

Frequently Asked Questions

Updates:

12/19/2024 – FAQ Released along with solicitation

01/17/2025 – FAQ updated and FAQs from the pre-proposal webinar were added

Contents

Application Submission Questions.....	1
Eligibility Questions.....	2
Budget Questions	2
Application Team Member Questions.....	3
General Background Questions.....	4
Pre-Proposal Webinar Questions.....	5
Specific Topic Questions	6

Application Submission Questions

Q1: I've 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/remote_biomarker_2025

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).

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

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 PI must have a US-based office with a Tax ID/EIN number.

Budget Questions

Q1: How can cost-sharing be contributed?

A1: Cost-sharing of 10% is required for this solicitation and may be contributed in cash or in-kind (non-cash contributions) provided by non-Federal third parties.

Q2: What is covered under 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: Are cost-sharing details required in the proposal budget?

A3: Specific details on how your team plans to provide the 1:1 cost-sharing match are **not** required in the proposal budget. These details can be finalized post-award.

Q4: Does TRISH subcontract to all institutions directly?

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: Can salaries of non-US citizen participants be counted toward cost-sharing?

A5: As long as the individual is at a U.S. institution and has effort on the TRISH grant, and the cost sharing cannot be federal funds.

Q6: As an university co-investigator, will the grant be awarded by TRISH directly to the university or will it be a subcontract from one organization to another?

A6: 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.

Q7: In the budget, it is acceptable to give a percent commitment for each key personnel in the project?

A7: Yes, please refer to Budget and Budget Justification section on page 10 of the solicitation for further instructions.

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.

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 June 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>.

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 webinar where they may conflict. Questions that are duplicative or exclusively address topics other than this TRISH solicitation may have been removed.

Q1: Can I submit a similar project if I have already applied for HRP funding (e.g., NASA HERO)?

A1: Yes, you can submit a similar project if it is relevant to the specific topic outlined in this Request for Proposals (RFP). However, TRISH will not select a project that NASA is already funding. The proposed project should not overlap with projects already funded by NASA.

Q2: Does the SENTINEL Initiative include Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

A2: Currently, we do not see a direct connection to AI. However, if you believe there is a potential application of AI, such as using AI to analyze images or provide feedback in the context of microphysiological systems, you may submit a proposal. This is a specific, targeted solicitation so make sure to provide a strong justification for the relevance and application of AI in your proposal.

Q3: Are proposals that include flight and can demonstrate that this will not cause them to go beyond the budget or schedule requirements considered in scope?

A3: No, this call will not consider flight missions. This solicitation is focused on technology development.

Q4: How can foreign nationals get involved with ongoing TRISH projects?

A4: As stated in the solicitation, all US-based institutions are eligible to apply. International companies and institutions with a US-based office can apply as well. International institutions can participate on a no-exchange-of-funds basis.

Q5: What is the readiness level of the MPS system considered in this solicitation?

A5: Limited public information is available for this project at this time and can be found in the TRISH Broad Institute Announcement. The project is currently in early stages with the system in development. As a TRISH funded effort, updates will be provided annually at the [Human Research Program \(HRP\) Investigators' Workshop \(IWS\)](#).

Q6: Can there be human intervention for regular maintenance of the sensing system?

A6: In the context of this solicitation, we aim for systems that do not require human intervention. The goal is to develop systems that can operate autonomously, especially for uncrewed missions. While human intervention may be possible in some types of missions in the future, this solicitation focuses on autonomous systems without human involvement.

Q7: Are you looking for sensor integrated organs on chips?

A7: Yes, sensor integration with organs on chips is within the scope of this solicitation.

Q8: The biomarker proposed by a proposer will be linked to their MPS. Why the choice of the biomarker is a criteria? What are the factors that make an excellent versus good versus not appropriate biomarker?

A8: There are many different potential biomarkers that could be useful, and trying to compile an exhaustive list of applicable biomarkers for space would be restrictive. We are asking proposers to consider what might be a good marker in their specific context and how it could apply to space. Some biomarkers might not be widely used in space applications today but may be emerging in other fields and be of potential interest. Additionally, some tools may be capable of measuring multiple biomarkers, various classes of molecules, or a range of values.

We want to keep the process as open as possible to allow for the consideration of various approaches. The most important question is: why is/are the biomarker(s) relevant to space flight? Proposals should justify the relevance of the biomarker to human health, either before, during, or after space missions. The strongest justifications will be supported by significant evidence and, if reasonable, connected to clinical relevance in some way. Consider the risks astronauts face, as outlined in the [Human Research Roadmap](#), and make a strong case for the biomarker's importance.

Q9: Does the MPS system need to be contained within a reader device, or can it be autonomous? Can you give us an example use of the chip in which it would be activated for use? In other words, sensing can be autonomous but must be started. Or is it expected that the device will be recording MPS health from, let's say launch throughout orbiting and beyond?

A9: Both options are acceptable. The MPS system could either be turned on as needed or be continuously active throughout a mission, such as during launch, orbiting, and beyond. There are no specific requirements on this front, and both approaches would be considered valid.

Q10: A biomarker study should be useful to understand astronauts' wellbeing in harsh environments or space. Will TRISH be evaluating data on humans as well as in a microphysiological system, and is there a plan for a human equivalent in the future?

A10: Yes, TRISH expects to utilize this approach in the future.

Q11: What are the size, power, and form factor requirements for the detection technology?

A11: While there are no specific criteria for size, power, or form factor, the technology should be compact and low power. Given that microphysiological systems are typically small, the expectation is that the technology should have a minimal footprint. The focus is on keeping the system as small and efficient as possible.

Specific Topic Questions