

Cybersecurity Research and Innovation Funding

FY 20-21 Request for Proposals:

DEADLINE DATES:

RFP ISSUE DATE: **(February 3, 2020)**

Last day for questions and answers about this RFP: **(February 24, 2020)**

Proposals due: **(March 6, 2020, 5:00 PM Eastern Time)**

Supported by:

**Coastal Virginia Center for Cyber Innovation
Commonwealth Cyber Initiative**

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<https://cyberinitiative.org/>

Introduction:

Virginia's Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) aims to create a Commonwealth-wide ecosystem of innovation excellence in cyber-physical systems (CPS) with an emphasis on trust and security. Certified as a node of CCI, the Coastal Virginia Center for Cyber Innovation (CoVA) seeks to:

- conduct fundamental research that will lead to breakthroughs in CPS security (CPSS), contributing to the CCI mission of establishing Virginia as a global leader in secure CPS and in the digital economy,
- foster and accelerate commercialization of CPSS innovation in order to grow and diversify the Virginia cyber economy, and
- expand and diversify the cybersecurity talent pipeline through investments in research capabilities and commercialization efforts.

The CoVA CCI Cybersecurity Research and Innovation Funding program will support diverse and inclusive CPSS research efforts, with a focus on the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and CPS technologies applied to maritime, transportation, and defense sectors.

The program supports two types of projects.

- Track 1: Research Development. Track 1 projects focus on the development of new technologies and/or demonstration of commercializable prototypes.
- Track 2: Industrial Collaboration. Track 2 projects aim to establish collaboration with industrial partners. It is highly encouraged to design these projects for developing joint SBIR/STTR proposals.

Eligibility Guidelines:

Individuals who hold a regular tenured or tenure-track or research professor position at any higher education institution that is a member of CoVA CCI are eligible to apply.

Award Information:

Estimated Number of Awards: 6 to 10

Anticipated Funding Amount: Awards for Track 1 (Research Development) projects may not exceed \$150,000. Awards for Track 2 (Industrial Collaboration) projects may not exceed \$50,000. In both cases, the awardee must provide a 1:1 matching contribution. Indirect costs (IDC) are not allowable, but unrecovered IDC can be used as a match.

Award Conditions:

Successful applicant is expected to participate fully in the activities of CoVA CCI including providing materials needed for reports, participation in CoVA CCI meetings, and responding to data collection requests by the CoVA CCI. All publications and presentations resulting from the grant should acknowledge support from Coastal Virginia Center for Cyber Innovation (CoVA), Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI).

Schedule

Request for Proposals Released	February 3, 2020
Last Day for Q&A	February 24, 2020
Proposals Due	March 6, 2020, 5:00 PM Eastern Time
Award Notification	April 20, 2020
Project Dates	May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

Proposal Format

Proposals must use 1 inch margins, 11-point font or larger (Arial or Helvetica) and single line spacing. The following outline is to be followed:

- Title page (Please use the one provided with this RFP)
- Proposed Research (up to 8 pages for Track 1 and 4 pages for Track 2)
 - Rationale: discussion of the technical background and engineering/scientific justification. This should include project objectives and justification for the work.
 - Research Plan: What exactly will be done? How will the objectives be met? What are the motivations, methods, likely outcomes, milestones, and future directions?
- Diversity and Sustainability (up to 2 pages)
 - Describe the involvement of women and/or underrepresented minority (URM) in the project.
 - Describe specific plans for securing external funding beyond the project period.
- Commercialization Plan (up to 2 pages, required for Track 2 proposals only)
 - A commercialization plan is required for Tracker 2 proposals to offer a clear and concise description of the proposed work's market potential and the planned path to commercialization.

- Letters of collaboration from industrial partners must be included for Tracker 2 proposals (as appendix not included in the page count).
- References (not included in the page count)
- Budget. A detailed budget and justification/explanation must be included. The 1:1 matching contribution must be clearly described.
- Biosketch (up to 2 pages for each investigator, using NSF format)

Proposal Submission:

The proposal must be submitted to Mr. John Costanzo via email (jcostanz@odu.edu) no later than the close of business day (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, March 6, 2020. All proposals must be submitted as a **single PDF document**.

Evaluation Criteria:

A committee including representatives from the Coastal Virginia Center for Cyber Innovation Research Collaboration Committee will review the proposals and make funding recommendations. Priority will be given to the proposals with

- Strong intellectual merit related to CoVA CCI's mission to advance research and innovation in artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and CPS technologies applied to maritime, transportation, and defense sectors,
- Strong broader impacts,
- Responsiveness to business and industry,
- Multi-institutional collaborations,
- Potential to generate additional funding and revenue, and
- Track record of the project team in research and collaboration.

Specific questions concerning this RFP and the requirements set forth herein should be directed in writing to Mr. John Costanzo by sending an email message to jcostanz@odu.edu.