



S²MARTS Project No 20-08: DoN Additive Manufacturing for Technology Protection (AM-TP)

Request For Solutions (RFS) Questions & Answers | Posted Dec 2, 2020

1. **Question:** Does the restriction against prototype submissions with hazardous materials imply that cannot be the long-term goal?

Response: For this effort, we are not interested in solutions requiring hazardous materials.

2. **Question:** What is the long-term potential after the initial project?

Response: The goal is to solve TP problems. If the solution is viable, then it will be shared with transition partners.

3. **Question:** Section 8 indicates that the respondents "may be required to possess up to SECRET personnel and facilities clearance". Although we have an additive technology that has already been used with a variety of Technology Protection techniques, the time and cost to obtain this is a concern. What determines if Secret clearance is required in the initial phase? What is the timing allotted? Is it possible to do this initial phase and once awarded work toward obtaining that clearance?

Response: A company has to have a Secret clearance to receive the classified annex. Consider partnering with a company that has the capability to store Secret material. There may be unclassified work that you can accomplish, as a partner.

4. **Question:** Section 5, page 3 asks what is the TRL impact of adding AM to the device, will the government quantify what it believes the TRL level of the proposed demonstration board is at (commercial prototype design demonstration system).

Response: It is outside the scope of the current solicitation for the government to quantify TRL.

5. **Question:** Section 7, page 5 asks that capabilities or project phases that will require additional funding beyond the project budget must be identified as such. Should this be shown as a research roadmap for the full development cycle of the proposed technology?

Response: Project phases do not need to cover full development and transition to fielded systems in the research plan.

6. **Question:** Section 10, pages 6 and 7 lists the RFS first stage submission requirement is a 2-page capability statement and a 5-page task description document (TDD) defining the work to be completed. Table A lists the submission requirements as a 2-page capability statement and a 5-page technical response. On page 8, Section ii Technical Response item 1 lists a Solution Narrative as part of the technical response. Item 5 specifies that the TDD that is not included in the page count. Can the government confirm that the required written submission technical response consists of a 2 page

capabilities statement, a 5 page technical response that outlines the offerors' solution, and up to a 5 page Task Description Document (TDD) that is not included in the overall page count?

Response: Please see RFS Rev 1.

7. **Question:** Is it anticipated that the areas of technical consideration will be addressed within the offeror's 2-page capability statement?

Response: Yes

8. **Question:** What is the governments anticipated timeline for the prototyping concept summit after submission of the first stage submission?

Response: The PCS is targeted for the month of February 2021.

9. **Question:** Within the RFS there is a clear expectation of technology demonstration on the Cora 27 SOC Board but in section 7 there is a statement about how much of the solution is able to be completed within the initial award. What's the criteria for reduction to practice?

Response: We seek solutions that demonstrate capability in a prototype scenario.

10. **Question:** Do additive manufacturing capabilities need to be in-house throughout the project or can parts of fabrication be contracted to a strategic vendor to support printing through a purchase order?

Response: Parts of fabrication may be contracted to a strategic vendor to support printing through various contract methods.

11. **Question:** Does the Zynq 7000 demonstration boards require maintaining chain of custody or any special handling?

Response: If it is considered classified, then yes.

12. **Question:** Can the TP solution use any ports on the ZYNQ board or does it have to be completely passive?

Response: The solution may utilize available ports without affecting board functionality.

13. **Question:** To provide the best possible proposal response, would the Government allow the submission of a classified annex to the proposal to address the specificity of the RFS classified annex?

Response:

14. **Question:** Can we submit more than one approach?

Response: You can apply as many approaches as you would like on the Cora Boards. Each Cora Board should have the same approach.

15. Question: Are there any additive manufacturing technologies you are not interested in?

Response: No

16. Question: How important is it to leverage the use of commercially available additive manufacturing equipment?

Response: It is not required.

17. Question: Are there temperature limitations both in the application of the coating and in the planned application (-65°F to 180°F)?

Response: Yes

18. Question: Are there cost targets?

Response: No

19. Question: Are there dimensional/thickness limitations? Are there dimensional tolerance goals?

Response: No

20. Question: Is there a target rate or takt time on the process?

Response: No

21. Question: Is this targeted towards specialty or commodity applications, or both?

Response: Both

22. Question: Can you comment on the near term and long-term demand for the solution?

Response: The submission needs to be evaluated before demand can be determined.