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Looking for high risk/high payoff basic research? **Yes. Playing field is level in YFA.**

How are topics developed?

- Fill gaps in programs at DSO, BTO, & MTO? **Yes. Topics are also chosen as potential areas for new programs. Management and funding of YFA rotates among the 3 offices.**

Helpful to contact PMs with ideas pre-announcement? **No** contact post-announcement?

- How to engage PMs, independent of YFA?

DARPA funds are program-specific, so most \$ are spent on existing or already identified programs, and less is available for new starts. Informal contact with PM (e.g., 1 paragraph describing idea) is best, rather than submitting WP to open BAA.

Program review documents posted on-line? **No** Annual program review meetings open to PIs? **No**

- How to find priorities or key challenges? **Open BAAs for each office have research needs. Also, view office links on darpa.mil.**

Profile of YFA awardees -- common characteristics? **More mature in their careers, with more time to have developed research programs. YFA goal is to develop a solid research career and plan. Key element of proposal: explain impact of research: Why does it matter? How will your approach revolutionize current SOA? Also, don't oversell relevance to DoD missions; use 1 paragraph to describe potential applications – not operations.**

When will next YFA solicitation be published? **Topics are usually solicited from PMs in spring/summer, and BAA is published in fall.**

How many awards annually? **~30. Total YFA budget is \$6-7M.**

Suggestions to encourage YFA applications

Other programs besides YFA that you manage? **EQUIPS. Fariba works between the areas of dynamics & control and computation.**