

## **Special Notice (SN) DARPA-SN-25-73**

### **Grainy Day Proposers Day June 30, 2025**

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Strategic Technology Office (STO) is sponsoring a collateral SECRET Proposers Day to provide information to potential proposers on the objectives of an anticipated Program Solicitation (PS) for the Grainy Day program. The Proposers Day will be held on June 30, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM ET in Arlington, VA. Note that all times listed in this announcement and on the registration website are Eastern Time (ET).

The goals of the Grainy Day Proposers Day are to (1) introduce the research community (proposers, academia, and government) to the Grainy Day program vision and goals, (2) explain the mechanics of a DARPA program and the milestones of this particular effort, and (3) encourage and promote teaming arrangements, to include cleared-uncleared teaming, among potential organizations that have the relevant expertise, facilities, and capabilities for executing a research and development program responsive to the program goals.

The majority of the agenda for this Proposers Day will be held at the SECRET classification level. Classified portions of the agenda will occur only in person, with no webcast. However, to maximize the pool of innovative proposal concepts, and to promote teaming arrangements between potential cleared prime contractor companies and uncleared subcontractors, DARPA will facilitate a series of Lightning Talks at the UNCLASSIFIED level. Companies or entities without a SECRET Facility clearance (FCL) or personnel clearance (PCL), to include non-traditional proposers including small businesses, academic and research institutions, and first-time government contractors, are strongly encouraged to present their capabilities during this portion of the agenda for potential future teaming with cleared companies. The UNCLASSIFIED part of the agenda will be conducted solely via prerecorded videos. Advance registration is required both to attend the Proposers Day in person and to submit a prerecorded UNCLASSIFIED Lightning Talk video. Additionally, registered uncleared parties may also submit Teaming profiles. Details for both Lightning Talks and Teaming Profiles can be found below.

DARPA anticipates releasing the Grainy Day PS in late June 2025. If released, the PS will be available on <https://sam.gov/> with instructions for accessing classified information via a Classified Addendum.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION**

DARPA is soliciting innovative approaches and new methods to address challenges in passive specific placement of unattended sensors from Unmanned Aerial Systems aircraft. The program specifically encourages submissions from experts in (1) aerodynamics and control, (2) rugged environment microelectronics, (3) micro-unmanned aerial vehicles (MAVs)<sup>1</sup>, (4) chip foundry or device manufacturing experts, and other innovative proposers with solutions that may fulfill the metrics of the Grainy Day program.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the Grainy Day Program, MAVs refer to systems less than 2 kg (Class I, Category: Micro).

Emplacement of sensors is envisioned from a range of altitudes between those of small UAVs to military aircraft. This will require aerodynamic surfaces and control algorithms that can compensate for jet streams, trade winds and low-level weather in real time, across a range of wind and weather conditions. The sensing devices must be ruggedized to withstand extreme environments in flight and the forces of impact, while maintaining functionality.

A large number of sensing devices are envisioned for delivery at a time. High-volume scalability and manufacturability are key components of program success. It is anticipated that proposers may be able to make use of rapid fabrication and commercial chip foundries. Lightning Talks or Teaming Profiles by chip foundry or device manufacturing experts at Proposers Day would be beneficial for teaming opportunities.

A future unclassified PS, if released, will provide generalities for the Grainy Day program. Program specifics will be detailed in a Classified Addendum made available to potential proposers after verifying security eligibility. A Program Security Classification Guide (SCG) will also be made available at that time. All abstract and proposals will be at the classified level; unclassified abstracts and proposals will not be accepted.

## **LIGHTNING TALKS**

Proposers Day attendees may be afforded the opportunity to give a 5-minute oral presentation during the Proposers Day outlining their interests and capabilities. The purpose of these presentations is to facilitate teaming discussions among attendees.

For onsite attendees, DARPA will accept submissions on a first-come, first-served basis. DARPA cannot guarantee that all requests to brief will be fulfilled. Submitted briefing materials are limited to a single PDF-format slide, which should be unclassified and appropriate for public release. The slide must be submitted to [GrainyDay@darpa.mil](mailto:GrainyDay@darpa.mil) by 5:00 PM ET on June 25, 2025.

For uncleared parties interested in teaming with cleared companies via subcontract, DARPA will accept 5-minute pre-recorded Lightning Talks that will be shown at Proposers Day. Contact [GrainyDay@darpa.mil](mailto:GrainyDay@darpa.mil) to request a secure link by which to transmit the video file. Video files will only be accepted from registered participants. Uncleared parties will not be able to attend the Proposers Day. The preferred video format is .mp4 files encoded with the h.264 codec at 1920x1080 or 1280x720 resolution (landscape, not portrait).

## **TEAMING PROFILES**

DARPA highly encourages the formation of teams with the necessary expertise before proposal submission. Within the boundaries of the SCG, there is likely an opportunity to team with innovative and non-traditional subcontractors at the unclassified level.

Teaming Profile List (Optional, limited distribution): In addition to Lightning Talks, all interested parties (cleared or uncleared) may submit a one-page UNCLASSIFIED 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 their desired expertise from other teams/organizations, if applicable. All profiles must be emailed to [GrainyDay@darpa.mil](mailto:GrainyDay@darpa.mil) than 5:00 PM ET on July 8, 2025. Following the deadline, the consolidated teaming profiles will be sent via email to those proposers who submitted a valid profile. Specific content, communications, networking, and team formation are the sole responsibility of the participants. Neither DARPA nor DoD endorses the information or organizations contained in the consolidated teaming profile document, nor does DARPA or DoD accept any responsibility for improper dissemination of the teaming profiles.

Please note: Any unclassified work is expected to be Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). Therefore, prior to proposal presentation, prime contractors and subcontractors must Comply with NIST 80-171 security requirements and desirably perform a Basic Assessment within the Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS). Visit <https://www.sprs.csd.disa.mil/default.htm> for more details. Additional details will be available in the Classified Addendum, if released.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Grainy Day is a classified program. To be considered for award, the Principal Investigator (PI) must have an active SECRET personnel clearance (PCL), the prime contractor team must have sufficient personnel with existing (or the ability to obtain) SECRET PCL(s), and the prime contractor must have an existing collateral SECRET facility clearance (FCL).

Prime contractors are encouraged to team with non-traditional subcontractors, small companies, and/or universities with applied research programs, to fulfill the terms of an Other Transaction Agreement and to provide DARPA with an expanded performer pool. See the “Teaming Profiles” section of this Special Notice for details.

Proposers Day is an in-person event, open only to registered potential proposers. It is closed to the general public and media. Registration for this in-person event is open to potential proposers who have at minimum a final (i.e., not interim) collateral SECRET U.S. DoD security clearance. No persons will be allowed to participate in the Grainy Day Proposers Day without a collateral SECRET visit request on file with the event venue.

Registration is open to uncleared participants for potential subcontracting arrangements only via prerecorded Lightning Talks. Uncleared persons should NOT arrive in-person at the Proposers Day.

For collateral-level visits, please fax your clearance/visit request to Strategic Analysis, Inc. at (703) 797-4575 or send it via DISS SMO Code 446095. The Meeting POC is Ashlee Gilligan (703) 581-8116, and the Security POC is Carl Clayton (571) 237-7604). The purpose statement is “To attend the DARPA Grainy Day Proposers Day.” For clearance receipt/verification, please email Ashlee Gilligan at [agilligan@sainc.com](mailto:agilligan@sainc.com). Clearances must be received by 5 p.m. on June 23, 2025. Additional guidelines for submitting your clearance/visit request can be found on the meeting website.

All registrants who are not U.S. Citizens must complete and submit either a DARPA Form 60

(U.S. Permanent Resident and Foreign National Visit Request – e.g., industry or academia) or an Official Visit Request (foreign government personnel only) through the Embassy based in Washington, DC, no later than 5:00 PM ET on June 16, 2025. Form 60 submission instructions are provided on the registration website and in the registration confirmation email. Contact your Embassy staff for assistance in submitting the Official Visit Request. Upon entry to the physical meeting, all attendees will be required to present valid, government-issued photo identification.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Grainy Day Proposers Day will be held on June 30, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM ET in Arlington, VA. There is no registration fee for the Proposers Day meeting. The Proposers Day meeting will start with presentations by DARPA that include a technical briefing to further describe the planned PS objectives and content.

**Registration opens:** As of publication of this announcement.

**Registration website:** <https://events.sa-meetings.com/DARPAGRAINYday>

**Registration closes** (physical attendance): June 23, 2025, at 5:00 PM ET or when capacity is reached, whichever comes first.

Due to the limitations of the conference facility space, physical attendance is restricted to the first 136 registrants, with a maximum of 4 individuals from any one organization and no more than 2 representatives per division/department of that organization. The determination of what constitutes an organization and division/department will be made by the DARPA program manager. Registration may close prior to the registration deadline if the venue capacity is met. As a result, if any change to the registration deadline is made, it will be captured in an update to the registration website. Interested parties are encouraged to coordinate attendance internally within their organizations prior to registration.

Advance registration via the above website is required for attending the Proposers Day in person. **There will be no on-site registration.** Attendees should send visit requests, security clearances, and other applicable documents to the Strategic Analysis, Inc. points of contact listed above in the Eligibility section prior to the close of registration listed above.

Registrants in excess of the maximum capacity limitations (136 for physical attendance) may be added to a waitlist. Individuals who are unable to register for physical attendance because the deadline has elapsed or capacity has been reached may be added to the waitlist. If slots become available due to cancellations, the slots may be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis from the waitlist.

## Q & A

Administrative, technical, and contractual questions about the Grainy Day should be emailed to [GrainyDay@darpa.mil](mailto:GrainyDay@darpa.mil). All questions must be in English and must include the name and email address of a point of contact. Do NOT email classified questions to

[GrainyDay@darpa.mil](mailto:GrainyDay@darpa.mil).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please refer to the Grainy Day Proposers Day in all correspondence.

- Technical Point of Contact: Dr. Michael Nayak, Program Manager, [GrainyDay@darpa.mil](mailto:GrainyDay@darpa.mil)

## **DISCLAIMERS AND IMPORTANT NOTES**

- Attendance at the Grainy Day Proposers Day or submitting a Lightning Talk video is voluntary and is not required to propose to the anticipated Grainy Day PS.
- 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, with the exception of the one-page profile described in the Teaming section above and briefing materials/video associated with Lightning Talks.
- DARPA will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred to participate in this Proposers Day.
- Recording the Proposers Day is not permitted.