

## **Q&A from ULI Applicant's Workshop (June 27, 2019)**

**Q43: You mentioned you are planning to hold a ULI competition every year. Do you see this accelerated cadence having any impact on the current funding level and performance period?**

A43: NASA had to figure out the desired cadence and performance periods so that ULI could apply for a budget that will sustain it over time. So if the ULI budget holds up, from this year on there will be annual solicitations.

**Q42: Georgia Tech has an academic component and an applied research component called GTRI, which does not award degrees. Can a GTRI researcher be a PI?**

A42: The answer at the workshop was "I will check with procurement to provide you an answer later."

The response after talking to NASA procurement is: The solicitation states in its "Eligibility and Teaming" section that "For this solicitation, the proposing (lead) organization must be an accredited, degree-granting U.S. college or university." Based on the information provided in the question, your organization does not award degrees and so a researcher from GTRI cannot serve as the PI (the lead). The researcher can participate as a team member.

**Q41: Will the answers to all questions be posted after the workshop?**

A41: Yes, they will be available within a few weeks at <https://nari.arc.nasa.gov/applicantsworkshop3> and at the Q&A link on the NSPIRES website for ULI solicitation.

**Q40: So they (collaborators) can be paid by cost share?**

A40: Yes, as long as collaborators are being paid from a different source and not from NASA funding.

**Q39: Do we define a collaborator as participating in the work but with no pay?**

A39: Yes, for the ULI solicitation you can use that definition for a collaborator. A collaborator adds value towards the research and

development of your innovative concepts. Collaborators may not receive funds from the NASA award.

**Q38: Can FAA be a team member instead of a collaborator?**

A38: No, FAA can only be a collaborator. FAA as a government agency is not eligible to participate as a team member in ULI.

**Q37: Does PIs who can do market analysis and develop business plan be part of the team?**

A37: Yes.

**Q36: Can city agencies (e.g. the local airport) be team members?**

A36: Yes, city agencies like your local airport can be team members.

**Q35: Based on prior experiences, typically how many PIs were in one team and how many were industry?**

A35: The number of investigators per team and number of industrial investigators varied considerably among the various awardees. The number of investigators in the proposal should be based on the amount and type of work.

**Q34: Is there a demonstration that is required at the end of or during the project?**

A34: No demonstration is required by the solicitation. However, if your proposal is enhanced because of a demonstration, do consider including one. The demonstration has to be appropriate to the technical challenge and success criteria proposed.

**Q33: Can the PI be a non-tenured professor or a research engineer?**

A33: The ULI solicitation does not have this type of a requirement for the PI. So, the PI can be a non-tenured professor or a research engineer as long as they are employed by the university.

**Q32: Are there any specific requirements on PIs. e.g. does the PI need to be a science PI or can they be more managerial?**

A32: The ULI solicitation does not have this type of a requirement for the PI. Do consider what makes sense for the proposed work. Ensure the logic is conveyed in the proposal so that reviewers can understand your choice.

**Q31: Can we budget government facilities for proposed projects, e.g. NASA wind tunnel or AEDC test cells?**

A31: Yes, you can budget for NASA or other government facilities in your proposal. In the Section D.4.3.7 of the ULI solicitation there is a list of websites that include POCs for NASA facilities. Prior to submitting your Step-B proposal please communicate with the POC for the proposed facilities to ensure that those facilities can accommodate your project if your proposal is selected for an award.

**Q30: Should there be effort defined in formal training for the students (beyond the research)?**

A30: The ULI solicitation asks the universities to show leadership and there are many ways one can show leadership in the proposal. So from a leadership aspect, you can make your proposal stronger by including innovative training for student team members in leadership, management, entrepreneurship and/or public policy.

**Q29: Can we budget travel costs and reasonable honorariums for reviewers?**

A29: Yes. Feel free to choose appropriate honorariums and travel costs for reviewers.

**Q28: Are all FFRDC's permitted as team members and receive funding?**

A28: Yes. The ROA-2018, and hence ULI as an appendix, permits FFRDCs to be team members.

**Q27: If the total proposed budget is less than the limit, can a single year budget be more than \$2M?**

A27: It depends. A small, reasonable amount over \$2M can be absorbed by the ULI budget over the years, but a large number over \$2M might not be feasible within the available multi-year ULI budget.

**Q26: The strategic implementation plan defines near-term (2015-2025), mid-term (2025- 2035) and far-term (beyond 2035) outcomes. Which one is the most preferable outcome term is the ULI program looking for?**

A26: ULI does not have any preferences between the near-, mid-, and far-term outcomes. ULI is seeking ideas, concepts and technologies in all of those outcome periods.

**Q25: Is there a limitation about the size of PI and Co-PI team? For instance, the total number of Co-PI should be less than....**

A25: NASA does not have any restrictions on the size of a team. Team size is determined by the proposers and should be based on the work that will be performed.

**Q24: How to define a non-advocate peer reviewer?**

A24: A non-advocate reviewer could be someone from a different university or a different company that is not participating in the work. They can be from your university but should not be a team member or collaborator.

**Q23: What is the approximate timeline for Step-A notifications?**

A23: Step-A proposals are due August 27, when NASA personnel are quite busy. So it is hard to predict. Our nominal plan is 2 months from the due date of Step-A proposals.

**Q22: Are there US citizen requirements for the PI?**

A22: Generally there is no U.S. citizenship requirements for the Principal Investigator (PI). However if the proposed work requires U.S. citizenship (for example, a security clearance), then the PI needs to be an U.S. citizen.

**Q21: What Strategic Thrust does research associated with Urban Air mobility fall?**

A21: Research in Urban Air Mobility can fall in multiple strategic thrusts, for example thrusts 1, 5, and 6. Based on the proposed work, make your own determination of the strategic thrust to propose this work. The

suitability or unsuitability of the proposed strategic thrust area is not a disqualifying criterion.

**Q20: How much of a given strategic thrust area should a proposal cover? Should it span the entire description or be more focused on certain sub areas?**

A20: Proposals are based on team-proposed technical challenges to accomplish either all or a portion of the strategic thrust outcomes. So, a proposal could encompass the whole scope of a strategic thrust or a small portion of it. The key is to work on something important within the strategic thrust.

**Q19: Are National Labs permitted as team members?**

A19: The ULI solicitation refers to partners as team members who can receive funds from the NASA award and collaborators as unfunded participants. U.S. National Labs can be (unfunded) collaborators but not (funded) partners.

**Q18: Is it possible to access the abstracts from Round 1 and Round 2 ULI awards?**

A18: No, the abstracts from ULI awards in Round 1 and 2 are not publicly available. However, ULI Round 1 awardee's work has been presented at many conferences. Their presentations at the 2018 AIAA Technical Interchange is available at <https://nari.arc.nasa.gov/ULIround1>.

**Q17: What is TRL range, start and end of program?**

A17: The solicitation does not specify a Technology Readiness Level (TRL). Be guided by the NASA Aeronautics Strategic Implementation Plan and the ULI NRA solicited research requirements. NASA is looking for concepts and technologies that affect the outcome in the NASA ARMD Strategic Implementation Plan.

**Q16: Can we have collaborators from AFRL and ARL? If not, can they participate in any capacity?**

A16: Yes, you can have collaborators from AFRL or ARL. Collaboration with other U.S. government agencies or research laboratories that

adds value towards the research and development of the innovative concepts, while preserving the university leadership aspect of this initiative, is encouraged. Collaborators may not receive funds from the NASA award.

**Q15: Can a university professor participate in more than one proposal?**

A15: Yes, a U.S. university professor can participate in more than one proposal. The professor can participate either as a lead or as a team member, and must be identified as such in each proposal they participate in.

**Q14: Can industrial collaborators receive funding as part of the proposed project?**

A14: The ULI solicitation refers to partners as team members who can receive funds from the NASA award and collaborators as unfunded participants. U.S. industrial partners can receive NASA funding to work on the proposed project. No foreign partners or collaborators.

**Q13: Is there a chance for two awards from Topic 7?**

A13: Yes, depending on the strength of the proposals there can be two awards in Topic 7. As stated in the solicitation: "To promote portfolio balance, the UI Project anticipates issuing one award in Topic 7 (Assured Autonomy for Aviation Transformation), one award in Topic 8 (Materials and Structures for Next-Generation Aerospace Systems), and two other awards in any of the eight topics (1-8)."