2018 Beyond Phase II Conference – RIF 101

Ted Bujewski, Director, Rapid Innovation Fund Program
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)
Background

- Established as the Rapid Innovation Program (RIP) in Section 1073 of the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
  - A competitive, merit-based program
  - Accelerates fielding of innovative technologies into military systems
- Reauthorized in the FY 2017 NDAA as a permanent program
- Re-designated as the Rapid Innovation Fund (RIF) within the Department of Defense (DoD)

**Bottom Line Goal:** Transition Innovative Technologies into Fielded Operational Capability or Defense Acquisition Programs
Key Requirements

Projects objectives:

• Satisfy an operational or national security need
  o Accelerate or enhance military capability
  o In support of major defense acquisition program
• Stimulate innovative technologies
• Reduce acquisition / lifecycle costs
• Address technical risk
• Improve timeliness & thoroughness of test & evaluation outcomes

Projects cost and schedule:

• Be completed within 24 months of award
• Cost no more than $3 million
Appropriate Technology Readiness Level (TRL)

RIF Funded with Budget Activity 4 RDT&E Funds

Maturity Goal TRL 6-9

6 System/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment

7 System prototype demonstration in an operational environment

8 Actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstration

9 Actual system proven through successful mission operations

Low TRL accepted ONLY if:

- Breakthrough capability or operational game-changer
- Cost neutral to the acquisition program
- Accommodated within program schedule

4 Component and/or breadboard validation in a laboratory environment

5 Component and/or breadboard validation in a relevant environment

Award By Exception

Technology Readiness Assessment Guidance --

Required for Majority of Awards: Facilitates Transition

Distribution Statement A. Approved for public release
RIF Eligibility

Commitment to Small Business

• Selection preference shall be given to small business
• Awards to other than small business are allowed, but ONLY after the approval authority deems the offer is superior to an offer received from a small business
• Small Business Standard defined by North American Industry Classification System
  • 541712: Research and Development in Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences
  • 541711: Research and Development in Biotechnology
• Participation by minorities and disadvantaged persons is encouraged

Foreign Participants

• Foreign participants and/or individuals may participate
• Some requirements may cover export-controlled technologies
• Research is limited to U.S. persons as defined in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), 22 CFR §1201.1
RIF Management Roles and Responsibilities

**OSD-Level (R&E)**

- Issue / Publish:
  - Annual Implementation Guidelines
  - Acquisition Plan
  - Source Selection Milestones
    - Detailed Review Process w/ Defense Agencies / CCMDs
  - BAA
  - Communication Guidelines
  - White Paper (WP) Notifications to Offerors

- Track Project Results
  - Annual IPRs

- Issue Funds & Monitor Financial Execution

**Component-Level**

- Execute Allocated Funds
  - Supplement OSD Guidelines (as needed)

- Provide BAA Requirements
  - Address Offeror Technical Questions

- Establish Source Selection Teams
  - Evaluate WPs & Proposals
  - Make Contract Awards
  - Monitor & Report Technical Progress

- Request Funds & Report Status –
  - Financial Execution
  - Report Results of Project IPRs / End of Project Results
RIF Implementation

- Competitive, Merit-Based Two-Step Process
  - **Step 1:**
    - Issue Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) with DoD component requirements
    - Industry Response: 3-page White Paper + Quad Chart
    - Evaluations are “Go” or “No Go”
  - **Step 2:**
    - Highest rated “Go” offerors invited to submit full proposals
      - Further competition – invite for proposal DOES NOT guarantee an award
    - Highest-rated proposals lead to award

- Public Notice:
FY18 Process ($250M) Key Steps & Timeline*

**Planning Phase**
- 1. Research Topics Identified
- 2. BAA Released

**White Paper Phase**
- 3. Contractors Submit WPs
- 4. WPs Evaluated
- 5. WPs Approved
- 6. Contractors Invited to Submit Proposals

**Proposal Phase**
- 7. Proposals Evaluated
- 8. Proposals Recommended for Award
- 9. Source Selection Authority Approval
- 10. Contractors Selected Notified

**Award Phase**
- 11. Negotiations
- 12. Contract Awards

*Note: Goal Planning Dates. Actual Dates will be Determined by Cognizant Contracting & Technical Offices and an FY2018 signed defense budget

Source: GAO analysis of DOD data. | GAO-15-421
## Execution of FY18 Funds: $250M Milestones (Update: Aug 2018)

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<th>2018</th>
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|      | **February 21, 2018** | **BAA Released in FedBizOpps - Hot Link Posted at:**  
- [https://dodrif.com/](https://dodrif.com/)  
|      | **April 12, 2018** | **BAA Closes: White Papers (WPs) due from offerors**                          | Complete |
|      | **NLT June 1, 2018** | **Components complete WP evaluations**  
Initial priorities and ranking by Components | Complete |
|      | **NLT Aug 31, 2018** | **WP notifications, invite full proposals**                                  |         |
|      | **NLT Oct 17, 2018** | **Full proposals due from offerors**  
Components start full proposal evaluations |         |
|      | **NLT Dec 3, 2018** | **Components complete full proposal evaluations**                           |         |
| 2019 | **NLT Jan 3, 2019** | **Negotiations, start contract awards**                                     |         |
|      | **NLT April 1, 2019** | **FY16-funded RIF contract awards complete**                                 |         |

* DoD-Wide RIF Goals: Actual Dates will be Determined by Cognizant DoD Component Contracting & Technical Offices

Distribution Statement A. Approved for public release
RIF Implementation - BAA

• Issued on Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps)
  o Solicitation Number:
    – HQ0034-18-BAA-RIF-0001A - - NAICS Codes 541714 – R&D in Biotechnology

• Opened February 22, 2018 / Closed April 12, 2018

• Contains:
  o Key dates / milestones for submission
  o Instructions for submission
  o Notification of 2-step process: White Papers & Full Proposals
  o Source Selection Criteria: White Papers & Full Proposals
  o Requirements for industry / offeror responses
    – 280+ Requirements from Army, Navy, Air Force, & Defense Agencies
    – Each requirement provides DoD Technical Point of Contact (TPoC)
White Paper Submission

Three Submission Portals

• OSD/Army - http://www.dodrif.com
• Air Force - https://www.afrif.com
• Navy - https://navyrif.com

White Paper Structure

• Four Pages – pages submitted in excess of limits will not be read
• Section 1 Cover sheet – does not count in page limit
• Section 2 Technical description
  • Contribution to the requirement
  • Technical Approach
  • Schedule
  • Costs
• Section 3 Quad Chart
Elements of a Good White Paper

**WHAT TO INCLUDE:**

- Your technology solution
  - How it addresses the RIF requirement
  - Clear, concise synopsis of approach
  - What’s innovative – what sets your technology apart from competition
  - Enough technical specification to demonstrate technology expertise
  - Key data:
    - Pictures & diagrams
    - Government contacts that currently relate to this effort
    - Summary of teaming arrangements
    - Any prior testing & summary results

**WHAT NOT TO INCLUDE:**

- Technology looking for a solution (e.g., unrelated to the requirement)
- Generic company overview (org chart)
- History of the problem
- Testimonials from other industry or lab researchers
- Detailed diatribe of charts and formulas stating why your technology is the best

*When BAA opens, read it, ask questions & prepare a DRAFT WP soonest*

- If missing data, update later. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL LAST MINUTE!**
- Follow directions / template as provided in the submission portal(s)
RIF Key Points of Contact

OSD – Defense Agencies

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Military Services

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703-697-0502

Navy (ONR)
Scott Bartlett
scott.bartlett@navy.mil
301-227-2388

Air Force
Neville Thompson
neville.a.thompson.civ@mail.mil
571-256-0319

Defense Innovation Market Place -
www.defenseinnovationmarketplace.mil/rif

Federal Business Opportunities -
www.FBO.gov

Questions? Contact us!

Questions@dodrif.com
Additional Info / Resources


Business Opportunities

- Small Business Resources
- Acquisition Resources
- Technology Interchange Meetings
- Army, Navy, Air Force & Other DoD S&T Information

Rapid Innovation Fund (RIF) Program

- Current BAA / FBO Link
- Current Year Milestones
- RIF Component Leads / POCs
- Overview Brief (RIF 101)
- RIF Awards
- Transition Guidelines
- Congressional Statute
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Solving Problems Today – Designing Solutions for Tomorrow

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https://www.acq.osd.mil/rd/

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