

Special Notice (SN) DARPA-SN-24-12: Establishing Qualification Processes for Agile Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (EQUIP-A-Pharma) Industry Day

DATE: January 8, 2024

LOCATION: Arlington, VA with Webinar Option

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- **In-Person – January 2, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. ET**
- **Webinar – January 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. ET**

REGISTRATION WEBSITE: <https://events.sa-meetings.com/EQUIPIndustryDay/>

TECHNICAL POC: Dr. Vishnu Sundaresan, DARPA/BTO

Email: EQUIP@darpa.mil

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Biological Technologies Office (BTO) is sponsoring an Industry Day to provide information to potential proposers on the objectives of an anticipated Program Solicitation (PS) for the Establishing Qualification Processes for Agile Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (EQUIP-A-Pharma) program. The Industry Day will be held on January 8th, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time (ET)) in Arlington, VA. The event will be webcast for those who would like to participate remotely. Advance registration is required for attending the Industry Day in person and viewing the webcast. Note that all times listed in this announcement and on the registration website are Eastern Time.

The goals of the EQUIP-A-Pharma Industry Day are to: (1) introduce the research community (industry, academia, and Government) to the EQUIP-A-Pharma program vision and goals; (2) explain the mechanics of this DARPA program and the milestones of this particular effort; and (3) encourage and promote teaming arrangements among potential organizations that have the relevant expertise, facilities, and capabilities for executing a research and development program responsive to the EQUIP-A-Pharma program goals.

DARPA anticipates releasing the EQUIP-A-Pharma PS in January 2024. If released, the PS will be available on <https://sam.gov/> and <http://www.grants.gov/>. Following Industry Day, DARPA may post the presented materials and the list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to the Opportunities page at DARPA's website.

To maximize the pool of innovative proposal concepts, DARPA strongly encourages participation by non-traditional proposers (including small businesses, academic and research institutions, and first-time government contractors) in events such as this and any subsequent solicitation.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION

Agile pharmaceutical manufacturing refers to a suite of chemical synthesis hardware and software that can be rapidly reconfigured or reprogrammed to produce finished drug products from widely available starting chemicals (commodity chemicals or precursors). Via EQUIP-A-Pharma, DARPA – in collaboration with Administration of Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Division in Health and Human Services (HHS) – aims to explore innovative approaches to demonstrate a real-time digital regulatory approval framework for multiple finished drug products produced from widely available precursors on a single reprogrammable hardware platform.

TEAMING

DARPA highly encourages teaming before proposal submission and will facilitate the formation of teams with the necessary expertise. Potential proposers may choose to participate in either, none, or both of the following options:

1. **Attendee List (limited distribution):** Participant contact information (name, organization, email address) will be distributed to all other EQUIP-A-Pharma Industry Day attendees. The registration website will ask registrants to indicate whether they approve publication of their contact information.
2. **Proposer Profile List (limited distribution):** Interested parties will submit a one-page profile consisting of their contact information (name, organization, email, telephone number, mailing address, and, if applicable, organization website), a brief description of their technical competencies, and, if applicable, their desired expertise from other teams/organizations. All profiles must be emailed to EQUIP@darpa.mil no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 8, 2024. Following the deadline, the consolidated teaming profiles will be sent via email to the proposers who submitted a valid profile no later than January 10, 2024. Specific content, communications, networking, and team formation are the sole responsibility of the participants. Neither DARPA nor the Department of Defense (DoD) endorses the information and organizations contained in the consolidated teaming profile document, nor does DARPA or DoD exercise any responsibility for improper dissemination of the teaming profiles.

POSTER SESSION

Attendees will be afforded the opportunity to prepare posters describing areas of interest and capabilities. The purpose of these presentations is to facilitate teaming discussions among the attendees. Upon registering, attendees may indicate whether they would like to present a poster. Due to limited availability, DARPA does not guarantee that these requests will be fulfilled. Digital versions of posters as a pdf file (file size less than 10 MB) must be submitted to EQUIP@darpa.mil for approval no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 2, 2024. DARPA will notify attendees if their poster has been approved for presentation no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 5, 2024.

SIDEBARS

There will be an opportunity to meet individually with the Program Manager, Dr. Vishnu Sundaresan. Requests must be received no later than the registration deadline date. Individual meetings will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served, and space-available basis and limited to two (2) people per institution. Sidebar Meetings will be available for in-person attendees only.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The EQUIP-A-Pharma Industry Day will be held on January 8, 2024 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. in Arlington, VA. There is no registration fee for the Industry Day meeting or webcast.

Registration opens: As of publication of this announcement.

Registration website: <https://events.sa-meetings.com/EQUIPIndustryDay/>

Registration closes (in person attendance): January 2, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. or when capacity is reached, whichever comes first.

Registration closes (webcast): January 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. or when capacity is reached, whichever comes first.

Advance registration via the above website is required for attending the Industry Day in person and for receiving access to the webcast. The advance registration requirement applies to every individual intending to view the webcast alone or as part of a group.

Due to the limitations of the conference facility space, in-person attendance is restricted to the first 100 registrants with a maximum of three (3) individuals from any one organization and no more than two (2) representatives per division/department of that organization. Interested parties are encouraged to coordinate attendance internally within their organizations prior to registration.

Registrants in excess of the maximum capacity limitations (100 for in-person attendance) will be automatically registered for the webcast. Registration received in excess of 350 individuals for ZoomGov may be added to a waitlist for the webinar. If slots become available due to cancellations, the slots may be filled on a first come, first served basis from the waitlist.

ELIGIBILITY

Industry Days are only open to registered potential proposers, i.e., the events are closed to the general public and media. For this particular program, Industry Day registration is open to potential proposers who are U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and foreign nationals.

All registrants who are not U.S. citizens must complete and submit either a DARPA Form 60 (U.S. Permanent Resident and Foreign National Visit Request – e.g., industry or academia) or an Official Visit Request (foreign government personnel, only) through the U.S. Embassy based in Washington, DC, no later than 4:00 p.m. on December 29, 2023. Form 60 submission instructions are provided on the registration website and in the registration confirmation email. Contact your Embassy staff for assistance in submitting the Official Visit Request. Upon entry to the physical meeting, all attendees must present valid, Government-issued photo identification.

Q & A

Administrative, technical, and contractual questions about the EQUIP-A-Pharma should be emailed to EQUIP@darpa.mil. All questions must be in English and must include the name and email address of a point of contact. Following Industry Day, information relayed during the event, to include an FAQ, will be posted to the DARPA Opportunities Page.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please refer to the EQUIP-A-Pharma Industry Day in all correspondence.

- Technical Point of Contact: Dr. Vishnu Sundaresan, Program Manager, EQUIP@darpa.mil
- Registration Website: URL
- DARPA Opportunities Page: <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities>

DISCLAIMERS AND IMPORTANT NOTES

Attendance at the EQUIP-A-Pharma Industry Day or viewing the webcast is voluntary and is not required to propose to the anticipated EQUIP-A-Pharma PS. Interested parties to this notice are cautioned that nothing herein obligates the Government to issue a solicitation. The Industry Day

does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. This announcement is issued solely for information and program planning purposes and is not a Request for Information (RFI). Since this is not an RFI, the Government will not accept submissions against this notice, with the exception of the one-page profile referenced in the Teaming section above and briefing materials associated with Lightning Talks. No classified, International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) controlled, or proprietary information shall be presented by the Government at Industry Day. Inclusion of proprietary information in posters and during sidebars is at the presenter's discretion; however, any submitted posters or other information should be appropriate for public release. DARPA will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred to participate in this Industry Day. Recording Industry Day is not permitted.