

Ohio Federal Research Network (OFRN)

Sustaining Ohio's Aeronautical Readiness and Innovation in the Next Generation (SOARING)



The Ohio Federal Research Network (OFRN) is releasing an RFP for Round 3 -- its new initiative: Sustaining Ohio's Aeronautical Readiness and Innovation in the Next Generation (SOARING).

DESCRIPTION: The SOARING RFP is focused on (1) expanding *Ohio's leadership in federal and industry aerospace research, development and sustainment for unmanned air systems (UASs), personal air vehicles (PAVs), and logistics delivery air vehicles (LDAVs); and (2) addressing the needs of government and industry as identified in a nationwide OFRN Request for Information (October 2018). In particular, external players identified a number of outstanding enabling technology needs across the market segments for UASs, PAVs, and LDVs, as well as flight certification and safety concerns. The focus of the SOARING RFP is to leverage unique Federal, research and industry assets to systematically address these challenges.*

SCOPE: A key application for UASs, PAVs, and LDVs is a disaster response scenario consistent with the needs of the State of Ohio's National Guard. Project Teams will bid to develop and then oversee the integration of enabling technologies into UAS/PAV/LDV platforms for testing at the UAS Test Center in Springfield, Ohio. This is the only Ground Based Sense and Avoid facility in the US. The specific disaster response scenario for all demonstrations is to assume the entire region in and around the demonstration area will have gone "dark" from a combined terrestrial (chem/bio) and space-based disruption (cyber).

AWARDS: OFRN anticipates deploying \$7-10M for the initiative, with each individual project able to seek up to \$2M. A minimum 1:1 cost share is required.

PROCESS: The RFP will be released as early as January 19, 2018. There will be an OFRN Industry/Academic Day on January 24, 2018 for those seeking more information about the SOARING Initiative. White Papers will be due February 21, 2018. Invited Proposals will be due April 27, 2018. Seminars/training will be offered to aid applicants with both white papers and proposals.

TEAMING REQUIREMENT: Project teams can be either Industry or University led. Regardless of the leading organization, project teams must include at least: 2 Ohio universities, 1 industry organization, and 1 Ohio-based federal partner.

For more information on the Ohio Federal Research Network, contact

Becky Mescher

OFRN Program Coordinator

becky.Mescher@wright.edu