

Question #	Question
1	Will we be able to get this slide set after the webinar? Thank you! The slide deck will be available at <a href="http://www.dibconsortium.org">www.dibconsortium.org</a> .
2	What allocation of the overall investment is targeted for Food and Fitness? It's very difficult to give you a specific number right now, because it's all contingent on the budget. And as everybody's aware, budgets are still being decided. But I can tell you that food and firepower are top priorities. And so right now we have funding in-hand for this first wave of investment. I can't really speak to the overall larger investment number, but it should be sufficient for us to get moving. I know that's not a full answer, but it's the best I'm able to give you without having a full authorized budget.
3	Will you be making recommendations on which Vendors / performers should be "partnered" together for more holistic solutions? It may make it smoother if these partnership recommendations are encouraged by OUSD ATI and PD Bio will provide opportunities to find potential teaming partners in advance of RWP response submission. It is recommended that potential performers create holistic teams as part of their response to the RWP; however, the PD Bio Team reserves the right to recommend teaming as a result of two qualified submissions that may be more strategic if partnered.
4	What are the deliverables for Planning Agreement Phase? Is it only plans or also technical feasibility studies? The technical feasibility study is an optional task as you saw on Peter's chart, so please revisit that chart when you get the opportunity to download them. The feasibility study would go a long way towards validating the plans, and you'll see that it is one of the strongly recommended tasks for the effort.
5	What are the differences between DBIC and NSIN? The goals seem to overlap The National Security Innovation Network is a membership that the Defense Innovation Unit uses to research their requirements. The DIBC is a specific acquisition tool that will be used by MCEIP.
6	Do all subs on contracts need to also be members of the consortium to receive an award? Only the prime needs to be a member of DIBC. Due to the recent launch of the DIBC, the prime/offeree does not need to be a member at the time of white paper submission, but must be a member by the time award selections are made.
7	Can you provide any assistance in securing SAM / CAGE... Our application has been pending for weeks. Any assistance that can help expedite the process is greatly appreciated Please reach out to ATI directly for individual support.
8	The slide deck showed (slide 10) Mature Track (Firepower) starting a quarter later than the map and measure. Does it mean that there will be map and measure, and mature awards made for this track? Or there will be potential switching from map and measure to the mature track for this F. We are not planning to release separate solicitations for map and measure, and mature. There's just one solicitation for both.
9	Is there a specific SPRS score we should target? Is it more important to have any score vs no score at all? The target SPRS score should meet all the requirements; however, there is no minimum SPRS score to our knowledge. Only the requirement that you have an active plan to resolve any deficiencies.
10	Is additive manufacturing within the scope of this RWP? Are medical devices (implants) within the scope of this RWP? No, this WP will be for biomanufacturing related to firepower only. Additive manufacturing could be a future sector of interest. Please visit <a href="http://ATI.org">ATI.org</a> to see other potential efforts related to additive manufacturing.
11	Do we have to join the consortium to the RFW? Or can we make that call after reviewing the RFW and ensuring its a fit? The RWP will be available to the public at <a href="http://dibconsortium.org">dibconsortium.org</a> when released. You will only need to be a member to receive the award.
12	Since Food awards won't be until 2026, should food tech companies still submit a white paper for Map and Measure in 2024? Our Emphasis on firepower is simply a bias, but its a preference for this first funding cycle. But if you're a food company, please don't wait until 2026 is over. If you're a food company, or fabrication, or firepower, or fuel, or any of the other topics, you should submit your proposal.
13	Will non-members be able to present at the 3-minute speed networking event? The DD2345 processing likely will take too long to be able to be members by the event. Great question. The speed networking event will be open to the public while we are building the consortium.
14	On Slide 10 of the deck, it is implied that Firepower is already predetermined to be on the Mature track. Not on Map & Measure track. Will solicitations for Firepower solutions be accepted on the Map & Measure track as well? Firepower solutions will be accepted for the Planning Agreement Phase.
15	Will the Enhanced White Paper have to address both the initial anticipated 6 month Business Planning activities AND/OR the 5 year period of performance to include chemical manufacturing demonstration? The white paper does not need to include the full plans for that five years. The white paper is about the planning and approach phase. If selected for award, the six months period is provided so that you can assemble an appropriately researched response. But the plan and the team should reflect the long-term vision for the company and the ability of that company to deliver the commodity of choice.
16	The expectation for a prototyping project is a possible selection for scaled-up manufacturing. What is the expectation at the end of the contract for a research project / initiative? We're not funding research projects because this is Defense Production Act money. So we're funding a planning agreement that would deliver a plan and a pathway and an assessment. And then we're funding the building effort which would deliver a chemical and commodity agreed upon the levels. So while there is product development in there, we are not doing research and development.
17	If we are going to work with a partner for the proposed work, do both companies need to be DIBC members? Only the prime/offeree needs to be a member of DIBC.
18	Is this aligned with the DPA call or will the DPA office put out their own? This is the DoD's biomanufacturing call.
19	It was mentioned that the DOD may not be the appropriate agency for the commodity of interest after scaled manufacturing. Does this suggest there will be partnership's with outside agencies like FDA or USDA? The short answer is yes. We have been meeting with the USDA and HHS because we did encounter some very interesting opportunities that may be more akin to those agencies.
20	Will the cost share requirement change in Building phase? Cost share is not required to meet the terms of the OTA, but offerors can include that if they deem appropriate to do so.
21	Do we have a list of domestic contract manufacturing organizations that DIBC would prefer and how do we access that list for scaleup? We do not have a list of preferred manufacturers. ATI will be hosting and providing networking tools to help facilitate teaming and collaboration between industry members as they prepare their responses.
22	I assume applicants for the BUILD stage will need to have first gone through the M&M stage? The short answer is yes.
24	What are the expected Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and Manufacturing Readiness Level (MRL/BioMRL) for products and biomanufacturing processes proposed in the WP? We are expecting that qualified offerors will have at least one product in manufacturing development and proposed products can be at least TRL4 but preferably TRL6, in one of the 5F focus areas. For definitions and descriptions of TRL levels and BioMRL levels, references are provided below. Notably, the TRL expectation and evaluation is not independent of manufacturing capability and infrastructure considerations (e.g., already installed equipment raises the MRL by enabling development of at-scale manufacturing approaches). The TRL/BioMRL of the proposed product(s) in the offeror's response to the RWP should be sufficiently high as to be able to complete the planning phase with confidence. <a href="#">TRL Definitions: 404585.pdf (army.mil)</a> <a href="#">TRL Deskbook (definitions and descriptions): Microsoft Word - TRA Text-9/03 (dtic.mil)</a> <a href="https://academic.oup.com/jimb/article/49/5/kuac022/6712705">BioMRL Definitions: https://academic.oup.com/jimb/article/49/5/kuac022/6712705</a>
25	What are the DoD pricing and volume requirements for bioproduct(s) proposed in the WP? Unfortunately, this information is not available for public release. Commodity chemical market pricing should be available independent of government information and should set a benchmark for competitiveness to establish a commercially viable supply of biomanufactured product(s) (i.e., no green premium; but with the knowable exception that some DoD applications may require additional refining for high purity requirements, which may come at higher cost). Offeror's response to the RWP should include the concept for meeting commercially viable targets.
26	Must the specified "one product in manufacturing development" align with the primary focus of our proposal? Or, alternatively, can this criterion encompass other products, which, although part of our product portfolio and potentially impacting the 5Fs, are not the primary focus of the proposal? The government prefers that the material, which is the focus of the proposal, aligns with one of the 5F categories and have some targeted manufacturing (process) development behind it. We may consider the manufacturing development of a closely related product, if the products and processes are substantially (i.e., mechanistically) similar.
27	In listening to the Distributed Biomanufacturing Program (DBMP) Industry Day presentations, it was mentioned that there will be other avenues of funding for food tech. I noticed that instructions on white-paper submissions were specified on the Defense Industrial Base Consortium (DIBC) website. Should we re-submit our white paper according to these guidelines? The DIBC RWP is the solicitation opportunity for the DBMP. Only EWPs submitted in response to that RWP will be considered for award.
28	The timeline chart on page 10 of the info session briefing appears to show Food, Fabrication, and Fuel in the Map & Measure section, but not Firepower. It looks like that goes directly to the Mature Track. Does that mean that the Firepower proposals will skip the Planning Stage? Or would it begin in Q2 of 2026 as indicated in the Firepower column? All 5Fs, including firepower solutions, will be accepted.