



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

in support of

Classified Test Material for Hypersonics (CTMH)

Project No. 22-10

A. OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

Project Title	Classified Test Material for Hypersonics (CTMH)
Project Sponsor	Air Force Research Lab (AFRL); Office of the Secretary of Defense, Manufacturing Technology (OSD ManTech); Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division
Contracting Activity	Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division
Questions Deadline	July 11, 2022, 12:00PM ET
Response Deadline	August 1, 2022, 12:00PM ET
Anticipated Project Budget	\$5.1M (details below)
Resultant Award Type	Prototype Other Transaction Agreement (10 U.S.C. § 4022)

All respondents must be active NSTXL members.

B. PROTOTYPE PROJECT DETAIL

1. Authority: 10 U.S.C. § 4022, “Authority of the Department of Defense to Carry Out Certain Prototype Projects”

2. Project Background & Current Capability:

Adversaries of the United States have developed hypersonic weapons capable of traveling over five times the speed of sound, which reduces response time for defense. The Department of Defense (DoD) has taken a deterrence approach, with the intent to field hundreds of hypersonic weapons within the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). With an urgent need to develop and field new hypersonic weapon systems has come a demand for advanced materials manufacturing capabilities.

The DoD has identified a critical need for expanded manufacturing capacity for ultra-high temperature composite components for hypersonic weapon systems. Hypersonic vehicles are subjected to extreme environments, necessitating robust materials and processing techniques to ensure successful operation. Specialized materials manufacturing and production processes are being developed to manage temperature requirements while maintaining a lightweight and shock absorbent design.

High-temperature materials are currently being developed that can withstand extreme temperatures that hypersonic vehicles must endure. These materials remain difficult to construct by conventional means due to limited ductility or high degrees of porosity. Advanced manufacturing methods for quality and production are critical to hypersonic vehicles. The key technology in enabling strategic hypersonic weapons is high temperature capable Chemical Vapor Infiltration (CVI) Carbon Fiber, reinforced by Silicon Carbide Composites (C/SiC) to deliver differentiated missile and reentry body performance.

Currently, there are limitations on the size and manufacturing throughput capacity of CVI C/SiC shapes for hypersonic missile applications. Part of the challenge is the time required for manufacturing parts and machining the parts into their final, classified configuration as many of the DoD programs are requiring classified facilities for multiple phases of production. The capability to machine CVI C/SiC parts in a classified setting rests with a very limited set of vendors.

3. Desired End-State & Success Criteria:

The Contractor shall provide all Non-Recurring Engineering (NRE) services, equipment tooling, and materials required to fabricate a total of two unclassified articles and one classified article using CVI C/SiC densification of carbon fiber preforms. NRE may include, but is not limited to, design and fabrication of tooling and/or fixtures required for fabrication. Composite layup, CVI processing, machining, and inspection tooling or fixtures may be included. The method of processing shall be consistent with previous C/SiC hot-structure fabrication. Where possible, the Contractor shall use woven carbon fiber prepreg material provided by NASA.

The two unclassified CVI C/SiC articles shall include the following, unless the Contractor has already fabricated one or more of the below:

1. Straight Conic Frustrum: 5" outer radius x 18" length, with 7-degree conic 4 half angle, 1/2" thickness throughout. Braided carbon fiber preform architecture. CVI SiC matrix densification.
2. Complex Curvature Test Article: 5" nose dia. x 20" major dia. x 22.35" length, 73.5-degree half-cone angle, 0.33" thickness throughout, aft constant dia. Length of 5". Laminate fabric layup with quasi-isotropic 60-degree architecture. CVI SiC matrix densification.

The classified CVI C/SiC deliverables shall include the following:

1. Aeroshell test article classified design, manufacturing/inspection plan, and tooling/fixture design: Using a classified model and flight profile/boundary conditions provided by the Air Force, the Contractor shall perform engineering design and modeling sufficient to define a classified prototype test article.
 - a. The contractor shall deliver a mechanical and material design for an Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) aeroshell upper skin made of CVI C/SiC material using 2D laminate layup construction. Design approach and execution is requested as follows:
 - i. CVI C/SiC upper skin article shall be a "drop-in" replacement for the existing upper skin design, i.e., it shall be capable of being assembled to an existing aeroshell lower skin using the same attachment points and mechanism(s). The current classified design drawings/models and flight profile, performance, and assembly criteria will be Government Furnished Information (GFI).
 - ii. The aeroshell upper skin test article should be one continuous piece, with a cutout section for a communications window, as well as features at the front, rear, and bottom of the upper skin to accommodate a nose cone, rear bulkhead/control surfaces, and attachment to the lower skin, respectively.
 - iii. The Outer Mold Line (OML) of the aeroshell upper skin test article will be the tooled surface, with the as-molded OML profile and surface finish considered acceptable for customer acceptance. Wholesale machining of the OML profile shall not be included.
 - b. Manufacturing plan and design of aeroshell demonstration article layup/autoclave/CVI, machining, and inspection tooling and fixtures.

- i. Concurrent with the mechanical design of the aeroshell upper skin test article, the Contractor shall design the layup/autoclave/CVI tooling required for manufacturing in a classified area.
- ii. Contractor shall evaluate the aeroshell test article configuration and provide design of fixtures/tooling needed for machining and inspecting the article during and after CVI SiC densification.

2. Manufacturing of classified CVI C/SiC aeroshell demonstration article:

- a. Tooling fabrication: The Contractor shall fabricate the layup/autoclave/CVI tooling, to include tooling/fixtures for machining during/after CVI SiC densification and tooling/fixtures for non-destructive inspection of the aeroshell test article during and after fabrication.
- b. Layup, autoclave, and CVI processing: The Contractor shall perform the following:
 - i. 2D layup with the OML as the tooled surface
 - ii. Autoclave compaction/curing cycle of the layup article in the layup tooling
 - iii. CVI pyrocarbon cycle with the article tooled
 - iv. CVI SiC cycles to infiltrate and densify the SiC matrix. The first CVI SiC cycle shall be tooled, and subsequent CVI SiC cycles shall be un-tooled.
- c. Machining: The contractor shall perform machining of the upper skin test articles between CVI SiC cycles as needed to establish areas of critical dimensional requirements. These may include, but are not limited to, mating surfaces, holes for attachment/assembly using pins and/or fasteners, the communications window opening, nose cone and rear bulkhead attachment features.
- d. Inspection: The Contractor shall perform Coordinate Measuring Machine (CMM) dimensional inspection of the articles, as needed, before and after machining steps.

All capabilities should be proven through testing and prototyping. The test results and performance data should be delivered to the Government via technical reports.

4. Potential Follow-On Activity:

- a. Upon successful completion of this prototype effort, the Government anticipates that a follow-on production effort may be awarded via either contract or transaction, without the use of competitive procedures if the participants in this transaction successfully complete the prototype project as competitively awarded from this document. The prototype effort will be considered successfully complete upon demonstration of the aforementioned technology objectives.
- b. Successful completion for a specific capability may occur prior to the conclusion of the project to allow the Government to transition that aspect of the prototype project into production while other aspects of the prototype project have yet to be completed.
- c. Requirements of other potential follow-on activities could involve, though not limited to, continued development and baseline management, fielding, sustainment, training, further scaling of the solution, integration of future capabilities, or integration of the solution with other capabilities.

5. Project Deliverables:

No.	Title	Description	Frequency	Delivery Method
1	Execution Plan	Lay out the schedule, milestone and projected hours required for completion by phase.	One month after award	Written document, Electronic delivery
2	Technical Reports	Identify preliminary design, material selection, and team members/ collaborative environment partners.	Two months after award	Written document, Electronic delivery
3	Unclassified Straight Conic Frustrum+	5" outer radius x 18" length, with 7-degree conic 4 half angle, 1/2" thickness throughout. Braided carbon fiber preform architecture. CVI SiC matrix densification	Four months after award	Unclassified Test Article, delivered to Unclassified Testing Facility: David Glass c/o NASA Langley Research Center West Taylor Street, Bldg 1148, Room 249 Hampton, VA 23681
4	Unclassified Complex Curvature Test Article	5" nose dia. x 20" major dia. x 22.35" length, 73.5-degree half-cone angle, 0.33" thickness throughout, aft constant dia. Length of 5". Laminate fabric layup with quasi-isotropic 60-degree architecture. CVI SiC matrix densification	Five months after award	Unclassified Test Article, delivered to Unclassified Testing Facility: David Glass c/o NASA Langley Research Center West Taylor Street, Bldg 1148, Room 249 Hampton, VA 23681
5	Test Article Classified Design	Mechanical and material design for an ARRW aeroshell upper skin made of CVI C/SiC material using 2D laminate layup construction	Twelve months after award	Classified design
6	Tooling/ Fixture Design	Design of layup/autoclave/CVI tooling required for manufacturing in a classified area. Design of fixtures/ tooling needed for machining and inspecting the article for CVI SiC densification	Twelve months after award	Classified design
7	Tooling/ Fixture Fabrication	Fabrication of tooling/ fixtures required for layup/ autoclave/ CVI, machining during/after CVI SiC densification, and non-destructive inspection of the aeroshell test article during and after fabrication	Eighteen months after award	Tooling/ Fixtures
8	Test specimens and prototypes, as well as performance data	Demonstration that requirements have been met and capabilities have been developed	Twenty months after award	Prototypes, Data
No.	Title	Description	Frequency	Delivery Method

9	Final Classified Test Articles	Manufacturing of classified CVI C/SiC aeroshell demonstration article, to include tooling, machining, and inspection	Twenty-four months after award	Flight Test Articles, Delivered to Classified Testing Facility: NASA Langley Research Center Attention: Security Office Hampton, VA 23681 *On the inside wrapper, indicate the intended recipient: David Glass
10	Technical Data Package	Data to demonstrate that deliverables meet requirements.	As each capability is developed	Written summary of data, Data package, Electronic delivery
11	Financial Reports	Report of expenditures against spend plan, estimates to completion, etc.	Monthly	Powerpoint and/or Excel, Electronic delivery
12	Schedule Reports	Report of project completion percentage for each requested capability with detailed schedule	Monthly	Powerpoint and/or Project, Electronic delivery
13	Program Management Reviews	Financial and Schedule data, compiled for management review	Quarterly	Powerpoint, Excel, and Project, Electronic delivery

6. Anticipated Budget

\$ 5.14M across all awards

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.

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.

7. Anticipated Number of Awards

The Government intends to award at least one Other Transaction Agreement on a fixed-price basis as a result of this RFS. Please note, more than one award may be issued 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.

Partial responses addressing only a subset of the project’s overall objectives are permitted for this effort.

8. Supporting Attachments:

- a. Mandatory Section 889 Representation
- b. Draft DD Form 254, Contract Security Classification Specification
- c. DD Form 2345
- d. DD Form 2345 Instructions

C. SECURITY INFORMATION & RESTRICTIONS

- 1. This RFS, to include attachments, has been released in accordance with Distribution Statement A: Approved For Public Release

2. Security classification & other restrictions:

- Awardees/Prototype Level Performers must hold an active **SECRET** Facility Clearance, **prior to 3. Test Article Classified Design**
- Awardee/Performer personnel must hold an active **SECRET** clearance at the time of **Award**
- Respondents are restricted to domestic, United States based companies only.
- A DD Form 2345 at **the time of Task 1, Milestone 1 Completion (Execution Plan)**. Instructions related to the DD Form 2345 are included as Attachment D.
- Compliance with International Traffic in Arms Regulation (22 C.F.R. §§ 120-130) is required **at time of award**
- A DD Form 254 will be executed at award and flowed down to the selected performer(s) at the **Secret**
- 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 A 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 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.



3. 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 3, “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).

D. DESIRED LEVEL OF DATA RIGHTS

Unlimited rights: The right to use, modify, reproduce, perform, display, release, or disclose technical data in whole or in part, in any manner, and for any purpose whatsoever, and to have or authorize others to do so.

Government Purpose Rights: The right to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose technical data within the Government without restriction. This also includes the rights to release or disclose technical data outside the Government and authorize persons to whom release or disclosure has been made to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose technical data for United States Government purposes. This level of restriction is set at five-years but may be negotiated & tailored to a specific project. The five-year period, or such other period that may be negotiated, would commence upon execution of the agreement that required development of the items, components, or processes or creation of the data. The performer will have the exclusive right, including the right to license others, to use technical data in which the Government has obtained Government purpose rights under this agreement for any commercial purpose during the five-year period. Upon expiration of the five-year period (or other negotiated length of time), the Government will receive unlimited rights in the technical data and computer software.

Limited rights: The rights to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose technical data, in whole or in part, within the Government. The Government may not, without the written permission of the party asserting limited rights, release or disclose the technical data outside the Government, use the technical data for manufacture, or authorize the technical data to be used by another party, except that the Government may reproduce, release, or disclose such data or authorize the use or reproduction of the data by persons outside the Government if—

(i) The reproduction, release, disclosure, or use is—

(A) Necessary for emergency repair and overhaul; or

(B) A release or disclosure to—

(1) A covered Government support Contractor in performance of its covered Government support contract for use, modification, reproduction, performance, display, or release or disclosure to a person authorized to receive limited rights technical data; or (2) A foreign Government, of technical data other than detailed manufacturing or process data, when use of such data by the foreign Government is in the interest of the Government and is required for evaluation or informational purposes;

(ii) The recipient of the technical data is subject to a prohibition on the further reproduction, release, disclosure, or use of the technical data; and

(iii) The Contractor or subcontractor asserting the restriction is notified of such reproduction, release, disclosure, or use.

Other – Customized Level of Rights:

E. PROCESS OVERVIEW & INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Submission Process for Questions & Proposals**

a. Questions

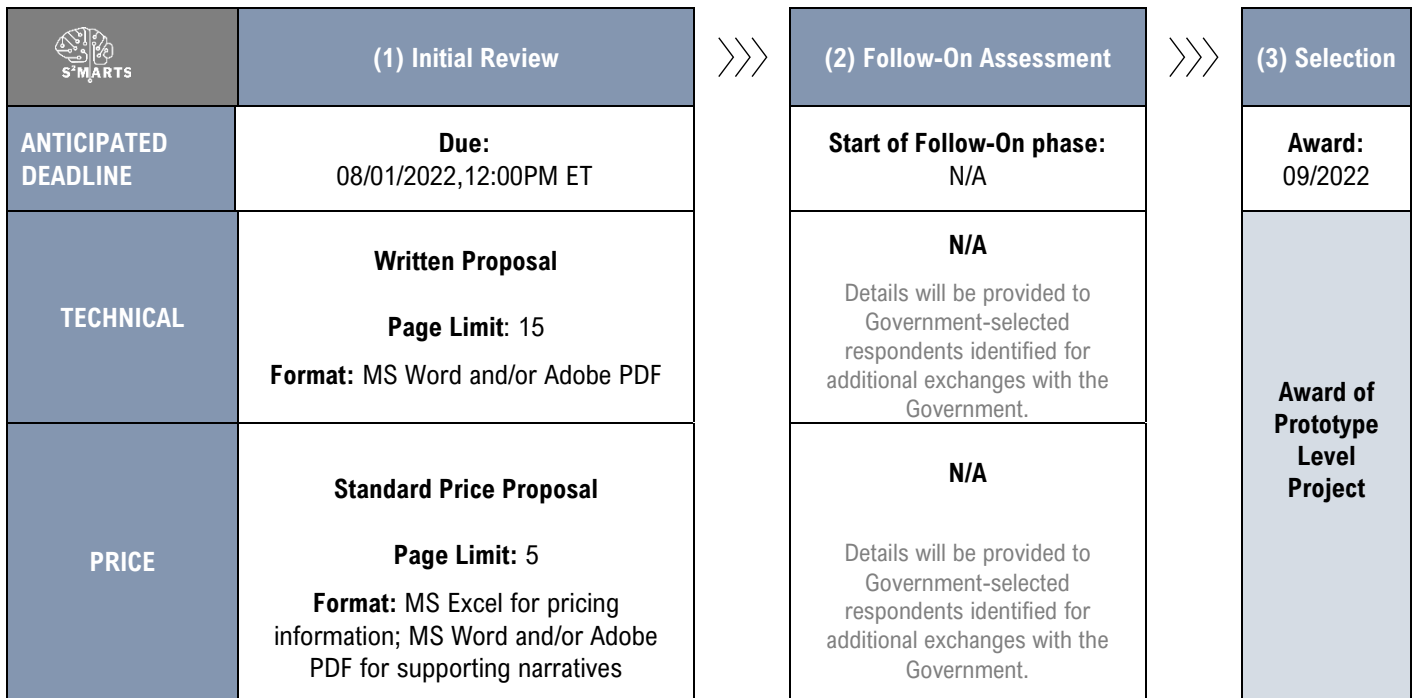
To submit any questions, visit the opportunities page at www.nstxl.org/opportunities, select the “Current” tab, locate the respective project, and select “Submit a Question”. Please refer to Page 1 for associated deadlines.

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



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

NSTXL will notify & invite Government-selected respondents to participate in a follow-on assessment/downselect 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.

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
- If the proposed approach addressed all RFS objectives or a partial subset of the RFS objectives
- The applicable 10 U.S.C. § 4022 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
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<p>Solution Narrative & Project Schedule</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents must identify significant assumptions that influenced technical aspects the proposed solution and/or any assumptions that may affect technical performance in the future • 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 • Responses that only address a critical element of the total solution being sought, often referred to as a “partial solution”, must be clearly identified as such. • 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).
<p>Team Overview</p>	<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) – 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 <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>Contact NSTXL and/or review 10 USC 4022 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 teaming partners) are considered under FOCI. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Supporting documentation may include but is not limited to:</u></p> <p>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). • 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 A, respondents must include 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 (OCI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All responses must disclose and address potential conflicts of interest and any proposed mitigation • If OCIs are not present, respondents must include a statement within the Technical Volume that no OCIs are present.

Task Description Document/ Statement of Work	<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.
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5. 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.

TOPIC	INSTRUCTIONS
Price Breakdown	<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 & clearly identified by technical objective, milestone, and/or phase proposed (if phasing is applicable).
Supporting Narrative	<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.
Payable Milestone Schedule	<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. If assistance is needed, please contact our team.
Innovation & Scalability <i>(if applicable)</i>	<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.
Price Impacts of Data Assertions <i>(if applicable)</i>	<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.
Supporting Information	<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:

<p>Demonstrated understanding and overall technical merit of the response;</p> <p>Feasibility of implementation; and,</p>

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. 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

- 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 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 3. 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>.