



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)

FOR FY2027, THE U OF I SYSTEM REQUESTS **\$2.516 BILLION** FOR 6.1 BASIC RESEARCH AND **\$4.641 BILLION** FOR DARPA

## DOD S&T, BASIC RESEARCH (6.1)

**FY2026** = \$2.37B

**FY2025** = \$2.62B

**FY2024** = \$2.62B

**FY2023** = \$2.92B

## DARPA

**FY2026** = \$4.378B

**FY2025** = \$4.123B

**FY2024** = \$4.123B

**FY2023** = \$4.052B

**Appropriations Bill:** Defense

**Agency:** U.S. Department of Defense

### Questions? Contact:

**Paul Weinberger**

Assistant VP, Federal Relations  
[paulw3@uillinois.edu](mailto:paulw3@uillinois.edu)

**Melissa Haas**

Director, Federal Relations  
[mshaas@uillinois.edu](mailto:mshaas@uillinois.edu)

**Grace May**

Federal Relations Specialist  
[gamay3@uillinois.edu](mailto:gamay3@uillinois.edu)

## DOD R&D EXPENDITURES, FY2025

University of Illinois Chicago	\$17.5 Million
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	\$79.4 Million

\*Source: FY2025 NSF HERD Survey

The U of I System is the state's leading recipient of DOD research funds. The system is prepared to support DOD's research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) portfolio at the highest levels, thanks to the construction of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF), an enclosed area within UIUC's Research Park to process classified information.

It is imperative that DOD—even in a constrained funding environment—invests in the foundational science and technologies to confront looming challenges. The U of I System encourages Congress to support sustained and robust funding for the 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 science and technology accounts across services.

### U.S. ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY

The U of I System has been strengthening its partnership with the Army Research Laboratory (ARL). Both UIC and UIUC are significantly involved in ARL's Open Campus Initiative, specifically ARL Central.

ARL launched a [Center for UAS Propulsion \(CUP\)](#) to convene a community of academic, industry, and government partners around technologies for small engine power for next-generation UAS. UIUC is the academic lead for CUP, in close partnership with UIC. Both universities are engaged in multi-disciplinary research to develop next generation multi-fuel engine architecture, novel batteries, advanced materials research, aerospace propulsion, supercomputing aided simulations, advanced control architecture and algorithms, and power optimization.

Both UIUC and UIC were selected to receive awards from ARL through its Internet of Battlefield Things (IoBT) program. UIUC was [selected](#) to lead a \$25M million initiative to develop the scientific foundations of next-generation IoBTs, designed to enable predictive battlefield analytics and services. The IoBTs will connect soldiers with smart technology in armor, radios, weapons and more to give troops a better understanding of battlefield situations and help assess risks. The initiative [received](#) a 5-year extension in 2022 up to \$25.5M in additional funding.

The Army Research Office (ARO) sponsors diverse projects at UIUC in catalysis, surface science, and engineering the optical properties of materials.

### DOD-SUPPORTED PROJECTS AT UIUC

#### Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI)

UIUC has been very successful in securing awards through the prestigious [MURI program](#). In FY23, members of the UIUC research community were [either leading or participating](#) in six (approximately 20% of all projects!).

#### Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP)

DURIP supports the purchase of major, state-of-the-art equipment that augments current research institutions' capabilities or develops new capabilities to perform cutting-edge defense research and associated graduate student research training in disciplines of importance to DOD. Two UIUC researchers

are among the [2024 recipients of the DURIP awards](#) for their work in quantum computing and bioinspired cameras.

### Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

UIUC is playing a leading role in the new federal-and state-funded [Quantum Proving Ground](#), which promises to combine scientific rigor with industry and academic expertise to design the future of quantum computing. DARPA and other federal agencies are providing federal funding. The Quantum Proving Ground will be based at the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, led by the U of I System.

DARPA has funded several cutting-edge UIUC projects. For instance:

- Through its KAIROS program, DARPA has [provided](#) \$12.3M to support a UIUC-led project, named RESIN—Reasoning about Event Schemas for Induction of kNowledge, which seeks to create a framework for the next generation of event understanding systems, with an ambitious goal: being able to provide a comprehensive understanding of evolving situations, events, and trends.
- DARPA is [providing](#) \$10M for two projects for research on human performance optimization within U.S. war fighters at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.
- Advanced wireless technology to support warfighter communications is a major focus. Researchers are developing new low-power and ultra-compact radio technology to enable communications through soil, rock and water. Another project will empower individuals to exercise better control over the quality of information they are exposed to on social media. At a national level, the work will help fight adversarial propaganda and help maintain integrity of critical information from malicious manipulation. Methods are in development to safeguard the electrical power grid from attacks on its GPS synchronization system.

### Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)

UIUC receives significant funding from the AFOSR. In 2025, UIUC [received](#) a four-year, \$4.8M award from AFOSR to study the origins of defects in superconducting

qubits. UIUC also [received](#) a \$2.5M AFOSR grant in 2024 to investigate qubits that are entangled in their ground state. Additionally, a Grainger College of Engineering professor was recently [selected](#) for the 2025 AFOSR Young Investigator Program (YIP) Award for his pioneering work in cryogenic quantum photonics.

### U.S. Army

The Grainger College of Engineering at UIUC is [launching a center](#) to develop new additive manufacturing methods for large metal parts. The center will have a \$9.06M budget, including an \$8.15M award from DOD. The new methods and technologies developed will allow the military to quickly manufacture large parts as needed for its fleet of ground vehicles, making its supply chain more agile, efficient and secure.

### U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

UIUC's National Center for Supercomputing Applications [secured](#) a \$25.8M contract from the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to provide high-performance computing for national security priorities, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and global-scale data production.

---

### DOD-SUPPORTED PROJECTS AT UIC

With a [\\$6 million collaborative agreement with ARL](#), UIC researchers are developing fuels and technologies for sustainable aviation and autonomous vehicles.

A consortium led by the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement at UIC was [awarded](#) a five-year, \$5M grant through DOD's Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program. The Illinois Defense Manufacturing Consortium will consist of the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center and four regional organizations that independently and collectively focus on driving growth in four key defense-intensive-regions comprising 23 counties in Illinois and five counties in Iowa.