



S²MARTS Project 20-11: Strategic High Temperature 3D Carbon-Carbon Material Capacity Expansion Prototype Project

Request For Solutions (RFS) Questions & Answers | Posted October 28, 2020

1. **Question:** Would developments around carbon/carbon composite solutions based on 2D and 2.5D architectures be responsive to the RFS?

Response: No. Must be 3D.

2. **Question:** Exactly what kind of size do you need?

Response: For an orthogonal billet of x, y, z dimension. We are seeking a major improvement over current 24 inch “z” dimension capability, while maintaining at least 12 inches in other two “x and y” dimensions.

3. **Question:** Why is it required that prototypes be shipped to Southern Research? If there are competitive sensitivities with doing this is there a potential to modify this requirement? *Awardee/Performer is responsible for all packing and shipping costs to Southern Research 757 Tom Martin Drive Birmingham AL 35211

Response: Government inspection personnel on site at Southern Research will be the receivers of the end items. The end items may be used in conjunction with other projects being worked at the site after completion of this effort.

4. **Question:** RFS section 10 b ii – states: Responses should be constructed to align with the order of the instructions below (1 - 8). And then there are only 7 sub-sections. Was this an error or is there another section requirement left out?

Response: There are only 7 paragraphs to address. Data rights assertions were formally in this section, but those instructions for data rights are identified in other areas of the RFS.

5. **Question:** RFS section 10 b iii 3: states Include a brief narrative that explains your pricing structure and maps the proposed prices to the solution’s technical approach. The pricing structure for prototypes required in the proposal costing is not the same as the technical approach’s explanation of production costs estimates, since there is NRE and low prototype volume. Will it suffice to provide a comparison?

Response: Yes, it will suffice to provide a comparison. A narrative statement to explain the comparison would be beneficial.

6. **Question:** SOO 3.2 - schedule PoP – what is the anticipated award date? And can we assume the PoP duration (18 months) is the requirement and not the actual start date, listed as October 2020 of the attachment B?

Response: The anticipated award date is in the February 2021 timeframe. The full PoP is 24 months from award date to execute all tasks and meet technical data and closeout requirements. Attachment B shows the Government's expected durations. It is up to respondents to identify actual durations for the tasks.

7. **Question:** In the SOO, 3.8.1. and 3.8.2 (meetings) indicate physical attendance – confirm this would be at our facility? Otherwise, it could pertain to section 6.7 – identify travel requirements.

Response: Meetings identified in 3.8.1 and 3.8.2 will be as indicated in the final approved SOW submitted by the successful responder. Both paragraphs contain a requirement to accommodate physical attendance as well as off-site attendance using web-based meeting tools. However, the Government believes that physical attendance at the respondent's facility will be minimal. The majority of the attendees are expected to be virtual.

8. **Question:** Can the following be reported in the final report under deliverables #10? 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.

Response: The final report should contain the final technical and business process data, with all Government input included. Preliminary deliveries of technical and business process data are expected as part of the 8A data in section 5.1 of the SOO.

9. **Question:** Does the budget for Southern Research (for Task 4 testing) needs to be included in our cost volume or is the government completing this work outside of this OTA award. Ultimate, do we include the cost of this testing in our response?

Response: The Government has not mandated/required any testing at Southern Research. Southern research is identified as a delivery location only. Acceptance is performed by Government personnel on site at that facility. However, if a respondent intends to utilize that facility in a teaming arrangement to validate the requirements of tasks 1 through 4 have been met, the costs associated with that validation/arrangements must be included in the response. Regardless of the testing location(s), respondents are to include any testing costs, internal and external, to verify end item prototypes and data deliveries meet the requirements of tasks 1 through 4 based on their proposal response technical approach.