

High Energy Laser Multidisciplinary
Research Initiative (HEL MRI)
BAA 07-004

Questions and Answers:

7. No R&R subaward budget attachment is included in the Grants.gov application for this announcement. In what format are subaward budgets to be submitted, and where in the application should they be attached?

Answer: Offerors can use the optional "Research & Related Subaward Budget" form available in the electronic application, or they can use their own subaward budget format. The "Research & Subaward Budget" form can be found under the "Optional Documents" box. If offerors prefer to use their own subaward budget format, they can use the "Attachments" form, which allows offerors to attach up to 99 of their own documents. The "Attachments" form can be found under the "Optional Documents" box.

8. Reading over the BAA, I can see our proposal qualifying for at least two areas. Can we list two different topic areas for consideration or do we need to commit to only one?

Answer: If the offeror submits the same proposal for multiple topic areas, then the offeror must indicate the order in which they are to be considered. Once a proposal is reviewed/evaluated and it is determined that it successfully fits a prescribed topic area, then the remaining topic areas will no longer be considered. The offeror may however submit separate proposal(s) to all topic areas for consideration. The government again reserves the right to determine the number of awards per topic area and also per university.

9. Do we include the funds for the collaborators, JLAB, SAIC, NWAC in the total budget that will go from the university or will ONR give directly to them their portion of the funding?

Answer: All collaborators, whether contractor or government, must be included as a part of the offeror's budgeted proposal cost. Collaboration funding of non-government contractors will be handled by the offeror. Any funding designated for a government facility will be forwarded directly by JTO/ONR and will reduce the funding sent to the universities accordingly.

10. Regarding BAA 07-004, are University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC)s eligible to submit proposals as the lead institution?

Answer: As stated in the Section III of the BAA; "Proposals may be submitted only by U.S. institutions of higher education ("universities")." The proposal must be submitted directly by the university; however, collaboration with University Affiliated Research Centers and other industry or Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) is encouraged.

11. We are two universities collaborating together for a proposal seeking MRI funding. There is language in the MRI BAA that mandates that 51% of the MRI funds must

remain with the university. Per our teaming arrangement, more than half of the MRI funds would go to the university "subcontractor". Would that be a problem?

Answer: No, that would not be a problem. Since the partners in the teaming agreement are "qualifying" universities under the guidelines of ONR BAA 07-004, the budget allocation may be determined by the offeror as long as 51% of the funds remain within the universities. As stated in the BAA, "Proposals involving multiple organizations must name one principal investigator at a university as the responsible technical point-of-contact. This university will be the primary awardee for purposes of award execution." The principal investigator and primary awardee in this case must be from the prime.

12. Should we use July 20, 2007 as the projected start date and end the first year September 30, 2008?

Answer: No. The projected start dates should be determined by the date of grant award. The period of performance for the FY07 effort will be twelve months from grant award. Each follow on year FY08-FY09 (base years) and FY10-FY11 (option years) will also be a twelve month period of performance commencing upon completion of the prior year's effort.

13. Should the budget include funds to make a presentation at JTO each budget year? If yes, would it be one or two trips (meetings) per year?

Answer: It is expected that two trips per year will be required to support the JTO annual program review in May and the HEL-MRI review in October. Additional travel may be required and will be coordinated with the government lead for each effort after grant award.

14. For years 1 - 3, may we present a primary budget and an optional budget for each year or for some of the years? As an example, an optional budget would enable us to provide the option of buying support instrumentation with higher accuracy.

Answer: The university should submit one budget that supports the planned basic research for the HEL-MRI period of performance.

15. As the lead institution, what should we include from partners? How would we request that our partners (Navy academic institution and an FFRDC) funding be awarded directly to them? Do you want to see the entire combined proposal (including budgets) in our submission or separate submissions from each institution?

Answer: Please see question 3.