



**Strategic & Spectrum Missions Advanced Resilient Trusted Systems (S²MARTS)
Request for Solutions (RFS)**

in support of

**Command Post Survivability and Vehicular Mobility at U.S. Army National Training Center (NTC)
Project No. 22-01**

A. OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

Project Title	Command Post Survivability and Vehicular Mobility at US Army National Training Center
Project Sponsor	Under Secretary of Defense Research and Engineering
Contracting Activity	Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division
Questions Deadline	March 24, 2022, 12:00PM EST
Response Deadline	April 27, 2022, 12:00PM EST
Anticipated Project Budget	\$40 Million
Resultant Award Type	Prototype Other Transaction Agreement (10 U.S.C. § 4003)

All respondents must be active NSTXL members.

B. PROTOTYPE PROJECT DETAIL

1. Authority: 10 U.S.C. § 4003, “Authority of the Department of Defense (DoD) to Carry Out Certain Prototype Projects”

2. Project Background & Current Capability

The US Army, in support of The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Research and Engineering (OUSD (R&E)) is undergoing a series of Fifth Generation (5G) technology projects. The DoD seeks a prototype of a 5G network integrated with tactical platforms, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and applications to support experimental evaluations on command post survivability and vehicular mobility for the U.S. Army. The desired prototype is a flexible, reconfigurable, and rapidly deployable private 5G network that supports experimentation with identified 5G Use Cases in various mission scenarios.

Per the DoD 5G Strategy, the fifth-generation standard for broadband cellular networks presents a fundamental change in communications structure across the world that provides a potential opportunity for

the DoD to operate anywhere at any time. The military will be able to communicate more effectively through the implementation of 5G-based solutions.

Per the US Army Robotics and Autonomous Systems Strategy, advancements in autonomous systems will allow for persistent surveillance and reconnaissance over wide areas. These unmanned systems can go where manned systems cannot, thereby increasing stand-off distances and survivability and reducing reaction time for commanders. Ground-based, semi-autonomous, unmanned systems will enhance target acquisition, maneuver, and logistics supply movement to the most forward tactical resupply points.

The program herein describes an integrated program of experimentation based on Use Cases for both command post survivability and mobility, as well as vehicular mobility for robotic systems. The program seeks prototype development and experimental evaluation of systems designed to resolve two key program challenges:

- **Program Challenge 1: Improve Command Post (CP) survivability relative to alternative wireless technologies** – The first program challenge is to use prototyping and experimentation to quantify the military utility of 5G technologies to improve CP survivability relative to alternate wireless technologies. 5G equipment will be installed in CP vehicles; integrated with mission command systems inside these vehicles; and provide wireless connectivity between these vehicles. A specific area of interest is 5G's ability to operate over a wide range of spectrum, enabling flexible tradeoffs with spectrum access, network connectivity, capacity, and detectability across a range of environment and threats.
- **Program Challenge 2: Semi-Autonomous Vehicles and Advanced Robotics Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T)** – The second program challenge is to use prototyping and experimentation to quantify the military utility of 5G technologies to support semi-autonomous vehicles and advanced robotics within formations. 5G equipment will be installed in manned and robotic vehicles; integrated with control, sensor, autonomy, and navigation systems inside these vehicles; and provide wireless connectivity between these vehicles. Experiments will be based on teaming scenarios involving next generation combat vehicles.

3. Program Phases

The program consists of the following three phases, performed sequentially upon contract award. During these phases, the Government will conduct both Lab Based Risk Reduction (LBRR) and Field Based Risk Reduction (FBRR) tests of Use Cases, as appropriate.

Phase 1 - This phase will be conducted 0-12 months after contract award at Government designated sites. This Phase will start with preliminary system development, lab-based system integration and LBRR testing at Government designated sites to help offerors demonstrate their component 5G technologies. Facilities to be made available at Government designated sites will include both System Integration Labs, Platform Integration Labs with surrogate vehicle platforms, and Modular Small Form Factor Equipment labs for component validation, as needed. During Phase 1, the offeror will be expected to provide prototype 5G private network components, associated technical support (for installation, integration and troubleshooting) and key RF technology components/subsystems to be used for Government-run assessments at Government designated sites. The outcome of Phase 1 will be to prepare for Phase 2 testing of key RF components/

devices and identify integration components/systems with which offerors will proceed with subsequent Phase 2 platform integration and risk reduction testing.

Phase 2 - This phase will be conducted 12-24 months after contract award at Government designated sites, in addition to technical risk reduction by conducting testing of an initial prototype through small-scale testing. These initial field evaluations shall occur no later than 15 months after contract award, but prior to entering Phase 2 integration activities. Following these decisions, Phase 2 will primarily be for integration and testing at Government designated sites. Integration activities will be structured around identified 5G Use Cases with Government Furnished Equipment (GFE). GFE is listed in the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Addendum to this RFS estimated value is \$2M. Use Case integration and subsequent testing will be supported by offerors, but all LBRR/FBRR testing will be performed by Government teams.

A realistic variety of operational environments (e.g., terrain, foliage, and urban) is always important in any experimental program. Since candidate 5G technologies/spectrum choices will exhibit vast performance differences in different environments, variety must be accommodated through both experiment design and site selection. Since the NTC (or an equivalent) site for Phase 3 experiments will inherently limit the terrain variability available, this program will also conduct field evaluation in foliage and small urban environments by using Army facilities at Government designated sites as venues for initial integration, risk reduction and learning opportunities.

The outcome of Phase 2 is readiness for Phase 3 experiments at NTC. This includes configuring and maintaining the 5G testbed network and integrating GFE applications to support continuous experimental evaluations. The contractor will be required to support the Government (Army) in preparing requisite documentation for Authority to Operate (ATO), spectrum approvals, and Safety Releases for Phase 2 testing at Government designated sites, and Phase 3 testing at NTC.

Phase 3 - This phase will be conducted 24-36 months after contract award at Government designated sites (e.g., at a designated NTC rotational unit's home station) and NTC, Ft Irwin, CA in addition to operational assessments conducted by warfighters with large scale tests using final deliverables. Phase 3 will require the deployment of the selected 5G testbed network Use Cases in an Army training environment. This phase will require platform integration into selected GFE platforms performed by the Government with support from the contractors and support for field user assessments by a rotational training unit. The outcome of Phase 3 is the successful integration of all products completing prior phases and completion of an operational evaluation by soldiers.

4. Experiment Use Cases

For this solicitation, detailed use-cases, metrics, measures, specifications, and other criteria are CUI. To obtain this information, see instructions under "C" Security Information and Restrictions below.

Use Case 1– Wireless Command Posts (CP) Survivability

The intent of this 5G Use Case is enabling wireless intra-CP operations. 5G network prototype equipment will be installed in multiple CP vehicles.

Use Case 2 – Command Posts (CP) using Host Nation (HN)¹ 5G Networks

¹ Host Nation refers to an operational environment representing a surrogate OCONUS network

This Use Case is patterned after Primary, Alternate, Contingent, Emergency (PACE) operations using commercial Host Nation 5G networks, given operational conditions and risk-based decisions. This experimentation will leverage the Government-furnished surrogate Host Nation 5G network at NTC training area sites.

Use Case 3 – Modular Small Form Factor Equipment Implementation

The Army owns hundreds of platform types, each requiring time-consuming and costly platform integration. To mitigate the complexity and costs of inserting 5G technology into a large variety of target platforms, the Army is pursuing the use of modular small form factor equipment that are aligned with industry standard practices. This Use Case is considered a lower priority and optional.

Use Case 4 - MUM-T (Manned-Unmanned Teaming) Operations

This use case is patterned after MUM-T operations between Next Generation Combat Vehicles, but with the addition of one (or more) UAS communications nodes to extend range Beyond Line of Site (BLOS).

Use Case 5 - MUM-T Using HN (Host Nation) 5G Networks

This Use Case explores the use of Host Nation 5G infrastructure as a PACE alternative for MUM-T operations. This experimentation will leverage the Government-furnished surrogate Host Nation 5G network at NTC training area sites.

Attributes of the NTC network are described in the CUI Addendum.

5. Project Deliverables:

No.	Title	Description	Frequency	Delivery Method
1	Formal program kickoff meeting	Kickoff meeting to present the program plan and top-level research/level of effort to be conducted in fulfillment of the project. Kickoff Presentation materials will be delivered 24 hours in advance of this meeting. Meeting Minutes will be delivered within five (5) days after the kickoff meeting.	Within 15 days after receipt of delivery order (RDO).	Electronic (pdf or docx).
2	Project Management Plan and Integrated Master Schedule	Plan for project management and integrated master schedule for the project.	Within 30 days RDO	Electronic (pdf or docx).
3	Monthly Status Report (MSR)	A monthly status report delivered to the Program Manager (PM) at a minimum, the MSR will document prior period activities, financial status, risks, and risks mitigation strategies, and statuses, issues and concerns impacting the project, and activities planned for the next period.	NLT 15th of each month after the first full month following RDO.	Electronic (pdf or docx).

4	Report of Records/Meeting Minutes	Reports of Record or minutes following project meetings with the Government.	Within 5 days of the end of meeting.	Electronic (pdf or docx).
5	Technical Reviews	Technical reviews with the Government Principal investigator (PI); discuss at a minimum prior period activities, technical status, technical risks, and technical risk mitigation strategies and statuses, issues or concerns impacting the project, and activities planned for the next period.	Every other month following RDO	Virtually, or at the Government's discretion, via alternative means (e.g., Technical reports or threaded discussions).
6	System Design Document (SDD)	Documentation of a top-level design for the 5G Prototype system and the network	Initial - within 30 days of RDO; Updated versions reflecting changes will be delivered within 30 days after the start of each phase.	Offeror format.
7	Technical Reports	Reports required to address specific research/experiment issues, findings, and outcomes of initiatives conducted as part of a task.	As required.	Electronic (pdf or docx).
8	Prototype Systems	System hardware, software, and associated data developed or procured under each of the tasks. Quantities of 5G equipment are identified in the GFE section of the CUI Addendum.	Systems (integrated within GFE vehicles) must be available for delivery to test locations one month prior to field experiments.	Electronic for associated data
9	Software Version Documents (SVD)	Comprehensive document outlining software used for/in prototypes.	5 days prior to the systems delivery(s) at the end of each phase.	Electronic (pdf or docx).
10	System Test Plans (STP)	Support the Government's development of test plans, through technical artifacts, reviews, and participation in meetings.	Phase 2: 4 months leading up to field experiments. Phase 3: 6 months leading up to field experiments at designated Army sites.	Electronic and virtual meetings
11	System Test Reports (STR)	Report of performed comprehensive testing of the 5G system including all networks and applications; includes	Within 15 days of the final test.	Offeror format.

		record of all identified discrepancies and updates, and applications.		
12	Final Technical Reports (FTRs)	Detailed overviews of the research findings, issues and mitigations, deliverables, lessons learned, and recommendations; as appropriate. The FTR will document the outcomes of each Phase, and may include prototype capabilities, technical issues and mitigation solutions employed, deliverables, lessons learned and recommendations. The FTR will also document the configuration of the network, its components and architecture and include details describing integration considerations, cybersecurity management and Risk Management Framework compliance.	Delivered at the conclusion of each Phase	Electronic (pdf or docx).
13	Technical Exchange Meeting (TEM)	Technical meeting that will bring together researchers, designated Government technical leaders, and invited guests of the Government PM to be briefed on the goals, conduct, issues and mitigations and findings from all tasks active at the time of the meeting. Presentation materials will be delivered 24 hours in advance of these meetings.	Quarterly during each prototype program phase.	Electronic (pdf or docx).
14	Prototype Integration, Testing and Demonstration	Produce and execute an experimentation plan that allows for formal and informal experimentation to characterize system/component performance, explore multiple configurations, introduce threats, identify corner cases, and identify abuse cases, vulnerabilities, and limitations of the prototype. The results of the experiments will influence the activities of following phases.	Phase 2: 12-24 months after RDO	Offeror format.
15	Installation, Verification, and Validation	Conduct installation of 5G equipment in GFE vehicles and integrate, verify, and validate operations with GFE data systems.	Phase 2: 12-23 months Phase 3: 24-36 months after RDO.	Offeror format.
16	Bill of Materials (BOM)	Delivery of BOM to support Supply Change Risk Management (SCRM) assessments.	Quarterly updates after RDO	Electronic in Government format.

17	Approval to Operate (ATO)	Delivery of all technical artifacts required by the Risk Management Framework (RMF) to obtain an ATO. Packet shall include boundary diagram, hardware/software list, Ports, Protocols, and Service Management (PPSM); test plan for assessing security controls; Security Requirements Traceability Matrix (SRTM); Security Content Automation Protocol (SCAP) scan results; and Assured Compliance Assessment Solution (ACAS) scan results.	Phase 2: 3 months before Phase 2 field experiments. Phase 3: 6 months before Phase 3 field experiments.	Electronic in Government format.
18	Spectrum Approvals	Delivery of technical artifacts required by the Government to obtain spectrum approval at the Government-designated test sites	Phase 2: 3 months before field experiments. Phase 3: 5 months before field experiments.	Electronic in Government format.
19	Safety Releases	Delivery of technical artifacts required by the Government to obtain Safety Releases prior to Soldier operations of prototype equipment.	Phase 2: 3 months before Phase 2 field experiments. Phase 3: 8 months before Phase 3 field experiments.	Electronic in Government format.
20	Training Packages	Delivery of training material sufficient for Soldiers to perform basic operations with the 5G equipment. The offeror will be responsible for detailed planning, configuration, and troubleshooting of the 5G equipment in support of experiments.	Phase 2: 2 months before field experiments. Phase 3: 4 months before field experiments.	Electronic in Offeror format
21	CSWF Baseline	DoD Manual 8571.01M 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	7 days prior to performance / As Needed	Electronic Excel Document

Table 1 – Project Deliverables

6. Anticipated Budget

\$ 40 Million

This value represents what is currently available for the subject project at the time of RFS release. This value is subject to change and is being provided for planning purposes only.

This amount is the total available to address all Use Cases. Respondents are encouraged to clearly explain how much of their solution can be developed for a portion of the advertised amount. Capabilities or project phases that will require additional funding beyond the project budget must be identified as such.

7. Acquisition Strategy

The Government intends to award multiple Other Transaction Agreements as a result of this RFS:

- One award that “bundles” or addresses both Use Cases 1 and 2 together.
- One award that “bundles” or addresses both Use Cases 4 and 5 together.

Use Case 3 is of lower priority than the other Use Cases and is optional. If an offeror chooses to propose Use Case 3, this shall be bundled with Use Cases 1 and 2. The Government reserves the right to not make any award for Use Case 3. Please see the figure below for the relationship between the Program Challenges and the Bundling of the Use Cases.

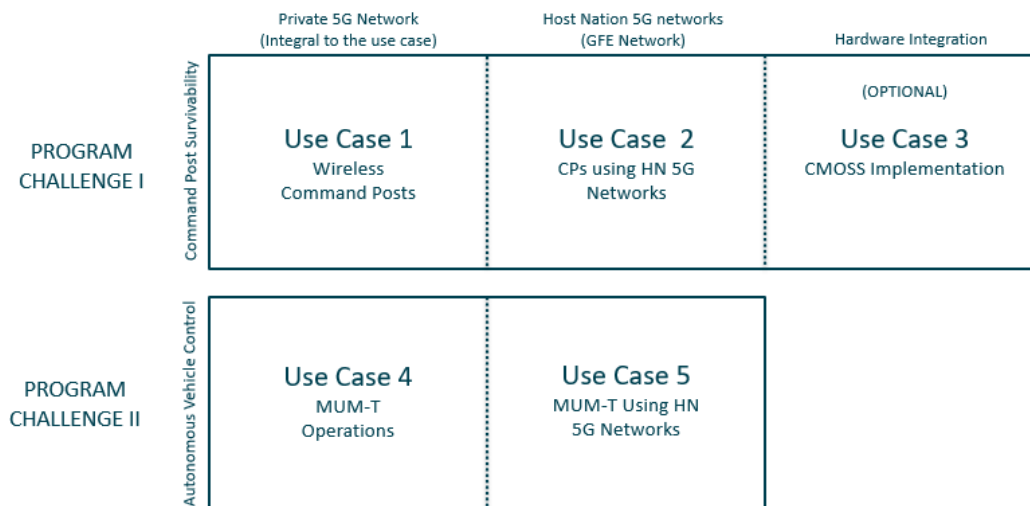


Figure 1- Program Challenges and the Bundling of the Use Cases

The Government reserves the right to make more than one award for Use Case bundle 1&2 and/or Use Case bundle 4&5 if determined to be in the Government’s best interest. If so, the Government reserves the right to down-select each bundle to a single contract prior to Phase 3, such as at the end of Phase 1 or Phase 2. The Government also reserves the right to not select any of the solutions proposed.

C. SECURITY INFORMATION & RESTRICTIONS

The RFS has been released in accordance with Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release.

This document has an addendum that contains CUI and is marked with Distribution Statement D: Distribution authorized to Department of Defense and U.S. DoD contractors only.

CUI Addendum: The CUI addendum can be requested via email to s2marts@nstxl.org. Requests for the CUI addendum should include at a minimum; Company name, the technical Point of Contact (POC) name and phone number, Facility Security Officer (FSO) name and phone number, CAGE code, Joint Certification Program Certification Number, a valid email address for receiving encrypted email and a statement certifying the company's intent to participate through a submission of a solution.

1. Security classification & other restrictions:

- Respondents are restricted to domestic, United States based companies only.
- A DD Form 2345 (Military Critical Technology Data Agreement) is required.
- Compliance with International Traffic in Arms Regulation (22 C.F.R. §§ 120-130) is required no later than project award.
- Compliance with NIST SP 800-53 NIST Risk Management Framework
- Performers may require access to classified information up to secret level under this project as indicated in Attachment, DD254
- By submitting a response, respondents shall certify 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. RFS Attachment includes additional detail regarding the representation which must be signed and returned with any submissions.

What 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, video surveillance services, or UAS provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
- ✓ Telecommunications, video surveillance equipment or services, or UAS 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.

- A. **Risk Management Framework (RMF)** - The Government will be responsible to apply for the necessary RMF authorizations, utilizing information and data supplied by the contractors. The contractor shall be prepared to support RMF requirements such as submission of the current: hardware/software list; System Security Plan (SSP); Ports, Protocols, and Services (PPS) document; scans and scan reports; Security Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) activity and results; and information to support Program Objectives, Actions and Milestones (POA&M). Personnel directly involved with RMF cybersecurity support shall be qualified in accordance with DoD, DFARS, and Army standards. Contractors will be responsible to remediate identified risks and vulnerabilities to support RMF authorizations.
- B. **Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM)** - The contractor shall support SCRM by submitting each Bill of Material (BOM) using a format specified by the Government, for SCRM analysis. The Government will provide template(s) for the BOM after award. Section 889 of the contract, which prohibits business with specified foreign entities, shall also be applied.

2. 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”.
- 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).
- Cyber Security Workforce (CSWF) Qualifications and Reporting Tasking outlined in this RFS may require 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 Action Officer Representative (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.

- Respondents must implement the prohibition policy in Public Law 116-92. Section 848 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. “Prohibition on the Procurement of Foreign-Made Unmanned Aircraft Systems”.

D. DESIRED LEVEL OF DATA RIGHTS

1. The Government desires the following restrictions/limitations as it relates to Data Rights allocated under the subject effort:

The Government’s ability to --	Without Any Restrictions	Without Restriction and Within Government Only	With Performer Approval Only
USE the technical data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MODIFY the technical data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REPRODUCE the technical data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DISPLAY the technical data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RELEASE the technical data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DISCLOSE the technical data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AUTHORIZE NON-GOVERNMENT PARTIES to use, modify, reproduce, display, release, and disclose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- The Government intends to maintain the limitations identified above for 5 years from project award.
 - Upon expiration of the time period identified immediately above, the restrictions/limitations shall be unlimited.
2. The selected prototype-level performer will not be permitted to exclusively license or commercially utilize any technical data produced under this effort for an agreed-to time period.
 3. Respondents may elect to propose alternative options for the Government’s consideration and subsequent approval via negotiations.

E. PROCESS OVERVIEW & INSTRUCTIONS

1. Submission Process for Questions & Proposals

a. Questions


To submit any questions, visit the opportunities page at www.nstxl.org/opportunities, select the “Current” tab, locate the respective project, and select “Submit a Question”. Please refer to Page 1 for associated deadlines.

b. Proposals

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 (membership@nstxl.org) if technical issues occur during the submission process and/or if confirmation related to membership status is required. Please refer to Page 1 for associated deadlines.

2. Proposal Structure & Assessment Methodology

		<u>{IF APPLICABLE}</u>	
	(1) Initial Review	>>>	(2) Follow-On Assessment
ANTICIPATED TIMELINE*	Due: 04/27/2022, 12:00PM EST	>>>	Start of Follow-On phase: 06/2022
TECHNICAL	Page Limit: 30 Format: MS Word and/or Adobe PDF		Details will be provided to Government-selected respondents identified for additional exchanges with the Government.
PRICE	Page Limit: 10 Format: MS Excel for pricing information; MS Word and/or Adobe PDF for supporting narratives		Details will be provided to Government-selected respondents identified for additional exchanges with the Government.
			Award of Prototype Level Project

**Anticipated dates are subject to change and are provided for planning purposes only.*

NSTXL will notify and invite Government-selected respondents to participate in a follow-on assessment/down select pending the outcome of the Government’s review of initial responses.

Additional detail regarding the follow-on assessment will be provided at that time. Respondents who are not selected for follow-on assessments will also be notified of their status accordingly.

3. Format Detail

- a. 12-point font (or larger) for all response narratives; smaller type may be used in figures and tables but must be clearly legible.
- b. Page size of 8.5 x 11 inches.
- c. The following items are not included within the page count: Cover page, Table of Contents, supporting Foreign Owned, Controlled, or Influenced (FOCI) documentation, Section 889 Representation, and the Task Description Document/Statement of Work.
- d. Offeror(s) shall mark proposal documents as CUI in accordance with IAW NIST SP 800-171.

4. Contents of Response (Cover Page, Technical Response, Price Response)

- a. 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.
 - 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)
 - Government Cognizant Security Office (CSO) responsible for monitoring the company’s National Industrial Security Program Standards compliance (with address, email address and phone number)
 - Company’s security officer point of contact (with title, email address and phone number)
 - All locations where work will be performed
 - Business Size
 - Business Type (Traditional or Non-Traditional)
 - Status of U.S. ownership
 - If the proposed approach requires any exceptions to this RFS
 - The scope of RFS objectives in the proposed approach. The minimum scope of RFS objectives for bids is defined in Section B.7 (Acquisition Strategy).
 - The applicable 10 U.S.C. § 4003 eligibility criteria (select **one** of the following)
 - There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor or nonprofit research institution participating to a significant extent in the project;

- 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.



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.

b. Technical responses must address the following topics:

TOPIC	INSTRUCTIONS
Solution Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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 baseline S²MARTS Performer’s Agreement available within the NSTXL Members Portal (nstxl.org).
Team Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify each subcontractor and include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of their role in support of the proposed concept - Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code (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

	<p><i>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.</i></p>
<p>Level of Data Rights Proposed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Explanation Supporting Eligibility for Award of a Prototype OTA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>nontraditional defense contractor participation to a significant extent; small business or nontraditional defense contractor status; or any cost sharing arrangement</i> lies with the respondent and has a direct correlation to award eligibility. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions regarding eligibility?</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact NSTXL and/or review 10 USC 4003 and the DoD Other Transaction Guide for additional information.</p>
<p>Foreign Owned, Controlled, or Influenced (FOCI) Information (if applicable)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify if the primary performer and/or any sub-performers (to include vendors, suppliers, subcontractors, and partners) are considered under FOCI. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Supporting documentation may include but is not limited to:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>
<p>Government Furnished Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Contracting Officer or Agreements Officer.
<p>Compliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents must address each mandatory restriction/requirement identified within this RFS and explain how each regulation or standard is currently or will be met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. • In addition to the mandatory representation included as Attachment, respondents <u>must include</u> the following statement within the Compliance section (with the applicable answer checked): <p>“[Company Name] represents that it [<input type="checkbox"/>] will, [<input type="checkbox"/>] 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.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Note: If your company will provide covered telecommunications equipment or services, please contact S2MARTS@nstxl.org for additional mandatory disclosures that must be completed & submitted with your response (at least 72 hours in advance of the response deadline).
<p>Organizational Conflicts of Interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Task Description Document/ Statement of Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 prototype-level Project Order, similar to a Statement of Work (SOW). • Respondents are encouraged to be concise but thorough when outlining their TDD/SOW. The TDD/SOW may be submitted as an appendix or a separate file as part of the proposal.

5. Contents of Pricing Response

The Government is seeking proposals with a Firm Fixed Price (FFP) for Phase 1 based on the vendors’ approach, plus Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) price estimates for Phase 2 and Phase 3.

Note: The Government reserves the right to seek additional detail related to pricing if a conclusive fair and 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.

TOPIC	INSTRUCTIONS
<p>Price Breakdown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delineate key pricing components and show clear traceability to the phases and/or milestones of the Technical Response. At a minimum, key pricing components include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Labor Total(s), Other Direct Costs/Material Total(s), any license prices/fees, and subcontractor/vendor/sub-performer price(s). • Data should must be organized and clearly identified by technical objective, milestone, and/or phase proposed (if phasing is applicable).
<p>Supporting Narrative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a brief narrative that explains your pricing structure and maps the proposed prices to the solution’s technical approach.
<p>Payable Milestone Schedule</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>If assistance is needed, please visit the NSTXL Members portal for template support or contact our team.</p>
<p>Innovation & Scalability <i>(if applicable)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional features or beneficial capabilities that extend beyond the currently requested technical objectives shall be separately priced for the Government’s consideration.
<p>Price Impacts of Data Assertions <i>(if applicable)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Supporting Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of supporting information, such as a Basis of Estimate, may substantially expedite evaluation of your response.

F. SOLUTION REVIEW & ASSESSMENT

Compliant responses will be evaluated with consideration given to:

Demonstrated understanding and overall technical merit of the response;

**Feasibility of implementation; and,
Total project risk (related to technical focus areas, price, schedule and/or compliance)**

- 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 price, schedule, technical potential, level of data rights, and other factors are considered. At its sole discretion, the Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.
- 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.

G. ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

- The Government intends to award multiple Other Transaction Agreements as a result of this RFS (see Section B.7). The Government also reserves the right to not select any of the solutions proposed.
- 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.
- The United States Army G-6 in coordination with the Navy, specifically Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, maintains release authority on any and all publications or press releases related to this prototype project.
- Unsuccessful respondents will be notified by NSTXL, however, debriefings for this project will not be provided.
- Certain types of information submitted 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.
- 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>.

- This is to advise that non-Government advisors will assist in the evaluation. 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 effort. 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. Advisors will not have access to the Price Volume of the response. The companies identified herein have agreed to not engage in the manufacture or production of hardware/services/research and development 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 MITRE Corporation, 7515 Colshire Dr. McLean, VA. 22102, CAGE 7L030
- Corvus, 360 Central Ave, STE 800, St. Petersburg, FL, 33701, CAGE 6RYP8
- For Knowledge Bridge International Inc. (KBI), 250 Exchange PL STE D, Herndon, VA. 20170-4890, CAGE 5BU56

H. FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY:

- Upon successful completion of this prototype effort, the Government anticipates that a follow-on production effort may be awarded via either contract or other 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.
- 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