



AFWERX  
AFVENTURES

# Specific Topic Overview

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# Specific Topic

Defense-focused problem solving

# WHAT IS A SPECIFIC TOPIC?

- **Clearly defined need** & technology areas
- Only proposals solving a problem statement are awarded
- Specific Topics are solicited through **Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)** OSD criteria
- Similar to a "Legacy Topic" from 2019 and prior
- **Awarded by Managing Organizations** (non-AFRL can establish a partnership with AFRL in the case of limited resources)



# DOD BAA SOLICITATION SCHEDULE (SPECIFIC TOPIC)

- The Specific Topic Branch submits DAF topics into DoD's BAA
- DoD releases 3 recurring Joint DoD BAAs each year for both SBIR & STTR
- Both Air Force & Space Force organizations may submit Specific Topics into solicitations

**Specific Topic Solicitations** typically follow this DoD Schedule Standard cadence:

BAA Solicitation Number	Pre-Release	Open	Close
FY.1/A	December	January	February
FY.2/B	April	May	June
FY.3/C	August	September	October

# SBIR/STTR PHASE I SPECIFIC TOPIC INTENT

**Objective:** Conduct feasibility-related experimental or theoretical research/R&D related to agency's requirements to determine the scientific and technical merit and feasibility of the proposed effort and the quality of performance of the offeror. **The Specific Topic seeks innovative solutions for a very particular problem set that is defined by an Air Force end user or customer.**

The contracting details are **typically:**

- Period of Performance: **6 months**
- Cost Base Max: **\$180,000**
- On contract to conduct: **Technical Feasibility**
- 2 deliverables: **Preliminary & Final Reports**
- Prepare for Phase II application
- **Conduct technical feasibility study but not required to find a new Customer & End User, baked in with requirements definition**
- Contracts & project management comes from the Managing Organization

# SBIR/STTR PHASE II OR D2P2 SPECIFIC TOPIC INTENT

**Objective:** Continue the research/R&D effort from the completed Phase I (PI) OR initiate a Direct-to-Phase II award where the proposal has sufficient scientific and technical feasibility and merit despite the lack of a Phase I award. Specific Topic Phase II awards frequently result in development of a prototype.

## Typical

- Period of Performance: Up to **24-months**
- Cost Base Max **\$1.8M for SBIR and \$1.8M for STTR**
- Milestone Deliverables in accordance with (IAW) Proposal Milestone Schedule
- Contracts & project management comes from the Managing Organization

## Direct-to-Phase II (D2P2: SBIR Only)

- Period of Performance: Up to **24-months**
- Cost Base Max **\$1.8M**
- Milestone Deliverables IAW Proposal Milestone Schedule
- Contracts & project management comes from the Managing Organization
- **Must demonstrate that the Small Business Concern (SBC) has met the feasibility requirements of a Phase I**



# AFVentures - HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

1

## PHASE I

### Feasibility Study

Open & Specific Topics

#### OPEN TOPIC

- Up to \$75K per award (\$110K for STTR)
- 3 month period of performance
- ~700 awards per year
- "Open door for innovation"

#### SPECIFIC TOPIC

- Up to \$180K per award
- 6 month period of performance
- ~450 awards per year
- Built in Air Force Customer

2

## PHASE II

### Prototype

Open, Specific & Direct to Phase II (D2P2) Topics

#### OPEN TOPIC

- Up to \$1.25M per award (\$1.8M for STTR)
- Up to 21 month period of performance
- ~350 awards per year
- Customer Memorandum required
- Matched funding encouraged
- D2P2 opportunity if customer is already known and Customer Memorandum is signed

#### SPECIFIC TOPIC

- Up to \$1.8M per award
- Up to 24 month period of performance
- ~250 awards per year
- Built in Air Force Customer
- D2P2 opportunities

3

## STRATFI/TACFI

Strategic Funding Increase (STRATFI) and Tactical Funding Increase (TACFI) Program

- Notice of Opportunity
- TACFI - \$375K - \$1.8M SBIR/STTR funds
- STRATFI - \$3M - \$15M SBIR/STTR funds
- ~100 TACFI and ~15 STRATFI awards per year
- Defense only or dual use matching options
- Private Investor Opportunities

4

## PHASE III

### Transition

- Continuation, derivation, or extension of SBIR/STTR Phase I, II or STRATFI/TACFI work
- Contract with partnering US Government customer
- Utilizes non-SBIR funds

Cost base max and period of performance are determined at the topic level and can be found within solicitation instructions.

# Operational Imperatives

“I’ve commissioned work on seven operational imperatives. These imperatives are just that; if we don’t get them right, we will have unacceptable operational risk.”

- AF Sec. Frank Kendall



# What are the Operational Imperatives?

The **Operational Imperatives** are the critical operational capabilities and functions the Department of the Air Force must invest in to protect the United States' ability to deter conflict and project power against pacing challenges.

# What are the Operational Imperatives?

"We have to evolve our approach beyond platforms to focus on capabilities and integrated systems-of-systems."

*- Air Force Sec. Frank Kendall*

The Air Force will leverage modern networking capabilities, communications capabilities, artificial intelligence, and data analysis to inform **decision-making**.

# Operational Imperatives

Imperative 1: **Space Order of Battle**

Imperative 2: **Operationally Focused ABMS**

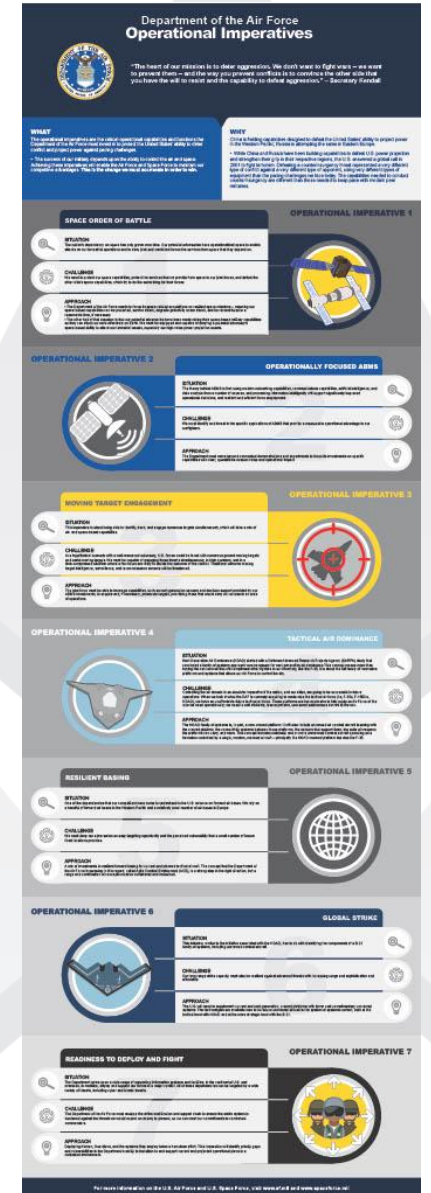
Imperative 3: **Moving Target Engagement**

Imperative 4: **Tactical Air Dominance**

Imperative 5: **Resilient Basing**

Imperative 6: **Global Strike**

Imperative 7: **Readiness to Deploy and Fight**



# Air Force Future Operating Concept Executive Summary

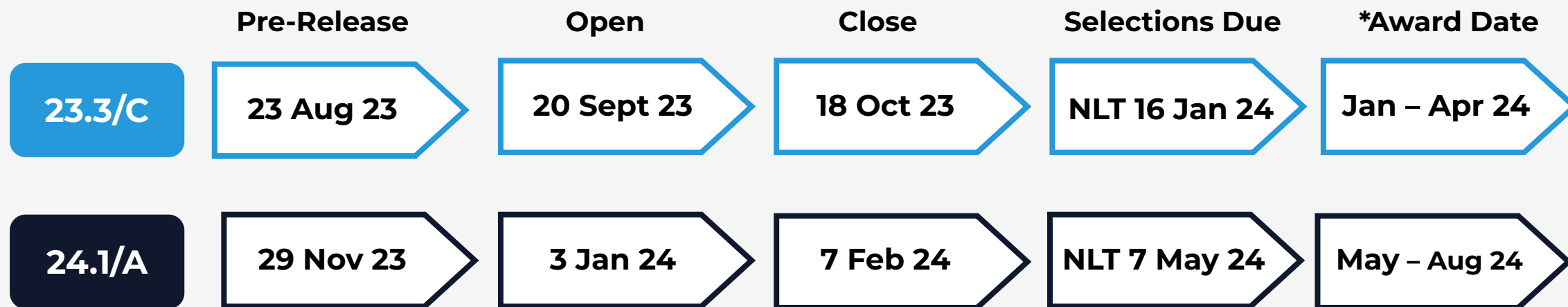
- The (1) **fight to compete with and deter** endures from competition through conflict.
- When ready to act globally, Airmen will overcome adversary attacks and (2) **fight to get into theater**.
- Whether supporting Allies and partners directly or generating combat power over long distances, Airmen must (3) **fight to get airborne**.
- Tomorrow's adversaries will contest our control of the air in the attempt to prevent us from delivering effective support to the Joint Force, our Allies, and partners; therefore, Airmen must (4) **fight for air superiority**
- To deliver devastating combat power against an aggressor, Airmen act as part of the Joint Force to (5) **fight to deny adversary objectives** by stopping an attack or invasion.
- Airmen must (6) **fight to sustain ourselves**, our Allies, and partners in competition and conflict.



# Participating in a Specific Topic Solicitation

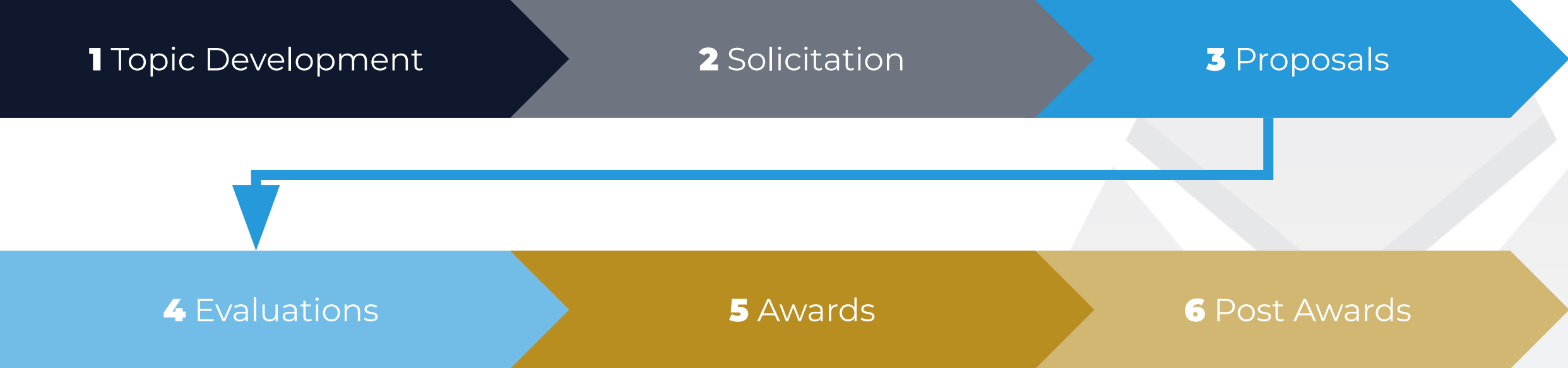


# DAF SBIR/STTR FUTURE SOLICITATIONS OVERVIEW



\*Topics subject to cancellation/funding decommitment if not awarded within this timeline.

# SPECIFIC TOPIC LIFECYCLE GATE OVERVIEW



# RESOURCES

SBIR.gov Tutorials

<https://www.sbir.gov/tutorials/>

Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) Tutorials

<https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/learning-support/training-materials>

Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal (DSIP) Home page

<https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/ehb-app/home>

AFVentures Weekly Webinar Series

<https://afwerx.com/afventures-weekly-webinar-series/>

Specific Topic Team

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**Questions?**

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