Special Notice

Perrseus Proposers Day
DARPA-SN-26-99
July 1, 2026

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
Multi X Office
675 North Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203-2114

Proposers Day
Special Notice DARPA-SN-26-99

Perrseus
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
Multi X Office (MXO)

Posting Date: July 1, 2026
Event Date: July 17, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time (ET)
DARPA eForm 60 Deadline: July 5, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)
Registration Deadline: July 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)
Registration Website: https://cvent.me/aR0BqE
Technical POC: Dr. Travis Autry, MXO Program Manager
E-mail: Perrseus@darpa.mil

PROPOSERS DAY DESCRIPTION:
The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will host an in-person Proposers Day in support of an upcoming solicitation for the Perrseus program on July 17, 2026, at the DARPA Conference Center (DCC) in Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET.

DARPA anticipates releasing a Program Solicitation (PS) for Perrseus prior to Proposers Day. This effort is expected to be awarded under Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) for Prototypes (10 U.S.C. § 4022). If released, the PS will be made available at https://sam.gov/. Regardless of the PS's release status, the technical briefings and materials provided at the Proposers Day will offer sufficient detail to enable interested parties to form teams and begin formulating technical concepts.

The goals of the Proposers Day are:

(1) To introduce the science and technology community (industry, academia, and government) to the Perrseus program vision and goals;
(2) To facilitate interaction between researchers with capabilities and interests relevant to the Perrseus program goals;
(3) To collect questions during the event that DARPA may answer and make available in a Question and Answer document maintained at https://www.darpa.mil/research/programs/perrseus; and
(4) To encourage and promote teaming arrangements among organizations that have the relevant expertise, research facilities, and capabilities for executing research and development responsive to the Perrseus program goals.

The Proposers Day will include overview presentations by government personnel and opportunities for team building among the participants. It is anticipated that recording of the Proposers Day and materials will be posted online at https://www.darpa.mil/research/programs/perrseus.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION:
The objective of the Perrseus program is to rapidly develop, integrate, and deliver functional microscale ultra-high vacuum (μUHV) prototypes. Performers will be expected to move beyond process research and deliver integrated hardware that demonstrates operational utility in a relevant environment. A manufacturable and scalable process for the fabrication of these prototypes is critical to the next generation of high-performance vacuum-packaged microelectromechanical systems (MEMS), photonic, cold atom, and thermal atom sensors.

Perrseus is envisioned as a 42-month prototype effort executed in two distinct phases:

- Phase 1 (Process Development): Will focus on component integration, initial form-factor design, and mitigating immediate technical risks in manufacturing and packaging to achieve µUHV systems with pressures of $<10^{-10}$ mbar in a <5 mL package compatible with a manufacturable process. The devices and processes must include the development of an integrated pressure sensor(s) to ensure that vacuum parameters are measured directly.

- Phase 2 (Prototype Delivery & Demonstration): Will culminate in the delivery of the final manufacturing process and physical test-ready µUHV prototype units for Government evaluation. The final devices must demonstrate vacuum performance compatible with a lifetime of >3 years.

The program will bring together the MEMS, photonics, process engineering, fabrication, atomic, and quantum communities to realize this prototype. Another essential component will be the development of new techniques to measure vacuum parameters such as: pressure levels, leak rates, pump rates, and pump capacity inside the miniature prototype packages to ensure progress can be tracked.

The Proposers Day meeting will start with presentations by DARPA that include a program technical briefing to further describe the planned PS objectives and content. These will be followed by a poster session and one-on-one breakout sessions with the Program Manager.

This meeting will be held at the UNCLASSIFIED level. All attendees are required to present government-issued photo identification upon entry to the event.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
In-person registration is limited by the venue capacity (maximum of 160 attendees); early registration is strongly recommended. The determination of maximum participants per organization and what constitutes an organization will be made by the DARPA Program Manager. Each organization is allowed no more than three attendees. Registrations will be cut off at the registration deadline listed above or once attendance capacity is met, whichever comes first. Any change to the registration deadline will be captured via an amendment to this notice and an update to the registration website.

The Proposers Day is open only to registered potential proposers. The event is closed to the general public and media. An online registration form, preliminary agenda, foreign national visit request form, meeting details, and (when applicable) hotel information for the Proposers Day can be found at the registration website.

All attendees must complete and submit a DARPA eForm 104 **no later than July 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. ET** at the following link: https://dtsn.darpa.mil/eform104/visitor/3c18fb9b-93e3-4ac2-8a8d-8053273c69ee. For additional information, please refer to the Visitor Information page on the DARPA website (http://www.darpa.mil/policy/visitor-information).

Additionally, all meeting registrants who are not U.S. Citizens must complete and submit one of the following:

- All U.S. Permanent Residents and Foreign Nationals not representing a foreign government must submit a DARPA eForm 60 “U.S. Permanent Resident and Foreign National Visit Request”, which can be submitted via the following link: https://dtsn.darpa.mil/eform60/. **Be sure to upload both your passport AND Visa/ESTA/similar document to “Other Document” when uploading.**

- Foreign government personnel who are representing a foreign government in an official capacity must submit an official Foreign Visit Request (FVR) via their respective Embassy based in Washington, DC.

All attendees must adhere to the following deadlines:

- **eForm 60 for U.S. Permanent Residents and Foreign Nationals due by Sunday, July 5, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET**
- **eForm 104 and event registration for all attendees due by Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. ET**

Failure to complete and submit the required forms prior to the date and time noted above may result in the cancellation of existing registration. Submission of forms earlier than the stated deadlines is strongly encouraged and will assist with timely review of required documents.

TEAMING:

While not required, DARPA strongly encourages teaming. Because of the highly integrated nature of this prototype effort, we specifically encourage teaming arrangements that include non-traditional defense contractors, commercial industry, and agile hardware startups. To facilitate team building, the following options are available:

1. **Attendee List:** Participant contact information (name, organization, email address) will be included on a Perrseus Proposers Day attendee list distributed to other prospective proposers. Registrants may indicate during registration whether they approve publication of their contact information.

2. **Proposer Profile List**: Interested parties should submit a one-page profile consisting of their contact information (name, organization, email, telephone number, mailing address, and, if applicable, organization website), a brief unclassified description of their technical competencies, and, if applicable, the expertise desired from other teams/organizations. All profiles must be emailed to Perrseus@darpa.mil no later than July 15, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. ET. Following this deadline, the consolidated teaming profiles will be sent via email to the proposers who submitted a profile. Specific content, communications, networking, and team formation are the sole responsibility of the participants. Neither DARPA nor the DoW endorses the information and organizations contained in the consolidated teaming profile document, nor does DARPA or the DoW exercise any responsibility for improper dissemination of the teaming profiles.

3. **Requests Through Email:** Prospective proposers can also request the attendee list and/or the prospective proposer profile list through email at Perrseus@darpa.mil. All email requests must be received by July 31, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. ET and follow the same security requirements as Proposers Day attendees (e.g., government photo ID and DARPA Form 60 or FVR requirements). It is incumbent on email requesters to ensure all provided information is accurate. DARPA will not provide access to secure data transfer capabilities (e.g., DoD SAFE), and DARPA reserves the right to deny requests stemming from its vetting of requesters' security documentation.

4. **National Labs, FFRDCs, UARCs:** It is anticipated that Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs), and Government Entities, to include National Laboratories, will be eligible to participate in the program as

supporting team members only (whether acting as a formal subcontractor or funded directly by DARPA).

POSTERS:
A poster session will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to facilitate interaction among attendees and to give an opportunity to showcase capabilities and build strong teams to solve the challenge presented in Perrseus. No template for the poster will be provided; however, posters should highlight proposer capabilities and teaming requirements and must include presenter's contact information. Posters should not contain any Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) or classified information and must be suitable for unlimited public release. There is a limit of one poster per organization. Posters should be no larger than 2 feet by 3 feet, and poster presenters must bring their posters with them to the meeting. Registrants must indicate their intent to participate in the poster session during registration. Poster presentations will be limited to the first 80 requests due to space constraints. Poster presenters must attend in person and stay for the duration of the poster session.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
One-on-one breakout sessions with the Perrseus Program Manager will be available during the Proposers Day. Advance registration is required. Breakout sessions will be scheduled in 10-minute intervals from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET. To request a session, please indicate your discussion topic and participating attendees (no more than three) when registering. Each organization is only allowed one breakout session. If multiple break-out session requests are received from the same organization, they will be combined into one session.

Breakout session participants are asked to submit three slides to Perrseus@darpa.mil no later than July 15, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. ET covering (1) relevant capabilities, (2) innovative prototype concepts to meet the Perrseus goals, and (3) questions to focus the 10-minute session. Please ensure these slides do not contain any Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) or classified information.

Please note that all members participating in the breakout sessions must be successfully registered in order to attend. Requests submitted through registration do not guarantee selection for an individual session. All registered attendees chosen to participate in breakout sessions will receive notification containing their selection, scheduled time and location, and detailed guidance on or before July 10, 2026. The allotted time can support 30 breakout sessions. The slots will be allotted in order of request received when registering. If more than 30 requests for breakout sessions are received, the Perrseus team will hold 10-minute follow-up calls with all eligible registrants who attended the Proposers Day in person and requested a break-out session before the registration deadline, but who were not selected for a break-out session during the Perrseus Proposers Day.

STAY CONNECTED:
Subscribe to DARPA MXO's newsletter for timely updates on research opportunities, upcoming events, ways to work with us, and more.

DARPACONNECT:
Entities who have not worked with DARPA before are encouraged to learn more about DARPAConnect, an initiative established to facilitate collaboration between DARPA and potential performers. The DARPAConnect team offers customized support, resources, and guidance on how to prepare ideas for high-impact conversations with DARPA program managers. Please visit DARPAConnect.us to access a digital hub of online resources, including a curriculum for self-paced learning, personalized support, and

in-person and virtual events. To prepare for the Proposers Day, attendees can leverage the learning module on "Making the Most of a DARPA Proposers Day." In addition to the self-paced online materials, the DARPAConnect team is able to schedule one-on-one conversations to discuss specific ideas, questions, and paths to DARPA. Use the contact form at DARPAConnect.us or email the DARPAConnect team directly at darpaconnect@darpa.mil to request assistance.

ADMINISTRATIVE:
All administrative and technical questions should be directed to Perrseus@darpa.mil. Please refer to the Special Notice number (DARPA-SN-26-99) in all correspondence.

This Special Notice is issued solely for information and program planning purposes and does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or proposal abstracts; any so sent will be disregarded. In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this Special Notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Attendance is strictly voluntary and is not required to propose to subsequent Announcements (if any) or Solicitations (if any) on this topic. DARPA will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this Special Notice. Respondents are advised that DARPA is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of any information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this Special Notice.