

**STRATEGIC & SPECTRUM MISSIONS ADVANCED RESILIENT TRUSTED SYSTEMS  
(S<sup>2</sup>MARTS)  
REQUEST FOR SOLUTIONS (RFS)**

*in support of the*

**Strategic High Temperature 3D Carbon-Carbon Material Capacity  
Expansion Prototype Project**

Project No. 20-11

*All prospective respondents must be members of the NSTXL consortium.*

- 1. Project Title:** Strategic High Temperature 3D Carbon-Carbon (C/C) Material Capacity Expansion
- 2. Prototype Project Sponsor/Requiring Activity:** Navy Strategic Systems Programs (SSP)
- 3. Contracting Activity:** Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division
- 4. Project Background & Current Capability:**

The evolving requirements of the U.S. strategic missile programs have required the continual development of highly capable advanced composite material such as Carbon/Carbon (C/C) to deliver differentiated missile and reentry body performance.

Currently, there are limitations on the size and manufacturing throughput capacity of large C/C shapes for hypersonic missile nosetip applications. Specifically, the C/C parts are densified using multiple cycles to arrive at the optimal density required to meet missile re-entry stability performance requirements. There are also maximum size manufacturing capability challenges for these specialized parts. Increasing demand for larger hypersonic vehicle nosetip and other ablative material end items necessitates new business processes and associated C/C material manufacturing technologies that enable faster processing times and increased throughput capability. Resolution of the processing time increases reentry vehicle nosetip production throughput and achieves affordable solutions.

Part of the challenge is the time required for manufacturing parts and machining the parts into their final, classified configuration as many of the DoD programs are requiring classified facilities for multiple phases of production. The capability to machine large carbon/carbon parts in a classified setting rests with a very limited set of vendors and requires shipping classified parts between densification location and machining location. This often results in multiple trips. It is not uncommon for parts to log more than 5000 miles between the material fabricator and machine shop locations. Having the capability of machining these parts residing with a vendor who also fabricates the parts will save time, cost, and reduce risk of damage/spillage of sensitive parts while in transit.

Technologies of interest include:

1. Near Net Shaped component and aeroshell scale-up part count reductions, design, simplification, performance enhancement, and risk reduction;
2. Fabrication, densification, and machining of high-density re-entry grade C/C Thermal Protection System (TPS) materials;
3. Three Dimensional (3D) reinforced fine-weave architectures applied to scaled up TPS applications; and
4. Off the shelf fiber modifications to enable fabrication of tailored textile architectures for TPS components.

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

The Department of Defense seeks the capability to produce and machine 3D C/C materials to enhance and optimize missile performance per Navy requirements. This may include:

- Graphite fiber yarn management/pre-treatments;
- Automatic 3D weaving of large graphite fiber preforms;
- Tailored pitch resin densification of these preforms into C/C billets, and
- The formation of localized ceramic regions within Shape Stable Nostips (SSNT) billets.

Additionally, the skills, knowledge, capabilities and facilities (or facilities access) for the specialized high-pressure pitch resin impregnation C/C densification process and/or development of the required localized ceramic regions within SSNT billets is required. The resulting 3D C/C materials must hold/exhibit strength in 3 directions (X,Y,Z axis) using 3D C/C with high pressure densification, or equivalent processes.

### Technical Objectives:

**Task 1:** Demonstrate reduced cost and decreased lead times (25% minimum) related to preforming and 3D C/C densification processes for the production of nosetip components, extended length leading edges billets, nose collars, and other frustra components for Navy hypersonic flight vehicle applications. Current cost and schedule for leading edge billet is \$337,507.39 each with a lead time of 12 months. The cost and schedule is based on the C/C end items defined in task 2 (14" x 14" x 24"). Provide representative proto-type component(s) using new business and technical processes that demonstrates cost/time savings and the expanded product size manufacturing capability and facilities over current state of the art capabilities.

**Task 2:** Demonstrate the ability to machine 3D C/C components to the size and dimensional tolerances required by current and future Navy Reentry Bodies and Hypersonic Flight Vehicles. Produce at least one prototype machined part to demonstrate the machining capability developed. Dimensional tolerances and profiles shall meet the current Navy requirements. Current Navy requirements are one large leading edge billet per specification (nominal 14" x 14" x 24"). A

business process shall be provided, defining tasks to be executed so that future requirements will be met.

**Task 3:** Demonstrate the ability to expand, control, and monitor stretch broken fiber processes. Produce prototype examples of parts/components fabricated using capabilities developed that demonstrates product improvement.

**Task 4:** Demonstrate the ability to measure thermal and mechanical properties of materials developed during this effort by developing and completing the necessary set of acceptance testing limits.

Section 13 of this RFS identifies a Statement of Objectives (SOO), Notional Schedule, and Tailored Data Item Descriptions (DIDs), provided as Government Furnished Information (GFI). These attachments contain additional technical details for respondents to consider. Section 13 also identifies a cost summary template and Section 889 Verification Representation Clause information.

## 6. Project Deliverables:

#	Deliverable(s)	Description	Frequency	Delivery Method
1	Monthly Status Report	Provide summary of events/actions completed during the previous month per DI-MGMT-81928 (tailored, provided in Attachment D).	1/Month	Electronic submission
2	Kickoff Meeting Technical Data Package (TDP)	Presentation material per tailored DID DI-ADMN-81373; agenda per DI-ADMN-81249B; meeting minutes and action items per tailored DID DI-ADMN-81250B. All DIDs are available for download at <a href="https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx/">https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx/</a>  Meeting minutes due 14d after meeting.	21 days after award	Electronic submission
3	Quarterly Status Report	Quarterly reports per tailored DID DI-MGMT-81928. All DIDs are available for download at <a href="https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx/">https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx.</a>	Quarterly	Electronic submission
4	Technical Interchange Meeting (TIM) TDPs	Agenda per DI-ADMN-81249B; presentation material per tailored DID DI-ADMN-81373; meeting minutes and action items per tailored DID DI-ADMN-81250B. All DIDs are available for download at <a href="https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx/">https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx.</a>	Quarterly	Electronic submission
5	In-Process Review (IPR) TDP	Agenda per DI-ADMN-81249B; presentation material per tailored DID DI-ADMN-81373; meeting minutes and action items per tailored DID DI-ADMN-81250B. All DIDs are available for download at <a href="https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx/">https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx.</a>	Semi-annually	Electronic submission

		Agenda and Presentation due 30d prior to event; Minutes and action items due 14d after IPR.		
6	Prototype, Densification Process Cost & Lead Time Reduction	This prototype demonstrates the new business and technical processes used to achieve the 25% (minimum) reduced cost and schedule for densification processes for the production of C/C and/or C/C-CMC nosetips, extended length leading edges billets, nose collars, and other frustra components for Navy hypersonic flight vehicle applications. Technical and business processes include machining within the tolerances required and the ability to successfully perform thermo-mechanical testing.	Once/18 months after award	Birmingham, AL*
7	Prototype	Parts and associated technical/business practices showing stretch broken fiber product improvement.	Once/ 18 months after award	Birmingham, AL*
8	Task 1-4 Technical Data Package	TDP per DI-SESS-80776B; acceptance test reports per DI-QCIC-81891, Certificates of Compliance (COCs) for all constituent inputs per DI-MISC-81356A; and COCs verifying compliance with applicable specifications per DI-MISC-81356A. All DIDs are available for download at <a href="https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx">https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx</a> .	Initial NLT 30d after completion of each task, final 45d after receipt of comments.	Electronic submission
9	Test Planning and Test Procedure TDP	Test plan per DI-NDTI-80566A, Test procedures per DI-NDTI-80603A. All DIDs are available at <a href="https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx">https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx</a> ; Delivered with review/comment cycles to implement Government Comments until approved	Plan and procedures must be approved prior to start of prototype testing.	Electronic submission
10	Closeout Brief TDP	Summary report per DI-MISC-80508B (prior to closeout brief). Closeout agenda per DI-ADMN-81249B; presentation material per tailored DID DI-ADMN-81373; meeting minutes and action items per tailored DID DI-ADMN-81250B. All DIDs are available for download at <a href="https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx">https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx</a> . Agenda and Presentation due 30d prior to event; Minutes and action item 14 calendar days after closeout brief	Once / 6 mon after completion of all tasks	Electronic submission

\*Awardee/Performer is responsible for all packing and shipping costs to  
Southern Research  
757 Tom Martin Drive  
Birmingham AL 35211

## 7. Current Project Budget: \$12,000,000

This value represents what is currently available for the subject project 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.

#### 8. Security Classification, Respondent Restrictions, and other required compliances:

- Respondents to this opportunity are limited to domestic companies based in the United States only; Subcontractors/teaming partners may not include foreign entities.
- Awardee(s)/performer(s) will be required to hold an active Facility Clearance at the SECRET level **prior to/at time of award.**
- Awardee/performer personnel supporting performance of this project must hold an active clearance at the SECRET level **prior to/at time of award.**
- Awardee(s)/performer(s) must be compliant with International Trades and Arms Regulations (ITAR) **prior to/at time of award.**
- Contractors will be required to submit a plan on how and when they will be capable of obtaining a Secret clearance. If the contractor already has the appropriate clearance level, they should state it in their proposal.
- 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, and return the signed representation with the submitted proposal.
- Required Data Markings will include the following for data submitted after award (if respondent is selected):
  - Classification Level: Unclassified and classified (Secret) data may be included as data deliverables during execution of this effort. Unclassified data shall be marked as unclassified and delivered electronically. The contractor shall establish a means for the delivery of electronic data as defined in their proposal and as approved by the Agreements Officer. Classified data shall be identified at contract award and meet the requirements of DoD 5220.22-M. All classified data shall be delivered securely as defined by the contract delivery instructions for classified information.
  - Distribution Statements, Non-Technical Data: During execution of this effort, all technical, operational and business process data shall be marked as follows: "DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT D: Distribution authorized to Department of Defense and U.S. DoD contractors only for administrative or operational use, date of determination 05 June, 2020. Other requests for this document shall be referred to Strategic Systems Program.

- Distribution Statements, Technical Data: During execution of this effort, all technical data shall be marked as follows: “DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT D: Distribution authorized to Department of Defense and U.S. DoD contractors only, critical technology, date of determination 05 June 2020. Other requests for this document shall be referred to Strategic Systems Program.
- Export Control Warnings: During execution of this effort, all data delivered shall be marked with the following: “WARNING - This document contains technical data whose export is restricted by the Arms Export Control Act (Title 22, U.S.C., Sec 2751, et seq.) or the Export Administration Act of 1979 (Title 50, U.S.C., App. 2401 et seq), as amended. Violations of these export laws are subject to severe criminal penalties. Disseminate in accordance with provisions of DoD Directive 5230.25.”
- Destruction Notice Data: During execution of this effort, all data delivered shall be marked with the following: “DESTRUCTION NOTICE - For classified documents, follow the procedure in DoD 5220.22-M, National Industrial Security Program, Operating Manual, Chapter 5, Section 7, or DoD 5200.1-R, Information Security Program Regulation, Chapter 6, Section 7. For unclassified, limited documents, destroy by any method that will prevent disclosure of contents or reconstruction of the document.

**9. Level of Data Rights Requested by the Government:**

Government Purpose Rights (GPR): 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. This level of restriction is set at five-years but may be negotiated & tailored to a specific project. The five-year period, or such other period that may be negotiated, would commence upon execution of the agreement that required development of the items, components, or processes or creation of the data.

The performer will have the exclusive right, including the right to license others, to use technical data in which the Government has obtained government purpose rights under this agreement for any commercial purpose during the five-year period. Upon expiration of the five-year period (or other negotiated length of time), the Government will receive unlimited rights in the technical data and computer software.

**10. RFS and Response Process:**

- a. The following is requested from all respondents:

	Technical Response	Price Response
Page Maximum	20 pages (excluding the mandatory SOW)	5 pages (excluding the mandatory cost summary)

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), street address, primary point of contact (with position title, email address and phone number), business size, business type (traditional or non-traditional) 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 and the Statement of Objectives (SOO) Attachment A, per the instructions below.

Section 1, Subsection A must include a background section with a high level description of the their ability to address the evolving requirements of the United States' strategic missile programs and how they have successfully and continuously participated in the development of highly capable advanced composite materials such as C/C to achieve improved and optimal missile performance. Specifically, the background section shall discuss the respondent's ability to increase capacity to support weaving, infusion, and densification of C/C materials used in missile applications. The background shall state at the high level how cost savings, schedule compression, and improved missile performance will result from their approach.

Section 1, Subsection B shall be titled "Technical Approach to Scope". This subsection will include the respondent's technical solutions, by task number, explaining their approach to Tasks 1 through 4. This section shall contain the detailed Statement of Work (SOW) for Tasks 1 through 4, created by the respondent. The SOW must be based on the Statement of Objectives (SOO) provided as Attachment A to this RFS. The respondent's SOW is not considered as part of the total page count restriction.

Section 1, Subsection C shall be titled "Schedule/Plans". This section shall include a short narrative of the tasks and the durations and when the program schedule will be baselined after award (if selected). The narrative shall be accompanied by a notional program schedule showing milestones, long and short lead material ordering and inspection periods, prototype manufacturing periods, prototype validation/testing periods, data deliverables, the required Kickoff Meeting, Quarterly Reviews (Technical Interchange Meetings), In process Reviews, and Closeout Briefing.

Subsection D shall be titled "Hardware and Data Deliverables Table": The section shall list the hardware and data deliverables in a table format. This subsection shall list each data deliverable, the frequency of the delivery, and the timing of the delivery. Planned prototype hardware deliveries shall also be listed in this section.

The table will align with the notional schedule provided as part of Subsection C above.

Subsection E shall be titled (Contractor’s Proposed Milestone Payment Schedule”. The section shall include the contractor’s recommended milestone and payment schedule for the effort. Pricing information shall be in a separate file from the technical response. The milestones will align with the notional schedule in Subsection C above. Note that the Government has provided a preliminary milestone listing as part of this RFS. Respondents may modify the Government provided preliminary milestone listing to align with their approach.

Subsection F shall be titled “Data Rights Assertions”. The section shall include the details of all data rights assertions for data deliveries to be made. This section shall also identify any data rights intended for delivery with less than Government Purpose Rights, to include a brief explanation explaining the limitations.

Note: If the contractor will not meet some of the requirements in the Statement of Objectives (SOO), the technical proposal submissions shall include a redlined SOO to define requirements that are modified or removed. If the Government determines that a respondent’s SOW removes a critical SOO requirement, the respondent may not be eligible for award consideration.

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 companies who fall within the FOCI category visit <https://www.dcsa.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. Statement of Work (SOW) (Not Included Within Page Count): Refer to Attachment A (SOO) and 10.b.ii.1 of this RFS for Format/Content.
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 (with email address), business size, business type (traditional or nontraditional) 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.

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 resultant project award will be Fixed Price with Payable Milestones.

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. The proposed milestone payment schedule shall be provided in a columnar/table format with the following column headers: Task/Milestone; Timeline/date; and Payment Value. Milestones payments shall align with a meaningful project event.
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 tasks proposed. Respondents are required to provide a deliverable cost summary template in the spreadsheet format provided in Attachment C. Modifications can be made to deliverable tabs as necessary.

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.
5. If limited or restricted rights are being asserted within the response, a table that includes prices for both Government Purpose Rights and Unlimited Rights for any limited or restricted item must be included.
6. 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.

#### **11. 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. In addition to Government evaluators, a contractor advisor will be providing support during source selection reviewing technical responses. The advisor is Milestone Support Services, LLC, CAGE 6V7C9, Loogootee, IN. The advisor is a single member LLC. If a respondent would like the contractor to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement before having access to the proposal, attach a copy of the Non-Disclosure Agreement to the submission package. This Non-Disclosure Agreement will not be included within page count.
- c. The Government will award this project, via S<sup>2</sup>MARTS (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.

## **12. 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.

## **13. Attachments**

- a. Statement of Objectives (SOO), Strategic High Temperature 3D Carbon-Carbon Material Capacity Expansion
- b. C-C Notional Schedule
- c. Deliverable Cost Summary Template
- d. Tailored Data Item Descriptions (GFI)
- e. Section 889 Verification-Representation
- f. Section 889 Clause

## **14. Important Dates**

- a. Questions related to this RFS shall be submitted no later than October 23, 2020.

To submit any questions, visit the opportunities page at [www.nstxl.org/opportunities](http://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 Monday, November 16, 2020.
- c. To submit your proposal, visit the opportunities page at [www.nstxl.org/opportunities](http://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.
- d. RFS Respondents must be active members of the consortium at the time of proposal submission. Contact [membership@nstxl.org](mailto:membership@nstxl.org) with any questions related to the status of membership or access to the submission portal.

## 15. 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).