How SSC Leveraged Industry to Find Their Problem Statement with ASTRO-E



ABOUT ASTRO-E

The U.S. Space Force's Space Systems Command (SSC) awarded Advanced Space Technology for Range **Operations - Electromagnetic** Range (ASTRO-E) contracts to six companies: Nou Systems, ExoAnalytic Solutions, TMC Design, HII Mission Technologies Corp, Parsons Government Services Inc. and Lockheed Martin. All awardees are incorporating significant participation from nontraditional defense companies. Each company will execute a six-month period of performance, which began on 29 February 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 171 days from RPP Close to Award
- 16 Organizations Opted into Teaming
- Significant NTDC Participation
- Six-month Period of Performace
- Three Total Phases
- 20% More Submissions than Average

CHALLENGE

The STARCOM Operational Test and Training Infrastructure (OTTI) Integrated Program Office recognized the lack the infrastructure required for Electronic Warfare (EW) test and training within Space Systems Comman (SSC).

When SSC was tasked with creating a new test and training facility, they did not want to limit innovation by relying solely on their knowledge of existing capabilities. Recognizing that industry may be better equipped to define the critical capabilities for developing this state-of-the-art facility, SSC looked to the SpEC network.

SOLUTION

OTAs like SpEC do not have to adhere to a standardized format. This allowed the SpEC team to construct a custom contract for a multi-phase project framework, starting with a concept paper. This included pre-award market research with insight from industry.

Because of the market research that the SpEC team conducted at the forefront, SSC was able to flesh out a strong Request for Prototype Proposals (RPP), resulting in 20% more submissions, providing SSC with more solution options. This led to the selection of six awardees, four more than the average. Leveraging the SpEC OTA's innovator pool, the SSC OTTI Integrated Program Office awarded Phase 1 of ASTRO-E, which includes a concept paper. Over the course of three phases, SSC will eventually down-select to one awardee, who will be tasked with developing a training infrastructure for the SSC in the final phase.

The OTA allows for a streamlined process from market research to RPP, saving time and effort for the SSC. Even after the initial research phase, the OTA remains flexible by including multiple project phases with competitive down-select, paving the way for the development of a state-ofthe-art facility that is ready for integration. "This is the first time I've seen Space Force call on industry for ideas for a large-scale project. It's a great opportunity for industry to tell the Government exactly what it needs."

- Michael Bush, SpEC Program Manager

A CLOSER LOOK

Learn more about Other Transaction Authorities (OTAs) like SpEC and how they support rapid prototyping.



SCAN TO WATCH



ABOUT SpEC

The Space Enterprise Consortium (SpEC) was created in 2017 to bridge the cultural gap between military buyers and commercial space startups and small businesses through Other Transaction Authorities (OTA). The OTA innovative contracting process allows SpEC to solicit bids from a mix of member companies including companies that have not previously done work with the Department of Defense.

ABOUT NSTXL

NSTXL is focused on building a network of innovators and creators across the most sought-after emerging technology fields. As an open-source platform, our approach was designed to encourage network growth and collaboration without stifling change. NSTXL supports their network by providing commercial-term contracting, training and education, and a strongly interconnected network for easy teaming.

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