

National Reconnaissance Office Solicits New Ideas

The National Reconnaissance Office will open its Fiscal Year 2005 Director's Innovative Initiative (DII) solicitation on June 1, 2004. This program solicits research and development proposals focusing on space based intelligence gathering. The deadline for receipt of proposals is July 14, 2004.

The NRO Director's Innovative Initiative was created in 1998 to stimulate innovative research and development by reaching out to a broader developer base, establish a risk tolerant environment to conduct high technical risk research with correspondingly high potential payoff, and provide continuous access to revolutionary concepts and ideas. The program provides the NRO an opportunity to: encourage new and unique ideas; explore cutting edge technologies; invest in potentially high payoff ideas; and promote creativity and the entrepreneurial spirit.

The DII program is administered by the NRO's Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate. Participants can include large and small businesses; academic and non-profit institutions; government agencies and research centers; and collaborative ventures from mixed sources. Some guidelines for proposals are that they be a maximum of nine months in duration, that they will be eligible for a maximum of \$350,000 if selected, and they can be classified or unclassified. Specific proposal guidance can be found and more information on submitting a proposal can be found on the Director's Innovative Initiative web page at <http://dii.westfields.net>.