

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

*in support of the*  
**Neptune Payload**  
PROTOTYPE PROJECT

Project No. 21-10

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

1. **Project Title:** Neptune Payload Prototype Project
2. **Prototype Project Sponsor/Requiring Activity:** Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division / Electromagnetic Warfare and Science and Technology (S&T) Division, Code WXV
3. **Contracting Activity:** Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division
4. **Project Background & Current Capability:**

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) requires a prototype, subminiature Radio Frequency (RF) signal processing payload subsystem for integration into a maritime system of expendable, unmanned systems. In order to support multiple RF missions with a limited set of hardware, a wideband transceiver capability with self-contained software-defined or reconfigurable hardware-accelerated processing is required.

Commercial software defined radio technology is well defined. Candidate component technologies that are available for integration to satisfy ONR's payload requirement include currently available integrated wideband RF transceiver chipsets, Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA), RF Application Specific Integrated Circuit (RF ASIC), Radio Frequency System-on-Chip (RFSoc), and high-performance microcontrollers.

It is expected that current high Technology Readiness Level (TRL) or COTS software defined radio designs may meet some technical objectives, but they will require varying levels of modifications to:

- Mechanical design e.g., shape of boards / housings, type / orientation of connectors, mounting considerations, etc.
- Electrical design e.g., power conditioning for battery operation, defeaturing of designs to remove unneeded development interfaces (such as USB / HDMI / Ethernet)
- RF design e.g., tailoring of band-specific front-end variants
- Firmware / software / processing e.g., secure storage of operational software, external selection / activation of operating mode / function, zeroization / end-of-run behavior, implementation of additional customer specified operational functions
- Hardening / ruggedization for a maritime application

The expendable unmanned system that will house the Neptune Payload Prototype will be developed/evolved in parallel by the government team. It is expected that design information will regularly be exchanged during the effort to promote early identification and resolution of integration challenges.

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

Key technical objectives of the desired Neptune Payload Prototype subsystem include overall mechanical and electronic compatibility with the target platform, RF performance suitable for various maritime RF missions, and security of mission data / operational firmware / software. A balance between performance / capability and cost is desired to provide an expendable device that can be affordably fielded in quantity sufficient to make deployment feasible.

### **Mechanical objectives:**

- Fit within customer's cylindrical watertight metallic housing. Payload may have an arbitrary shape, as long as it fits within the assigned allowance:
  - Threshold – fits within a cylinder 2.875" in diameter and 8" long.
  - Objective – fits within a cylinder 2.875" in diameter and 4" long.
- Provide for heat dissipation via conduction or convection to radial walls of metallic housing.
- Withstand inert gas purging / backfilling for reliable operation in maritime environment.
- Have an overall mass of 1000 grams or less, with 300 grams an objective
- Provide a layout that allows for ease of assembly and efficient cable routing e.g.,
  - RF transmission line and accessory I/O connections on one end of cylindrical volume
  - Power, control, programming, and status connections on the other end

### **Electrical objectives:**

- Operate from customer's payload battery allocation, nominally 137 watt-hours and a maximum instantaneous draw of 49 watts. Alternative battery composition, volumes and densities are negotiable based on future phases and additional capabilities.
- Operate for a threshold of 0.1 hours in the most demanding operational mode, with an objective of 4 hours.
- Provide a low-speed ( $\leq 115.2$  kbps), logic-level ( $\leq 5$  volts) bidirectional digital interface to permit control of payload power, selection of operational mode/function, activation of security functions (e.g., zeroization), and built-in-test functions (such as health and status) from an external microcontroller.
  - Alternate higher data rate connections may be used for system programming, debug, and development.

### **RF / Signal Processing objectives:**

- Tune / operate in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) RF Letter Band from A-J (0 MHz -20,000 MHz)
  - Note – payload subsystem is only required to operate in a single letter-band at a time
  - Band-specific design variations (such as modular RF front-ends with a common IF / baseband processor) are acceptable, within these additional guidelines:
    - Each variant should cover a minimum of one letter band.
    - The subsystem should be configurable either by the customer (preferable) or by the vendor to support operation in any two letter bands
- Provide a minimum instantaneous bandwidth per receive / transmit channel of 55 MHz threshold and an objective of greater than 400 MHz
- Provide at least one transmit (TX) and at least one receive (RX) channel.
  - Channels shall be coherent and have deterministic initial relative phase
  - Additional channels are desirable, with an objective of 4 RX / 4 TX channels
- Provide an RF interface with at least two ports that permit:
  - Operation with a single Receive/Transmit (RX/TX) antenna (Transmit/Receive switching or half-duplex)
  - Operation with separate RX and TX antennas (full-duplex)
  - (If applicable) operation with multiple RX or multiple TX channels
- Provide a general purpose input / output (GPIO) control interface for operation of external RF accessories such as TX/RX switch, antenna selector, power amplifier control, etc.
- RF performance (frequency stability, sensitivity/dynamic range, Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC) and Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) bit count, memory depth, spur levels, transmit/receive isolation, output power, etc.) to support multiple maritime RF missions.
- Provide hardware-accelerated (e.g., FPGA / ASIC / DSP) RF signal processing functions such as:

- Configurable transmit / receive filter
- Digital up/down conversion, polyphase channelizer
- Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) / Inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT)
- Amplitude, frequency, or vector modulation
- Configurable delays
- Low Latency Waveform store / replay
- Transmission of arbitrary stored waveforms or parametrically generated waveforms
- Noise generation
- Communications modulation / demodulation
- Loopback / test functions
- Provide a microprocessor environment with functionality to control RF hardware and signal processing operations in order to implement multiple selectable operational modes / functions. Operational software should be implemented in a high-level programming language such as C or C++, and should be maintainable by the end-user.
- Provide secure storage for RF mission software / data with facilities for assured erasure of contents upon mission completion, abnormal loss of power, or external signal.

**Price and Manufacturing objectives:**

- Provide an estimated price in production of
  - \$1,000 / unit in quantities > 1000 (objective)
  - \$30,000 / unit in quantities > 100 (threshold)
- At a given price point, solutions that provide more overall capability are preferred.
- The basis for estimating the production unit price should be outlined.
- Perceived barriers to reducing the production unit price should be identified if known.

**Success Criteria:**

A Neptune Prototype Payload will be deemed successfully completed if it meets the key technical goals of the effort (listed above – tailored based on the nature of the proposed solution, by mutual agreement) or accomplishes a particularly favorable or unexpected result that justifies transition to production.

**Phased Approach**

A phased approach is desired to support competitive evaluation of multiple solutions, diversify the performer / technology base, and reduce overall risk to the effort. Multiple awards may be made in each phase. The number of awards in each phase will vary based on technical, budgetary, schedule, and risk considerations. The notional outline of phases is as follows:

- Phase 1 – Multiple awards desired. Procure existing Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) or high-TRL software defined radio solution that is a starting point for each selected vendor’s proposed solution. Vendors deliver:
  - Phase Kick off and phase close out meeting and presentation material
  - Existing hardware/software for evaluation for customer’s application
  - Design / test data providing a baseline characterization of the starting point or supporting the planned approach for phase 2.
  - Preliminary Design Review briefing, including a substantially more detailed plan conveying the technical approach, schedule, and Phase 2/3/4 costs to implement redesign plans to meet objectives.  
*Note – during Phase 1, vendors will be provided additional classified contextual information regarding the customer’s specific application and integration needs.*
- Phase 2 – Multiple awards desired. Vendors implement redesign plans. Deliverables include prototype hardware / software and associated test reports, Critical Design Review briefing which conveys technical progress finalized plans for integration, and updated Phase 3/4 plans and costs, with meetings, materials and interchanges as required to support development.
- Phase 3 – Multiple awards possible. Vendors fabricate EMD articles and support integration within customer’s application such as implementation of operational software, qualification testing, and demonstration, with meetings, materials and interchanges as required to support development.
- Phase 4 – Multiple awards possible. Pre-production limited quantity build (qty ≤ 100) for assessment of military utility in customer’s application with close out and transfer/transition for production plan.

The maximum duration of the effort is 5 years. At the completion of Phase 1 satisfactory candidates may be chosen to proceed directly into Phase 2 provided the requirements for Phase 2 are well defined and are within the budget provided. Phase 3 (Acceptance Testing) may be executed concurrently with the final manufacturing iterations of phase 2. Phase 4 and production level efforts may be executed with acceptable demonstration and utility of Phase 3 materiel.

## 6. Project Deliverables:

#	Deliverable(s)	Description	Frequency	Delivery Plan	Delivery Method
1	Quick Start Guide	Procedure for basic setup and operation of the device.	1 Deliverable each phase	P1: 100 DAA P2: 200 DAA P3: 300 DAA P4: TBD	Electronic
2	User Guide	User Guide for prototype. Explains the theory of operation of the device and the workflow for any necessary maintenance (including software/firmware development if applicable)	1 Deliverable each phase	P1: 100 DAA P2: 200 DAA P3: 300 DAA P4: TBD	Electronic
3	Monthly Status Report	Monthly report/update on the prototype project to include technical, schedule and budgetary and CSWF requirements	Monthly	Monthly	Electronic
4	Interface Control Document (ICD)	Define the software and hardware interfaces of the payload	1 Deliverable Phase 1,2,3,4	N/A	Electronic
5	Systems Readiness Review (SRR)	The SRR shall contain all pertinent requirements for the prototype project as tailored for the proposed solution	1 Deliverable Phase 1	P1: 35 DAA	Electronic/Virtual
6	Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	Conduct PDR to convey system design/plan meets tailored requirements	1 Deliverable Phase 1	P1: 75 DAA	Electronic/Virtual
7	Critical Design Review (CDR)	Conduct a CDR to convey system design/plan meets tailored requirements	1 Deliverable Phase 2	P2: 100 DAA	Electronic/Virtual
8	Payload Installation Procedures	Document containing information on how to install	1 Deliverable Phases 2,3,4	P2: 150 DAA P3: 100 DAA P4: TBD	Electronic
9	Phase Report	This report will summarize activities in each phase, progress towards milestones, and provide vendor's assessment of way forward	1 Deliverable (Each Phase)	P1: 125 DAA P2: 350 DAA P3: 350 DAA P4: TBD	Electronic

10	Payload Prototypes	Deliverable payload subsystem hardware, software, and firmware. Should be in a form suitable for government inspection, testing, or integration. Deliverable HW quantity will vary and may be revised by mutual agreement prior to award.	Phase	Qty		NSWC Crane Bldg. 3330W
			1	3	100 DAA	
			2	3	250 DAA	
			3	10	200 DAA	
			4	100	150 DAA	
11	Vendor Test Plan and Test Report	This report documents the equipment and procedure used to assess performance of the prototype, as well as the results for deliverable devices.	1 Deliverable (each phase)		P1: 35 DAA P2: 35 DAA P3: 35 DAA P4: 35 DAA	Electronic
12	Meetings and Presentations	These meetings will encompass technical interchanges and information exchange and briefing materials for kick-off, close-out, and progress updates.	Multiple Deliverable (each phase)		Kick-Off: 10 DAA Close-Out: 30 EOC Review/ Interchange: ASREQ	NSWC Crane, Proposer Facility, ONR, Electronic
13	CSWF Baseline	DoD Manual 8570.01M Cyber Security Certifications and Requirements. New hire information for tasking requiring Cyber IT/Cybersecurity functions shall be submitted to the AOR at least 7 days prior to employee beginning performance of any Cyber IT/Cybersecurity functions on this tasking.	Undefined		ASREQ – 7 days prior to performance	NSWC Crane, AOR, Electronic

\*DAA = Days After Agreement

\*P = Phase

## 7. Current Project Budget:

**Phase 1:** \$670,000 (notionally, 2-3 performers)

**Phases 2-3:** \$3,000,000 (notionally, 2 performers)

**Phase 4:** 3,000,000 (notionally, 2 performers)

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:

This RFS has been released under the following—

Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release

This project encompasses the following restrictions:

a. Security Classification: Secret

b. Is ITAR Compliance required? Yes, at time of award.

c. Respondent Restrictions (e.g., domestic companies only): Domestic Companies only

d. Hazardous Material: No

e. Any additional restrictions applicable to this project: Any additional restrictions applicable to this project: Respondents shall complete the Section 889(a)(1)(B) Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Using Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (Attachment B) and return the signed representation with the submitted proposal.

f. Cyber Security Workforce (CSWF) Qualifications and Reporting

Tasking outlined in this RFS requires personnel to perform Cyber IT/Cybersecurity functions therefore shall meet the requirements of DoD Manual 8570.01M Cyber Security Certifications and Requirements (<https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodm/857001m.pdf?ver=2017-04-17-134634-203>). The Performer shall ensure that personnel who are categorized as working within the DoD IA workforce meet the appropriate requirements of DoD Manual 8570.01M. The performer shall provide a list of all personnel assigned with personnel performing Cyber IT/Cybersecurity functions



as a part of the monthly Performer’s Progress, Status, and Management Report (Deliverable identified in Section 6 above). The report shall include employee name, list of applicable Cyber IT/Cybersecurity function category/level required certifications and fulfillment status and CL status.

New hire information for tasking requiring Cyber IT/Cybersecurity functions shall be submitted to the AOR at least 7 days prior to employee beginning performance of any Cyber IT/Cybersecurity functions on this tasking. New hire information shall include name, list of applicable Cyber IT/Cybersecurity functions category/level, required certifications and fulfillment status to include a copy of the certification documentation. Performers are encouraged to provide new hire information to ensure Government concurrence with qualification to perform Cyber IT/Cybersecurity functions. Per regulations, Performer personnel who do not have proper and current certifications shall be denied access to DoD information systems for the purpose of performing information assurance functions.” and therefore may not be allowed to perform nor charge under this Agreement.

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

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. 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 Submission	Price Submission
20 Pages (maximum)	10 Pages (maximum)

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 performer (*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 performers; **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 contractor/prime 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 OTA. 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 10, Level of Data Rights Requested by the Government), respondents must provide detail explaining the specific rationale for the assertion. Please also review 10(b)(iii)(5) below for additional requirements related to data rights pricing.
  - 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. This project will employ the following pricing structure:

- Fixed Price with Payable Milestones
- Expenditure Basis (cost reimbursable)

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 shall 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.
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.
- 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.

## **13. Attachments**

- a. Section 889 Verification and Representation
- b. DD254 Form

## **14. Important Dates**

- a. Questions related to this RFS shall be submitted by Friday, May 21, 2021 12 PM EST.
- b. 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”.
- c. Proposals submitted in response to this RFS are due no later than Friday, July 2, 2021 12 PM EST.
- d. 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.
- e. RFS Respondents must be active members of the consortium at the time of proposal submission.

## **15. Additional Project Information**

- a. The Government intends to award at least 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).