Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR)

Basic Research Office (BRO)
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering (OUSD(R&E))

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Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) Team

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Program Overview

• Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was created by Congress in FY91 DoD appropriation, and legislatively authorized in 1994

• Appropriations ($12M): FY19 Defense Appropriations Congressional supplement to the Basic Research Initiatives program line dedicated to DEPSCoR
  • FY20 = $12M

• Currently sponsored by Dr. Bindu Nair, Deputy Director for Basic Research Office (BRO), OUSD(R&E)
FY19 Program Eligibility

Congressionally-directed eligibility criteria: “States or territories that received less than 60% of 1/50th of the total DoD S&E research obligations to U.S. IHE are eligible if a commitment to developing S&E research is demonstrated.”

*Eligible territories include Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

The Department determined commitment by a State/Territory having at least one S&E graduate program
**Program Goals**

DEPSCoR Objectives as mandated by Congress:

1. Enhance the capabilities of institutions of higher education (IHE) in eligible State/Territories to develop, plan, and execute science and engineering (S&E) research that is relevant to the mission of the DoD and competitive under the peer-review systems used for awarding Federal research assistance.

2. Increase the number of university researchers in eligible States/Territories capable of performing S&E research responsive to the needs of the DoD.

3. Increase the probability of long-term growth in the competitively awarded financial assistance that IHE in eligible States/Territories receive from the Federal Government for S&E research.
Execution Approach

Collaborative DEPSCoR Competition

Supplement Funding to Existing Service Programs

Outreach & Education
1. Building faculty capacity via Young Investigator Programs (YIP):
   - Three YIP awards in each of the three services, each at the $150,000 per year over three years

2. Building institutional capacity via Defense University Research Instrumentation Programs (DURIP):
   - One DURIP award in each of the three services, each at the $300,000

**FY19Tri-Service DURIP Winners thru DEPSCoR**

- Dr. Josette El Zalit – University of Nevada (AFOSR)
- Dr. Vuk Marojevic – Mississippi State University (ONR)
- Dr. Suzanne Shontz – University of Kansas (ARO)

*Since the selection process is specific to each Service, questions about YIPs and DURIPs should be directed to the associated Service.*
Integrate new researchers from DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories into the DoD Research Enterprise through mentoring

Identified Perceived Barriers:

- DoD proposals are different in style and content to other federal agencies
- Building relationships with Program Officers (PO) are critical for program success
- Awareness of DoD opportunities

2-person team from DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories can apply

Expected: 6 awards with $200K/year (total cost) for three years
Q: When determining whether someone is DOD-funded or non-previously DOD-funded, should we include funding through a sub-award? Also, does it matter if the person served as the PI, Co-PI, key personnel, or other?

A: Collaborator/co-Principal Investigator = served as the Principal Investigator on a previously DoD-funded grant (within the last seven years)

*Seven-year timeframe (FY20 DEPSCoR) = FY13 – FY20

Applicant/Principal Investigator = not served as the Principal Investigator on a previously DoD-funded grant

A person who previously received DoD-funding through a sub-award or served as a co-PI/key personnel/other on a previously DoD-funded award must apply as the Applicant/Principal Investigator.
**Grant Information**

- Collaborative research grants
- Tenured and tenured-track faculty members at IHE in DEPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions are eligible to apply
- One white paper submission per Applicant/Principal Investigator
- One collaboration per Collaborator/co-Principal Investigator
- Strongly encouraged to flesh out proposal idea with a Program Officer in the TriService
- Security clearance is not required to receive award
- U.S. citizenship is not required
- No cost sharing or matching is required
## Key Steps in FY20 Competition

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<td><strong>AcquTrak website for registration and submission:</strong></td>
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<td><a href="https://acqupass.noblis.org/ApplyDEPSCoR">https://acqupass.noblis.org/ApplyDEPSCoR</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions Regarding White Paper and Supporting Documentation</td>
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<td><strong>AcquTrak Registration</strong></td>
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<td>White Paper and Supporting Documentation</td>
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<td>Notification of White Paper Selection</td>
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<td>Proposal (by invitation only)</td>
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DEPSCoR Competition: White Paper Submission

https://acqupass.noblis.org/ApplyDEPSCoR
DEPSCoR Competition: grants.gov
DEPSCoR Competition: grants.gov
DEPSCoR Competition: grants.gov
DEPSCoR Competition: Full Proposal (by invitation)

Correct Date: 2/14/2020
DEPSCoR Outreach

*Southeastern Region - Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

DEPSCoR is unique due to the DoD research enterprise structure and eligibility criteria.
DEPSCoR DoD Day –
Central Regional Meeting

University of South Dakota
April 21, 2020

https://www.usd.edu/research/depscor-dod-day
DEPSCoR DoD Day – Western Regional Meeting

University of Arizona
TBD
THANK YOU

https://basicresearch.defense.gov/Pilots/DEPSCoR-Defense-Established-Program-to-Stimulate-Competitive-Research/

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