

Number	Question	Answer
1	Is the anticipated funding \$1.5M for each award, or the total across approx. 7 awards?	Per the problem statement, total funding over the next two years is anticipated to be approximately \$1.5 million. This is the total amount available for all awards, subject to government availability of funding.
2	Will this award fund only advanced market analytics and/or investment planning tasks, or will it also support technical R&D tasks needed to develop proof of concept technical capabilities?	Per the problem statement, "the objective of this requirement is to invest in several prototype projects across key strategic areas that deliver advanced market analytics and investment planning proofs of concept"
3	Is the design of the flexible production line intended for internal Department of Defense (DoD) operations, or is it meant for external suppliers and contractors?	Per the problem statement, models and prototypes for production line flexibility should ensure alignment with defense supply chain gaps identified in Executive Order 14017. This would include government-owned, contractor-operated production lines, as well as those wholly-owned and operated by external suppliers and contractors that align with defense supply chain gaps.
4	Is this challenge focused on 'flexibility' at the production line level, departmental level, facility level, campus level, or enterprise level (e.g., industrial base resilience)?	Per the problem statement, technical topic CC-24-003 is focused on the production line.
5	Can you define the scope of design, modeling, and prototyping required?	The government has defined the problem and is seeking white papers that address one or more of the technical topic areas. The level of design, modeling, and prototyping needed would be determined by the proposer submitting the white paper.
6	Do you envision sponsoring research/developmental or practical/implementable efforts?	The government is interested in white papers that address any of the technical topics described in the problem statement. This could include research, development, and/or implementation as appropriate.
7	Will the prototype/proof of concept be digital/virtual, or physical?	The government is interested in white papers that address any of the technical topics described in the problem statement. It is up to submitters to determine if their prototype solution is digital/virtual or physical, or a combination.
8	Regardless of level of abstraction, are facility and process infrastructure considerations within scope?	The government is interested in white papers that address any of the technical topics described in the problem statement. This could include facility and process infrastructure, as appropriate.
9	Could you provide a specific definition of what is meant by 'flexible' in the context of production lines?	Per the problem statement, a flexible production line is one that "can adapt to changing market demand signals and supply chain conditions."

10	Is 'flexible manufacturing production lines' intended to refer to specific types of lines such as assembly lines or mixed-model (high or low volume), or does it encompass a broader range of agile/flexible production facilities, or a combination of both?	The government is interested in white papers that address any of the technical topics described in the problem statement. This could include a wide range of flexible production facilities, including, but not limited to single and/or multiple production lines within a single facility or multiple production facilities.
11	Are solutions needed for specific types of production lines, such as production cells or final assembly lines, or for a wider variety of setups including job shops and MRO (e.g., fixed-position or work-bay areas)?	Each of the technical topics defines any specific focus or constraints. These could include any type of production line or facility, as appropriate.
12	Does the 'flexibility' requirement include disassembly, refurbishment, and reassembly of components?	Per the problem statement, a flexible production line is one that "can adapt to changing market demand signals and supply chain conditions." It is up to submitters to determine if their prototype solution would include disassembly, refurbishment, and reassembly, as appropriate.
13	What specific dimensions of 'flexibility' are you referring to (e.g., machine, mix, routing, physical infrastructure, material, people)?	Per the problem statement, a flexible production line is one that "can adapt to changing market demand signals and supply chain conditions." For the purposes of this problem statement, the government's definition of "flexibility" is not limited to specific dimensions.
14	Are you seeking conceptual frameworks, theoretical models, architectural frameworks, or physical production systems?	Per the problem statement, the government is seeking proofs of concept for each of the technical topics.
15	What level of fidelity is expected for modeling and prototyping?	The level of design, modeling, and prototyping solution would be determined by the proposer.
16	Does 'modern manufacturing tools and techniques' refer to those used during development or in physical prototypes of flexible manufacturing systems?	"Modern manufacturing tools and techniques," as used under technical topic CC-24-003, refers to those appropriate to delivering the production line flexibility defined within this technical topic.
17	Should the design of a 'flexible production line' be customized for a specific facility, or should it be a standardized design that can be adapted for deployment across multiple locations?	The government would be interested in proofs of concept that can be adapted for multiple locations; however, focusing on a specific facility is not outside of the scope of this requirement.
18	Should the 'flexible production lines' be capable of handling surge demands or rapid response situations, including, for example, the consideration of potential integration of temporary facilities?	Per the problem statement, a flexible production line is one that "can adapt to changing market demand signals and supply chain conditions." Inclusion of non-permanent infrastructure is not outside the scope of this requirement.

19	Should the production system design be inherently scalable, allowing for easy expansion or contraction based on production needs?	The problem statement describes multiple technical topic areas. Scalability should be addressed as appropriate, based on the details provided in the problem statement.
20	Is there an interest in modular or virtual production systems that can be reconfigured or expanded as demand changes?	Per the problem statement, under technical topic area CC-24-003, the government is interested in "a flexible production line that can adapt to changing market demand signals and supply chain conditions." The inclusion of modular or virtual productions system is not outside the scope of this requirement.
21	Are there expectations for using digital twin or simulation tools (e.g., discrete event simulation, finite capacity scheduling) to test, validate, or alternatively to support/enable the operation of a physical production line?	The government has not specified a requirement for a digital twin.
22	Are there specific sustainability goals or energy efficiency standards that the production system should meet?	Sustainability goals or energy efficiency standards should meet applicable EPA regulations or guidelines, and there are no unique requirements in the problem statement. Submitters should address these goals or standards to the extent they are relevant to your white paper.
23	How important is minimizing the environmental impact in the design and operation of the flexible production line?	Per the problem statement, a flexible production line is one that "can adapt to changing market demand signals and supply chain conditions." It is up to submitters to determine whether minimizing environmental impact is required to their prototype solution. Sustainability goals or energy efficiency standards should meet applicable EPA regulations or guidelines.
24	Are there specific macroergonomic or organizational effectiveness considerations that should be integrated into the design of the production line?	The problem statement describes multiple technical topic areas that include production lines. It is up to the submitter to determine what considerations to address in responding to the problem statement.
25	Regarding the solicitation itself, will we need to access to Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)? If we do, it is our understanding that we will need to get Joint Certification Program (DD2345) certification.	Per the problem statement, the anticipated security level is Unclassified, however, Controlled Technical Information and/or Controlled Unclassified Information may be required.
26	Is the contract going to be an OT, which requires >30% cost share if a traditional defense contractor is the lead organization?	Resulting awards will be under the DIBC OTA. To comply with 10 U.S.C. §4022 for Prototype OTs, a Traditional organization would need to provide cost share of at least one-third if they do not plan to incorporate significant nontraditional participation.