not included in overhead.

(i) Other Direct Costs: Itemize other anticipated direct costs such as rental for computers or other equipment, facility usage fees, and tuition remission. Unusual or expensive items should be fully justified.

(j) Overhead Rates: State whether or not a recent predetermined or provisional overhead rate has been negotiated by a federal agency and, if so, when and by which federal agency. Always state the basis on which the overhead rate is calculated (i.e., "salaries and wages" or "total costs") and the period of the grantee's fiscal year. Include a copy of any current indirect rate agreement or provide a URL if this document is available from the internet.

(k) Total Costs: Give the total costs, year by year, and the cost for the entire proposed grant period.

(l) Cost Sharing or Matching Plans: Construct a table showing the cost sharing or matching share committed to this DEPSCoR proposal in the following categories: State, institutional, and private sector. In each category, show the amount and nature of the planned expenditure share (e.g., State appropriation, equipment, faculty release time for research, etc.). A signed statement of commitment regarding the cost sharing or matching funds described above should be obtained from the appropriate State, institutional, and/or private sector officials.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Proposals must be received **no later than 4:00 PM Eastern Time on October 26, 2007**, whether submitted electronically or in hard copy. Exceptions:

For electronic submission, should the site of Grants.gov not be operational on the due day and be unable to receive the proposal submission, the deadline is extended to the same time of the first day when the site is in operation.

For hard copy submission, in case the operation of the designated agency is interrupted and the agency is unable to receive the proposal, the deadline is extended to the same time of the first day when the agency is in operation.

Application Receipt Notices and Consequence of Late Submission

For electronic submission – The applicant will receive a confirmation page upon completing the submission to Grants.gov. This confirmation page is a record of the time and date stamp that is used to determine whether the proposal was submitted by the deadline. A proposal received after the deadline is “late” and will not be considered for an award. The applicant will receive an e-mail within a few hours of submission indicating that the proposal has been validated by Grants.gov. This means that all the required fields have been completed. (Please consider that the initial submission may be “confirmed” but the delay for the validation could be as long as a couple of hours.) The third notice the applicant will receive is an e-mail from the designated agency to which the electronic proposal was submitted, to acknowledge receipt of the proposal. The e-mail is sent to the authorized representative for the applicant institution approximately ten days after the proposal due date.

For hard copy submission – An applicant that submits a hard copy proposal will receive an e-mail approximately ten days after the proposal due date to acknowledge receipt of the proposal. The e-mail is sent to the authorized representative for the applicant institution. A hard copy proposal arriving at the designated Government agency after the deadline is “late” and will not be considered for an award, except for cases in which there is acceptable evidence to establish that the proposal:

(a) Was delivered to the designated agency and was under the agency’s control by the deadline of 4:00 PM Eastern Time on October 26, 2007; or

(b) Was sent to the agency’s listed mailing address by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail by October 24, 2007.

4. Funding Restrictions – DEPSCoR funding may not be used for general-purpose computing facilities and purely instructional equipment, and for construction or modification of buildings or facilities.

5. Other Submission Requirements

Hard copy proposals must be sent to ARO at one of the following addresses:

Use this address for commercial carriers:
U.S. Army Research Office
ATTN: AMSRL-RO-RI (07-R-0011)
4300 South Miami Boulevard
Durham, NC 27703-9142
Phone # (919) 549-4234, Dr. Kurt Preston

Use this address for U.S. Mail:
U.S. Army Research Office
ATTN: AMSRL-RO-RI (07-R-0011)
P.O. Box 12211
Research Triangle Park, NC
27709-2211

Note that proposals delivered by commercial carriers are considered "hand carried" and no exceptions can be made which allow such proposals to be considered if, **for any reason, they are received after the deadline**. Offerors are advised that some proposals responding to past announcements that were sent via commercial carriers were delayed during shipment and arrived after the deadlines, typically by one or two days. To decrease the possibility that proposals delivered by commercial carriers will arrive after the deadline and thus be ineligible to compete, offerors are encouraged to schedule delivery to occur well before the deadline date.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

The primary evaluation criteria (of equal importance to each other) will be:

1. The scientific and technical merits of the proposed research.
2. The potential contributions of the proposed research to the defense missions of the participating agencies.
3. The likelihood of the proposed effort to advance the research infrastructure goals of the university or State by developing new or enhancing existing research capabilities and to broaden the university research base in support of national defense.
4. The potential to contribute to the education of future scientists and engineers in disciplines critical to the DoD mission.

Other evaluation criteria (of less importance than 1, 2, 3, and 4 but of equal importance to each other) are:

5. The qualifications, capabilities, experience, and past research accomplishments of the proposed Principal Investigator, team leader and other key personnel who are critical to achieving the objectives of the proposal.
6. The proposed involvement and interaction with DoD or other federal laboratories, industry, or other existing research centers of excellence.
7. The realism and reasonableness of cost, cost sharing or matching, and availability of funds.

2. Review and Selection Process

Cognizant DoD technical program managers will review separately fundable proposals of the States/Territories' identified proposals that are in their technical areas of expertise. Based on evaluations by DoD program managers using the seven criteria above, separately fundable proposals will be selected for funding by the participating agencies. The agencies will reconcile any overlap and coordinate complementary efforts to ensure the broadest impact with the funds available. Each of the participating agencies will award its portion of the available DEPSCoR funds in areas important to its mission. The acquisition offices of the agencies will conduct negotiations directly with the institutions of higher education selected for award and negotiations may result in funding levels less than that proposed in a given separately fundable proposal.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Award recommendations for FY 2008 DEPSCoR funds will be announced on or about **March 21, 2008**. Each Committee will be responsible for notifying all the participating institutions of higher education in its State of the award recommendations. Proposals should cite **June 1, 2008 as the proposed start date**.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Award Notices

Successful proposers will receive a separate notice (acceptance letter or e-mail) stating that an application has been selected (before the award is in place). The notification letter or e-mail must not be regarded as an authorization to commit or expend funds (except at the recipient's own risk, to the extent that the recipient elects to charge up to 90 days of preaward costs, as permitted under paragraph 32.25(d)(2)(i) of 32 CFR Part 32). The Government is not obligated to provide any funding under a DEPSCoR award until a Government Grants Officer signs the grant award document.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Lobbying

The certification at Appendix to 32 CFR Part 28 regarding lobbying is the only certification required at the time of proposal submission for a grant award. By signing and submitting the required cover page (SF 424 R&R), the prospective awardee is providing this certification. This certification is required for an award of a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement exceeding \$100,000.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Equipment

In keeping with the provisions of 31 USC 6306, title to all equipment acquired via a DEPSCoR award shall vest with the university without further obligation to the Government.

Central Contractor Registration

In accordance with DOD policy, prospective grantees must be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database prior to award of a grant. By submission of an offer resulting from this BAA, the offeror acknowledges the requirement that a prospective grantee must be registered in the CCR database prior to the award, during performance, and through final payment of any grant resulting from this BAA. The CCR may be accessed at <http://www.ccr.gov>. Assistance with registration is available at 1-888-227-2423.

3. Reporting Requirements

Financial reports are required in accordance with Part 32 of the DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations (32 CFR Part 32). Financial reports shall be submitted on the SF 270, SF 272 and the SF 269/SF 269A (final). The instructions for these financial reports are agency-specific and will be specified in the award document signed by the Grants Officer.

Annual and final technical reports are also required. The instructions for these technical reports are agency-specific and will be specified in the award document signed by the Grants Officer.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

Please submit all questions regarding this BAA to the following email address: QA2@arl.army.mil and include "W911NF-07-R-0011" in the subject line. Questions should be concise and reference the relevant part and paragraph of the BAA. Questions should be submitted by close of business Wednesday, October 17, 2007. All questions and responses will be posted on a Question and Answer section under the BAA Announcement at the ARO web site <http://www.aro.army.mil/baa> as they become available. All questions will be answered and made public within 3 business days after submission. Please take caution when submitting questions containing proprietary or sensitive information.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Planning Grant Applications

EPSCoR State Committees of the 23 eligible States/Territories may be invited (subject to the availability of funds) to submit a planning grant application for the purpose of improving the State's ability to compete in future year DEPSCoR solicitations.

2. Security Requirements

Classified Submissions: Classified white papers and proposals are not expected. DO NOT submit a proposal that includes contents derived from existing classified information. However, in instances where an offeror has incorporated information into a proposal that may be technology/security sensitive, the ARO Security Office shall be contacted at (919) 549-4356 for guidance and further information prior to the proposal's submission. Each page of the submitted proposal presumed to contain the sensitive

information will be marked "POTENTIALLY TECHNOLOGY SENSITIVE" at top and bottom.

Awards made from successful proposals with any classification will be subject to security review and will require a DD Form 254 to be attached to the resulting award document. If personnel or facilities require a security clearance, information about obtaining a clearance can be obtained by calling the Defense Security Service at 1-888-282-7682 or visiting <http://www.dss.mil/index.html>. Recipients of awards with classified material shall also appoint a security officer who shall (1) be responsible for all security aspects of the work performed under the award, (2) assure compliance with the National Industry Security Program Operating Manual (DODINST 5220.22M), and (3) assure compliance with any written instruction from the ARO Security Officer. Awardees who do not follow the guidance above or who do not obtain the necessary personnel and/or facility security clearances within six months of award may be terminated for default.

3. Microsoft Vista and Word 2007 Incompatibility with Grants.gov

Please note that Grants.gov does not currently support the new Microsoft Vista Operating System. The PureEdge software used by Grants.gov for forms is not compatible with Vista. Additionally, the 2007 version of Microsoft Word saves documents with the extension ".DOCX" (as a new default). Grants.gov cannot process Microsoft Word documents with the ".DOCX" extension at this time. When submitting attachments created with Microsoft Word 2007 to Grants.gov, please ensure the document is saved using "Word 97-2003 Document (*.doc)" format. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please e-mail the Grants.gov Contact Center at support@grants.gov, or call 1-800-518-4726.

Grants.gov is currently reviewing the Vista operating system to adopt standard security configurations by 1 February 2008 in compliance with OMB's memorandum-
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-11.pdf>.

APPENDIX A:

**DEFENSE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO
STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCoR)
ELIGIBLE
STATE COMMITTEE,
PROGRAM DIRECTORS OR CHAIRS
(As Of 15 August 2007)**

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