Strategic & Spectrum Missions Advanced Resilient Trusted Systems (S^2MARTS)
Request for Solutions (RFS)

in support of the

Strategic Command, Control, Communications, Computer Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) to Operationalize the Stratosphere (SCOS) Prototype Project

S^2MARTS Project No. 20-09

All prospective respondents must be members of the NSTXL consortium.

1. **Project Title:** Strategic C4ISR to Operationalize the Stratosphere (SCOS)

2. **Prototype Project Sponsor/Requiring Activity:** Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane, Code JXW, USCENTCOM

3. **Contracting Activity:** NSWC Crane, Code 023

4. **Project Background & Current Capability:**

The Department of Defense (DOD) desires to enhance strategic mission capabilities by exploring Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance autonomous stratospheric technology. Since 2006, the DOD has invested in stratospheric platforms, sensor technologies, and payloads. Developmental testing in the last five years has been focused on operationalizing the stratosphere by demonstrating a higher Operational Tempo (OPTEMPO) with persistent, long-duration stratospheric balloons and solar Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). These platforms offer the opportunity to enhance the mission for persistent operations in non-permissive environments.

As part of the DOD stratospheric platform operations, platforms have the potential to complement traditional collection in the areas of:

- Earlier Intelligence and Warning
- Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)
- Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) pseudolite, airborne communication node, and information crosslink
- Maritime and land domain awareness, moving target indicator

- Mitigation of degraded space-based capabilities

Stratospheric Balloons and Solar UAS are complementary platforms that serve different purposes in an intelligence framework. Balloons are mature platforms that can carry heavier payloads than UAS. They maneuver by changing altitudes to various wind layers to stay in an operating area. Solar UASs are optimized for electric powered propeller propulsion in the thin atmosphere of the stratosphere. Solar UAS have low payload capacity, but the ability to maneuver and station keep. Operationalizing high altitude, persistent ISR may be best optimized with combined balloon and UAS operations.

Candidate sensor payloads have been derived from manned aircraft, satellite, and tactical UAS systems. In the past decade, DoD technology efforts have focused on evaluating traditional ISR sensors and Comms payloads in size, weight, and power (SWaP) required for stratospheric operations. Candidate sensor/Comms payloads are: Communications Relay, Signals Intelligence (SIGINT), Synthetic-Aperture Radio (SAR), Electro-Optical/Infra-Red (EO/IR), and Moving Target Indication (MTI). Advancing these technologies and integrating them onto stratospheric platforms is a key tenant of SCOS.

Autonomous stratospheric technologies must be advanced in order to compete with peer/near-peer adversaries. Currently, stratospheric platforms and payloads are a mix of mature and developmental technologies. The DoD has determined that additional experimentation is necessary to rapidly advance and integrate stratospheric technologies to improve OPTEMPO.

5. Desired End-State Objective(s) & Success Criteria:

SCOS's objectives are to improve state-of-the-art persistent, long-duration stratospheric platforms and sensors.

To do so, operations in the stratosphere must complement traditional collection platforms in the areas of early intelligence and warning; Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR); airborne communications relay; maritime and land domain awareness, including moving target indication; and mitigation of degraded space-based capabilities. These wide-array objectives can be met through configuration and testing of stratospheric platforms and advanced sensors.

In particular, the DoD has determined devices in the categories of Comms Relay, SAR, GMTI, SIGINT, and EO/IR are the most practical for advancement and integration onto existing Stratospheric Balloon and Solar UAS platforms.

The platform and payload do not necessarily need to be able to reach operational capability within the timeframe and budget of SCOS. The purpose of this project is for rapid experimentation and development of stratospheric technologies. Extended User Evaluations are necessary to assess suitability of the developed capabilities. The specific form that Extended User Evaluations take is dependent on the maturity of proposed technologies.

Key project deliverables include:

1. A Concept Study to determine how the objectives of this prototyping effort will be met and establish a method to arrive at a successful demonstration of this prototyping effort.
2. Stratospheric balloons capable of persistent, long-duration flight (Qty 3 with adequate sparing).
3. Stratospheric UAS's capable of persistent, long-duration flight (Qty 3 with adequate sparing).
4. An autonomous mission planning/management suite able to be integrated onto stratospheric platforms.
5. Sensing payloads that are technically mature and able to be integrated onto stratospheric platforms.
6. Comms payloads that are technically mature and able to be integrated onto stratospheric platforms.

Government prefers a proof of concept solution resulting in a technical demonstration but will determine the most cost effective mix of deliverable methods to complete the objective. Some sensing/comms payloads will be provided as Government Furnished Equipment (GFE).

Key System Attributes (KSA) and Key Performance Parameters (KPP):

	Threshold	**Objective**
KSA – Stratospheric Balloon	Payload Capacity at Maximum Altitude >45 lbs	Payload Capacity at Maximum Altitude >75 lbs
KSA – Stratospheric Balloon	Operating Altitude > 60,000 ft	Operating Altitude > 70,000 ft
KSA – Stratospheric Balloon	Station Seeking Capability >15 days	Station Keeping Capability >15 days
KSA – Stratospheric Balloon	Continuous Payload Power >50W	Continuous Payload Power >350W
KSA – Stratospheric UAS	Payload Capacity > 12 lbs	Payload Capacity > 35 lbs
KSA – Stratospheric UAS	Operating Altitude >55,000 ft sustained	Operating Altitude >65,000 ft sustained
KSA – Stratospheric UAS	Days Aloft >7 days	Days Aloft >45 days
KSA – Stratospheric UAS	Continuous Payload Power >50W	Continuous Payload Power >350W
KSA – Serviceability	Unique line replacement units (LRU), cables, connectors or other devices related to the turret may not hinder the suitability and serviceability of the aircraft	Unique LRU, cables, connectors or other devices related to the turret may not hinder the suitability and serviceability of the

	Threshold	Objective
	in an operational environment	aircraft in an operational environment
KSA – Maintenance	There should not be any requirements for specialized maintenance equipment or maintenance materials in a deployed location to keep the turret in full operational condition, or a need to redeploy the turret to a Continental United States (CONUS) repair facility. No additional external/off-aircraft boresight equipment required.	There should not be any requirements for specialized maintenance equipment or maintenance materials in a deployed location to keep the turret in full operational condition, or a need to redeploy the turret to a CONUS repair facility. No additional external/off-aircraft boresight equipment required.
KSA – Maintenance Interchange	The proposed aircraft system should incorporate LRUs that are interchangeable and interoperable. When interchanging, the LRUs shall meet performance limits without adjustment of controls or tailoring of any part or subassembly.	The proposed aircraft system should incorporate LRUs that are interchangeable and interoperable. When interchanging, the LRUs shall meet performance limits without adjustment of controls or tailoring of any part or subassembly.
KSA – Mission Equipment Interoperability	The proposed aircraft system should come with all associated design specifications, wiring diagrams, software packages, integration instructions and any other related pack-up data.	The proposed aircraft system should come with all associated design specifications, wiring diagrams, software packages, integration instructions and any other related pack-up data.
KSA – Open Architecture	Open architecture practices should be followed everywhere possible, including but not limited to complying with FACE, MOSA, MISB.	Open architecture practices should be followed everywhere possible, including but not limited to complying with FACE, MOSA, MISB.
KPP – EO/IR payload: Resolution at Range at varying atmosphere. IR Emissive NIIRS rating 6 per NGA.STND.0040_1.1 @ 7	When atmosphere is 5 km light haze international visibility code	When atmosphere is 1 km light fog international visibility code

	Threshold	Objective
km altitude @ 12 km slant range		
KPP – EO/IR payload: Resolution at Range at varying atmosphere. EO Reflective NIIRS rating 7 per NGA.STND.0040_1.1 @ 7 km altitude @ 30 km slant range	When atmosphere is 5 km light haze international visibility code	When atmosphere is 1 km light fog international visibility code
KSA – GMTI SAR Payload	Weight < 30 lbs	Weight < 10 lbs
KSA – GMTI SAR Payload	Frequency: X-Band, L-Band	Frequency: X-Band, L-Band
KSA – GMTI SAR Payload	<350W Power Requirement	<200 W Power Requirement
KSA – SIGINT Payload	30 MHz to 6 GHz signal detection	3 MHz to 40 GHz signal detection
KSA – SIGINT Payload	Weight <10 lbs	Weight <7 lbs
KSA – Comms Relay	Weight <12 lbs	Weight <8 lbs
KSA – Comms Relay	Operating Altitude >55,000 ft	Operating Altitude >65,000 ft
KSA – Comms Relay	>300 nmi propagation range	>600 nmi propagation range

In addition, the performer will need to provide the following as technology experimentation & prototype development is carried out:

1. Technical reports regarding platform and payload technology capabilities. A technical report will be published every fiscal year and discuss the current project status, advancements in technical capabilities over the previous year, and the development plan for the following year.
2. Residual (left over) hardware that has been developed for the project. Hardware created by the vendor to advance prototype capabilities will be used as project deliverables to evaluate project status and provide experimental validity.
3. Operational assessments in Combatant Command (COCOM) area of responsibility that demonstrate full system operations.
4. All platforms utilized under this agreement will comply with NAVAIRINST 13034.1F Airworthiness and Cybersecurity Safety Policies for Air Vehicles and Aircraft Systems (or equivalent).

Project success will be based on the awardee(s) fully demonstrating the prototype's capabilities pursuant to the objectives above.

6. Project Deliverables:

Phase 1 Deliverable: The initial Phase 1 deliverable will be an architectural framework concept study to determine strategies and concepts that will enable this prototype to be successful. Respondents should identify a plan for how they will meet the objectives of this prototyping effort. Results from the concept study will define additional efforts to include design/development of the framework and integration/flight test of a subset of candidate sensors/Comms payloads in the categories of Comms Relay, SAR, GMTI, SIGINT, and EO/IR onto existing Stratospheric Balloons and UAS platforms.

Phase 2 Deliverables: Phase 2 deliverables will include the candidate sensors/Comms payloads in the categories of Comms Relay, SAR, GMTI, SIGINT, and EO/IR for integration onto existing Stratospheric Balloons and UAS platforms. Prototype objectives are to improve state-of-the-art persistent, long-duration stratospheric platforms and sensors. Deliverables are listed in the table below:

#	Deliverable(s)	Description	Frequency	Delivery Method	Data Rights
1	Monthly Status Report	Provide summary of events/actions completed during the previous month	1/Month	Electronic Delivery	Gov't Purpose Rights (GPR)
2	System Requirements Review	Review of system requirements	45D ARO	Electronic Delivery	GPR
3	Aircraft Design Review	Ensure aircraft design can meet performance requirements	3M ARO	Electronic Delivery	GPR
4	Flight Test Plan 1	Plan for successful flight in the stratosphere	10M ARO	Demonstration	GPR
5	Stratospheric Balloon	A long-duration stratospheric balloon capable of carrying the sensing and communications payloads (Qty 3 with adequate sparing).	12M ARO	Physical shipment to CENTCOM MacDill AFB Tampa, Fl	GPR
6	Stratospheric UAS	A solar powered stratospheric UAS capable of long-duration flight and capable of carrying the sensing and communications payloads (Qty 3 with adequate sparing).	12M ARO	Physical shipment to CENTCOM MacDill AFB Tampa, Fl	GPR
7	Stratospheric Balloon/UAS/ Flight Test 1	Aircraft assessment flight in the stratosphere	12M ARO	Demonstration	GPR
8	Payload Integration Design Review	Ensure design can meet performance requirements	15M ARO	Electronic Delivery	GPR
9	Flight Test Plan 2	Plan for technology assessment flight in the stratosphere	22M ARO	Electronic Delivery	GPR
10	Autonomous Mission Planning/Management Suite	Autonomous mission planning/management suite, including applicable hardware and software, capable of being integrated on stratospheric platforms.	24M ARO	Physical shipment to CENTCOM MacDill AFB Tampa, Fl	GPR
11	Sensing Payloads	Sensing suite capable of being integrated on stratospheric platforms. Including, but not limited to, GMTI SAR and EO/IR.	24M ARO	Physical shipment to CENTCOM MacDill AFB Tampa, Fl	GPR

12	Communications Payloads	Communications suite capable of being integrated on stratospheric platforms. Including, but not limited to, SIGINT and Communications relay.	24M ARO	Physical shipment to CENTCOM MacDill AFB Tampa, Fl	GPR
13	Technology Assessment/ Flight Test 2	Technology assessment flight in the stratosphere	24M ARO	Demonstration	GPR
14	Technical Report	A report regarding the platform and payload technology capabilities.	Four (4) / 15th of the month on a yearly basis ARO	Electronic Delivery	GPR
15	Residual Hardware	Includes hardware that has been developed during the project in support of the project's objectives.	Four (4) / 15th of the month on a yearly basis ARO	Physical shipment to CENTCOM MacDill AFB Tampa, Fl	GPR
16	Operational Assessment/ Flight Plan 3	Plan for a formal Military Utility Assessment that includes two in-theater operational flights.	46M ARO	Electronic Delivery	GPR
17	Operational Assessment	A formal Military Utility Assessment that includes two in-theater operational flights.	48M ARO	Demonstration	GPR

Current Project Budget: $1,000,000

This value represents what is currently available for Phase 1. Phase 2 budget is projected to be $23M at the time of the RFS release. This value is subject to change but is being provided for planning purposes. Respondents are encouraged to clearly explain how much of their solution can be developed for the advertised amount. Capabilities or project phases that will require additional funding beyond the project budget must be identified as such.

7. Security Classification, Respondent Restrictions, and other required compliances:

- This RFS has been released under Distribution Statement A, *Approved for Public Release*, and is considered UNCLASSIFIED. However, the performer shall have capability to handle, store classified material and equipment up to SECRET level.
- Compliance with International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) will be required.
- Information security must follow the DOD cybersecurity policy and risk management framework.
- Non-US companies may propose as the primary performer and/or perform as a subcontractor.

- Respondents must be compliant with DoDI 8582.01, "Security of Unclassified DoD Information on Non-DoD Information Systems" and DoDM 5200.01 Volume 4, "DoD Information Security Program: Controlled Unclassified Information".
- Respondents must implement the security requirements in NIST SP 800-171, "Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Non-Federal Information Systems and Organizations".
- Respondents must implement the prohibition policy in Public Law 116-92. Section 848 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. "Prohibition on the Procurement of Foreign-Made Unmanned Aircraft Systems".
- Respondents shall complete the Section 889(a)(1)(B) Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Using Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment representation attached to this RFS (Attachment c and d), and return the signed representation with the submitted proposal.

8. Level of Data Rights Requested by the Government:

- Rights to Data and Intellectual Property (IP) are subject to negotiations and the specific solutions proposed. The Government's preference is to attain rights as described below:

Government Purpose Rights: The right to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose technical data within the Government without restriction. This also includes the rights to release or disclose technical data outside the Government and authorize persons to whom release or disclosure has been made to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose technical data for United States government purposes.

- Rights and IP will be subject to 48 CFR § 252.227-7013, 7014, 7015, 7016, 7017, 7018, 7019, 7025, 7028, 7030, 7037, 7038 and 48 CFR § 252.246-7001.

9. RFS and Response Process:

a. The following is requested from all respondents:

Proposal Volumes	Page Limitation
Technical Response	20 pages (max)
Price Response	5 pages (max)

For written submissions, the following formatting guidelines shall be followed by respondents:

- 10-point font (or larger) for all response narratives; smaller type may be used in figures and tables but must be clearly legible.
- Single-spaced, single-sided (8.5 by 11 inches).

- Margins on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right) should be at least 1 inch.
- Page limitations shall not be circumvented by including inserted text boxes/pop-ups or internet links to additional information. Such inclusions are not acceptable and will not be considered as part of the response
- Files must be submitted in PDF and/or Microsoft Word formats only. Price volumes may be submitted in an editable, unlocked Excel file

b. Each submittal **must include** (i) a Cover Page, (ii) a Technical Response, and (iii) a Price Response that each align to the instructions below:

i. Cover Page: (Not included within page count) The cover page shall include the company's name, Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code (if available), level of facility clearance (if available), address, primary point of contact, business size, and status of U.S. ownership.

Respondents shall also identify the applicable 10 U.S.C. § 2371b eligibility criteria related to the response (*please identify only one*):

- There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor (*defined below*) or nonprofit research institution participating to a significant extent in the project**; OR**

- All significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses (including small businesses participating in a program described under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 638)) or nontraditional defense contractors**; OR**

- At least one third of the total cost of the project is to be provided by sources other than the Federal Government.

Note: A *Nontraditional Defense Contractor* is defined as an entity that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the one-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by the Department of Defense (DOD) for the procurement of transaction, any contract or subcontract for the DOD that is subject to full coverage under the cost accounting standards prescribed pursuant to 41 U.S. Code § 1502 and the regulations implementing such section.

ii. Technical Response:

Responses should be constructed to align with the order of the instructions below (1 - 8).

1. Solution Narrative: Respondents shall describe the approach used to design/deliver a unique prototype solution for the prototype technology objectives defined in RFS Section 5, Desired End-State Objective(s), to include any attachments. While these

focus areas are of significant importance, responses will be considered as a whole. No pricing shall be included in the technical response.

The Solution Narrative must also include a discussion on schedule and the timing of all deliverable(s) to include those outlined within RFS Section 6, Project Deliverables.

2. Explanation Supporting Eligibility for Award of a Prototype OTA:

   Respondents shall provide rationale to support the specific condition that permits award of an OTA to the proposed prime contractor/performer. The onus of proof to support *nontraditional participation to a significant extent; small business or nontraditional defense contractor status;* or any *cost sharing arrangement* lies with the respondent and has a direct correlation to award eligibility.

3. Foreign Owned, Controlled, or Influenced (FOCI) Documentation (if applicable): Documentation may include, but is not limited to: Standard Form 328 (Certificate Pertaining to Foreign Interest); Listing of Key Management Personnel; an Organizational Chart; Security Control Agreements: Special Security Agreements; and Proxy Agreements or Voting Trust Agreements. It is recommended that companies who fall within the FOCI category visit https://www.dss.mil for additional guidance and instruction.

4. Government Furnished Property or Information: Respondents must clearly identify if its proposed solution depends on Government Furnished Information (GFI) / Government Furnished Property (GFP) or other forms of Government support (i.e. laboratory or facility access), etc.

   If so, the response must specify the GFI/GFP required. Respondents must clearly identify if its proposed solution depends on GFI/GFP or other forms of Government support be provided, the impact to the solution if the requested information/property/asset is not available, and will confirm the details with the respondent prior to any proposal revisions or selection, if applicable.

5. Mandatory Compliance with Restrictions: Respondents must address the restrictions identified within RFS Section 8, Security Classification, Respondent Restrictions, and other Required Compliance, and explain how each regulation or standard is currently, or will be met.

6. Task Description Document (Not Included Within Page Count): Respondents must provide a Task Description Document (TDD) outlining the project tasks to be performed along with schedule milestones and delivery dates required for successful completion. It is anticipated that, if selected, the proposed TDD will be incorporated into the resultant award. Respondents are encouraged to be concise but thorough when outlining their work statements. The TDD may be submitted as an appendix or a separate file as part of the proposal.

7. Summary of Subcontractor Participation (if applicable): Respondents must identify all subcontractors involved and their role within the performance of the proposed concept. The information must include the following:

    a. Subcontractor company name, Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code (if available), level of facility clearance (if available), address, primary point of contact, business size, and status of U.S. ownership.

    b. If the subcontracted company's involvement is considered significant, rationale supporting the significance must be present within the narrative. The onus of proof to support participation to a significant extent or any cost sharing arrangement lies with the respondent and has a direct correlation to award eligibility.

    c. If applicable, Foreign Owned, Controlled, or Influenced (FOCI) Mitigation Documentation shall be provided for subcontractors and will not count towards the page count.

8. Data Rights Assertions and Level of Rights Proposed:

    a. The rights offered should be displayed in a manner that allows for ease of discussion in determining trade-offs and potential options for long-term sustainability of the deliverables of this effort.

    b. If rights are being asserted at a level less than the Government's desired level of allocation (see RFS Section 9, Level of Data Rights Requested by the Government), respondents must provide detail explaining the specific rationale for the assertion.

    c. Any items previously developed with federal funding (and used for the proposed solution) should clearly identify all individual components funded by the Government and the recipient of the deliverables.

    d. If commercial software is proposed as part of the prototype solution, all applicable software licenses must be identified and included with the response. Note that any software license term or condition inconsistent with federal law will be negotiated out of the license.

iii. Price Response:

The price response shall be submitted as a separate file from the technical response. No pricing details shall be included in the technical response. The pricing response should be the price for all phases of the project.

This project will be awarded as a **Fixed Price** agreement comprised of **Payable Milestones.** The Government reserves the right to award one or many solutions proposed.

1. The overall total price should be divided among severable increments that align to a proposed milestone payment schedule. Milestones are not required to match actual expenditures but should realistically align to the effort expended or products delivered.
    a. An initial sparing plan will be provided with the price response to include the spare parts required to operate the Stratospheric Balloon and Stratospheric UAS through Flight Test 1.

2. In order to support the Government's evaluation of fair and reasonable pricing, the respondent shall delineate the key pricing components, and show clear traceability to the phases and/or milestones of the Technical Response. At a minimum, key pricing components include Labor Total(s), Other Direct Costs/Material Total(s), License prices and Subcontractor price(s). Data should be segregated by each key objective, milestone, and/or phase proposed.

3. Include a brief narrative that explains your pricing structure and maps the proposed prices to the solution's technical approach.

4. Including a Basis of Estimate to support your pricing may substantially expedite evaluation of your response.

Any additional features or capabilities that extend beyond the currently requested core technical objectives shall be separately priced for the Government's consideration. Pending funding availability and need, the Government may fund these advanced features at a later date.

10. Evaluation Process and Methodology:

a. Individual responses will be evaluated with consideration given to:
    i. Demonstrated expertise and overall technical merit of the response;
    ii. Feasibility of implementation; and
    iii. Total project risk as it relates to the technical focus areas, price and schedule

b. The Government will evaluate the degree to which the proposed solution provides a thorough, flexible, and sound approach in response to the prototype technical objectives as stated in RFS Section 5, Desired End-State Objectives, as well as the ability to fulfill the objectives in this RFS.

c. The Government will award this project, via S^2MARTS (Agreement No. N00164-19-9-0001), to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to

the Government, when price, schedule, technical risks, the level of data rights, and other factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.

d. The proposed project price, schedule, and intellectual property/data rights assertions will be considered as aspects of the entire response when weighing risk and reward. The assessment of risks is subjective and will consider all aspects of the proposed solution. Respondents are responsible for identifying risks within their submissions, as well as providing specific mitigating solutions.

e. The Government reserves the right to reject a submission and deem it ineligible for consideration if the response is incomplete and/or does not clearly provide the requested information. Debriefings will not be provided.

11. Follow-On Activity:

a. Upon successful completion of this prototype effort, the Government anticipates that a follow-on production effort may be awarded via either contract or transaction, without the use of competitive procedures if the participants in this transaction successfully complete the prototype project as competitively awarded from this document. The prototype effort will be considered successfully complete upon demonstration of the aforementioned technology objectives.

b. Successful completion for a specific capability may occur prior to the conclusion of the project to allow the Government to transition that aspect of the prototype project into production while other aspects of the prototype project have yet to be completed.

c. Requirements of other potential follow-on activities could involve, though not limited to, continued development and baseline management, fielding, sustainment, training, further scaling of the solution, integration of future capabilities, or integration of the solution with other capabilities.

12. Attachments

a. NAVAIRINST 13034.1F Airworthiness and Cybersecurity Safety Policies for Air Vehicles and Aircraft Systems.
b. DD Form 254
c. Section 889 Prohibition and Reporting
d. Section 889 Verification and Representation

13. Important Dates

a. **Questions** related to this RFS shall be submitted no later than 1:00PM Eastern Time, MARCH 8, 2021.

- To submit any questions, visit the opportunities page at **www.nstxl.org/opportunities** select the "Current" tab, locate the respective project, and select "Submit a Question".

b. Proposals submitted in response to this RFS are due no later than 1:00PM Eastern Time, APRIL 9, 2021.

- To submit your proposal, visit the opportunities page at **www.nstxl.org/opportunities,** select the "Current" tab, locate the respective project, and select the "Submit Proposal" link. You must have an active account and be logged-in to submit your response.

c. RFS Respondents must be active members of NSTXL at the time of proposal submission.

14. Additional Project Information

a. The Government intends to award one Other Transaction Agreement as a result of this RFS; however, more than one award may be made if determined to be in the Government's best interest. The Government also reserves the right to not select any of the solutions proposed.

b. 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.

c. The United States Navy, specifically Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, has release authority on any publications related to this prototype project.

d. Unsuccessful respondents will be notified, however, debriefings for this project are not required nor planned at this time.

e. If resource-sharing is proposed in accordance with 10 U.S. Code § 2371b(d)(1)(C), then the non-Federal amounts counted as provided, or to be provided, by parties other than the Federal Government may not include costs that were incurred before the date on which the OT agreement becomes effective. Costs offered as a resource-share that were incurred for a project after the beginning of negotiations, but prior to the date the OT agreement becomes effective, may be counted as non-Federal amounts if and to the extent that the Agreements Officer determines in writing that: (1) the party other than the Federal Government incurred the costs in anticipation of the OT agreement; and (2) it was appropriate for the entity to incur the costs before the OT agreement became effective in order to ensure the successful implementation of the OT agreement.

f. Certain types of information submitted to the Department during the RFS and award process of an OT are exempt from disclosure requirements of 5 U.S.C. §552 (the Freedom of Information Act or FOIA) for a period of five years from the date the Department receives the information. It is recommended that respondents mark business plans and technical information that are to be protected for five years from FOIA disclosure with a legend identifying the documents as being submitted on a business confidential basis.

g. No classified data shall be submitted within the proposal. To the extent that the project involves DoD controlled unclassified information, respondents must comply with DoDI 8582.01 and DoDM 5200.01 Volume 4. Respondents must implement the security requirements in NIST SP 800-171 for safeguarding the unclassified internal information system; and must report any cyber incidents that affect the controlled unclassified information directly to DoD at https://dibnet.dod.mil.

h. Export controls (if applicable): Research findings and technology developments arising from the resulting proposed solution may constitute a significant enhancement to the national defense and to the economic vitality of the United States. As such, in the conduct of all work related to this effort, the selected performer must comply strictly with the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (22 C.F.R. §§ 120-130), the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (DoD 5220.22-M) and the Department of Commerce Export Regulation (15 C.F.R. §§ 730-774).