

Special Notice (SN) DARPA-SN-16-25
Next Generation Social Science (NGS2)
Proposers Day
March 22, 2016

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Defense Sciences Office (DSO) is sponsoring a Proposers Day to provide information to potential proposers on the objectives of an anticipated Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the Next Generation Social Science (NGS2) program. The Proposers Day will be held on March 22, 2016 at the Executive Conference Center (4075 Wilson Boulevard Suite 350, Arlington, VA 22203). The event will be webcast for those who would like to participate remotely. Advance registration is required both for attending the Proposers Day in person and for viewing the webcast. Note, all times listed in this announcement and on the registration website are Eastern Time.

The goals of the NGS2 Proposers Day are to: (a) introduce the research community (Industry, Academia, and Government) to the NGS2 program vision and goals; (b) explain the mechanics of a DARPA program and the anticipated milestones of this particular effort, and (c) encourage and promote teaming arrangements among potential organizations that have the relevant expertise, facilities, and capabilities for executing a research and development program responsive to the NGS2 program goals.

DARPA anticipates releasing the NGS2 BAA in mid-March 2016. If released, the BAA will be available on the Federal Business Opportunities website at <https://www.fbo.gov/> and on <http://www.grants.gov/>. Following the event, presented materials may be posted to <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities>.

To maximize the pool of innovative proposal concepts, DARPA strongly encourages participation by non-traditional performers (including small businesses, academic and research institutions, and first-time Government contractors) in events such as this and any subsequent solicitations.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION

The NGS2 program seeks multidisciplinary teams to demonstrate tools and methods that enable new capabilities for rigorous, reproducible, experimental research at scales that are sufficient to test models and theories of emergent properties in social systems. To accomplish the goals of the NGS2 program, DARPA anticipates that performers will reflect a wide and diverse combination of disciplines and skill sets – to include social sciences but also physics, computer science, biology, game design, mathematics, and others. NGS2 performers will demonstrate their capabilities by seeking to determine fundamental measures and causal mechanisms that explain and predict the emergence of “collective identities” in their experiments. This effort to test different theories and models of “what matters most” for emergent social phenomena like collective identity presents an important and complex challenge through which to motivate and validate different NGS2 communities, tools and methods. Achieving these goals within the timeframe of the program may also require a fundamental reimagining of the social science research cycle. Note that while the NGS2 program will focus on collective identity formation

as an exemplar research question, DARPA anticipates that successful NGS2 capabilities will have benefits for tackling other complex problems and topics, including (but not limited to): resilience in social networks and structures, changes in cultural norms or beliefs, emergence of cooperation/competitions, social influences on preferences and cognition, etc.

TEAMING OPPORTUNITIES

DARPA highly encourages teaming before proposal submission and, as such, will facilitate the formation of teams with the necessary expertise. Proposers Day registrants may participate in the following options:

1. **Attendee List (Publicly available):** Participant contact information (name, organization, email address) may be included on a NGS2 Proposers Day Attendee List published on the DSO Solicitations page on DARPA's website. The NGS2 Proposers Day registration website will ask registrants to indicate whether they approve publication of their contact information.
2. **Proposer Profile List (Limited distribution):** interested parties shall submit a one-page profile consisting of their contact information (name, organization, email, telephone number, mailing address and, if applicable, organization website); a brief description of their technical competencies; and, if applicable, their desired expertise from other teams/organizations. All profiles must be emailed to NGS2@darpa.mil no later than 4:00 PM on March 28, 2016. Following the deadline, the consolidated teaming profiles will be sent via email to the proposers who submitted a valid profile. Specific content, communications, networking, and team formation are the sole responsibility of the participants. Neither DARPA nor the DoD endorses the information and organizations contained in the consolidated teaming profile document, nor does DARPA or the DoD exercise any responsibility for improper dissemination of the teaming profiles.
3. **Scientific Exchange Presentations:** A portion of the Proposers Day will be devoted to Scientific Exchange among attendees. Upon registration, there will be an opportunity to book a 5-minute presentation slot to discuss 2-3 slides on your organization's expertise. These slots will be booked on a first come, first served basis. Additional details can be found on the registration website.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The NGS2 Proposers Day will be held on March 22, 2016 from approximately 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Executive Conference Center (4075 Wilson Boulevard Suite 350, Arlington, VA 22203). Agenda details will be posted on the registration website. Note, all times listed in this announcement and on the registration website are Eastern Time. There is no registration fee for the Proposers Day or the webcast.

Registration opens: As of publication of this announcement.

Registration closes: March 18, 2016 at 12:00 PM or when capacity is reached, whichever comes first.

Advance registration is required for attending the Proposers Day via the physical meeting and for viewing the webcast. Advance registration is required in order to receive access to the webcast and is mandatory for every individual intending to view the webcast either alone or as part of a group. Interested parties must register through the Proposers Day website: <http://www.sa-meetings.com/NGS2ProposersDay>.

Interested parties are encouraged to coordinate attendance internally within their organizations prior to registration. Physical attendance is limited to no more than two representatives per division/department, with a maximum of five attendees from any one organization.

- Due to conference facility space limitations, physical attendance will be limited to the first 100 registrants.
- Remote participation via webcast is limited to 500 participants.

Registrants in excess of the maximum capacity limitations (100 for physical attendance and 500 for the webcast) will be added to the waitlist. Individuals who are unable to register for in person attendance because the deadline has occurred or capacity has been reached will have the option of choosing to be added to the waitlist OR registering for attendance via webcast. If slots remain open after registration closes or become available due to cancellations, the slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis from the waitlist.

ELIGIBILITY

Attendance via the webcast or the physical meeting is open to individuals who are U.S. Citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, and Foreign Nationals. Upon entry to the physical meeting, all attendees will be required to present valid, Government-issued photo identification.

All registrants who are not U.S. Citizens must complete and submit a DARPA Form 60 (U.S. Permanent Resident and Foreign National Visit Request) no later than 12:00 PM on March 18, 2016. This form and submission instructions are provided on the registration website and in the registration confirmation email.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please refer to the NGS2 Proposers Day in all correspondence.

- Technical Point of Contact: Dr. Adam Russell, Program Manager, NGS2@darpa.mil
- Registration Website: <http://www.sa-meetings.com/NGS2ProposersDay>

DISCLAIMERS AND IMPORTANT NOTES

Attendance at the NGS2 Proposers Day or viewing the webcast is voluntary and is not required to propose to the anticipated NGS2 BAA. Interested parties to this notice are cautioned that nothing herein obligates the Government to issue a solicitation. The Proposers Day does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. This announcement is issued solely for information and program planning purposes and is not a Request for Information (RFI). Since this is not an RFI, no submissions against this notice will be

accepted by the Government. No classified, ITAR controlled, or proprietary information shall be included in submitted materials or shall be presented or discussed at the Proposers Day. DARPA will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred to participate in this Proposers Day. Recording the Proposers Day is not allowed.