

## Summer Event Series | The RFS Anatomy Webinar Q&A July 16, 2020

### **1. How do [interested parties] find Requests for Solutions with certain keywords?**

We encourage interested parties to monitor [nstxl.org/opportunities](https://nstxl.org/opportunities), a searchable page that serves to publicize each project and their applicable stage: Coming Soon, Current, Under Evaluation and Awarded.

For each effort competed under an NSTXL-managed Other Transaction, we release Coming Soon notices as soon as we are permitted to do so.

### **2. Will the presentation slides be available?**

Yes, the slideshow PDF is [available](#). You can also access a recording of the webinar [here](#).

### **3. Can you speak a bit more to the teaming and partnering arrangements that take place?**

Teaming structures for proposing companies vary and are tailored to the terms agreed to by the partnering entities. Teaming with a nontraditional company is a frequently used approach to meet statutory conditions required for OT award.

Launched in 2019, [NSTXL's Community](#) platform allows members to promote their solutions, access a searchable database of members, and send direct messages to potential teammates, among other benefits.

### **4. Do OTAs provide an opportunity for unsolicited proposals / solutions?**

The acceptance of unsolicited proposals/solutions are driven by the sponsoring command for each overarching Other Transaction. Although unsolicited proposals are not currently being accepted, the concept remains under consideration with our Government customers.

### **5. What is the difference between Request for solutions vs Request for information vs Sources sought?**

A Request for Solutions is a solicitation publicized by NSTXL on behalf of the Government. Requests for Information and Sources Sought Notices are announcements traditionally present within FAR-based contracting and are used to support Market Research.

**6. Related to data rights, how does rights to title work on OTA?**

Per the USD A&T Other Transaction Guide, "The Government is not required to, and generally should not, take title to physical property acquired or produced by a private party signatory to an OT, except property the agreement identifies as a deliverable. In deciding whether or not to take title to property under an OT, the Government should consider whether known or future efforts may be fostered by Government ownership of the property." If the Government takes title to property, or furnishes Government property, then the property is subject to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act and will prompt inclusion of additional guidance & information within the Agreement (such as a list of the property, disposition instructions, property accounting, etc.).

**7. Are you seeing any near future RFSs coming out with CMMC compliance requirements?**

Based on the near-term projects pending release, no, we have not seen any mandates for CMMC compliance. However, we do anticipate an increase in CMMC-related actions and compliance measures based on recent guidance & commentary publicized by the Department of Defense. Please ensure you are registered for NSTXL's upcoming events related to CMMC compliance for additional insight and real-time discussion on the impact of pending policy updates.

**8. I do not understand bullet 3 regarding the criticality of award structure.**

The referenced bullet captured that "unpriced or optional line items" may be used to reflect the potential growth of a project. If utilized, the price for the unpriced or optional line items will likely be finalized with the Performer prior to the Government determining whether or not funding that activity is in the Government's best interest.

**9. How many awards have been made by pulling something out of the proposal library?**

The proposal repository is a feature present under the S<sup>2</sup>MARTS vehicle, and at this time, no additional awards have originated from the repository. We cannot comment regarding potential actions or future awards under consideration.

**10. Does TReX have a Proposal library?**

No. If the Government elects to incorporate this offering, members will be notified accordingly, and impacted Requests for Solutions will contain applicable verbiage.

Sample RFS language:

*Acceptable responses not selected for the immediate award will be retained by NSTXL & the Government for possible future execution and funding. The non-selected proposals will be considered as viable alternatives for up to 36 months. If a proposal (that was not previously selected) is determined to be a suitable alternative, the company will be contacted to discuss any proposal updates and details of a subsequent project award. Respondents whose proposals are not selected for the initial award shall not contact the Government or NSTXL to inquire about the status of any ongoing effort as it relates to the likelihood of their company being selected as a future alternative.*

**11. How do we know which proposal on the repository is been reconsidered/explored by the DOD customer?**

If a proposal (that was not previously selected) is determined to be a suitable alternative, the company will be contacted by NSTXL to discuss any proposal updates and details of a subsequent project award.

**12. How do you differentiate training from readiness? Isn't readiness a by-product of well-trained teams?**

The contracted scope of our Other Transactions is established by the Government. The Training and Readiness Accelerator was intentionally designed to ensure Warfighter preparedness for a myriad of scenarios.

**13. How is consortium membership separated between S<sup>2</sup>MARTS and TRex with both falling under NSTXL? Do each require a separate membership?**

A company's membership is with NSTXL, which permits access to any of the contracts managed by NSTXL. Separate membership to each vehicle is not required.

**14. If we have a good technology idea at TRL 3, do we have to wait for a relevant RFS or can NSTXL help us get funding? Is there a way to connect with the DOD customers to understand pain points? Or are there technical members we can brief on new technologies?**

NSTXL has a responsibility to ensure a level playing field amongst our members; therefore, we do not represent individual solutions of our members. In partnership with our customers, our goal is to deliver an increased number of collaborative sessions between the Government and our NSTXL members. This "technology pushes" will help illuminate new ideas while increasing overall awareness of the domains we support.

**15. Any chance the survey questions can be optional, as there is a bit of work needed to respond, and as we submit more proposals, it becomes somewhat redundant.**

Survey questions are optional. You do not need to fill them out; however, your feedback is very much appreciated.

**16. What is the best way to find other companies that might be capable/willing to partner on a potential project? What does that engagement look like?**

The best way to find companies to partner with is with [NSTXL Community](#). This member-only teaming platform allows you to send private messages, search for other members using the filter feature, and join opportunity specific teaming boards to find companies with complementary technologies.

**17. What is your feedback method to innovative solutions submitted by new companies to NSTXL, those do not win the bid? Is there an evaluation?**

All members that submit a proposal in response to a RFS released by NSTXL will be notified once the Government selects the awardee(s).

However, we fully recognize the value that more detailed feedback provides to our members when their proposal is not selected. NSTXL is not involved in the evaluation of submissions, therefore we are dependent on the Government to create feedback for responding companies. Although we often facilitate the release of that information (when available), the level of information made available is driven solely by Government guidance and may vary by project. Unlike traditional FAR-based procurements, there is no statutory basis for debriefings.