The United States Agency for International Development
Broad Agency Announcement for
Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnership
Open: September 4, 2015
Close: August 31, 2016

I. Overview

A. This Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) seeks opportunities to co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate in the research, development, piloting, testing, and scaling of innovative, practical and cost-effective interventions to leverage the enormous potential of Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnership (STIP) to help solve humanity’s greatest challenges. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) invites organizations and companies to participate with USAID in response to STIP BAA Addenda issued under this BAA, as described below, to apply STIP approaches to support sustainable development outcomes.

B. Federal Agency Name:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

C. Opportunity Title: Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnership (STIP) BAA

D. Opportunity Number: BAA-LAB-STIP-2015

E. Announcement Type:

This BAA serves to inform the public of the opportunity for funding for STIP in USAID. Actual opportunities for funding and partnering to address development challenges will be issued as Addenda to the BAA. The terms of the BAA apply to each STIP BAA Addendum. Individual STIP BAA Addenda may have specific requirements for evaluation criteria and administrative information, such as the requirements for expressions of interest, concept papers, and response deadlines.

The USAID Global Development Lab will issue periodic Addenda to the BAA that will present specific development challenges. The STIP BAA Addenda will address problems, solutions, scalability opportunities, feasibility studies, and other research and development initiatives requiring STIP approaches to support sustainable development outcomes.

F. Authority:

This BAA is issued under Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Part 35.016 (c). This is not a FAR Part 15 Procurement.
II. Collaboration

The intent of the BAA is to allow co-creation and co-design to the maximum extent to create high quality, effective partnerships with great efficiency in time and resources. The types of collaboration include:

1. Co-creation. Co-creation occurs after an Expression of Interest is selected for further discussion, but before the concept is developed. The potential partner, the Government, represented by the Activity Manager, and potentially others work together to determine the best course forward. This may also include one or multiple potential partners and/or industry experts. Together, USAID and potential partners will write and/or revise the Concept Paper, and jointly present the Concept Paper to USAID's Peer and Scientific Review Board.

2. Co-design/development. Co-design/development occurs after the Peer and Scientific Review Board recommends the project for further development, and the Contracting Officer/Agreement Officer has determined the proposer to be an Apparently Successful Partner. At this point, the Contracting Officer/Agreement Officer may determine the general nature of the award type or the specific award type, depending on the nature of the project, to facilitate project design. During co-design, the Apparently Successful Partner and the Activity Manager will design the technical approach, general resource requirements, and management control of the project under the guidance of the Contracting Officer/Agreement Officer.

3. Co-invest. Co-invest refers to the Government’s strategic aim that the partnerships resulting from the individual BAA awards represent opportunities to achieve mutual or complementary development goals of the Partner, USAID, and potentially other resource partners, and therefore embrace shared responsibility, shared risk, and shared resourcing. Shared resourcing may be accomplished through funding by both parties, either through cash resources or the exchange of other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information. Co-investing does not require equally shared resourcing (such as 1:1 leverage), but rather resource contributions that are appropriate to the specific project’s objectives, considering the comparative advantages brought by the participation of each party and the award type.

III. Specific Rights Reserved for the Government under this BAA

The Government reserves specific rights, in addition to rights described elsewhere in this document or by law or regulation, including:
1. The right to award multiple awards, a single award, or no awards.

2. The right to make award without discussions, or to conduct discussions and/or negotiations, whichever is determined to be in the Government’s interest.

3. The right to accept proposals in their entirety or to select only portions of proposals for award or co-investment.

4. The right to select for award an instrument type that is appropriate to the specific development context, partner relationship, and proposal selected for award. Instruments types include but are not limited to contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, Global Development Alliance agreements, Inter-Agency Agreements, Government to Government Agreements, Donor to Donor Agreements, and Memorandums of Understanding. In addition, the Government may craft a new instrument type to meet the needs of a specific relationship. Such instruments may or may not commit or exchange monetary resources.

5. The right to co-create projects with one or more proposers under the BAA, when it is in the best interest of the Government.

6. The right to request any additional, necessary documentation upon initial review. Such additional information may include, but is not limited to, a further detailed proposal, budget, and representations and certifications.

7. The right to fund or co-invest in proposals in phases, with options for continued work at the end of one or more of the phases.

8. The right to remove proposers from award consideration should the parties fail to reach agreement on award terms, conditions, and cost/price within a reasonable time, the proposer fails to timely provide requested additional information, or the Government believes it is in its best interest.

IV. Problem and Challenge Statements

PROBLEM: At the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, the United States and the international community will adopt a series of ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targeted toward the eradication of poverty, disease, hunger and oppression. These goals will be both a celebration of real progress over the last 15 years, as well as a stark recognition of how entrenched significant development problems remain. To achieve these ambitious goals, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) must do more to leverage the enormous potential of Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnership (STIP) to help solve humanity’s greatest challenges.
CHALLENGE: USAID is interested in finding opportunities for co-creation and co-design of programs that increase the utilization of STIP to address long standing development challenges. USAID is looking for collaborators who share our interest in utilizing STIP to: 1) produce breakthrough development innovations by sourcing, testing and scaling proven solutions to reach hundreds of millions of people; and, 2) to accelerate the transformation of the development enterprise by opening development to people anywhere with good ideas, promoting new and deepening existing partnerships, bringing data and evidence to bear, and harnessing scientific and technological advances.

This collaboration can take place in any country or region where USAID is active and is inclusive of every development sector in which USAID works. The work should focus on one or more of the following broad objectives:

1. Use scientific research to inform policy makers and improve development outcomes
2. Advance the use of enabling technologies to empower underserved communities and support data-driven approaches to improve the effectiveness of the development enterprise.
3. Increase the adoption of high-impact development innovations
4. Accelerate and scale development impact through private sector engagement, collective action approaches, and cultivation of entrepreneurial ecosystems.

V. General Criteria for Consideration

A. Each individual BAA Addendum may specify additional evaluation criteria for selection. Submissions are not evaluated against other submissions, but solely against the evaluation criteria from the STIP BAA and applicable STIP BAA Addendum.

B. Decisions regarding USAID’s pursuit of a particular project, technology, or relationship are based on the available evidence, data, and resulting analysis. USAID seeks solutions that have a significant impact (i.e. breakthroughs, not incremental improvements), and can achieve that impact at scale.

C. The reputations of an organization, its past performance, the managerial and technical ability of the person or team of people engaged in the endeavor are always significant considerations in assessing the potential and the risks associated with each award.

VI. Award Stages.

The amount of resources made available under this BAA will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds. Some award types may not include any funding. The award process under this BAA has the following steps:

Stage 1
Expression of Interest: Potential partners will submit an expression of interest in response to, and in accordance with, a STIP BAA Addendum.

Expressions of Interest must indicate the research or development idea which will work towards discovering potential solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statement(s) indicated in the STIP BAA Addendum, by increasing knowledge and understanding of potential solutions, exploiting scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques, advancing the state of the art, or using scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service). The Expression of Interest is generally short (2-5 pages) and contains information as outlined in the STIP BAA Addendum. USAID will perform an initial review of the research and development idea presented in the expression of interest. For those expressions of interest that are not selected to move forward, USAID will send a notification indicating such. Due to the large number of expression of interest generally received, USAID is unable to provide details on why expressions of interest are not selected.

Stage 2
Development of the Concept Paper. For Expressions of Interest which are deemed to have merit by USAID and pass criteria/eligibility stated within the BAA and specific addenda, USAID will issue an invitation to collaborate to the potential partner.* Working together, USAID and the potential partner will collaborate on a Concept Paper. It is during this phase of co-creation and co-design that the parties will begin to determine additional partners and resources to complement the project. The Concept Paper, generally 5-10 pages, will further detail and explain the project as initially provided in the Expression of Interest.

Additional Partners/Resources. During the project co-creation and co-design, both the partner and USAID will identify additional partners and resources, and whether additional mechanisms are necessary to implement the project.

*An invitation is sent to a potential partner to participate in a co-creation workshop, conference, meeting, or the method designated by USAID to work together with all invitees to further develop the idea presented in the expression of interest.

For those Stage 2 partners that are not selected to move forward to Stage 3, USAID will send a notification indicating such. USAID will provide a brief explanation on why the partner was not selected.

Stage 3
Review by the Peer and Scientific Review Board. Concept Papers developed during Stage 2 will be reviewed by the Peer and Scientific Review Board, comprised of experts from USAID, partners, and/or outside parties. The Peer and Scientific Review Board will review Concept Papers and recommend which applicants should be considered Apparently Successful Partners. Using its technical expertise, the Peer and Scientific Review Board will recommend
whether to move forward with the project including revisions/additions to the project, and potential partners and resources.

All potential partners may not move forward to Stage 4.

**Stage 4**

**Contracting/Agreement Officer Determination.** The Contracting/Agreement officer will review the Peer and Scientific Review Board’s recommendations and consider other information, such as resource availability, preliminary partner responsibility assessment, and Agency priorities, and will make a determination that the respondent is an Apparently Successful Partner. The Contracting/Agreement Officer may also make or narrow down the anticipated instrument type to facilitate project design.

**Request for Additional Information.** USAID will work with partners identified by the Peer and Scientific Review Board, and co-design the project and assist the partner to provide additional information with respect to the proposer’s technical approach, capacity, management and organization, past performance, and budget, as well as representations and certifications, as needed.

**Final Review and Negotiation.** The USAID Contract/Agreement Officer will engage in final review, negotiation, and determination of instrument type, responsibility, cost reasonableness, etc., and will craft an award instrument with the Apparently Successful Partner. If the Apparently Successful Partner and USAID cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement, the Contract/Agreement Officer will cancel the project at no cost to the Government.

**Award.** Where USAID determines that the award of an instrument is appropriate, the USAID Contract/Agreement Officer will award the instrument.

**VI. Award Information**

Number of awards could vary and may not mirror the number of expressions of interests or invitees to co-creation.

A. Awards under this BAA will be made based on responses to individual STIP BAA Addenda.

B. No responses will be considered under the BAA until an Addendum has been issued. Only submissions that are responsive to a specific STIP BAA Addendum will be considered. Any proposal, concept paper, or expression of interest received that is not in response to a STIP BAA Addendum will not be considered. However, USAID encourages and will consider suggestions for STIP BAA Addenda.
C. USAID is seeking new applications of STIP that provide the best value to the Government and have the potential to substantially contribute to solving development challenges.

D. Proposals identified for negotiation may result in a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, Global Development Alliance agreement, Inter-Agency Agreement, Government to Government Agreement, Donor to Donor Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, or alternative agreement type, depending upon the nature of the work proposed, the required degree of Government involvement, and other factors. The Government Contracting/Agreement Officer will determine award instrument type and negotiate instrument terms and conditions with selectees. USAID may select the award instruments it deems appropriate.

E. Eligibility Information. Public, private, for-profit, and nonprofit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. governmental organizations, multilateral and international donor organizations are eligible under this BAA. All organizations must be determined to be responsive to the BAA and sufficiently responsible to perform or participate in the final award type.

F. Standard Clauses and Provisions of Award. The standard clauses or provisions for awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation and will vary considerably by award type. Information regarding clauses and provisions will be offered to the proposer when the award type is identified.

G. Organizations are encouraged to consider providing reasonable cost sharing, leverage, or other exchange of resource arrangements, and are encouraged to suggest creative approaches to resourcing projects.

VIII. Information Protection:

USAID’s goal is to facilitate the research and development that will lead to innovative, and potentially commercially viable, solutions. Understanding the sensitive nature of submitters’ information, USAID will work with organizations to protect intellectual property.

Expressions of interest should be free of any intellectual property that submitter wishes to protect, as the expressions of interest will be shared with USAID partners as part of the selection process. However, once submitters have been invited to engage in further discussions, submitters will work with USAID to identify proprietary information that requires protection.

Therefore, organizations making submissions under this BAA grant to USAID a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to use, disclose, reproduce, and prepare derivative works, and to have or permit others to do so to any information contained in the expressions of interest submitted under the BAA. If USAID engages with the organization regarding its submission, the parties can negotiate further intellectual property protection for the organization’s intellectual property.
Organizations must ensure that any submissions under this BAA are free of any third party proprietary data rights that would impact the license granted to USAID herein.

IX. Obtaining the BAA and Addenda:

This BAA and any future Addenda can be downloaded from http://www.grants.gov and http://www.fbo.gov. Potential partners are encouraged to monitor these sites for Addenda.

X. Expression of Interest Information:

A. Be in English
B. Be submitted electronically in accordance with Addendum instructions
C. Be up to 2 pages in length, no smaller than 12 point font;
D. Contain a header with the following information (included in the page count):
   a. Respondent Name/Group and Contact Information;
   b. Response Title;
   c. BAA Addendum Name/Number;
   d. Contain one optional graphic that fits on an 8.5"x11" or A4 piece of paper (included in the page limit);
E. Be in .pdf, .docx, or .odf format