

Defense Industrial Base Consortium

Gallium Processing and Refinement

Request for Project Proposals

RPP-SCM-25-01

RPP Release Date: June 26, 2025

RPP Closes: July 03, 2025, at 5:00 PM (ET)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mission: The Manufacturing, Capability Expansion, and Investment Prioritization Directorate (MCEIP) is an organization within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)) dedicated to bolstering the U.S. Defense Industrial Base (DIB). MCEIP's mission is to incentivize the creation, expansion, and/or preservation of domestic industrial manufacturing capabilities and materials needed to meet national and homeland security requirements.

MCEIP leverages two complementary portfolios – Innovation Capability and Modernization (ICAM) and Defense Production Act Purchases (DPAP) – to achieve this goal. These portfolios provide flexible authorities to address vulnerabilities and strengthen the DIB.

1.1.1 Key Focus Areas:

- Establishing High-Priority Domestic Capabilities: MCEIP is actively seeking to establish robust domestic supply chains for new technologies and materials critical to national security. This includes identifying and mitigating risks associated with global supply chain dependencies.
- Reducing Reliance on Foreign Manufacturing: A core objective is to reduce the U.S.' reliance on foreign sources for essential defense-related materials and manufacturing. MCEIP aims to correct domestic shortfalls and build resilient supply chains within the U.S.
- Improving Readiness and Competitiveness: By investing in advanced manufacturing technologies, workforce development, and infrastructure improvements, MCEIP strives to enhance the readiness and competitiveness of the domestic industrial base.

1.1.2 Portfolio Overview:

- ICAM: This portfolio oversees the execution of Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) authorities. IBAS is used 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.
- DPAP: This 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.

1.1.2.1 Portfolio Alignment: Proposed project solutions must clearly demonstrate alignment with the IBAS and/or DPAP authorities.

1.1.2.1.1 Proposed project solution considered for IBAS funding must demonstrate one or more of the following priorities:

- 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.

1.1.2.1.2 Proposed project solutions considered for DPAP funding must demonstrate all the following:

- 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.

1.2 Executive Summary: The Defense Industrial Base Consortium (DIBC) Other Transaction (OT) agreement was established to directly enhance MCEIP's mission. The DIBC was awarded and is administered by the Washington Headquarters Services, Acquisition Directorate (WHS/AD). This agreement is between WHS/AD and Advanced Technology International (ATI), the DIBC Consortium Management Organization (CMO). Project Agreements (PAs) awarded under the DIBC aim to provide access to technologies typically reserved for commercial development, address defense supply chain issues, develop the industrial workforce, sustain critical production, commercialize research and development efforts, and rapidly scale emerging technologies to build a robust, resilient defense industrial base.

1.3 Scope: In support of the MCEIP's Area of Interest titled Gallium mining and refinement, the WHS/AD anticipates entering into a Research PA, utilizing the authorities provided in 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) section (§) 4021 or a Prototype PA, utilizing the authorities provided in 10 U.S.C. § 4022 with the CMO, who will then enter into a project sub-agreement (PSA) with the selected consortium member(s). Neither the PA nor PSA are subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) or any of its Supplements.

2.0 AREA OF INTEREST

The MCEIP Directorate is seeking solutions for the advancement of the processing and refining capabilities for the critical element, gallium. This critical element is primarily used in semiconductor and other microelectronic applications. Currently, the U.S. is totally reliant on imports of this critical element for consumption and production of products.

Critical material is defined in 30 U.S.C. § 1606 (a)(2) and is further determined by the Secretaries of Energy and Interior through the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Gallium is one of fifty critical minerals in the 2022 USGS Critical Minerals list and is also included in the 2023 DOE list of critical materials. The inclusion of certain critical minerals as critical materials is intended to signal its criticality assessment in accordance with the following:

- (i) are essential to the economic or national security of the United States;
- (ii) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption (including restrictions associated with foreign political risk, abrupt demand growth, military conflict, violent unrest, anti-competitive or protectionist behaviors, and other risks throughout the supply chain); and
- (iii) serve an essential function in the manufacturing of a product (including energy technology-, defense-, currency-, agriculture-, consumer electronics-, and health care-related applications), the absence of which would have significant consequences for the economic or national security of the United States.

Gallium combines with other elements to form a set of highly useful compound semiconductors. Gallium semiconductors have specific properties (e.g., high electron mobility) that make them uniquely suited for certain applications. Gallium semiconductor applications include:

- Radio frequency electronics (e.g., radio frequency power amplifiers for mobile handsets and wireless area networks);
- Power electronics (e.g., direct current to direct current [DC–DC] converters, onboard chargers, and traction inverters in electric vehicles);

- Photonics (e.g., vertical-cavity surface-emitting lasers for proximity sensors and edge-emitting lasers for automotive light detection and ranging [lidar] applications);
- Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) for lighting and displays; and
- High-efficiency solar cells, mainly in space solar photovoltaic (PV) cells.

Specific defense applications include:

- Radar;
- Electronic warfare and improvised explosive devices jammers;
- Electronic countermeasures; and
- Numerous radio and communication platforms.

The proposed project solution shall establish manufacturing capability to scale up production of 4N primary gallium at a minimum of 40-50 metric tons (MT) per year having a 99.99% purity.

Optional 6N Refinement Capability:

Refinement to 6N gallium having a 99.9999% purity production at a minimum of 20-30 MT per year for wafer and semiconductor markets.

All submissions must respond to the base 4N purity capability and, if interested, a separate quad chart for the optional 6N purity capability.

2.1 Special Considerations:

- Anticipated Security Level: Unclassified, however, Controlled Technical Information and/or Controlled Unclassified Information may be required.
- Anticipated Data Rights: Government Purpose Rights, as appropriate for any data developed using Government funding.
- Complete an Environmental Assessment Questionnaire (Attachment 4).
- Disclose foreign investment or control.
- Resource sharing for any proposed project.

3.0 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Compliance: Consortium Member(s) interested in submitting a proposed project solution in response to this RPP must read the RPP in its entirety and make sure their submission that meets all of the requirements detailed herein.

3.2 Submission Deadline: Consortium Member(s) shall submit their proposed project solutions by the following due date and time: July 3, 2025, at 5:00 PM (Eastern). Proposed project solution received after the deadline may not be reviewed or considered.

3.2.1 The Government may close the RPP at any time. After the RPP is closed, proposed project solutions will not be accepted and will not be considered.

3.3 Electronic Submission: This RPP is only available electronically on the DIBC's Opportunities website located at: <https://www.dibconsortium.org/solicitations/>.

3.3.1 All proposed project solutions shall be submitted electronically using ATI's Business Information Data System (BIDS) located at: <https://submissions2.ati.org/ATI2/Portal.nsf/Start?ReadForm>. Submissions cannot be updated (or files replaced) once submitted. Consortium Member(s) are responsible for ensuring timely electronic submission of their responses, recognizing that transmission delays and errors may occur. The Government and ATI assume no responsibility for delays in a Consortium Member's electronic submission. Neither the Government nor ATI is liable for delays in submission or for responses not received due to technical, systemic, or server issues. Responses must be submitted through BIDS and will not be accepted via email.

3.3.1.1 BIDS registration and Quick Card information is available on the DIBC website under the frequently asked solicitation questions located at: <https://www.dibconsortium.org/solicitations/>.

3.3.2 Government Feedback on Proposed Project Solutions: The Government appreciates all Consortium Member(s) that participate in the competitive process. Consortium Member(s) are advised that the Government may not provide Consortium Member(s) with feedback other than the "Met" / "Not Met" rating. By submitting a response to this RPP, the Consortium Member acknowledges that it may not receive feedback on its submission(s).

3.3.3. The Government will not reimburse Consortium Member(s) for any costs associated with their proposed project solution for either phase of this RPP process.

3.4 Controlled Unclassified Information: Any submissions that are anticipated to include controlled unclassified information (CUI) are subject to security requirements in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-171r2, "Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Systems and Organizations." Submissions and supporting documents shall not include classified material.

3.5 Procurement Integrity Act (PIA): All proposed project solutions submissions shall be treated as "source selection information" as defined by 41 U.S.C. § 2101(7), and contents shall be disclosed only in accordance with 41 U.S.C. § 2102.

3.6 Use of Non-Government Advisors: Consortium Member(s) are advised that information submitted in response to the RPP may be released to both Government and supporting contractor personnel during the evaluation process. Handling of this information includes both administrative tasks and providing assistance with technical evaluations. Non-Government advisors will have signed non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with the Government. Any response submitted under this RPP shall constitute a grant of authority by the submitting Consortium Member to the Government allowing the use of non-Government advisors to participate in evaluations of all phases of the RPP process. Restrictive notices notwithstanding, during the evaluation process, proposed project solutions may be handled by support contractors for administrative purposes and to assist with technical evaluation. All Government support contractors performing this role are bound by appropriate NDAs.

3.7 Submission Instructions: All proposed project solutions shall comply with the following instructions:

- All content is written in English with type 11-point font. Smaller font may be used for figures, tables, and charts.
- Hyperlinks are prohibited.
- Files shall not exceed 5MB.

- All files shall be print-capable and unencrypted and able to open without a password.
- Files shall be in Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel or Adobe PDF, with appropriate extensions (Apple users must convert files accordingly).
- Appropriate files extensions are as follows:
 - Portable Document Files (Adobe Acrobat): .PDF
 - Microsoft PowerPoint: .ppt / .pptx
 - Microsoft Word: .docx
 - Microsoft Excel: .xlsx

3.7.1 Proposed Project Solutions shall be submitted as separate files as indicated in the below chart:

Phase	File	Page Limit	File Type
1	Quad Chart (Attachment 1) <i>Mandatory template must be used</i>	2	MS PPT or PDF
2	Cover Page (Attachment 2) <i>Mandatory template must be used</i>	2	MS Word or PDF
2	Project Execution Plan (Attachment 3) <i>Mandatory template must be used</i>	10	MS Word
2	Affirmation of Business Status Certification (Attachment 4) <i>Mandatory template must be used</i>	N/A	MS Word or PDF
2	Price Information Documentation	N/A	MS Word, MS Excel, and/or PDF
2	Environmental Assessment Questionnaire (Attachment 5) <i>Mandatory template must be used</i>	N/A	MS Word

3.7.2 Please make sure all proposed project solution documentation containing data that is not to be disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the Government except for evaluation purposes shall include the following sentences within the document: *“This proposal includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed -- in whole or in part -- for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, an agreement is awarded to this Consortium Member as a result of -- or in connection with -- the submission of this data, the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent agreed upon by both parties in the resulting agreement. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets [insert numbers or other identification of sheets]”*

3.7.2.1 Each restricted data sheet should be marked as follows: *“Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal.”*

3.8 Proposed Project Solution Documentation:

3.8.1 Phase 1: Quad Chart: Interested Consortium Members shall complete the attached Quad Chart template to submit a concise outline of their proposed project solution. (Reference document: Attachment 1 – Quad Chart)

3.8.2 Phase 2: Consortium Member(s) invited to participate in Phase 2 will be required to submit a cover page, project execution plan (PEP), affirmation of business status certification (ABSC), price justification documentation, and pitch.

3.8.2.1 Cover Page: Consortium Members invited to participate in Phase 2 shall submit a cover page that provides the information identified below. (Reference document: Attachment 2 – Cover Page)

- *Consortium Member Information:* Consortium Member Name, Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, Consortium Member Point of Contact Name, E-Mail Address, Phone, and Address, and any team members (subcontractors).
- *Government Support Required:* Identify the support, if any, the Consortium Member requests of the Government, such as facilities, equipment, data, and information or materials.
- *Intellectual Property:* Provide a good faith representation you either own or possess appropriate licensing rights to all other intellectual property that will be utilized under your proposed project solution. Additionally, the Consortium Member shall provide a short summary for each item asserted with less than Government purpose rights that describes the nature of the restriction and the intended use of the intellectual property in the conduct of the proposed project solution.
- *Statutory Requirements:* The proposed project solution is intended to be executed as an OT Agreement under the authority provided for in 10 U.S.C. § 4022 which allows the Department of Defense to carry out certain prototype projects. Provide an explanation as to how the proposed project solution meets the following requirements of 10 U.S.C. § 4022:
 - (a) The proposed project solution is directly relevant to enhancing the mission effectiveness of personnel of the Department of Defense or improving platforms, systems, components, or materials proposed to be acquired or developed by the Department of Defense, or to improvement of platforms, systems, components, or materials in use by the armed forces [Explain how and what the proposed project solution will be directly relevant to.] (Note: The DoD OT Guide imparts that directly relevant “focuses on the agency determination of the direct relationship of the prototype project (as opposed to a tangential association) with the DoD mission.)
 - (b) The proposed project solution will meet the definition of a prototype project as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 4022(e)(5), [review definition and insert supporting information that explains how the proposed project solution meets the definition.]
 - (c) The proposed project solution will meet the requirements of 10 U.S.C. § 4022(a)(1) by [review section and insert supporting information that explains how the proposed project solution meets the requirement of that section and which specific requirement it meets.]
 - (d) The proposed project solution will meet the requirements of 10 U.S.C. § 4022(d). The authority of 10 U.S.C. § 4022(d)(1) requires the proposed project solution meet at least one of the following conditions:
 - There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor (NDC) or one nonprofit research institution (NRI) participating to a significant extent in the prototype project.
 - All significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses (including small businesses participating in a program described under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 638)) or NDCs.

- At least one third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by sources other than the Federal Government.
- The senior procurement executive for the agency determines in writing that exceptional circumstances justify the use of a transaction that provides for innovative business arrangements or structures that would not be feasible or appropriate under a contract or would provide an opportunity to expand the defense supply base in a manner that would not be practical or feasible under a contract.

[Insert supporting information that explains which option and how the resulting project will meet that requirement.]

Additionally, it is anticipated the proposed project solution OR will not include costs that were incurred before the date on which the award will become effective, and therefore, **meets OR does not meet** the requirements of 10 U.S.C. § 4022(d)(2). [If it is anticipated the prototype project will not meet the requirements, provide an explanation as to why, and explain all costs incurred before the anticipated award date with justification for them.]

- (e) INCLUDE IF GREATER THAN \$100M BUT NOT GREATER THAN \$500M, OTHERWISE DELETE: Use of the authority identified in 10 U.S.C. § 4022(a)(2)(A) is essential to promoting the success of the prototype. [Explain why it is essential to use the authority in excess of \$100M for this prototype and how this threshold is essential to promoting the success of the proposed project solution.]

OR

INCLUDE IF GREATER THAN \$500M, OTHERWISE DELETE: Use of the authority identified in 10 U.S.C. § 4022(a)(2)(B) is essential to meet critical national security objectives. [Explain why it is essential to use the authority in excess of \$500M and how the prototype at this threshold is essential to meeting critical national security objectives.]

3.8.2.2 Project Execution Plan: Consortium Members invited to participate in Phase 2 shall complete the attached PEP template to describe the project solution tasks to be completed, deliverables, payment milestones, data rights assertions, security requirements, successful completion criteria, etc. (Reference document: Attachment 3 – PEP)

- Background: Provide an abstract of the customer’s mission and the Area of Interest.
- Scope: Provide a brief synopsis of the proposed project solution how it will meet the Area of Interest.
- Technical Requirements: Describe the detailed technical requirements associated with the proposed project solution and the tasks that shall be completed by the Consortium Member to meet the requirements. (This information should not be written in first person by the Consortium Member.) This should include detailed information about what will be accomplished, how it will be accomplished, if there are any specific deliverables and milestones payments associated with the task, specific performance location details, associated travel, needs from the government, how long the task will take from start to finish, etc. Identified deliverables should also include the tangible items (reports, software licenses, hardware components, etc.) that will be delivered in the completion of the specific task. Also describe how and when the deliverables are to be delivered.
- Milestone Payment Schedule: The Consortium Member shall propose the total price the Government will pay to complete the proposed project solution. A milestone payment schedule shall be included which clearly indicates the completion of the priced tasks and/or priced deliverables that are required to meet each of the milestones for the proposed project solution.
- Data Rights Assertions: Document all data rights on Non-commercial Technical Data or Computer Software it is asserting for the propped solution.

- Security Requirements: Provide the highest classification necessary for the completion of the proposed project solution.
- Successful Completion Criteria: Describe the minimum acceptable standards for successful completion of the proposed project solution. Note: Successful completion may occur prior to the conclusion of the overall project to allow the Government to transition any aspect of the project determined to provide utility into production while other aspects of the project have yet to be completed.

3.8.2.3 Affirmation of Business Status Certification: Consortium Members invited to participate in Phase 2 shall include a signed copy of the attached Affirmation of Business Status Certification template for itself and every entity (separate member, company or individual resource) that is participating to a significant extent. (Reference document: Attachment 4 – ABSC)

3.8.2.4 Price Information: Consortium Members invited to participate in Phase 2 shall submit price justification documentation that provides the information necessary for the Government to make a fair and reasonable determination for the proposed project solution’s price. The documentation should propose the total price the Government will pay to complete the proposed project solution. The milestone payment schedule included in the PEP should clearly indicate the completion of the priced tasks and/or priced deliverables that are required to meet each of the milestones. It is the Government’s intent that the majority of prototype agreements will be executed as fixed-price agreements, with the milestone schedule serving as the payment schedule for any subsequent award. Other award types can be requested and negotiated.

3.8.2.4.1 Consortium Members shall provide a pricing spreadsheet and price justification documentation, which includes any other data or supporting information that may be necessary for the Government to make a fair and reasonable price determination. Other data or supporting information that may be necessary include commercial price catalog for hardware or software, labor categories and labor rates, indirect rates, DCAA approved rates documentation, other direct costs (e.g. supplies and material cost quotes), proposed travel, etc. as necessary to determine the associated costs – please see the sample spreadsheet template provided below. The price justification shall provide the Government with a clear understanding of how the proposed labor, hardware or software, materials, equipment, other direct costs, travel, etc. directly support the proposed project solution and why they are essential to the success of the proposed project solution.

Direct Labor	Rate	Hours	Total Cost
Labor Category	\$		\$
Labor Category	\$		\$
Labor Category	\$		\$
Labor Category	\$		\$
Labor Category	\$		\$
Direct Labor Total			\$
Fringe Benefits		%	\$
Overhead		%	\$
Total Labor			\$
Direct Materials			\$
Travel			\$
Subcontractor			\$
Other Direct Costs			\$
Subtotal			

G&A	%	\$
Cost		\$
Fee or Profit	%	\$
Total Cost		\$

3.8.2.4.2 Use of 10 U.S.C. § 4022 prototype authority for this proposed project solution is contingent on either the significant participation of at least one NDC or NRI, complete participation by a small business, or resource contribution, of at least one-third, by any Consortium Member’s other than the aforementioned. For resource contribution, the Consortium Member shall propose its full resource contribution in a separate spreadsheet, tying each resource contribution to the Milestone Payment Schedule in the PEP and provide a summary in the format below.

Base Period:		
Base Government Contribution	\$0.00	%
Base Consortium Member Contribution	\$0.00	%
Base Total	\$0.00	100%
Option Period:		
Option Government Contribution	\$0.00	%
Option Consortium Member Contribution	\$0.00	%
Option Total	\$0.00	100%
Grand Total	\$0.00	

3.8.2.4.3 Failure to provide the necessary price justification documentation may prohibit the Government from being able to award the proposed project solution.

4.0 PROJECT SOLUTION REVIEW

4.1 Proposed project solution Evaluation Process (Structured Competitive Approach): The Government will employ a two-phased process to evaluate proposed project solutions submitted in response to this RPP. This process is designed to identify innovative solutions that meet the Government's needs while leveraging the flexibility of OT authorities. The Government reserves the right to select, negotiate with, and select a proposed project solution for award to any, all, or none of the respondents.

4.1.1 Phase 1: Interested Consortium Members are encouraged to submit a concise Quad Chart outlining their proposed project solution. The Government will review Phase 1 submissions against the following criteria:

- (1) Relevance to the Area of Interest.
- (2) Merit and feasibility to the Area of Interest.
- (3) Reasonableness of the proposed schedule.

4.1.1.1 Phase 1 Rating: Each submission shall receive a rating of either “Met” or “Not Met” as defined in the following table:

Rating	Description
Met	The proposed project solution is responsive to the Area of Interest and meets all of the evaluation criteria. The project is eligible to progress to the next phase if the Government has a need for the proposed project solution and funding becomes available.
Not Met	The proposed project solution is not responsive to the Area of Interest and/or does not meet one or more of the evaluation criteria. The project is not eligible to progress to the next phase.

4.1.1.2 If a Phase 1 submission is determined not to meet one of the criteria above, it will not be evaluated for the remaining Phase 1 criteria and will be declined for further consideration of an award. The Government may, at its sole discretion, decline further consideration of a proposed project solution if it:

- Does not adequately address the objectives of the Area of Interest.
- Presents a technically unsound or infeasible approach.
- Proposes an unrealistic schedule.
- Is deemed not to be of interest to the Government.

4.1.2 Phase 2: Based on the results of Phase 1, selected Consortium Member(s) will be invited to participate in Phase 2. This phase includes a cover page, project execution plan (PEP), affirmation of business status certification (ABSC), pricing spreadsheet and price justification documentation, and including a "pitch" session (in-person or virtual) where respondents will present their proposed project solution in detail and engage in a dialogue with the Government. All Phase 2 documentation is required to be submitted prior to the pitch session; dates will be provided in the Phase 2 notification, if selected. The purpose of this phase is to gain a deeper understanding of the proposed project solution, address any questions identified during the Government’s review of the PEP, assess the respondent's capabilities, focusing on the overall proposed project solution, price reasonableness, and alignment with the Government's objectives.

4.1.2.1 The Government will review Phase 2 against the following criteria:

- (1) Relevance to the Area of Interest.
- (2) Merit and feasibility to the Area of Interest.
- (3) Reasonableness of the proposed schedule.
- (4) Feasibility and/or adequacy of the proposed project cost.
 - a. Note: If value is over \$100M but not \$500M use the following: “(4) Feasibility and/or adequacy of the proposed project cost, and use of the authority is essential to promoting the success of the prototype project.”
OR
 If value is over \$500M use the following: “(4) Feasibility and/or adequacy of the proposed project cost, and use of the authority is essential to meet critical national security objectives.”
- (5) Demonstration that the proposed project solution meets the definition of a research project as defined in 2 C.F.R. § 1108.70 for Basic research, § 1108.45 for Applied research, and § 1108.35 for Advanced research. This should be clearly articulated by the respondent.
OR
 Demonstration that the proposed project solution meets the definition of a prototype project as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 4022(e)(5). This should be clearly articulated by the respondent.
- (6) Potential impacts of the proposed data rights assertions.

4.1.2.1.1 If a Phase 2 submission is determined not to meet one of the criteria above, it will not be evaluated for the remaining Phase 2 criteria and will be declined for further consideration of an award. The Government may, at its sole discretion, decline further consideration of a proposed project solution if it:

- Does not adequately address the objectives of the Area of Interest.
- Presents a technically unsound or infeasible approach.
- Proposes an unrealistic schedule.
- Proposes an unreasonable project cost.
- Does not meet the definition of a research or prototype project as applicable to the proposed project solution.
- Presents unacceptable data rights risks on the Government's ability to utilize and share the resulting technology.
- Is deemed not to be of interest to the Government.

5.0 BASIS FOR AWARDING

5.1 The Government will review the proposed project solutions using the criteria stated above for Phase 1 and Phase 2, focusing on the overall project solution, price reasonableness, and alignment with the Government's objectives.

5.2 During the “pitch” session, the Government may enter directly into negotiations with the Consortium Member with the intent to make a PA award. Negotiations may cover all aspects of the proposed project solution, including technical approach, price, terms and conditions, the PEP, data rights, and business status. The resulting PA will be based on the negotiated terms and conditions and will reflect the best interests of the Government.

5.3 All Phase 1 and Phase 2 proposed project solutions submissions shall be considered valid for 36-months unless explicitly stated otherwise by the Consortium Member. Consortium Members that wish to establish a different validity period, shall ensure their proposed project solutions are valid for a minimum of 24-months.

5.3.1 Phase 1 submissions rated as “Met” will be placed in “the basket” for a minimum of 36-months and are eligible to receive an invite to participate in Phase 2 during that time. Quad Chart submissions rated as “Not Met” will not be placed in the basket and will not be eligible for award.

5.3.2 Phase 2 submissions that meet all the criteria identified above for Phase 2, but the Government determines they will not pursue an award at that time will also be placed in “the basket” for a minimum of 36-months and are eligible to receive an award during that time.

5.3.3 Proposed project solutions in “the basket” may be made available to other Government agencies for review and consideration for a future award. The proposed project solution will be available with access restricted to Government Only.

5.4 Important Considerations:

- **Flexibility:** The Government retains maximum flexibility throughout this process. The Government may modify the evaluation criteria, request additional information, or terminate the process at any time.

- Broad Discretion: The Government has broad discretion in selecting, negotiating with, and awarding agreements. The Government's decision is final and not subject to appeal.
- No Guarantee of Award: Participation in this process does not guarantee that the Consortium Member will be awarded an agreement.
- Best Value: The Government will make award decisions based on all relevant factors, including technical merit, cost, schedule, and the potential benefits to the Government.

5.5 Communications: The Government intends award without additional communications. However, should the Government require additional information and/or wish to negotiate terms, pricing, etc., the Government intends to communicate directly with Consortium Member(s). Communications may be held in-person or via virtual meeting platforms (e.g. MS Teams, video conference, etc.) and the CMO will be present for all discussions. Consortium Member(s) should be prepared to discuss their solutions in detail and have a representative for the Consortium Member with signing authority present at all meetings. *Only an Agreements Officer has the authority to enter into, or modify, a binding Agreement on behalf of the Government.*

6.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1 The Consortium Member shall be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov/> in order to receive an award and maintain an active SAM registration for the life of the PSA. The representations and certifications made by the Consortium Member, including those completed electronically via the SAM shall be incorporated by reference into any resulting PSA that is awarded from this RPP.

6.2 Responsibility Determination: Consortium Members must be determined responsible by the Agreements Officer and must not be suspended or debarred from award by the Federal Government nor be prohibited by Presidential Executive Order and/or law from receiving award.

7.0 FOLLOW-ON PRODUCTION

7.1 In accordance with 10 U.S.C. §4022(f), and upon a determination that the prototype project for this transaction has been *successfully completed*, in part or in whole, this competitively awarded prototype OT agreement may result in the award of a follow-on production transaction without the use of competitive procedures. Please note a follow-on production transaction will constitute a separate negotiation and award to ensure the Consortium Member and Government incorporate the outcomes which were ‘successfully completed’.

7.2 Successfully Completed: In accordance with DoD Policy the following definition of successfully completed will be incorporated into the OT agreement and specified in the PEP: *A transaction for a prototype project is complete upon the written determination of the appropriate approving official for the matter in question that efforts conducted under a Prototype OT: (1) met the key technical goals of a project; (2) satisfied success metrics incorporated into the Prototype OT; or (3) accomplished a particularly favorable or unexpected result that justifies the transition to production. Furthermore, successful completion can occur prior to the conclusion of a prototype project to allow the Government to transition any aspect of the prototype project determined to provide utility into production while other aspects of the prototype project have yet to be completed. Any Prototype OT shall contain a provision that sets forth the conditions under which that prototype agreement shall be successfully completed.*

8.0 MANDATORY GOVERNMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

8.1 As noted above, this RPP and the resulting PA and PSA are not governed by the FAR or any of its Supplements, and the Government strives to provide flexibility in the use of commercial terms and conditions. However, there are a number of non-negotiable terms and conditions that are based on law, process limitations, or other reasons. These will be specifically annotated in the DIBC Member Base Agreement terms and conditions accompanying this RPP. Taking exception to any of the terms and conditions annotated as mandatory may jeopardize the Government's ability to award an agreement.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 – Quad Chart Template
- Attachment 2 – Cover Page Template
- Attachment 3 – Project Execution Plan Template
- Attachment 4 – Affirmation of Business Status Certification
- Attachment 5 – Environmental Assessment Questionnaire
- Attachment 6 – DIBC Base Agreement