On June 21, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) released its fiscal year (FY) 2020 funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the Young Investigator Program (YIP). This popular program, which is also offered by other Department of Defense (DOD) agencies such as the Army Research Office (ARO) and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), provides early career university faculty a path into the Navy’s research enterprise through multi-year research grants. With this program, ONR identifies promising young tenure-track faculty who demonstrate the ability to deliver innovative research aligned with ONR's research priorities.

DOD will accept any proposals that address research areas outlined in ONR's broad research portfolio that are of interest to ONR program managers. A complete list of topics of interest to each of ONR’s five departments – Information, Cyber and Spectrum Superiority (Code 31); Ocean Battlespace and Expeditionary Access (Code 32); Mission Capable, Persistent and Survivable Naval Platforms (Code 33); Warfighter Performance (Code 34); and Aviation, Force Projection and Integrated Defense (Code 35) – is available on ONR’s science and technology homepage located at http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments.aspx.

ONR has offered the following best practices to increase the success of YIP candidates:

- Contact the ONR program manager before submitting a proposal.
- Try to understand the program officer’s portfolio and interests.
- Review the ONR website; become familiar with Navy terminology/where your technology fits in.
- Demonstrate merit with a record of publishing in peer reviewed journals and a strong letter of support from the university and/or department.
- Submit a complete curriculum vitae with the white paper and/or proposal package.

Due Date: Proposals should be submitted through www.grants.gov no later than August 16, 2019 at 11:59 EST. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Program Manager in their technical area to discuss their research ideas before submitting a proposal. Proposers may also send brief, informal pre-proposals to their designated ONR program officer and copy ONRYIP@navy.mil.

Total Funding and Award Size: Individual awards will be funded at a maximum of $510,000 for a three-year base period, with a possibility for an additional $250,000 during the base period as supplemental funding for equipment, testing and other similar expenses. ONR anticipates making multiple awards but does not specify the number of awards or overall funding for this competition.

Eligibility and Limitations: This BAA is open to first or second full-time tenure-track faculty who have received their degree on or after January 1, 2012. Faculty from institutions of higher education that award degrees in science, engineering, and/or mathematics are eligible to apply. U.S. nonprofit organizations operating for scientific and educational services may also submit proposals. Note that ONR makes awards to institutions, not individuals. Researchers therefore must submit proposals along
with a letter of support from the university through appropriate administrators. Additional eligibility and submission instructions can be found in the full FOA.

Sources and Additional Information:

- Information on ONR’s research focus areas can be found at http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments.aspx.
- A list of ONR Program Managers is available at https://www.onr.navy.mil/our-research/our-program-managers.