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| **Space Enterprise Consortium (SpEC) Request for Prototype Proposal (RPP)***in support of***NSSL Phase 3 Initial Enabling Investments Orbital Transfer & Maneuver (OTM)****Project No. 21-07** |



1. **OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW**

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| Project Title | NSSL Phase 3 Initial Enabling Investments Orbital Transfer & Maneuver (OTM) |
| Project Sponsor | SMC Launch Enterprise |
| Contracting Activity | SMC/ECL |
| Response Due Date | 23 July 2021 |
| Anticipated Project Budget | $35.79M USG contribution; industry must contribute at least 1/3 cost-share (details below) |
| Resultant Award Type | Prototype Other Transaction Agreement (10 U.S.C. § 2371b) |

*All respondents must be active NSTXL members.*

1. **PROTOTYPE PROJECT DETAIL**
	1. **Authority:** 10 U.S.C. § 2371b, “Authority of the Department of Defense to Carry Out Certain Prototype Projects”
	2. **Project Background & Current Capability:**

The NSSL program intends to continuously innovate to maintain U.S. supremacy in space launch. This orbital transfer prototype project will improve space access capability for NSS launch systems. Anticipated benefits include 1) reducing costs by allowing procurement of lower energy launch vehicle configurations; and 2) improving mass-to-orbit capability, especially for medium earth orbit, geostationary orbit, tundra orbit, and cislunar trajectories beyond geosynchronous orbit.

In November 2020 Launch Enterprise published a request for information that asked about a wide range of space access, mobility, and logistics (SAML) solutions, however this effort is focused on space access capabilities. “Space access” refers to launch-related capabilities that move payloads from the surface of the earth to their designated operational orbits. It excludes capabilities like auxiliary station keeping, refueling a satellite, etc. Even though mobility and logistics are beyond the scope of this effort, industry is encouraged to propose multi-purpose technologies that may also serve space mobility and logistics in addition to space access.

* 1. **Desired End-State:**

The SMC/ECL Launch Enterprise program office seeks one or more sources for orbital transfer and maneuver (OTM) prototype projects.

For the purposes of this acquisition only, orbital transfer and maneuver means movement of a payload from a parking orbit to an operational orbit after it has separated from a launch vehicle. The prototype OTM system should be launched on the same launch vehicle, attached to the payload.

In contrast to related projects for “Next Generation Rocket Engine Testing” and “Upper Stage Resiliency Enhancements,” the source for this prototype does not need to be a potential NSSL Phase 3 launch service provider.

**Objective 1:** Advance the State-of-the-Art

Launch Enterprise seeks one or more prototype projects that will increase U.S. competitive advantage in space launch by providing innovative capabilities that will enable more flexible options to deliver payloads to their intended orbit. High risk-reward prototype projects and ground-breaking technologies are encouraged.

**Requirement 1:** Orbital Transfer and/or Maneuver

The prototype project must support or execute orbital transfer and maneuver. Dual-use military/commercial transfer and maneuver technologies are valued, but not required. When evaluating proposals for award, the Government will favor prototypes that maximize 1) total propulsive capability (i.e. delta-V); 2) total system thrust; 3) satellite compatibility; 4) feasibility of concept of operation for in-space transfer; and/or 5) improvements in manufacturing and integration. The ordering of these priorities does not imply relative importance or weighting.

Note (1): It is recognized that delta-V and total system thrust may be tradeoffs – the Government will favor solutions that enable access to the broadest set of mission orbits.

Note (2): Total propulsive capability will be evaluated without any on-orbit refueling of the OTM, however the Government does not intend to discourage OTM designs that are also refuellable.

**Requirement 2:** Compatibility with NSSL Standard Interface Specification

The prototype project must be compatible with LE-S-002, Standard Interface Specification (Revision C, June 2017) and it must fit within a Category B payload envelope as described in Section 3.1.3.

**Requirement 3:** Prototype Maturity

A prototype project under this effort must be feasible for operations during the NSSL Phase 3 launch acquisition period. At this time Launch Enterprise expects NSSL Phase 3 flights to commence on or after 1 October 2027. Offerors must show how a proposed prototype project can feasibly complete development within two years and qualification within four years to be integrated into an NSSL-certified launch system by 1 October 2027.

Note: While the prototype should advance capability for NSSL Phase 3, it is not necessary that a system complete development and qualification under this agreement.

**Requirement 4:** Period of Performance

The period of performance for this project may not extend past 30 September 2024.

* 1. **Anticipated Project Duration:** The project’s period of performance will be defined based on the proposed and/or negotiated schedule but is currently required to be complete by 30 September 2024.
	2. **Project Deliverables:**

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| **No.** | **Title** | **Description** | **Frequency** | **Delivery Method** |
| 1 | Project Kickoff Briefing | Project Kickoff Briefing (approx. half day) with Scope and Program Execution Schedule, at a minimum: 1) risks, 2) challenges, and 3) project deliverables. | Once / approx. half-day | Emailed briefing and in-Person / Remote Meeting |
| 2 | Technical Interchange Meeting (TIM) | Addresses the following topics, for a technical audience, at a minimum: 1) program technical status, accomplishments, and challenges; 2) program calendar and schedule updates; 3) any special topics or issues, at participant discretion. | Once monthly / approx. 2 hrs | Emailed briefing or report and in-Person / Remote Meeting |
| 3 | Quarterly Project Management Reviews | Addresses the following topics, for a project management audience, at a minimum: 1) program progress; 2) integrated master schedule; 3) risks and challenges; 4) financial status; 5) any special topics or issues, at participant discretion. | Once per quarter/ approx. half-day | Emailed briefing and in-Person / Remote Meeting |
| 4 | Quarterly Financial Report | Quarterly financial updates showing actual incurred costs and industry-government cost share on a quarterly and cumulative basis. | Once per quarter | Email |
| 5 | Design Drawings and Hardware/Software Specifications | Detailed technical drawings in agreed upon format and specifications in document format (e.g. .docx or .pdf) at appropriate design reviews. | Once | Email or File Transfer  |
| 6 | Draft and Final Technical Report | Draft and final technical report (e.g. SRR, PDR, TRR, and/or CDR), as proposed by an offeror, meeting standards prescribed in SMC-S-021 with detailed technical descriptions and schematics. Delivery schedule as follows: 1) Draft technical report no later than two weeks prior to the end of the period of performance; 2) Presentation of technical report at final TIM no later than one week prior to the end of the period of performance; 3) Final technical report no later than the end of the period of performance. | Once | Emailed briefing and in-Person / Remote Meeting |
| 7 | Test Plans/Test Results | If testing is proposed, test plans and test results consistent with SMC-S-016. Test plans shall be approved by the Government prior to testing. This approval to be provided promptly and not be unreasonably withheld. | As needed prior to tests | Email or File Transfer |

* 1. **Anticipated Number of Awards:**

The Government intends to award between one and three Other Transaction Agreement(s) on a fixed-price basis as a result of this RPP. Please note, more than three awards may be made if determined to be in the Government’s best interest. The Government also reserves the right to execute fewer awards than anticipated, select aspects of a proposal for award, or not select any of the solutions proposed.

Each offeror shall submit one proposal with a “menu” of up to three prototype projects that can be selected separately or together. Proposed prototype projects can be related to a common system or to different systems (e.g. all three projects could be prototype components for a propulsion system or, alternatively, an offeror could propose one project for propulsion, one project for avionics, and one project for structures). Offerors should clearly explain if there are dependencies between the proposed projects, meaning that two or more projects have to be performed together or sequentially. Each proposed project must be less than $11.93M for the Government’s cost share to allow the Government to build a portfolio totaling $35.79M. The combined Government cost share from each offeror must not exceed $35.79M.

The Government may award multiple projects to a single source or split the award among multiple sources.

* 1. **Anticipated Budget**

**$ 35,790,000 Government Cost Share**

This value represents what is anticipated to be available for the subject projects. Awards will not be made until funding is appropriated, likely in Q1FY22.

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.

* 1. **Supporting Attachments:**
		1. SpEC RPP Data Categories
		2. SOW Template
		3. LE-S-002 “Standard Interface Specification” (Revision C)
		4. SMC-S-016, “Test Requirements for Launch, Upper-Stage, and Space Vehicles”
		5. SMC-S-021, “Technical Reviews and Audits for Systems, Equipment and Computer Software”
1. **SECURITY INFORMATION & RESTRICTIONS**
	1. This RPP main document of 13 pages is released in accordance with Distribution Statement A: approved for public release; distribution unlimited. Supporting Attachment 3 is released in accordance with Distribution Statement C: Distribution authorized to U.S. Government Agencies and their contractors. All other Supporting Attachments are released in accordance with Distribution Statement A: approved for public release; distribution unlimited. In the event of any inconsistency between this RPP and distribution restrictions on a Supporting Attachment, the restrictions on the Supporting Attachment take precedence.
	2. Security classification & other restrictions:
* This prototype project has an anticipated classification level of: UNCLASSIFIED
* Awardees/Prototype Level Performers are not required to possess an active facility clearance to perform in support of the subject
* Respondents are restricted to domestic, United States based companies only.
* All respondents must provide representations within their response confirming whether covered telecommunications equipment or services will or will not be included as a part of its offered products or services to the Government in the performance of this effort. See Section 889(a)(1)(B) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 (Pub. L. 115-232) for additional information.

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| **Question MarkWhat is included under “covered telecommunications equipment or services”?** * Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
* For the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
* Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
* Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.
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* 1. All respondents/prospective performers must be compliant with the following:
* 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”.
* NIST SP 800-171, “Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Non-Federal Information Systems and Organizations”
* 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).
1. **DESIRED LEVEL OF DATA RIGHTS**
	1. The Government desires the following restrictions/limitations as it relates to Data Rights allocated under the subject effort:

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| **The Government’s ability to --** | **DATA RIGHTS****CATEGORY****A** | **DATA RIGHTS CATEGORYB** | **DATA RIGHTS CATEGORY** **C** |
| USE the technical data |[ ] [x] [ ]
| MODIFY the technical data |[ ] [x] [ ]
| REPRODUCE the technical data |[ ] [x] [ ]
| DISPLAY the technical data |[ ] [x] [ ]
| RELEASE the technical data |[ ] [x] [ ]
| DISCLOSE the technical data |[ ] [x] [ ]

* Within the proposed response, respondents must identify the Data Category (A, B, or C) related to the associated Data or other applicable project deliverables. Attachment 1 of this RPP outlines the Data Categories and respective definitions.
	1. The selected prototype-level performer –

may license others and use data for any commercial purpose during performance & after performance concludes.

* 1. Respondents may elect to propose alternative approaches for the Government’s consideration & subsequent approval via negotiations.
1. **PROCESS OVERVIEW & INSTRUCTIONS**
	1. **Important Dates**
		1. Questions for this opportunity are due **31 May 2021.**

To submit any questions of a contractual or administrative nature, visit the opportunities page at www.nstxl.org/opportunities, select the “Current” tab, locate the respective project, and select “Submit a Question”.

To submit any questions of a technical nature, questions may be sent to:

**PRIMARY AGREEMENTS OFFICER TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Lt Col Nicholas Longo

Title: NSSL Mission Procurement Branch Chief

E-mail address: nicholas.longo.1@spaceforce.mil

**ALTERNATE AGREEMENTS OFFICER TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Mr. Greg Pierson

Title: Lead Engineer, Mission Procurement Branch

E-mail address: gregory.pierson@spaceforce.mil

SpEC members may communicate with the Government AOTR and/or Government Alternate AOTR identified within the RPP with clarification questions during the Full Proposal solicitation window, however these communications must take place via e-mail only. These communications must cease following the due date and time for full proposal submission identified in the RPP.

* + 1. Proposals submitted in response to this opportunity are due **23 July 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. Respondents are solely responsible for the timeliness of their submission and are cautioned that late submissions will not be accepted for evaluation.

It is strongly recommended that interested parties submit their proposal as early as possible to uncover any potential technical or account issues. Please notify NSTXL immediately if technical issues occur during the submission process and/or if confirmation related to membership status is required.

Proposal must be valid for at least 120 days after date of submission.

* 1. **Proposal Structure & Assessment Methodology**

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|  | **(1) Evaluation** | **** | **(2) Selection** |
| **ANTICIPATED TIMELINE\*** | **Due:**23 July 2021 |  | **Award:**02/2022 (T) |
| **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** | **Page Limit**: 5**Format:** MS Word and/or Adobe PDF |  | **Award of Prototype Level Project** |
| **TECHNICAL****VOLUME** | **Page Limit**: 20**Format:** MS Word and/or Adobe PDF; Schedule information may be submitted in MS Project, MS Excel, or Adobe Acrobat. |  |
| **PRICE****VOLUME** | **Page Limit:** 5**Format:** MS Excel for pricing information; MS Word and/or Adobe PDF for supporting narratives |  |

\*Anticipated dates identified within the timeline are subject to change and are provided for planning purposes only.

NSTXL will notify & invite Government-selected respondents to participate in a selection assessment pending the outcome of the Government’s review of initial responses. Additional detail regarding the selection assessment will be provided at that time. Respondents who are not selected for selection assessments will also be notified of their status accordingly.

Note: The page limits are at the proposal level. If multiple projects are proposed in one proposal, the offeror can determine how to allocate page limits within each volume.

* 1. **Format Detail**
		1. 12-point font (or larger) for all response narratives; smaller type may be used in figures and tables but must be clearly legible.
		2. Page size of 8.5 x 11 inches with one-inch margins.
		3. The following items are not included within the page count: Cover page, Table of Contents, List of Figures, List of Tables, Compliance Matrices, Pricing Information in MS Excel format, supporting FOCI documentation, Air Force Space Contractor Responsibility Watch List documentation, and the Statement of Work.
	2. **Contents of Response (Cover Page, Technical Response, Price Response)**
		1. Proposal Cover Pages **must** identify the following:
* Company name;
* Confirmation of active NSTXL Membership (e.g., “Verified NSTXL Member”);

*Reminder: Contact* ***membership@nstxl.org*** *with any questions or requests for confirmation of active membership.*

* Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code (if available);
* Level of facility clearance (if available);
* Street Address;
* Primary Point of Contact (with title, email address and phone number);
* Business Size;
* Business Type (Traditional or Non-Traditional);
* Status of U.S. ownership;
* If the proposed approach requires any exceptions to this solicitation or draft performers agreement;
* If the proposed approach addresses all RPP objectives or a partial subset of RPP objectives; and,
* The applicable 10 U.S.C. § 2371b eligibility criteria:
	+ At least one third of the total cost of the project is to be provided by sources other than the Federal Government;

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**What is a nontraditional defense contractor?**

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 for the procurement or transaction, any contract or subcontract for the Department of Defense that is subject to full coverage under the cost accounting standards (CAS).

*Review 48 CFR § 9903.201-1 for a list of CAS exemptions.*

* + 1. Technical responses must address the following topics:

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| **TOPIC** | **INSTRUCTIONS** |
| **Solution Narrative & Project Schedule** | * Describe the approach used to design/deliver a unique prototype solution for the prototype technology objectives.
* Include a discussion on schedule and the timing of all project deliverable(s) and/or other critical milestones.
* If the proposed approach will require exception to any aspect of this solicitation, to include attachments, respondents must clearly identify those exceptions within the Technical Volume of their response. All respondents are encouraged to review the Draft SpEC Performer’s Agreement available within the NSTXL Members Portal (nstxl.org).
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| **Team Overview** | * Identify each subcontractor and include the following:

 * Summary of their role in support of the proposed concept
* Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code (if available)
* Level of Facility Clearance (if available)
* Address
* Point of contact (with title, email address and phone number)
* Business size
* Business Type (Traditional or Nontraditional)
* Status of U.S. ownership

**Reminder**: *The responsibility to provide ample proof regarding* ***nontraditional participation to a significant extent*** *lies with the respondent and has a direct correlation to award eligibility.* |
| **Level of Data Rights Proposed** | * 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.
* If rights are being asserted at a level **less than** the Government’s desired level, respondents must provide detail explaining the specific rationale for the assertion.
* Any items previously developed with federal funding (and utilized in support of the proposed solution) should clearly identify all individual components funded by the Government and the recipient of the deliverables.
* 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.
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| **Explanation Supporting Eligibility for Award of a Prototype OTA** | * Provide rationale to support the specific eligibility condition that permits award of an Other Transaction to the proposed performer/team.
* The responsibility to provide ample proof regarding *nontraditional defense contractor* *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.

**Questions regarding eligibility?** Contact NSTXL and/or review 10 USC 2371b and the DoD Other Transaction Guide for additional information. |
| **Foreign Owned, Controlled, or Influenced (FOCI) Information** **(if applicable)** | * Identify if the primary performer and/or any sub-performers (to include vendors, suppliers, subcontractors, and teaming partners) are considered under FOCI.

**Supporting 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. |
| **Government Furnished Support** | * Identify if the proposed solution will be dependent on Government Furnished Property (GFP) or other forms of Government support (i.e. information, schematics, laboratory, or facility access).
* If the solution is dependent on the Government furnishing specific information or items, describe the impact to the solution if the request cannot be met.
* All GFP proposed and/or required for the respondent to perform this effort shall provide documentation that the proposed Government property usage has been approved by the cognizant Administrative Contracting Officer or Agreements Officer.
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| **Compliance** | * Respondents must address each mandatory restriction and/or requirement identified within RPP Section C, and explain how each regulation or standard is currently, or will be, met.
	+ **Note:** If exceptions to any of the restrictions/compliance requirements exist, respondents must fully explain the basis for the exception and how any correlating risk will be mitigated.
* If the Offeror proposes to vary from any of the security requirements specified by NIST 800-171 that are in effect at the time the solicitation is issued or as authorized by the AO, the Offeror shall submit for consideration by the DoD Chief Information Officer (CIO) or other authoritative party, a written explanation of why a particular security requirement is not applicable; or how an alternative but equally effective, security measure is used to compensate for the inability to satisfy a particular requirement and achieve equivalent protection. An authorized representative of the DoD CIO or other party will adjudicate offeror requests to vary from NIST SP 800- 171 requirements in writing prior to agreement award.
* If respondents intend to utilize cloud or computing services at any level in performance of this prototype, a description of use must be provided. An award constitutes AO approval to use cloud or computing services.
* Respondents **must include** the following statement (with the applicable answer checked):

“[Company Name] represents that it **[ ] will, [ ] will not** provide covered telecommunications equipment or services to the Government in the performance of any contract, subcontract or other contractual instrument resulting from this solicitation.”* Representations and/or any additional disclosures must follow the guidance and format prescribed within FAR 52.204-204.
* **Note:** If your company **will** provide covered telecommunications equipment or services, please contact **SpEC@nstxl.org** for additional mandatory disclosures that must be completed & submitted with your response (at least 72 hours in advance of the response deadline).
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| **Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCI)** | * All responses must disclose and address potential conflicts of interest and any proposed mitigation
* If OCI’s are not present, respondents must include a statement within the Technical Volume that no OCI’s are present.
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| **Statement of Work** | * Provide a Statement of Work (SOW) detailing 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 SOW will be incorporated into the resultant prototype-level Project Order.
* Respondents are encouraged to be concise but thorough when outlining their work statements. The SOW may be submitted as an appendix or a separate file as part of the proposal.
* These projects may be similar in scope to other USG efforts, but will not fund duplicate work. To facilitate quick due diligence during the evaluation process, an offeror that submits a proposal related to other USG-funded activity/activities shall also submit a copy of the related work scope (e.g. PWS or SOW) and an explanation of the differences with work being proposed.
* Respondents must submit a draft SOW – a template is attached to this RPP draft.
* An Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) is required. MS Project, MS Excel, and /or Adobe Acrobat are acceptable formats
* Respondent’s SOW and IMS do not count against the page limitations for the technical volume.
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* 1. **Contents of Pricing Response**

Note: The Government reserves the right to seek additional detail related to pricing if a conclusive fair & reasonable determination cannot be achieved. Respondents are encouraged to provide thorough & detailed responses (to the maximum extent practicable) to reduce likelihood of schedule delays and increase the Government’s understanding of the proposed concept.

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| TOPIC | INSTRUCTIONS |
| Cost & Price Breakdown | * Submit time-phased bases of estimate for each proposed prototype project with the following details at a minimum:
	+ A work breakdown structure for each project
	+ Cost elements including labor, materials, subcontracts, and overhead
	+ Time-phasing by month or quarter
	+ Government-industry cost share
 |
| Supporting Narrative  | * Include a brief narrative that explains your pricing structure and maps the proposed prices to the solution’s technical approach.
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| Payable Milestone Schedule | * The overall total price should be divided among severable increments that align to a proposed milestone payment schedule. Well-structured, payable milestones should be used to verify observable achievements. Milestones are not required to match actual expenditures but should realistically align to the effort expended or products delivered.

If assistance is needed, please visit the NSTXL Members portal for template support or contact our team. * Responses shall include a time-phased cost sharing table that shows the government-industry cost share plan at each milestone payment. (See SOW Template)
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| Innovation & Scalability*(if applicable)* | * Any additional features or beneficial capabilities that extend beyond the currently requested technical objectives shall be separately priced for the Government’s consideration.
 |
| Price Impacts of Data Assertions *(if applicable)* | * If limited or restricted rights are being asserted within the response, provide a table that includes prices if the Government elects to purchase increased level of rights.
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| Supporting Information | * For cost/price volume, there is no page limit for MS Excel supporting information
* Offerors are encouraged to submit detailed supporting data in MS Excel format to the maximum extent possible
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1. **Solution Review & Assessment**

Compliant responses will be evaluated with consideration given to: 1. Technical, 2. Cost-Price. The above-listed assessment criteria are: (CHECK ONE) [x]  listed in descending order of importance with the first listed being the most important, [ ]  each of equal value.

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| **Technical**Technical merit of the proposed solution will be assessed with respect to the ability to meet the technical goals/requirements outlined in the RPP. This may include consideration of the soundness of the technical approach as well as any risk it presents, as demonstrated by the extent to which the proposal includes a complete and clear approach on how the solution will be executed. This may also include consideration of the Contractor’s proposed Statement of Work.**Cost/Price**Cost/Price will be assessed on the affordability of proposed solution. If affordability goals are stated, consideration may be given to how well the cost/price of the proposed solution meets those goals. In addition to the total Government investment, consideration may be given to the total industry investment as well as the combined total (Government + industry investment). If cost-sharing is required for the project, consideration will be given to whether the cost-sharing approach is clear and consistent with statutory requirements, and whether the amounts and proportion of the proposed cost-share provides benefit to the Government.**Impacts of Data Rights Assertion\***The ability of the project performer to meet the Government’s required minimum level data rights specified in the RPP will be assessed. This assessment may consider the proposal’s discussion of variations, if any, from Government required or requested data rights and those asserted in the proposal including any methods proposed to mitigate impacts to the Government from not achieving the required minimum level of data rights in the event the Government elects to pursue follow-on production from a successful prototype project.**\*Note** – Data rights assertion will be assessed for RPP compliance, however it will not be considered for basis of award.**Security** Security will always be evaluated to ensure the proposal is consistent with the security requirements outlined in the RPP. |

* 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. While the technology objectives are of significant importance, responses will be considered as a whole.
* The Government will select the prototype-level performer and award this project, via NSTXL, to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to the Government, when the factors listed above are considered.
* 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, however, the Government intends to provide brief, written feedback to each respondent not selected for an immediate award.
* Notice of Contractor Involvement: SMC has entered into a contract with The Aerospace Corporation, a California nonprofit corporation operating a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC), Advisory and Assistance Services (A&AS) or Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance (SETA), or Systems Engineering and Integration (SE&I) to assist in the evaluation of proposals as non-Government advisors. The use of non-Government advisors will be strictly controlled. Non-Government advisors will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) prior to working on the subject effort. SMC Agreements Officer will review NDAs for conflict prior to allowing access to source selection information. All non-Government advisors will only have access to the information corresponding to their area(s) of expertise. The companies herein have agreed not to engage in the manufacture or production or hardware/services/R&D that is related to this effort, and to refrain from disclosing proprietary information to unauthorized personnel.

The following companies will have non-Government personnel advising:

* + - The Aerospace Corporation
		- Alpha Omega Group, LLC
		- Stellar Solutions
		- Nynth Company California LLC
1. **Additional Information**
* 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 can 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.
* Unless otherwise restricted by the Government, selected awardees, and the total awarded dollar values on a per project basis, will be announced on NSTXL’s website (www.nstxl.org). The Government project sponsor maintains release authority on any and all publications or press releases related to this prototype project.
* Unsuccessful respondents will be notified by NSTXL. The Government intends to provide brief, written feedback to each respondent not selected for an immediate award.
* Certain types of information submitted during the RPP and award process of an OT may be 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.
* No classified data shall be submitted within the proposal, unless otherwise instructed above within this solicitation.
* Air Force Space Contractor Responsibility Watch List (CRWL). As SpEC OTA is an RDT&E Space Program agreement, in accordance with Section 1612 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 (P.L. 115-91) and SMC Instruction (SMCI) 64-101, the Agreements Officer may not award an agreement to a contractor included on the CRWL without making a determination of responsibility and obtaining the approval of the SMC Commander.

A contractor that has been notified that it has been added to the CRWL may respond to this RPP but must submit documentation as an appendix to the proposal describing how it has addressed the conditions that resulted in its inclusion on the CRWL and why those conditions will not impact performance on an agreement resulting from this RPP. The Agreement Officer will consider this information as well as other available information in making the determination of responsibility or non-responsibility.

In addition, in accordance with Section 1612 of NDAA for FY18 (P.L. 115-91) and SMCI 64-101, the offeror must receive written consent of an SMC Agreement Officer prior to subcontracting with subcontractors on the CRWL whose subcontracts are valued in excess of $3M or 5% of the prime contract value, whichever is lesser. The Agreement Officer may not provide this consent without obtaining the approval of the SMC Commander. Offerors must inform proposed subcontractors that they must notify the offeror if they have been notified by the SMC Commander that they have been included in the CRWL. In order to be considered for a subcontract, a proposed subcontractor that has been notified that it has been added to the CRWL must submit documentation as an appendix to the proposal describing how it has addressed the conditions that resulted in its inclusion on the CRWL and why those conditions will not impact its performance on a subcontract to an agreement resulting from this RPP. The proposed subcontractor may submit CRWL related documentation through the offeror or directly to the Agreement Officer as long as the information is received prior to the proposal due date. In addition, the offeror must submit its determination of subcontractor responsibility in this volume. The Agreement Officer will consider information provided by the offeror and the proposed subcontractor as well as other available information in determining whether to grant consent to subcontract.

Information submitted in response to the AF CRWL shall be submitted as a separate appendix and will not be included within page count limitations.