

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Requirement Title: Open Announcement for Critical Sectors under the Defense Industrial Base Consortium

Purpose: This is a competitive Open Announcement, OA-24-01, under the Defense Industrial Base Consortium (DIBC) managed by the Consortium Management Organization (CMO) Advanced Technology International, Inc. (ATI) and in partnership with the Manufacturing, Capability Expansion, and Investment Prioritization Directorate (MCEIP). This OA is to receive white papers for research or prototype project solutions for the critical sectors and additional areas of interest (AOI) detailed herein. The research or prototype projects selected for award through this OA must demonstrate alignment with Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) (10 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 4817) and/or Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III (10 U.S.C. § 4533) authorities and align with one or more of the critical sectors or AOIs. Research or prototype agreements may be awarded under either authority 10 U.S.C. §§ 4021 & 4022 respectively, as a result of this OA.

Critical Sectors: Kinetic Capabilities (OA-KIN-24-01); Energy Storage and Batteries (OA-BES-24-01); Castings and Forgings (OA-CF-24-01); Strategic and Critical Materials (OA-SCM-24-01); Microelectronics (OA-MIC-24-01); Workforce Development (OA-WFD-24-01)

Additional Areas of Interest: Emerging Manufacturing Technology (OA-EMT-24-01); Small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) (OA-UAS-24-01); Submarine Industrial Base (OA-SUB-24-01); Space Industrial Base (OA-SPC-24-01)

Background: MCEIP is an organization within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)) which incentivizes the creation, expansion, and/or preservation of domestic industrial manufacturing capabilities and materials needed to meet national and homeland security requirements. The MCEIP office oversees the execution of two portfolios: Innovation Capability and Modernization (ICAM) and Defense Production Act Investments (DPAI). Together these portfolios provide complementary flexible authorities to incentivize and strengthen the Defense Industrial Base (DIB).

- The ICAM portfolio oversees the execution of the IBAS authorities. IBAS authorities are leveraged to improve the readiness and competitiveness of the domestic industrial base by establishing high-priority domestic capabilities for new supply chains needed for national security and mitigating exposure to global supply chain risks.
- The DPAI portfolio oversees the execution of DPA Title III authorities. DPA Title III is an investment authority committed to ensuring resilient, robust domestic supply chains to reduce reliance on foreign manufacturing and correct domestic shortfalls in the defense industrial base.

Desired Objective: Through this OA, MCEIP, via the CMO, will accept submissions for research or prototype projects that fall within one or more of the critical sectors. The critical sectors are based on the Supply Chain Resiliency Focus Areas identified as part of Executive Order (E.O.) 14017.

White Papers must meet all the following criteria to be considered for DPA Title III funding (50 U.S.C. § 4533):

- The industrial resource or technology item must be essential for national defense.
- Industry cannot or will not provide needed capacity in a reasonable time without Defense Production Act Title III assistance.
- Defense Production Act Title III incentives must be the most cost-effective, expedient, and practical alternative for the need.

White Papers must address one or more of the following priorities to be considered for IBAS funding (10 U.S.C. § 4817):

- Prepare the defense industrial workforce: promote, elevate, and accelerate industrial talent pipelines.
- Ready the modern DIB: advance and sustain traditional defense manufacturing sectors.
- Prepare for the future: identify, attract, and cultivate emerging defense sectors.
- Assess and shape the risk: mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities within the global DIB.
- Build and strengthen partnerships: across the global DIB.

The critical sectors are explained in more detail below:

- Kinetic Capabilities (OA-KIN-24-01): Includes current missiles systems and advanced and developing missile capabilities, including hypersonic weapons technology, as well as directed energy weapons.
- Energy Storage and Batteries (OA-BES-24-01): Includes high-capacity batteries, with a particular focus on lithium batteries.
- Castings and Forgings (OA-CF-24-01): Includes metals or composites developed into key parts and manufacturing tools through high-intensity processes.
- Strategic and Critical Materials (OA-SCM-24-01): Includes those that support military and essential civilian industry; and are not found or produced in the United States in quantities to meet the Nation's needs.
- Microelectronics (OA-MIC-24-01): Includes State-of-the-Practice and legacy microelectronics, as well as State-of-the-Art microelectronics.
- Workforce Development (OA-WFD-24-01): Includes trade skills through doctoral-level engineering skills.
- Additional AOIs that will be accepted:
 - Emerging Manufacturing Technology (OA-EMT-24-01)
 - Small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) (OA-UAS-24-01)
 - Submarine Industrial Base (OA-SUB-24-01)
 - Space Industrial Base (OA-SPC-24-01)

Anticipated Funding: The amount of funding made available will depend on the proposed solutions received and the availability of Government funding. All awards are subject to negotiations.

Anticipated Security Level: Unclassified, however Controlled Technical Information and/or Controlled Unclassified Information may be required.

Estimated Period of Performance: Up to 5 years

Anticipated Data Rights: Government Purpose Rights (as appropriate for any data developed using government funding)

Technical POC(s): Will be provided based on the technical areas upon selection for award.