Funding Opportunity: Department of Defense Releases DURIP BAA

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – February 19, 2019

The Department of Defense (DOD) released the broad agency announcement (BAA) for the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP) competition. DURIP, an annual program under DOD’s University Research Initiative (URI), provides acquisition funding for equipment and instrumentation used to support defense-related research activities. DURIP funding supports the purchase of major, state-of-the-art equipment (from $50,000 to $1.5 million, with an average award of approximately $300,000) that augments current research institutions’ capabilities or develops new capabilities to perform cutting edge defense research and associated graduate student research training in disciplines of importance to DOD. According to DOD, DURIP funding is not appropriate for the construction or modification of buildings, building support systems, fixed equipment (i.e. clean rooms or fume hoods), general-purpose computing facilities, or purely instructional equipment. DURIP remains an extremely competitive funding program with the decline in similar instrumentation programs across federal agencies. For FY 2018, DOD awarded $53 million dollars in awards to 175 university researchers at 91 institutions in 36 states. A list of the FY 2018 DURIP awardees is available here.

As in previous years, the Army Research Office (ARO), Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) jointly support the solicitation, which is issued in cooperation with the Office of the Director of Basic Research in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. DOD recommends that proposers review each Service branch research agency’s interests contained in recent long-range BAAs to align proposals with stated DOD research needs. Proposals must address research of interest to one or more Services and may be submitted to more than one Service for consideration. While an application may be submitted to multiple Services, funding can only be received from one. DOD encourages interested researchers to contact the appropriate program managers relevant to their field to discuss the relevance of proposed ideas.

In addition to research efforts, DURIP emphasizes related educational enhancement and requires proposals to address how DURIP funding would strengthen educational opportunities for students in DOD-relevant fields.

Lewis-Burke also recommends that proposers may want to identify how research efforts supported by the instrumentation align with the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering’s top-10 list of technology focus areas from the 2018 National Defense Strategy. Those focus areas are:

- hypersonics
- directed energy
- command, control and communications
- space offense and defense
- cybersecurity
- artificial intelligence/machine learning
- missile defense
• quantum science and computing
• microelectronics
• autonomy

**Question Submission Deadline:** Questions to respective program managers concerning the BAA are encouraged and must be submitted by **April 26, 2019.** Appropriate points of contact can be found in each of the respective agencies’ BAAs (links included in the DURIP BAA and below). For general questions, ARO, ONR, and AFOSR each have a corresponding point of contact listed under “Agency Contacts” in the BAA (see link below).

**Full Proposal Deadline:** Full proposals should be submitted no later than **May 17, 2019 at 11:59 PM EDT.**

**Total Funding and Award Size:** DOD anticipates awarding approximately $47 million under the FY 2020 DURIP competition, with individual awards ranging from $50,000 - $1.5 million.

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to accredited U.S. institutions of higher education with degree-granting programs in science, mathematics, or engineering.

**Sources and Additional Information:**