



NIST Public Safety Innovation Accelerator Program – **Mission Critical Voice Test Equipment (MCVTE)**

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I apply?

The application package is available at www.grants.gov under Funding Opportunity Number 2019-NIST-PSIAP-FR3D. All application materials must be received via grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, July 26, 2019.

For further information or questions regarding electronic applications on Grants.gov, contact:

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2. Can I submit multiple applications?

No, NIST will only consider one application per applicant. However, an applicant entity may be proposed as a subrecipient, contractor, or unfunded collaborator within applications submitted by other entities.

3. What kind of “outputs” are you looking for? Papers, software, prototypes?

The outputs of the MCVTE funding opportunity are equipment and code required to test communications devices for Mission Critical Push-To-Talk (MCPTT) and related public safety features such as Mission Critical Data (MCData) and Mission Critical Video (MCVideo). Test equipment and associated code produced will support the 3GPP-created test cases for MCPTT, MCData and MCVideo.

4. This program is for a 2-year, \$12,000,000 project, correct?

A 2-year, \$6,000,000 project would represent the maximum amount of funding NIST could provide to a single awardee. While we have not explicitly defined separate tracks for small, medium, and large projects, we anticipate funding awards up to approximately \$3,000,000, per year, for up to two years per award.

5. We are already working with NIST under a CRADA (Cooperative Research and Development Agreement). Are we eligible to apply for this grant?

Potentially: Being a CRADA partner does not, in itself, preclude you from applying to this competition, but conflicts are possible. For example, an entity cannot receive NIST funds for the same activities being performed under the CRADA. If you are a current CRADA partner and considering applying, please contact us directly to discuss your specific situation.

6. Are non-US entities eligible for this program?

Yes, this NOFO is open to all non-federal entities including foreign public entities and foreign governments.

7. Who owns IP rights to work funded under this program?

Invention rights for work funded under this program are governed by the Bayh-Dole Act, 35 U.S.C. § 200 et seq. Generally, the inventor who conceives the invention (the recipient) may elect to own the invention rights, though the Federal Government receives certain use rights and there are some obligations. See section C.03 in the [Department of Commerce's Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions](#), for more information. Please note, this FAQ is not legal advice.

8. Can award recipients market the outputs of their projects?

Award recipients, after the conclusion of the award period, will have the ability to market and sell the outputs of their funded projects.

9. Does this competition allow equipment purchases?

Equipment that is necessary for the execution of the proposed project is allowable, provided it is consistent with 2 CFR § 200.439 "Equipment and other capital expenditures".

10. What's the timeline for applications and NIST's response?

Key expected dates are provided below:

Date	Event
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May 10, 2019	Notice of Funding Opportunity is published on Grants.gov
July 26, 2019	Deadline for Application Submissions
October 2019	Application Review Decisions and Selected/Not Selected Notifications to Applicants

11. What’s the “unique entity identifier number” in section IV.3?

Applicants will need a “D-U-N-S” number, which is a free, unique identifier provided by Dun and Bradstreet. Applicants will also need to obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service.

Note, if your organization does not have these numbers, it may take some time to acquire them. Please see the Organization Applicant Registration page on the Applicants tab on Grants.gov.

12. Do references and citations count towards the page limit?

Yes, references and citations count toward the twenty-four page limit for the technical proposal.

13. What if my institution will be collecting data about people, subjects, or participants during our proposed project?

Protection of human subjects is a priority of PSCR’s research and development programs. If you receive funding for a project that potentially includes research involving human subjects, or data or recordings involving human subjects (including software testing), the NIST Human Subjects Protection Office (HSPO) must perform a review of your proposal as described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. You may be asked to provide details about your proposed human subjects research; supporting documents such as consent forms; survey instruments; and IRB documentation. Before research involving human subjects may commence, it must be explicitly authorized by the NIST Grants Officer in the form of a Special Award Condition.

NIST uses the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects, codified by the Department of Commerce at 15 C.F.R. Part 27, to define its criteria for research involving human subjects.

15. Are federally funded research and development centers (FFRDC) eligible to apply?

Because of the funding instruments used to manage FFRDCs, FFRDCs are generally not eligible to apply. Interested FFRDCs should discuss this further with their Contracting Officer. FFRDCs are, however, eligible to be subcontractors to other eligible applicants.

16. Where can I find information about past awards?

To learn more about research and development projects funded by PSCR, visit <https://www.nist.gov/ctl/pscr/funding-opportunities/past-funding-opportunities>.

17. Can you review our technical proposal and provide comments if they meet the R&D objectives in the NOFO?

PSCR cannot review or comment on an applicant's proposed technical solution. Applicants should refer to Section I of the PSIAP-MCVTE NOFO for details about the program goals and the types of research projects that the program is looking to fund.

18. What is the process in 3GPP for creating test cases and the accompanying TTCN?

3GPP RAN5 produces written test cases, called "prose", in technical specifications. The prose is written under the umbrella of a RAN5-approved work item which is overseen by a rapporteur. For MCS (MCPTT, MCVideo, and MCDData), the finished prose can be found in the TS 36.579 family. Task Force 160, or TF160, takes the prose and translates it into TTCN. RAN5 has a well-defined process for performing verification of the TTCN implementation of TF160. It is specified in the RAN5 PRD12 document, available here:

https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/tsg_ran/WG5_Test_ex-T1/PRD/RAN5_PRD12v61.zip

Because of the lack of cooperation from UE vendors and test equipment vendors in regards to MCS, TF160 has experienced some difficulties in verifying the TTCN relative to past efforts with other features. The outcomes of this NOFO could possibly help alleviate these difficulties. Note that RAN5 verification is a pre-requisite for GCF/PTCRB validation to happen.

19. For funding/cost proposal, is it ok to allocate funding to protect IP rights (i.e. to get legal counsel)?

No, these costs are not allowable. Please see, 2 C.F.R. §200.435(h), *Defense and prosecution of criminal and civil proceedings, claims, appeals and patent infringements*, which states, “Costs of legal, accounting, and consultant services, and related costs, incurred in connection with patent infringement litigation, are unallowable unless otherwise provided for in the Federal award”.

20. Can we use outsourcing companies? – e.g. USA or Europe or India?

Yes, you may subcontract or make subawards as part of the proposed project.

21. When attempting to upload the proposal documents into grants.gov, I received an error concerning the Project Summary/Abstract attachment in regards to the Research And Related Other Project Information. However, the NOFO states that this form is not relevant to the competition. How should I proceed?

Please note that the Project Summary/Abstract field (#7), which has a place to attach an optional Project Summary/Abstract, is not relevant to this competition. However, to avoid getting a validation error in grants.gov, applicants will be required to attach a blank page to this field. Applicants are not required to write or provide a Project Summary/Abstract, but they will be required to attach a blank form for the submission or else the application will be rejected by grants.gov. NIST will be amending the NOFO and extending the deadline until Friday, July 26th, to ensure applicants don't have problems because of this change to grants.gov.