

Youth Science Industry Day: Technical Questions

1. Is it necessary to be a part of a consortium to apply for one of the programs?

Yes.

2. Can organizations join/propose as part of multiple consortiums?

Yes.

3. Can you give a general outline of the expectations of the Lead Organization?

The expectations of the LO are outlined in the Program Announcement. Beyond what has been published in the PA, we will leave it up to the offeror to outline those roles/responsibilities in their proposal.

4. What is the level of competition to win the COA?

This is a new initiative. There is no past history to predict the level of competition.

5. Is the E-Cybermission program part of the COA?

The ECybermission Internship Program is a part of the COA. This program provides internships in university laboratories for 9th grade student winners of ECybermission. Other components of the E-Cybermission program may be added at a later date.

6. What is the government's measure of a consortium's success at one year, two years, three years, etc.?

Within the first 90 days following the award of the COA, the consortium and the government will work together to determine the Initial Program Plan (IPP). The IPP will be based substantially on the final proposal, but there are always opportunities to work together and modify the IPP as needed.

7. How will the consortium engage with the established programs? What is the expectation for cooperation from the Cooperative Agreement Manager?

The CAM will be the facilitator of all work between the Consortium members and the government/local program managers. The CAM will take the initial responsibility for putting the consortium members into contact with the local program managers or government staff that work the programs. After that relationship has been built, consortium members can interact directly with the local PMs, as long as the CAM is kept in the loop with important events.

8. Who determines the number of student selectees for each program? Will the numbers reflect the past year's averages?

The current funding mirrors the level of the 2009 numbers. As always, the government hopes to maximize the number of student participants. 2009 numbers are very similar to the numbers of the last 3-4 years.

9. How are 9th graders selected for the eCybermission internship? Clarification is needed concerning this competition.

The 9th graders selected are winners of eCybermission. They are identified by the government and placed in internships.

10. Is it required that the mentors for REAP be at universities? Could a science research non-profit also qualify?

Each of the programs has a specific charter, and the REAP charter specifically addresses internships at a college or university. At this particular time only universities can host student internships.

11. We work with DODEA (DODDS) schools. Can students in these schools participate in the programs or is participation limited to students located in the United States?

Yes, these schools qualify to participate. DODEA schools are already active in JSHS, for example. The statement limiting activity to the US in the program announcement refers to the offeror. The LO must be operating in the US.

12. Will the recipient be responsible for the management/maintenance of the AEOP website?

The Government oversees the AEOP website and data collection with that website. The maintenance of the website is taken care of by the contractor that maintains the website. The recipient is not responsible for maintenance, but is responsible for making sure correct information is listed on the website about their programs. The recipient must check for accurate information and communicate necessary changes to the CAM.

13. Will we be provided with a list of the incumbent organizations who manage the existing programs?

Yes, the list is attached.

14. What innovative breakthroughs or discoveries have been results of Army programs?

Many students in these programs have made significant research impacts. Students have been published and there are students that currently take part in significant research. An important element of the Co-Op is the ability to maintain and report on these successes.

15. What security clearance provisions are necessary?

Individual sites and labs determine security regulations. It is a case-by-case basis. There are no DD Form 254's, no contract security requirements, and no access to classified information. Clearances are based on the job that they will be doing, but government network access does require a background check to be performed.

16. If an organization is proposing a REAP program, can the students selected be concentrated in a local area or does the Lead Organization have to recruit nationwide?

REAP is a nationwide competitive program, so as long as your proposal encompasses a national program then you can submit it.

17. What measures will be taken to ensure student information remains safe and confidential?

The Government protects all information captured for student registration on the AEOP website. Any and all information collected can only be handled by administrators certified with proper Human Use Protocol training.

18. Regarding JSS, how will student information be collected and collated to form the student teams and ensure there is no duplication if students are registering online individually instead of as a team?

Individual students can register and teams can be administrated as needed. The AEOP application tool can be tailored to meet the needs of each program.

19. There is already a national JSS movement but it is not orchestrated to the level that it is in the Northeast. Given the 9-year contract, how can we expand and grow JSS to a national championship?

The cooperative agreement has been specifically designed to leverage current successes and offer the flexibility to expand and grow the successes.

20. Do any of the programs under the COA focus on medical/health research?

Different RDECs and laboratories represent different STEM career fields/areas of research focus. Yes, medical and health is included at some of these.

21. What are the key program metrics that the Army is hoping will be collected and repeated?

Student data and participation in programs, along with follow-on/cross-participation between programs. Retainment in DoD STEM programs/initiatives is a measure of success for the Army.