



**S²MARTS Project: Additively Manufactured Prototypes (AMP) for Hardware Technology Protection
Request For Solutions (RFS) Question & Answer | Date: August 1, 2022**

- 1. DUJUD has developed the only available 3D printed microelectronic technology. However, the roadblock for participating is the required Security Clearance. More reasonable strategy is dropping this requirement and obtaining the security clearance status during the phase I. Is it doable?**

Answer: Declassification of the annex is not possible. Companies without facility security clearances can partner with an organization with the requisite clearance.

- 2. You had mentioned AM-TP as a predecessor to the AMP-HTP. Could you spend a minute discussing the differences?**

Answer: There was a previous RFS on a similar topic: The main differences are the expected funding and the period of performance, which are both larger than in the AM-TP OTA, promoting greater diversity and complexity in the solutions. Additional differences include the threats of interest and the types of responses desired. The details of which are included in the Classified Annex.

- 3. My team had requested the classified annex over a week ago and still have not received it. Will there be an extension to the submission deadline to help teams that have not received critical information in a timely manner for this proposal?**

Answer: An extension was granted. The latest submission can be found in the RFS revision.

- 4. Can threat protections FOR AM processes be considered in this OTA? Or is it focused solely on using AM for TP in other processes/applications?**

Answer: This OTA is focused on applying AM to devices to provide TP. Additional details are included in the classified annex. Threat protections FOR AM processes would only be applicable as they related to protecting the board in the classified annex, and threat protections for AM processes (like L-PBF or material extrusion) would be out of scope for this solicitation.

- 5. The needed technology for this OTA project is emerging with narrow industry around it; probably, there is only a handful of companies with relevant capabilities. The Security Clearance requirement takes out most likely 90% of those companies; this defeats the purpose of Phase I. Please advise.**

Answer: See response to Question 1.

- 6. Are there power or dissipation requirements guidelines for the solutions?**

Answer: No. While these would be a consideration in a higher fidelity prototype, these prototypes are focused on demonstrating concepts.

- 7. Do you bid both Phase 1 and Phase 2 at the same time?**

Answer: Yes. You need to provide a detailed proposal for Phase 1 and a more general proposal for Phase 2. The Phase 2 portion of your proposal should define (in general terms) what you think you would do to further develop Phase 1.

- 8. How long does it take to receive the annex once requested?**

Answer: An extension was granted due to this challenge. Proposals sent via SIPR (or other secured communication channels) will be faster than those shipped via classified encrypted CD or hard copy. Currently, hard copy takes about 5 to 7 business days to receive. We are working to shorten this time.



9. Is the COTS device the used the same device as the 2020 proposal?

Answer: Yes. The classified annex contains additional details.

10. We have requested the classified annex but have not received it yet. How is this being distributed?

Answer: It will be distributed through either SIPR (preferred) or classified mail. Once security verifies your facility clearance, a representative will reach out about shipping logistics.

11. Will there be an extension due to the delays in receiving the classified annex?

Answer: See response to question 3.

12. If you performed on the original OTP, do you submit for Phase 2 on this proposal?

Answer: The FY20 OTA is a totally separate contractual item. All responses to this OTA should be considered a separate Phase 1 and Phase 2.

13. You referred to a predecessor 2021 award winner. Who was it?

Answer: There was an RFS released in 2020 and funding was awarded in 2021.

14. Can we receive an email notifying us that the classified email has been sent as requested? I don't have frequent access to SIPR.

Answer: Yes. Please provide an unclassified email address for notification.

15. How do we get on the communication for the AMTP proposal? We had participated in the earlier AMTP meetings but did not get any email communications about the proposal or this meeting.

Answer: You can join NSTXL's distribution list by visiting: <https://us.nstxl.org/subscribe/>

16. Will we be given a specific board to apply our solutions to or can we design our own?

Answer: The goal is to protect a Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) board, which is further described in the classified annex.

17. For the classified submission via US mail that was updated in the recent revision, can you clarify the number of classified CDs and/or hard copy documents desired?

Answer: The number of pages in the technical portion of the proposal is listed in the RFS. Delivery can be by SIPR (preferred), or CD, or hard copy. All security precautions must be followed.

18. Do we need to discuss how we will approach environmental testing/ items relevant to phase 2 in our proposals for phase 1 since there isn't a formal submission for this?

Answer: Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 are focused on feasibility. Any effort to address environmental capability is outside the scope of Phase 1 but might be considered for Phase 2 depending on the prototype.

19. For those of us that only have access to CUI can we get access to the annex at the CUI level?

Answer: There is no version of the annex available at the CUI level. Please see answer to question 1.



20. Can you use your previous award for phase 2 submission using new COTS board?

Answer: Please see answer to question 12. This effort is separate from the previous effort and should be treated as such. Additionally, due to the higher funding limit, solutions would need to be substantially more advanced for this solicitation.

21. Can we get more information on the board we will need to work with? This greatly impacts potential solutions.

Answer: The board is a COTS board, the Cora Z7 board from Digilent (<https://digilent.com/>). Additional details are in the Classified Annex, available upon request.

22. Will there be a second RFP for teams who are awarded on Phase 1 to address the Phase 2 objectives? Or how does the transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 look like from a contractual perspective?

Answer: You need to propose a detailed solution for Phase 1 and a general solution on how you will further develop your solution in Phase 2. The Phase 2 solution should be what you envision you will need to do. Do not worry about accuracy for the Phase 2 portion as this can be readdressed at a later date.

23. If possible, can you let me know if our proposal should capture solutions for all three prototype categories (“Mission Areas” is the phrase used in the unclassified RFS document) as captured in the classified annex or can our proposal address a single mission area only?

Answer: The three mission areas are areas we are interested in finding solutions. Your solution does not need to cover all three areas as a requirement. We are looking for solutions to cover one or more of these areas but there is no need to cover all three.