AFRL MIDATLANTIC REGIONAL HUB

Fall 2022 Funding Program Overview and Process Detail FAQ

How do I get on the Mid Atlantic Hub’s email list?
- Please send an email to Mike Beeching at dmb55@cornell.edu.

How many awards cycles does the Hub anticipate each year?
- We anticipate three awards cycles each year that are seven weeks in duration.

When does the Hub’s proposal submission open?
- September 8; Closes September 29 at 5:00 pm EST.

When is the inaugural Mid Atlantic Hub meeting?
- October 27, 9:00 – 4:30 pm; October 28, 9:00 – 12:00 pm.
- Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
- In-person only; there is no virtual attendance option.

What is the category of the research being supported?
- Fundamental research with innovation and commercial development potential.

What topical areas will Hub proposals focus on in response to the upcoming solicitation?
- There are currently two technical areas of focus: (1) quantifying performance in extreme environments; and (2) complex systems modeling.
- Future areas of technical focus, such as EDGE Computing in SWAP constraints, will be explored and considered at the Annual Meeting.

Will the Hub fund projects addressing the possible third thrust originally proposed as part of the seed proposals (computation at the edge in SWAP constraints)?
- Proposals in this area are encouraged to apply under the complex systems modeling technical focus for the Fall ‘22 cycle.

Will open-source projects be allowed?
- Yes – proposals leveraging open-source software that align with the goals of the Hub are encouraged. The goals of the Hub are integrated into the evaluation criteria defined in the AFRL MIDATLANTIC REGIONAL HUB - Funding Program Overview and Process Detail document.
Who matches funding? Companies, the government, both?

- We expect project teams to identify matching funds where they are required or suggested. Funds may come from a variety of sources and should align with Item 6. Cost Sharing or Matching in the AFRL MIDATLANTIC REGIONAL HUB - Funding Program Overview and Process Detail document.

How will IP ownership work with Hub projects?

- Background IP may belong to AFRL, an academic partner, or a company partner, depending on the original ownership and heritage of the IP.
- Foreground IP is described in Item 6. IP Framework in the AFRL MIDATLANTIC REGIONAL HUB - Funding Program Overview and Process Detail document.

What does the Hub mean by “commercialization” in the context of the solicitation and project proposals?

- We define commercialization in this context as the process of exploring an innovation’s fit and potential with an identifiable, marketable commercial need and/or developing a particular technology to be deployed in the marketplace.

Are Hub funds viewed as an “investment” for which Hub leaders are measuring ROI?

- At this point, the only funding stage for which the Hub would consider direct ROI would be Phase 3 – Accelerating Translation projects where the funding is provided via a SAFE (Secure Agreement for Future Equity) or similar instrument.
- The overall goals of the hub, articulated in the evaluation criteria for funding, and the related metrics consider the overall effort of the Hub and its “ROI” to the AFRL.

Will Cornell charge overhead on the budgets? Are they treated as already having overhead deducted so the budget is just the actual costs?

- Proposers should consider the overhead and budgeting guidelines of their respective institution, including PI’s from the Cornell community.
- As the contractor to the AFRL, Cornell, in its role as the Hub administrator incorporates overhead per the terms of the contract and University policy. Such overhead does not impact individual projects.

How will workforce development be incorporated into projects?

- The Hub has decided to assess the teams and projects before initiating explicit workforce thrusts. Once Hub leaders have assessed its technical proposals/projects, workforce development programs will implemented in a way to leverage connections and project foci.
Will Cornell handle all the subcontracting actions such as making awards and accounting for deliverables?
- Yes. Noting the Hub will provide funding recommendations to AFRL, who will ultimately make final funding decisions that will become actionable.

Will the Hub provide feedback on the seed funding proposals submitted so far?
- Yes – feedback is forthcoming.

What is the corporate membership fee to join the hub?
- Details on the corporate membership fee are forthcoming in the near future.

Are there any limits on company involvement with Hub projects?
- Companies must be based in the U.S. and preferably in the Mid Atlantic Hub’s region.
- AFRL requires the disclosure Non-U.S. citizens for approval by the AFRL. This requirement is described in Item 1.8 in the AFRL MIDATLANTIC REGIONAL HUB - Funding Program Overview and Process Detail document.

What form of AFRL engagement or explicit support is needed?
- Currently, the Hub is not expecting any explicit statements from classified Air Force clients, though we expect Air Force S&T members to participate and provide support when necessary.

Are projects with more than two PIs allowed?
- Yes, and the Hub encourages interactive projects that are as interdisciplinary as possible.

What is the citizenship requirement to work on a proposal?
- Non-U.S. citizens may participate but the Hub requires disclosure of such individuals. This requirement is described in Item 1.8 in the AFRL MIDATLANTIC REGIONAL HUB - Funding Program Overview and Process Detail document.

Will the Government have to pay any fees to use products that are developed from these awards?
- This will depend on the license(s) at hand.