

**CRDF GLOBAL
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Deadline: May 22, 2026**

Summary:

The Emerging Technology program at CRDF Global is committed to protecting and defending advanced research, data, and technology from exploitation, theft, and IP infringement by adversarial actors. To support this effort, CRDF Global, on behalf of the United States Department of State Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), is seeking experts with demonstrated expertise in research security, secure international collaboration frameworks, aerospace research development, and university-industry partnership structures to design, develop, and deliver a three-day Research & Collaboration Security Conference at a prominent U.S. research institution for Omani academic leaders, space technology researchers, university innovation officials, and research administrators engaged in aerospace advancement, secure collaboration agreements, and responsible talent exchange within the space sector.

Scope of Work:

The selected SME will contribute to the development and delivery of a three-day Research & Collaboration Security Conference to be held at a prominent U.S. research institution for approximately 30 Omani academics and university leaders. The conference will focus on aerospace and space research advancement, research security best practices, secure collaboration agreements, and responsible talent exchange models, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) educational policy development.

The event will include panel discussions with U.S. researchers on building and sustaining university space programs, guided walkthroughs of research security and technology transfer offices to demonstrate intellectual property protection and secure collaboration frameworks, and site visits to university-affiliated incubator hubs to examine public funding mechanisms and innovation support structures. The agenda will also include legal briefings on memorandum of understanding (MOU) and agreement best practices, structured networking sessions between U.S. and Omani researchers, and practical discussions on responsible and secure talent exchange policies.

The SME will provide strategic and technical expertise to ensure that all content reflects internationally recognized research security and collaboration standards, including applicable U.S. research governance, technology transfer, and intellectual property protection frameworks. All materials must be tailored to support sustainable U.S.–Omani academic partnerships while strengthening institutional capacity to cultivate, retain, and protect space-related expertise and innovation.

The conference is intended to:

- Facilitate sustainable U.S.–Omani academic partnerships in aerospace and space research through structured dialogue, networking, and institutional engagement.
- Provide practical guidance on secure collaboration frameworks, including research governance, intellectual property protection, and responsible talent exchange mechanisms.
- Strengthen institutional capacity to cultivate, retain, and safeguard space-related expertise through secure research management, technology transfer, and innovation support structures.
- Increase awareness of risks associated with international collaboration, joint research initiatives, and cross-border talent exchange, while promoting responsible and secure engagement.
- Equip participants with actionable tools and best practices for developing secure MOUs, collaboration agreements, and research partnerships that align with internationally recognized standards.

- Promote STEM policies and best practices to spur innovation, long-term space research, and cultivate a robust, technical, security-minded workforce.

Period of Performance: June 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

Task and Deliverables:

The contractor shall complete the following tasks in support of the three-day Research & Collaboration Security Conference to be held at a prominent U.S. research institution (dates TBD).

Task One: Workshop Design and Agenda Development

The SME(s) will design a detailed agenda for a three-day conference tailored to Omani academic leaders, space technology researchers, university innovation officials, and research administrators. The agenda will incorporate panel discussions on aerospace research advancement and talent development, guided walkthroughs of research security and technology transfer offices, incubator and innovation hub engagements, legal presentations on MOU and agreement best practices, structured networking sessions, and practical discussions on responsible and secure talent exchange frameworks. CRDF Global and the Funder will provide feedback on the draft agenda, which shall be incorporated into the final version.

Task 1 Deliverables:

1. Draft conference agenda
2. Final workshop agenda incorporating feedback from CRDF Global and the Funder

Task Two: Development of Conference Materials

The SME(s) will develop all conference materials, including presentation slides, discussion prompts, case studies, participant handouts, and resource materials related to secure research collaboration, intellectual property protection, innovation support structures, and responsible talent exchange practices. Materials should reflect U.S. research governance, technology transfer, and intellectual property protection frameworks while remaining applicable to Omani institutional contexts. CRDF Global and the Funder will provide feedback on draft materials, which shall be incorporated into the final versions.

Task 2 Deliverables:

1. Draft conference materials (slides, exercises, assessments, and supporting documents).
2. Final conference materials incorporating feedback from CRDF Global and the Funder.

Task Three: Workshop Delivery

The SME(s) will deliver and facilitate the three-day conference in accordance with the final approved agenda and materials. The SME(s) will facilitate panel discussions, guided sessions, structured networking activities, and practical exchanges to ensure active engagement between U.S. and Omani participants. Following each conference day, the SME(s) will provide a brief readout summarizing key observations and participant engagement themes.

Task 3 Deliverables:

1. Brief daily readout following the completion of each conference day using a CRDF-Global provided template.

Task Four: Communication and Reporting with CRDF Global

The SME will coordinate regularly with CRDF Global and the Funder to ensure alignment throughout project execution and will provide reporting on project activities, outcomes, and recommendations.

Task 4 Deliverables:

1. Regular virtual meetings with CRDF Global, the Funder, and/or other members of the project and expert team.
2. An After-Action Report that includes:
 - a. An overall assessment of the project, including successes and lessons learned.
 - b. Key observations resulting from workshop engagement and regional discussions.
 - c. Recommendations for next steps and future work on this topic.

Tentative Schedule of Performance:

Task	Deliverables	Expected Delivery Date
1	Conference Design & Agenda Development	May – July 2026
2	Development of Conference Materials	August – October 2026
3	Conference Delivery	November 2026
4	Communication and Reporting with CRDF Global	May – November 2026

Contractor Requirements:

- Demonstrated ability and willingness to incorporate cost-sharing, leverage existing resources, and provide in-kind contributions (e.g., staff time, materials, tools, or institutional support) to maximize project impact and efficiency.
- Ability/willingness to participate as part of a team of experts contributing to development and delivery of project activities and materials.
- Willingness to accommodate reasonable changes or adjustments to content or delivery as directed by CRDF Global or the Funder.
- Demonstrated experience developing and delivering academic-facing training, analysis, or reporting in one or more of the following areas:
 - Research security, secure collaboration frameworks, and protection of sensitive or dual-use technologies in aerospace or space-related fields.
 - Governance of international academic partnerships, including development of MOUs, talent exchange structures, and responsible cross-border collaboration mechanisms.
 - Intellectual property protection, technology transfer management, and innovation ecosystem development within university or research settings.
 - Due diligence, compliance, or vetting practices applicable to research institutions, innovation centers, and space-related programs.
 - Development of practical guidance, conference curricula, or implementation tools to support secure and sustainable institutional partnerships.
 - Designing and facilitating multi-day, multi-session academic conferences, workshops, or exchange programs for international audiences, including interactive formats such as structured networking, panel moderation, and participatory SOP or policy development sessions.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

Each proposal must include:

- **Proposed Technical Approach and Project Team**
 - Detailed description of services offered in correlation with the RFP scope and tasks (your technical approach), including CVs and/or bios for the proposed team who can travel within the United States for implementation of the conference over a three-day period.

Travel Expenses			
	Total (USD)		

Contractor Selection Criteria:

Scoring will be based on CRDF Global’s evaluation of the Contractor’s ability to meet CRDF Global’s key requirements. That includes competitive pricing, quality of proposal, past performance, and credentials/experience of key personnel. CRDF Global reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals and to negotiate terms of any subsequent agreements at its own discretion. CRDF will select the contractor who provides the best value in terms of overall price and experience.

Best Value Trade-Off:

Successful proposals will be selected based on both technical and price factors, weighing them to determine which offer represents the best value. Technical factors, such as experience, innovation, and past performance, may be more heavily weighted than price. CRDF Global reserves the right to select a higher-priced proposal if it offers superior technical benefits or overall value. CRDF Global retains full discretion to contract for all, some, or none of the activities included in any proposal submitted under this RFP. CRDF Global also reserves the right to select multiple proposals and/or SMEs and combine or assign complementary roles among selected offerors to achieve the best overall technical approach and value in support of the activity.

Evaluation Scoring Methodology:

Proposals will be evaluated on a 100-point scale. Scoring will be based on alignment with the stated objectives, creativity and soundness of the proposed approach, and the realism of the scope, weighted according to the criteria identified above.

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)	Subfactors
1. Technical Approach	60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding of the requirements - Feasibility of the approach - Alignment with project goals
2. Price/Cost	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall cost compared to market rates - Cost realism - Price structure - In-kind contributions or cost-share offered
3. Key Personnel and Qualifications	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant experience of personnel - Availability and commitment to the project
4. Past Performance	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated successful delivery of similar training or advisory projects • Evidence of effective outcomes, client engagement, and program impact

Procurement Timetable:

This procurement process is intended to follow the timeline below:

Activity	Date
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1. Request for Proposal (RFP) Issued	April 6, 2026
2. Deadline for Questions & Inquiries	April 24, 2026
3. RFP Questions & Answers Released	April 27, 2026
4. Proposal Submission Deadline	May 15, 2026, 17:00 PM Eastern Standard Time
5. Anticipated Contract Issuance	May 29, 2026

Submission:

Proposals should be submitted to kaldajani@crdfglobal.org, akelkar@crdfglobal.org, & saldarbisi@crdfglobal.org no later than **17:00 Eastern Standard Time May 15th, 2026**. Proposals should be submitted as electronic documents in **PDF, Word or Excel format** and please add **“RFP Response – Oman Research Collaboration Conference” to the subject line.**

Background:

CRDF Global is an independent nonprofit organization founded in 1995 in response to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the threat of large-scale proliferation of weapons technology from the region. With support authorized by the Nunn-Lugar Act of 1991 and the Freedom Support Act of 1992, as well private foundation contributions, CRDF Global embarked on bolstering the global scientific community and fostering alternatives to weapons research.

In the past 30 years, our work has expanded to address ever-changing global concerns, but our commitment to ensuring the success of our partners remains the same. We are a leading provider of flexible logistical support, program design and management, and strategic capacity building programs in the areas of higher education, CBRNE security and nonproliferation, border security, cybersecurity, global health, technology entrepreneurship, and international professional exchanges.

With offices in Arlington, VA; Amman, Jordan; Kyiv, Ukraine; Manila, Philippines; Almaty, Kazakhstan; and Warsaw, Poland; CRDF Global’s global staff and networks of local community and government stakeholders deliver programs tailored to specific regions that advance U.S. security interests in over 120 countries across the globe.

Vision Statement:

Our world, healthy, safe, and sustainable.

Mission Statement:

Safety, security, and sustainability through science, innovation, and collaboration.

Values:

We do the right thing.

We care about each other and the people we work with.

We work together to deliver excellence

CRDF Global provides equal opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status, or disability. We are committed to fostering a respectful, collaborative, and supportive work environment where all individuals can contribute and thrive. We recognize and uphold the inherent value and dignity of every person, and we strive to maintain a workplace that honors a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences.

More information is available at www.crdfglobal.org.

Solicitation Terms & Conditions:

Right to Select Suppliers. CRDF Global reserves the right to negotiate with and select all qualified suppliers at its own discretion and is not obligated to inform suppliers of the methods used in the selection process. CRDF Global reserves the right to dismiss any and/or all suppliers from the bid process and reject any and/or all proposals.

Obligation. This RFP does not bind nor obligate CRDF Global in any way. CRDF Global makes no representation, either expressed or implied, that it will accept or approve in whole or in part any proposal submitted in response to this RFP. CRDF Global may reward, in whole or in part, the proposal at its sole discretion.

Notification. CRDF Global will notify bidders following completion of the evaluation process, as to whether or not bidders have been awarded the contract. The only information regarding the status of the evaluation of proposals that will be provided to any inquiring bidder shall be whether or not the inquiring bidder has been awarded the contract. CRDF Global may, at its sole discretion, inform any inquiring bidder of the reason(s) as to why it was not awarded the contract.

Binding Period. Following the due date of submission of this Proposal, the pricing included in this RFP shall be binding upon the supplier for the duration of the contract.

Hold Harmless. By submitting a response to the RFP, bidder agrees that CRDF Global has sole discretion to select any and/or all suppliers. During or following the conclusion of this process, bidders waive their rights to damages whatsoever attributable to the selection process, materials provided, supplier selection, or any communication associated with the RFP process and supplier selection.

Transfer to Final Contract. The terms and conditions of the RFP, including the specifications and the completed proposal, will become at CRDF Global's sole discretion, part of the final contract (the "Agreement") between CRDF Global and the selected bidder. In the event that responses to the terms and conditions will materially impair a bidder's ability to respond to the RFP, bidder should notify CRDF Global in writing of the impairment. If bidder fails to object to any condition(s) incorporated herein, it shall mean that bidder agrees with, and will comply with the conditions set forth herein.

Exceptions. Any exceptions to the terms and conditions or any additions, which bidder may wish to include in the RFP, should be made in writing and included in the form of an addendum to the applicable Section in the RFP.

CRDF Global Proprietary Information. Supplier agrees that all non-public information contained in this document and communicated verbally in reference to this RFP by CRDF Global shall be received for the sole discretion and purpose of enabling the supplier to submit an accurate response to this RFP. The information contained in this RFP and disclosed during the course of negotiations and communications are proprietary in nature and under no circumstances to be disclosed to a third party without prior written consent from CRDF Global.

Supplier Proprietary Information. Information contained in the response to this RFP will be considered proprietary in nature if marked "confidential" or "proprietary". Such marked documents will not be disclosed to third parties outside CRDF Global with the exception of retained consultants under contractual confidentiality agreements.