**RWP-MIC-24-01**

**Questions and Answers**

Award**:**

1. When are the anticipated phase 2 notifications most likely to be announced? How much time will there be between the phase 2 notification and the phase 2 response date? After submission of the phase 2 response – how long before an anticipated award?

The Government anticipates making awards prior to the end of Fiscal Year 24 (FY24). Specific timelines per phase are not available.

2. Since the deadline for questions is April 10, could you please provide at least 14 days after all questions are answered for the final submission deadline?

The deadline is extended to May 6, 2024 at 5:00pm ET.

3. Please clarify/verify that this program is to fund activities supporting domestic production capabilities and not fund companies with activities outside of the US?

DIBC members and prospective members are encouraged to respond. Membership in DIBC is limited to industry partners in the US, Canada, UK, Australia.

4. Is cost sharing required? If so - what breakout (what percentage)?  If not required, but desired, will cost sharing proposals be given a higher rating?

Cost sharing is not required. Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria outline in Section 4.1 Evaluation of the RWP.

5. Will those proposals that meet the requirements but are not selected immediately for funding be informed that they are in 'the basket' and will they be provided the recommendation for funding?

Please refer to Section 4.3 Feedback in the RWP. All feedback regarding a submission will be released in BIDS upon completion of the evaluation process.

6. Has there been a weighting for the funding distribution across the four technical areas?

Funding distribution is not currently weighted across the current technical areas.

7. Is there a specific design that we are required to review and have a process to build? What is the expected yield?

There is no specified design or expected yield.

8. What is higher priority reliability, cost, quality?

The evaluation criteria are stated in section 4.1 of the RWP. The evaluation criteria are not weighted or ranked.

General Questions:

9. In the document, PROBLEM STATEMENT - RWP-MIC-24-01, under Desired Objective on page 1, first bullet, it states: MIC-24-001: “*domestic complex printed circuit board (High Density Interconnect [HDI] and/or organic Integrated Circuit (IC) substrate) construction and production capability and capacity*.” But further on that page, it states: “*Domestic complex printed circuit board construction and production capability and capacity (MIC-24-001): Prototype the development of domestic sources for printed board and/or organic IC substrates that have approximately ≤75 μm microvias, ≤50 μm traces and spaces, and ≤50 μm dielectric thickness and expand domestic capability and capacity to produce such products. This can include investments in prototyping various semi-additive process capabilities and capacity, building on those delivered by traditional subtractive processes*”. **Please confirm that HDI projects are acceptable as the primary goal of a proposed project, as the attributes represented in the description shown above actually reflects uHDI, not HDI.**

Projects submitted under the Technical Topic Areas may include either HDI or UHDI technologies. The metrics are approximate targets.

10. In the white paper template - Section 2, it asks for "participants", and states "Provide a brief overview of the project team, and their roles and responsibilities for the project."  But the table reflects organizations. Please verify that this is where we should present our key personnel.

Section 2.1 is intended to capture details about the prime and subcontractor organizations that will be supporting the project. All key personnel should be listed.

11. May companies create a cover page with graphics?

Section 3.1 Enhanced White Paper states, "Proposers shall complete the EWP template as instructed in Attachment 2." Graphics are permissible but shall not take away from, replace, or minimize the information that is required on the cover page template included in Attachment 2.

12. Please confirm that the table of contents is outside page count

Per Attachment 2, MIC-24-01 EWP Template, “Max 15 pages excluding cover page. Data Rights Appendix is excluded from page count.” If a table of contents is provided, it is included in the page count.

13. Please consider allowing 5 pages of graphics outside of page count to illustrate processes.

Per Attachment 2, MIC-24-01 EWP Template, “Max 15 pages excluding cover page. Data Rights Appendix is excluded from page count.” Additional pages for graphics will not be considered.

14. Please confirm that an acronym table is outside of page count.

Per Attachment 2, MIC-24-01 EWP Template, “Max 15 pages excluding cover page. Data Rights Appendix is excluded from page count.” If an acronym table is provided, it is included in the page count.

15. Please confirm that the ROM is outside of page count.

Per Attachment 2, MIC-24-01 EWP Template, “Max 15 pages excluding cover page. Data Rights Appendix is excluded from page count.” Section 3.0 ROM in Attachment 2 is included in page count.

16. Since 1.7 and 1.8 are outside of page count – can we move that to the appendix?

See Section 1.7 Data Rights to clarify. Section 1.8 Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence is included in the page count.

Submissions:

17. How would we structure a proposal concept where it also includes the DoD labs for technical element 4 – characterization testing?  It is important to bring up the DoD organic industrial base as part of the effort.

DoD service labs can be subcontractors on submissions but cannot be a prime.

18. Industry generally cannot easily pay for DoD labs to engage, how would we account for this in a ROM or cost proposal?

White paper submittals must include a ROM which include cost estimates for all participants.

19. If companies propose under RWP-MIC-24-01 technical requirement area 1, can they also submit proposal(s) under one or more the other three requirement areas as applicable? If yes, can companies receive more than one award across the four competitions?

Companies are not limited to one technical topic area, one submission, or one award.

20. Throughout the RFP documents, projects are referred to, and addresses prototypes. Please confirm that a project need not result in a prototype, but rather can result in actual production items with increased capacity.

This RWP is for a Prototype Other Transaction agreement and should result in a prototype solution.