Funding Opportunity: AFRL Releases BAA for Science and Technology for Autonomous Teammates (STAT)

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – July 11, 2017

On July 7, the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) released a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the Science and Technology for Autonomous Teammates (STAT) program. AFRL intends to issue open periods and calls under this BAA over a six-year period, starting in fiscal year (FY) 2018 and ending in FY 2023. Research and technology stemming from this BAA will improve the Air Force’s capability to conduct missions using autonomous systems in a variety of situations and environments, while minimizing risks to Air Force personnel.

The program seeks technologies that:
1) Enable airman-machine teaming for executing Air Force missions.
2) Reduce workload or manning without compromising mission effectiveness or decision timelines.
3) Enable autonomous systems to understand commander’s intent and mission requirements and adapt to changing circumstances in a manner consistent with commander’s intent.
4) Allow autonomous and unmanned systems to safely and efficiently integrate into Air Force operations.

The STAT program will push for research to strengthen three capabilities: Multi-domain Command and Control (MDC2); Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination (PED); and Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) in combat situations. The program features eight research areas to support and improve the three capabilities referenced above. The eight areas are:
1) Mission Planning and Debrief
2) Flight Operations
3) Communications and Datalinks
4) Human Interfaces
5) Multi-Domain Mission Operations
6) Executive Functions
7) System Integration
8) Test and Evaluation, Verification, and Validation techniques

Specific information on each research area can be found in the full BAA.

Due Dates: The BAA is not requesting any white papers or proposals at this time. However, AFRL will issue calls and open periods to submit proposals during the six-year period when the BAA is open. Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor the BAA for specific requests and opportunities.

Total Funding and Award Size: AFRL expects to award $950 million over the six-year period. AFRL anticipates funding multiple awards, depending on the number of responses received. AFRL has estimated funding for the following years:

- FY 2018 $118 million
- FY 2019 $152 million
- FY 2020 $159 million
FY 2021 $153 million  
FY 2022 $149 million  
FY 2023 $219 million  

**Eligibility and Limitations:** This is an unrestricted solicitation. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) may submit proposals. However, the FFRDC’s sponsoring agency must determine that the proposal falls within the scope of the FFRDC’s mission. AFRL must also determine that the work would not place the FFRDC in direct competition with domestic private industry. Please see the full BAA for more information.

**Sources and Additional Background:**