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SIAM WASHINGTON UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
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NEWS FROM THE HILL

FY 2014 Appropriations: Full Senate Appropriations Committee Approves FY 2014 Defense Bill

The full Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) approved its fiscal year (FY) 2014 Defense Appropriations bill on August 1. The bill totals $594.4 billion, which includes $77.8 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for the war in Afghanistan. The bill passed Committee by a 22-8 margin, with some Republicans opposing it because the total $1.058 trillion spending level to which the Senate is marking its FY 2014 bills violates the cap outlined in the *Budget Control Act*. To this end, Senators from both parties spoke during the markup about the need to reverse sequestration. There was bipartisan agreement that the across-the-board reductions prevent Department of Defense (DOD) leadership from minimizing adverse impacts and protecting high-priority items. Positive for research institutions, senators specifically pointed to research and development as important activities that would be harmed under continued sequestration.

The prioritization of research, and particularly basic and applied research, is evident in the bill and explanatory report. The $65.8 billion total for defense research, development, test, and evaluation (RDTE) programs is $4.1

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billion below the FY 2013 pre-sequester level and $1.7 billion less than requested by President Obama, but DOD basic and applied research accounts are favored within that amount. Army, Air Force, and Defense-wide basic research would be increased above the current level in the Senate bill, with only the Navy taking a slight hit. Applied research (6.2) programs would not do quite as well under the Senate proposal, but most would be funded at or near the current levels. DOD advanced technology development (6.3) programs would be hardest hit among the science and technology accounts, with the Army, Navy, and Defense-wide accounts all reduced by between 3 and 12 percent. Air Force 6.3 programs are proposed for a minimal increase. All told, the programs of greatest importance to universities and other non-profit research institutions continue to fare better than many accounts across DOD experiencing deep reductions.

Language is also included in the RDTE section of the report expressing the Committee's support for enhanced technology transfer, small business promotion, and advanced manufacturing activities through DOD. On technology transfer, the Committee states that "Technology transfer ensures that taxpayer investments in research and development are used to benefit the economy and the general public." The Committee subsequently directs DOD to place an increased focus on technology transfer in FY 2014. On a related issue, the report praises the DOD Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and suggests that DOD focus more on making awards to companies with less than 50 employees. This language reflects sustained interest from congressional staff and DOD officials over the past year in further engaging the small business community in support of the defense enterprise.

Finally, the Committee voices support for DOD's continued involvement in President Obama's National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI). The Committee endorses DOD's administration of the new digital manufacturing and design institute and the modern metals manufacturing institute. The Committee observes that the institutes will "increase domestic manufacturing competitiveness and efficiency that is necessary for our national defense by bringing together our Nation's research and development, education, and training activities for a skilled workforce and the deployment of technological innovations in domestic production of goods."

There is encouraging language for non-profit research institutions in the Navy RDTE section of the report. First, the Committee expresses support for the Defense Research Sciences account (a basic research account that provides significant funding for universities) and urges robust Navy investment in advanced science and technology research. Specific areas recommended by the Committee for continued support include advanced materials and advanced energy storage. The Committee also includes a separate provision encouraging additional Navy investment in power generation and energy storage, including through advanced battery technologies. Consistent with DOD's focus on autonomy as one of its signature science and technology priorities, the Air Force RDTE section of the report includes language urging a continued effort to refine autonomy based systems. Finally, the Committee weighs in on the ongoing debate over public access to federally-funded research, encouraging DOD to fully comply with the open access policy released by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Despite the normally bipartisan nature of the Defense Appropriations bill, the outlook for passage of a final measure is uncertain due to total budgetary discrepancies between the House and Senate.

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FY 2014 Defense Appropriations Bill

As reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee, August 2013

(In thousands)

	FY 2013 Enacted*	FY 2014 Request	FY 2014 Senate Appropriations	Senate vs. Enacted*	Senate vs. House
RDTE, Total	69,928,477	67,520,236	**65,806,815**	-4,121,662 (5.9%)	-602,715 (1%)
S&T, Total	12,484,068	11,983,609	**12,049,984**	-434,084 (3.5%)	-266,557 (2.2%)
Army RDTE	8,676,627	7,989,102	**7,576,342**	-1,100,285 (12.7%)	-385,144 (4.8%)
Army Basic	428,472	436,725	**436,725**	8,253 (1.9%)	--
Army Applied	1,000,730	885,924	**933,924**	-66,806 (6.7%)	23,000 (2.5%)
Army ATD	1,059,322	882,106	**1,025,106**	-34,216 (3.2%)	74,000 (7.8%)
Navy RDTE	16,963,398	15,974,780	**15,403,145**	-1,560,253 (9.2%)	34,793 (<1%)
Navy Basic	634,021	615,306	**620,306**	-13,715 (2.2%)	5,000 (1%)
Navy Applied	881,302	834,538	**859,538**	-21,764 (2.5%)	10,000 (1.2%)
Navy ATD	674,102	583,116	**583,116**	-90,986 (13.5%)	-40,700 (6.5%)
Air Force RDTE	25,432,738	25,702,946	**24,945,541**	-487,197 (1.9%)	-1,813 (<1%)
Air Force Basic	516,034	524,770	**524,770**	8,736 (1.7%)	--
Air Force Applied	1,120,053	1,127,893	**1,132,893**	12,840 (1.2%)	-5,000 (<1%)
Air Force ATD	636,737	617,526	**636,826**	89 (<1%)	27,300 (4.5%)
DW RDTE	18,631,946	17,667,108	**17,695,487**	-936,459 (5.0%)	-190,051 (1.1)%
DW Basic	551,748	588,133	**588,133**	36,385 (6.6%)	-5,000 (1%)
DW Applied	1,722,934	1,778,565	**1,715,565**	-7,369 (<1%)	-65,232 (3.7%)
DW ATD	3,258,613	3,109,007	**2,993,082**	-265,531 (8.2%)	-289,925 (8.8%)

* Values do not account for sequestration or additional FY 2013 across-the-board rescissions

Sources and Additional Information:

- A Senate Appropriations Committee press release on the bill is available at http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=da1654ae-45e3-42ee-a197-0840ea856089.

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FY 2014 Appropriations: House Passes FY 2014 Defense Appropriations Bill After Debate on Controversial Amendments

Following contentious debate, the full House of Representatives passed its version of the fiscal year (FY) 2014 defense appropriations bill (H.R. 2397) late on July 24. Consideration of the bill on the House floor was delayed multiple times by concerns among House leadership about amendments related to defunding the National Security Agency (NSA). Disagreement within the Republican caucus on some issues was evident and some House Democrats opposed the bill because it violates the cap on defense spending outlined in the *Budget Control Act (BCA)*.

The bill would allocate a total of $512.5 billion for the Department of Defense (DOD) and national security programs through the Department of Energy in FY 2014. The bill includes an additional $85.8 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funding for ongoing operations in Afghanistan. As with other House appropriations bills, this level conforms to the amount outlined in the House budget resolution for FY 2014. The House is writing its bills in accordance with the $967 billion level mandated by the *BCA* while the Senate budget assumes the end of sequestration and would spend a total of $1.058 trillion. The House defense appropriations bill would also be increased at the expense of domestic programs, hampering efforts to forge a House-Senate agreement on even the normally bipartisan defense measure. Further complicating the situation, the White House released a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) stating that the President's senior advisors would recommend a veto of the House bill in its current form. The Administration has issued similar threats to all House appropriations bills, citing deep cuts to domestic programs necessitated by the House budget resolution.

The House considered 100 amendments during two days of debate on the bill, with most focusing on high-profile policy and weapons issues rather than items of interest to the research community. As previously reported and as illustrated by the chart below, defense science and technology programs continue to receive strong support even as sequestration pinches defense budgets. However, DOD leadership has recently been vocal about the need to fund ongoing operations and cautioned that investment accounts like research could be subject to deep cuts in the coming years. Most amendments affecting DOD research, development, test, and evaluation (RDTE) accounts centered on military mental health research, with the House adopting multiple proposals to shift money to the competitive Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury research program.

Separately, the House defeated an amendment offered by Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI) which would have moved additional money into a Navy submarine research account and adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) to move an additional $5 million to DOD's STARBASE science and math education program. The increase for STARBASE would be offset by a corresponding cut to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The Lowenthal amendment comes as more Members of Congress push back on the Administration's plan to consolidate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs across the federal government, including at DOD.

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The outlook for passage of a final defense appropriations bill is unclear in the absence of a larger deficit reduction agreement. Congress is all but certain to enact a continuing resolution to keep the government running at current levels before the start of FY 2014 on October 1.

FY 2014 Defense Appropriations Bill

As reported by the House of Representatives, July 2013

(In thousands)

	FY 2013 Enacted*	FY 2014 Request	FY 2014 House (Appropriations)	House vs. Enacted*	House vs. Request
RDTE, Total	69,928,477	67,520,236	**66,409,530**	**-3,518,947 (5%)**	**-1,110,706 (1.6%)**
S&T, Total	12,484,068	11,983,609	**12,316,541**	**-167,527 (1.3%)**	**332,932 (2.8%)**
Army RDTE	8,676,627	7,989,102	**7,961,486**	**-715,141 (8.2%)**	**-27,616 (<1%)**
Army Basic	428,472	436,725	**436,725**	8,253 (1.9%)	--
Army Applied	1,000,730	885,924	**910,924**	-89,806 (9%)	25,000 (2.8%)
Army ATD	1,059,322	882,106	**951,106**	-108,216 (10.2%)	69,000 (7.8%)
Navy RDTE	16,963,398	15,974,780	**15,368,352**	**-1,595,046 (9.4%)**	**-606,428 (3.8%)**
Navy Basic	634,021	615,306	**615,306**	-18,715 (3%)	--
Navy Applied	881,302	834,538	**849,538**	-31,764 (3.6%)	15,000 (1.8%)
Navy ATD	674,102	583,116	**623,816**	-50,286 (7.5%)	40,700 (7%)
Air Force RDTE	25,432,738	25,702,946	**24,947,354**	**-485,384 (1.9%)**	**-755,592 (2.9%)**
Air Force Basic	516,034	524,770	**524,770**	8,736 (1.7%)	--
Air Force Applied	1,120,053	1,127,893	**1,137,893**	17,840 (1.6%)	10,000 (<1%)
Air Force ATD	636,737	617,526	**609,526**	-27,211 (4.3%)	-8,000 (1.3%)
DW RDTE	18,631,946	17,667,108	**17,885,538**	**-746,408 (4%)**	**218,430 (1.2%)**
DW Basic	551,748	588,133	**593,133**	41,385 (7.5%)	5,000 (<1%)
DW Applied	1,722,934	1,778,565	**1,780,797**	57,863 (3.4%)	2,232 (<1%)

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DW ATD	3,258,613	3,109,007	**3,283,007**	24,394 (<1%)	174,000 (5.6%)

* Values do not account for sequestration or additional FY 2013 across-the-board rescissions

Sources and Additional Information:

- A House Appropriations Committee press release on passage of the bill is available at http://appropriations.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=343918.
- A complete list of amendments adopted during floor debate is available at http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/07.24.13_fy14_defense_bill_-_floor_adopted_amendments.pdf.
- The complete text of the FY 2014 House defense appropriations bill is available at http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bills-113hr-fc-ap-fy2014-ap00-defense.pdf.
- The Committee's explanatory report accompanying the bill is available at http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hrpt-113-hr-fy2014-defense.pdf.
- The White House SAP stating opposition to the House bill is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/legislative/sap/113/saphr2397r_20130722.pdf.

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FEDERAL AGENCY NEWS

Budget Update: White House Issues Guidance to Federal Agencies on FY 2015 Science and Technology Priorities

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) have issued guidance to federal agencies on the science and technology priorities for their fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget submissions. The priorities outlined in this memo are very similar to those outlined by the White House last year when it issued its guidance for FY 2014.

The guidance memo begins by noting the budget challenges the United States faces and reiterates the Administration's stance that Congress and the White House must work together to reach a "grand bargain" that would include tax reform, entitlement reform, and an end to sequestration. Along these lines, the White House directs federal agencies to prioritize spending within the agencies by reducing spending on lower-priority programs and investing in education, research and development, and job creation.

Notably, the White House encourages federal agencies to internally identify, clearly articulate, and pursue "Grand Challenges." Agencies are encouraged to partner with one another in order to leverage funds, especially regarding large and costly research projects. The White House also expresses its wish to build on past memoranda regarding open access to data and scholarly publications, noting, "Agencies should give priority to activities that significantly increase access to research results for all citizens."

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The Administration's multi-agency priorities are very similar to those from last year and they build upon current research priorities such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy, innovation, and global climate change, while adding new foci in research and development for national-security missions and neuroscience. Unlike last year, nanotechnology is not highlighted as one of the research priorities. Similar to last year's memo, the White House instructs agencies to fund research tools and infrastructure to ensure the U.S. remains the world leader in scientific research. However, new facilities must fit within federal real property guidance and should be balanced against research funding and the operation of existing facilities. Again, as was stated in last year's guidance, the memo instructs agencies to include targeted outcomes of science and technology investments that can be measured and effectively evaluated.

Multi-agency research priorities highlighted in the memo are as follows:

- *Advanced Manufacturing* – in particular, government-industry-university partnerships and enabling technologies.
- *Clean Energy* – priority to be given to research and development on: clean energy technologies; improving the cost and efficiency of clean transportation fuels; manufacturing of clean energy technology; and energy efficiency in industry, buildings and manufacturing.
- *Global Climate Change* – focus on the priority activities identified in the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) 2012-2021 Strategic Plan.
- *Research and Development for Informed Policy Making and Management* – in particular, health, safety, and environmental impacts.
- *Information Technology Research and Development* – priority to be given to research in Big Data and cybersecurity.
- *R&D for National-Security Missions* – calls for a balance between basic and applied research at national security agencies; prioritizes developing "capabilities in hypersonics, countering weapons of mass destruction, advanced computing, accelerated training, and handling large data sets."
- *Innovation in Biology and Neuroscience* – focus on translational science, regulation, and training to support the bioeconomy workforce, including innovations in health (most notably the BRAIN Initiative), national security, energy, and agriculture.
- *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education* – directs agencies to align their STEM education investments with the goals as outlined in the STEM Five-Year Strategic Plan; priority should be given to programs that use evidence to guide program design and implementation.
- *Innovation and Commercialization* – encourages the promotion of innovation and commercialization from the research agencies support; the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) is highlighted.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The OMB memorandum is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2013/m-13-16.pdf.

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NIH Funding Opportunity: Big Data Centers of Excellence

On July 22, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for Centers of Excellence for Big Data Computing in the Biomedical Sciences, the signature Centers program supported by NIH's Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative. These BD2K Centers of Excellence will support multi-investigator, interdisciplinary teams to advance the science and utility of biomedical Big Data by creating new approaches, software, and tools that will be broadly applicable to the needs of the biomedical research community. NIH began developing the BD2K Initiative, including the BD2K Center program, as part of its plan to implement recommendations of a Data and Informatics Working Group of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director, which highlighted the need to address challenges related to the use of biomedical Big Data.

Research at these Centers will range from early-stage to mature development of methods and resources. NIH will not support BD2K Centers to generate large datasets or databases. The RFA identifies four areas of Big Data science that NIH is hoping to address though the program's activities. Center applicants are encouraged to focus on one or more of the following; a single Center is not expected to address all of these areas:

1. *Collaborative environments and technologies*:
   A Center may address issues related to the release and accessibility of Big Data and tools.
2. *Data integration*:
   A Center may develop strategies for creating connections across data types.
3. *Analysis and modeling methodologies*:
   A Center may develop approaches for modeling, simulation, or analysis to produce new, useful biomedical information not provided by current methods.
4. *Computer science and statistical approaches*:
   A Center may explore research areas in the basic computational science of biomedical Big Data.

Also included in the RFA are several examples of projects that could be proposed by Center applicants to enable the development of approaches, methods, and tools that would improve the ability to extract new knowledge from large, complex datasets. It is expected that the research of the Centers will focus on specific biomedical questions, but the results and products of the research should be applicable to broader uses. NIH does not specify a particular organizational structure for the BD2K Centers, but applicants are advised to submit well-integrated plans that incorporate large-scale research, dissemination, and training activities into a cohesive Center.

The BD2K Center awards will use the U54 Specialized Center Cooperative Agreement mechanism. Under this mechanism, NIH plans to organize a BD2K Center Consortium in which all BD2K Center of Excellence awardees will be expected to participate. Consortium activities will identify areas of synergy among the Centers and explore possibilities for concerted actions that have the potential to advance the field of data science beyond the efforts of individual Centers.

Letters of Intent: Letters of intent are optional and should be submitted by October 20, 2013.

Application Due Date: Full proposals are due November 20, 2013.

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Total Funding and Award Size: NIH intends to spend a total of up to $24 million in fiscal year (FY) 2014 to fund between six and eight awards. Application budgets may be for up to $2 million in direct costs per year for a project period of up to four years.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The complete RFA is available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HG-13-009.html.
- An informational webinar for prospective applicants will be held on **Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. EDT**. More details about the webinar, the overall BD2K Initiative, and upcoming BD2K workshops are available at http://bd2k.nih.gov.
- The Data and Informatics Working Group of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director Report, which provided the recommendations that served as the basis for the BD2K Initiative, is available at http://acd.od.nih.gov/Data%20and%20Informatics%20Working%20Group%20Report.pdf.

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NIH: NIH Releases Big Data RFI on Development of Analysis Methods and Software

NIH has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit input on the development of analysis methods and software for big data. One of the primary goals of the Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative is to facilitate the development and dissemination of new informatics methods and tools that will meet the big data needs of the biomedical research community. A BD2K working group is examining this topic and will likely use responses to this RFI to help inform future BD2K workshop discussions and funding opportunity announcements.

The RFI seeks input from the scientific and informatics research and user communities to help identify and prioritize needs and knowledge gaps in the following four areas:

- Data Compression/Reduction – enables reduced resource usage and data volume
- Data Visualization – allows information to be communicated though graphical and interactive methods
- Data Provenance – provides the ability to determine data attribution, relationships, differences, reliability, and usefulness
- Data Wrangling – relates to the conversion, formatting, and mapping of data to more easily facilitate data accessibility and sharing

All comments should be submitted via email to BD2KSoftware@mail.nih.gov. The response submission deadline is **September 6, 2013**.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The complete RFI is available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HG-13-014.html.
- For more information on notices, funding opportunities, and workshops related to the NIH BD2K Initiative, please see the BD2K website (http://bd2k.nih.gov/#sthash.ZkatnHCA.dpbs), where you can also sign up for the BD2K Listserv.

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NIH: NIH Encourages Institutions to Promote Wider Use of Individual Development Plans by Trainees

On July 23, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a notice that it will begin encouraging, but not require, grantees to develop an institutional policy on the use of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) by all NIH-supported graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, regardless of the type of NIH grant providing the support. In the announcement, grantee institutions are also encouraged to begin reporting the use of IDPs in the Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs) of any projects including graduate students or postdocs. Although this change is not a mandatory requirement and does not include incentives for compliance, instructions for reporting IDPs will appear in the RPPR on October 18, 2013, and institutions are expected to begin reporting IDPs by no later than October 1, 2014. NIH does not intend to mandate one universal IDP format or to collect IDPs from institutions.

The recommendation to increase the use of IDPs by postdocs was among several recommendations included in last year's Advisory Committee to the NIH Director (ACD) Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group Report, and a modified version of the recommendation (expanded to include graduate students) was also part of the NIH leadership's proposed plan for implementing the ACD Report. The IDP issue was also included in an NIH Request for Information (RFI) released in February on the implementation of the ACD Report recommendations, and according to NIH, feedback has indicated that the research community overwhelmingly believes IDPs to be an effective and useful mentoring tool.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full notice is available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-093.html.

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DOD Funding Opportunity: DOD Releases FY 2014 MURI BAA

On August 19, the Department of Defense (DOD) released its fiscal year (FY) 2014 Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the popular Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program. MURI is one of DOD's cornerstone university research programs, supporting basic research projects at the intersection of multiple scientific disciplines in areas of interest to DOD. DOD indicates that it will award a total of up to $250 million for MURI projects in FY 2014. While the BAA was released through the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the Army Research Office (ARO) and Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) also partake in the program. Each of the service branch research offices administers specific topic areas within the BAA (see below). Researchers submit proposals directly to the office responsible for the topic area to which they are responding.

The FY 2014 MURI topics reflect a number of crosscutting priority areas for DOD, including energy, advanced materials, biology and synthetic biology, and computational and information sciences. These areas map with topics recently identified by senior DOD research officials as enduring science and technology priorities despite budget pressure caused by sequestration and other spending reductions. New for FY 2014, DOD stipulates the funding amount and desired team size for each individual topic area rather than providing general guidelines,

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as was previous practice. Details are included in the complete description of each topic area contained in the full BAA. FY 2014 MURI topic areas by service branch are:

Army Research Office

- Attosecond Electron Dynamics
- Force-Activated Synthetic Biology
- Nonlinear Dynamics of Energy Hypersurfaces Governing Reaction Networks
- Strongly Linked Multiscale Models for Predicting Novel Functional Materials
- Multistep Catalysis
- Innovation in Prokaryotic Evolution
- Ultracold Molecular Ion Reactions
- The Skin-Microbe Interactome

Office of Naval Research

- Understanding Energy Harvesting Mechanisms in Polymer-Based Photovoltaics
- Role of Bidirectional Computation in Visual Scene Analysis
- Exploring the Atomic and Electronic Structure of Materials to Predict Functional Material Properties
- Optical Computing
- Quantum optomechanics
- Air-Sea Interaction and RF Propagation in Maritime Atmospheric Boundary Layers
- Hydrodynamics of Non-traditional Propulsion

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

- Time-resolved quantum dynamics of complex systems
- Computational Foundation of Mathematics and Information
- Transport and Utilization of Energy Using Plasmon-induced Processes
- Design Rules for Biobased and Bioinspired Materials
- Control of Coherent Structures in Plasmas for Reconfigurable Metamaterial-Based Devices
- Multifunctional Quantum Transduction of Photons, Electrons and Phonons
- Control of Light Propagation through Metasurfaces
- Goal-Driven, Multi-Source Algorithms for Complex Resilient Multi-Physics Systems
- Security Theory of Nano-Scale Devices

Letters of Intent: Letters of intent are not required. However, DOD encourages interested researchers to submit white papers to the appropriate program manager in advance of preparing a full proposal. Program managers provide feedback on the extent to which ideas align with current DOD priorities. The deadline for submitting white papers is 4:00 PM EDT on October 15. The BAA states that DOD will provide feedback on white papers by October 29.

Due Dates: As noted above, white papers are due by October 15. For those receiving positive responses to white papers, the deadline for submitting full proposals is December 16, 2013. Full proposals must be

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submitted electronically through grants.gov. While white papers are not required in order to submit a full proposal, DOD strongly encourages this initial step.

Total Funding and Award Size: DOD anticipates awarding a total of $250 million through this BAA subject to future appropriations. Individual awards range from $1 million-$2.5 million per year, with most awards between $1.25 million and $1.5 million. Awards are for an initial three year period with the possibility of one two year extension. Detailed funding levels for each topic area are in the full BAA.

Eligibility and Limitations: The MURI competition is open to U.S. universities with degree-granting programs in science and engineering. DOD encourages submissions from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions, but will not set aside any funding specifically for these entities. Teams of researchers from multiple institutions can apply for a topic area, but the proposal must designate one lead institution and one lead investigator from that institution to serve as the primary interface with DOD. Desired team sizes for each topic area are in the full BAA.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full FY 2014 MURI BAA is available by searching "ONRBAA13-022" at grants.gov.
- For reference, the list of selected projects through the FY 2013 MURI competition is at http://www.defense.gov/news/2013MURITeams.pdf.

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DOD Funding Opportunity: Office of Naval Research Releases FY 2014 BAA for Young Investigator Program

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) released its fiscal year (FY) 2014 Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the Young Investigator Program (YIP). This popular program, which is also offered by other DOD branches like the Army Research Office and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, provides early career university faculty a path into the Navy's research enterprise through multi-year research grants. With this program, ONR identifies promising young tenure-track faculty in their first or second year who demonstrate the ability to deliver innovative research aligned with ONR's research priorities. Competition for this program has been intense in recent years; ONR awarded 16 proposals out of 369 for the FY 2013 competition.

Like other BAAs, DOD will accept any proposals that address research areas outlined in ONR's broad research portfolio. A complete list of topics of interest to each of ONR's six departments – Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Combating Terrorism (Code 30); Command, Control Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (Code 31); Ocean Battlespace Sensing (Code 32); Sea Warfare and Weapons (Code 33); Warfighter Performance (Code 34); and Naval Air Warfare and Weapons (Code 35) – are available on ONR's science and technology homepage located at http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments.aspx.

Due to DOD's continued emphasis on seven research thrusts outlined by former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Zach Lemnios (autonomy, counter weapons of mass destruction, cyber, data-to-

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decisions, electronic warfare and protection, human systems, and engineering resilient systems), ONR continues to map its individual research foci to these priorities. Most recently, DOD officials have emphasized cognitive sciences, synthetic biology, advanced materials, and quantum information sciences within these areas. Faculty are encouraged to contact the appropriate program manager to discuss research proposals and how they align with ONR's research foci and the above priorities. ONR will accept brief white papers to facilitate discussion.

Letters of Intent: None required. ONR encourages researchers to submit white papers to ONR technical leads to discuss the applicability of proposed research topics to ONR's interests.

Due Dates: January 3, 2014.

Total Funding and Award Size: ONR anticipates having $9.6 million for YIP awards in FY 2014, with individual awards up to $170,000 per year for three years. ONR anticipates making approximately 15 awards for this competition. Budget uncertainties caused by sequestration may alter this funding for FY 2014 and beyond.

Eligibility and Limitations: This BAA is open to first or second year tenure-track faculty from institutions of higher education that award degrees in science, engineering, and/or mathematics. Note that ONR makes awards to institutions, not individuals. Researchers therefore must submit proposals along with a letter of support from the university through appropriate administrators.

Sources and Additional Information:

- Further information on awards, application processes, and technical requirements can be found in the full announcement located at http://www.onr.navy.mil/~/media/Files/Funding-Announcements/BAA/2013/13-023.ashx.
- Information on ONR's research focus areas can be found at http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments.aspx.

Administration Update: President Obama Announces Nominees for NSF Director and OSTP Leadership

On July 31, President Obama announced his intent to nominate a number of individuals to key Administration posts, including positions at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The President plans to nominate Dr. France A. Córdova to be the next Director of NSF and Dr. Jo Handelsman as Associate Director for Science at OSTP.

Dr. Córdova is President Emeritus of Purdue University and is currently the chair of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, as well as a member of the National Science Board. As President of Purdue University from 2007-2012, Dr. Córdova focused on student achievement, raising the reputational ranking of the university, increasing research awards, and promoting economic impact. During her leadership, the university developed a new College of Health and Human Sciences and its Global Policy Research Institute. Before joining Purdue University, she held positions as Chancellor of the University of California at Riverside and Vice Chancellor for Research and Professor of Physics at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Dr. Córdova

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is an astrophysicist with a BA in English from Stanford University and a PhD in physics from the California Institute of Technology.

Before becoming NSF Director, Dr. Córdova must be confirmed by the Senate. Although this is a straightforward process, Senate confirmations have previously taken a number of months. Until this happens, NSF will continue to be led by Dr. Cora Marrett who has served as Acting Director since Dr. Subra Suresh left at the end of March to become President of Carnegie Mellon University.

Also of interest to the scientific community is the nomination of Dr. Jo Handelsman for Associate Director for Science at OSTP. Dr. Handelsman is the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor and Frederick Phineas Rose Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale University. Dr. Handelsman is a plant pathologist and is currently President of the American Society for Microbiology.