

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Updates:

09/04/2024 – FAQ Released along with solicitation

09/23/2024 – FAQ updated and FAQs from the pre-proposal webinar were added

09/24/2024 – FAQ updated

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## **Application Submission Questions**

Q1: I have started the application creation/submission process. How do I find what I started and see where it is in the process?

A1: In order to see applications that you have in process, login to your account. See the “All Applications” drop-down menu for your list of applications.

Q2: How can I verify that my application has been submitted?

A2: Once an application has been submitted, under “All Applications” the application will show a green check mark box that says “Submitted.” **Ultimately, it is your responsibility, and not TRISH’s, to verify that your application has been officially submitted by the application due date.**

Q3: Do character limits include spaces?

A3: Yes, character limits include spaces.

Q4: Can one organization submit more than one application?

A4: There is no limit on how many applications an organization may submit.

Q5: Can I request an extension for submitting my application?

A5: Extensions will not be given. It is strongly suggested that you begin your application preparation early and familiarize yourself with the solicitation and TRISH Grant Research Integrated Dashboard (GRID).

Q6: Where do I submit my proposal?

A6: You must submit your proposal via TRISH GRID. This solicitation can be found here: <https://spacehealth.bcm.edu/prog/b-sat>

Q7: Can one single Primary Investigator (PI) submit multiple proposals?

A7: There is no limit on the number of proposals submitted as PI or listed as Co-Investigator.

Q8: How many submissions are expected?

A8: TRISH does not provide confidential information regarding the number of proposals submitted.

Q9: Can a link to a video be included in an application?

A9: Yes, a video link can be included in the application. Please note that reviewers are not required to view and/or consider web links in their evaluation of the proposal.

Q10: If the idea submitted would have Intellectual Property (IP) application on Earth, what safety measures does the process have in place to protect the company's IP?

A10: TRISH follows the NASA guidelines regarding intellectual property. Please refer to Section G.4.b copied here: "Institutions awarded TRISH funding must report each invention disclosure or patent application resulting from their TRISH research grant to both TRISH and NASA within 60 days of investigator disclosure to the home institution. Please also refer to the NASA Guidebook for Proposers: ([https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/gpc/regulations and guidance](https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/gpc/regulations_and_guidance)).

Q11: I just submitted a similar proposal to another funding organization. Can I also apply to this opportunity?

A11: TRISH does not restrict the number of submissions for a similar proposal submitted at the same time as to other funding organizations. We recommend that you also check with the other funding organization regarding their guidelines on this matter.

Q12: Are Letters of Collaboration or Support required? I am unable to mark the task as complete.

A12: Letters of Collaboration or Support are optional. However, you will not be able to mark the task as complete unless the proposer uploads a file. Simply click away from the task and you will be able to submit the proposal without uploading any letters.

## Eligibility Questions

Q1: If an organization is US-based legal entity but the core team is based abroad (the submitter is a US citizen though), would we be compliant?

A1: All categories of United States (U.S.) institutions and companies are eligible to submit proposals. The applying entity must have a US-based office with a Tax ID/EIN number.

## Budget Questions

Q1: How can cost-sharing be contributed?

A1: TRISH welcomes but does not require cost-sharing above the proposal's budgeted amount.

Q2: What are examples of cost-sharing?

A2: Cost-sharing examples:

- o Salaries & benefits.
- o Value of additional % effort contributed by PI.
- o Equipment purchases.
- o Supplies.
- o Travel.
- o Tuition fees.
- o Indirect costs.
- o Value of volunteer services towards the project.

Cost-share must be from a non-federal funding source.

Q3: Does TRISH subcontract to all institutions directly?

A3: In proposals with multiple institutions, TRISH reserves the right to directly subcontract to all institutions listed on the proposal. Consultants and other service contracts would be managed by the PI's institution.

Q4: As a university co-investigator, will the award be made by TRISH directly to the university or will it be a subcontract from one organization to another?

A4: In proposals with multiple institutions, TRISH reserves the right to directly subcontract to all institutions listed on the proposal. Consultants and other service contracts would be managed by the PI's institution.

Q5: In the budget, is it acceptable to give a percent commitment for each key personnel in the project?

A5: Yes, please refer to Budget and Budget Justification section on page 10 of the solicitation for further instructions.

Q6: Can you offer any budget ceiling guidance?

A6: TRISH will consider cost-competitive proposals. No budget guidance will be provided during the open period. It is expected that a budget appropriate for the work being conducted will be submitted by proposers.

## **Application Team Member Questions**

Q1: Is there a required format for biographical sketches?

A1: A NIH or NSF biosketch format is acceptable, but there is no required format. A template has been provided alongside the solicitation for the proposer's convenience. Regardless of the format used, please take careful note of the 2-page limit for biographical sketches.

Q2: Can a foreign citizen who is part of a U.S. institution/company propose to the solicitation?

A2: Yes. The eligibility requirements of the solicitation apply to the proposing organization (company) and not the individual. However, it is possible that export control requirements must be taken into account for members of a proposing organization who are not U.S. citizens or do not have permanent resident status.

Q3: Do I need to list out the names and credentials of each of the research assistants, administrators, and/or students that will be working on the project?

A3: No, it is not necessary to list the names of all individuals working on the project. The principal investigator and co-investigator(s) should be clearly stated.

Q4: Should the application contain letters of support from key personnel that will be providing technical advice, or is it sufficient to describe their input as a collaborator within the research plan?

A4: Key personnel should be included on the cover page as team members and may signal their involvement through GRID or may provide letters of support in the biographical sketches section.

## General Background Questions

Q1: How can I find more information about the latest spaceflight research results? What about current research?

A1: Please refer to the Evidence Reports found on the NASA's Human Research Roadmap: <https://humanresearchroadmap.nasa.gov/Evidence/>. Evidence Reports are provided that review the human risks to spaceflight. General research plans are available by reviewing the tasks within the Human Research Roadmap as well.

Lastly, the NASA Task Book also provides a summary of past and current NASA-funded studies going back to 2004 (including TRISH, NSBRI, HRP, and Space Life and Physical Sciences Research and Applications) <https://taskbook.nasaprs.com/Publication/welcome.cfm>.

Q2: How should I treat export-controlled material in my application?

A2: In general, applicants are advised against including export-controlled material. However, if it is essential to include any export-controlled information in an application, a notice to that effect must be prominently displayed on the first pages of the application and shall state: "The information (data) contained in [insert page numbers or other identification] of this application is (are) subject to U.S. export control laws and regulations. It is furnished to the Government [and TRISH] with the understanding that it will not be exported without the prior approval of the Applicant under the terms of an applicable export license or technical assistance agreement." Note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to determine whether any application information is subject to export-control regulations.

Q3: When will the funding decisions, regarding proposals, be made?

A3: Announcement of awards will be made in January 2025.

Q4: I cannot find the answers to my questions in the solicitation documents, the guidebook, or this FAQ. Who can I ask for assistance?

A4: Please ensure that you read both the TRISH solicitation and this FAQ in their entirety before contacting TRISH with questions. For additional information, please see <https://trish.my.site.com/s/concierge>.

## Specific Topic Questions

Q1: Are glasses (e.g., for eye tracking) too obtrusive to be considered?

A1: TRISH cannot comment on the competitiveness of your proposal idea. The review panel will review proposals for the level of obtrusiveness as well as the other criteria listed in the Request For Proposals (RFP). We encourage you to listen to the pre-proposal webinar; the link is posted alongside the solicitation.

Q2: Six months is very fast. Does this mean you are expecting solutions already at a high Technology Readiness Level (TRL)?

A2: We are expecting solutions at a high TRL level that can be implemented in an analog environment within six months.

Q3: Are there any restrictions on the use of infrared light for this solicitation?

A3: There are no restrictions on the type of light used for this solicitation.

## Pre-Proposal Webinar Questions

**Please note that some questions and answers have been altered or added to for the sake of clarity and completeness. Please consider this document to supersede answers given in the pre-proposal webinar where they may conflict. Questions that are duplicative or exclusively address topics other than these TRISH Request For Proposals may have been removed.**

**Please read and follow the solicitation instructions and additional guidance fully.**

Q1: Will this briefing be available after the presentation?

A1: Yes, recording has been posted alongside the solicitation at [spacehealth.bcm.edu](http://spacehealth.bcm.edu). It is recommended that you download the presentation if you would like to be able to fast forward.

Q2: Is this a Request For Proposals (RFP) for procurement or for R&D?

A2: This RFP is primarily for procurement. While there may be some minor developmental work involved to adapt the tool to the specific needs of the effort—such as enhancing platform availability or modifying the tool's size for compatibility with spaceflight—it is not a pure R&D endeavor. The tool should be relatively mature at the outset to facilitate rapid deployment within a six-month timeframe.

Q3: Is TRISH expecting a wearable handheld device or software on a computer already in the vehicle?

A3: The form factor is flexible and open to various solutions. We are not prescribing any specific format. However, it is likely that the software will need to be introduced as an addition to any existing vehicle equipment. Thus, we encourage innovation in potential solutions.

Q4: Do you expect to award multiple contracts, or how many proposals are you anticipating to award?

A4: We do not have a fixed requirement for the number of awards, but we anticipate awarding one contract.

Q5: Can private for-profit companies include their usual fee in their budget, or would that need to be waived for this project?

A5: Fees from private companies are allowed. If there is no federally negotiated indirect cost agreement, recipients can use the de minimis rate of 10%. Cost competitiveness will be considered during the proposal review process.

Q6: Is this tool expected to assess performance during Extravehicular Activities (EVAs)?

A6: Assessing performance during EVAs is indeed one potential application area for the tool. However, the design does not need to be specifically tailored to fit within a spacesuit. It can also have relevance in other application contexts.

Q7: How would we know it would work within a spacesuit?

A7: You do not need to demonstrate compatibility with a spacesuit in your proposal; we can facilitate communication with experts who might assist in addressing such inquiries if/when that were to become relevant.

Q8: Does the device need to monitor the human while they are physically active EVAs and stationary tasks at the flight deck as well?

A8: Ideally, the device should have the capability to perform both tasks. Remember that some of the application areas are ground-based, meaning there won't be any extravehicular activities (EVAs) in those instances. Our focus will be on evaluating personnel either during or just before carrying out other mission-critical operations, where optimal performance is essential.

Q9: For tests that do not require the user to stop what they are doing, can you specify what type of tasks the user will be engaged in? Can the user disengage from the ongoing tasks to engage in the assessment, and for how long?

A9: Ideally, monitoring should involve as little disruption to ongoing tasks as possible; however, some participation by the monitored individual is permissible. Ideally, any engagement during monitoring would be zero or just a minute or two—since longer durations can be disruptive. Typical tasks the user might be performing during monitoring are expected to include focused computer work, reading (e.g., procedures), or short rest periods.

Q10: Are there any mass restrictions for the hardware?

A10: No specific mass restrictions are imposed; however, practical considerations apply. The tool should be minimally obtrusive concerning size, or mass to ensure usability in a space environment. Proposals will be evaluated based on their practicality and value.

Q11: Are you interested in embedding remedial actions to ensure readiness based on the measured data?

A11: The primary focus of the solicitation is on assessment. However, having remedial action capabilities (*i.e.*, countermeasures) would certainly be viewed favorably.

Q12: If the tool cannot perform EVA assessments and is focused on ground-based or stationary tasks, is it still of interest?

A12: Yes, the tool remains within the scope of interest even if it cannot be used in a spacesuit. Proposals that address both EVA and ground monitoring capabilities will have a competitive advantage, but standalone ground-based solutions are still welcome.

Q13: Are you interested in predicting future states, such as an increase in cognitive load, or just momentary states?

A13: We welcome the ability to make predictions about future states, including cognitive load increases. While immediate states are more straightforward to assess, having reliable predictive capabilities based on sound experimental support would be a competitive advantage.

Q14: For applications similar to your needs, could this solution be adapted for firefighters or workers in extreme environments while enclosed in specialized suits?

A14: Yes, such applications would be relevant, as high performance and readiness are critical in extreme environments. Technologies that have shown effectiveness in those settings could be excellent candidates for this solicitation.