

Defense Industrial Base Consortium

**Domestic Production for Military-Critical Cylindrical Cells
Request for Project Proposals**

RPP-BES-26-01

RPP Release Date: June 22, 2026

Questions Due Date: June 29, 2026 12:00 PM ET

Phase I Submission Due Date: July 17, 2026 12:00 PM ET

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mission: Industrial Base Policy (IBP) is an organization within the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSW(A&S)) dedicated to bolstering the U.S. Defense Industrial Base (DIB). Part of IBP'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.

The IBP 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: IBP 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. IBP 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, IBP 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 solutions 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 IBP'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 IBP's Area of Interest (AOI) titled Domestic Processing Capabilities of Critical Minerals and Materials, 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 Office of the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSW(A&S)), through the Industrial Base Policy (IBP) office, seeks innovative prototype solutions to strengthen the domestic supply chain for two distinct battery technologies: military-critical cylindrical lithium-ion (Li-ion) cells and Silver-Zinc (Ag-Zn) batteries.

AOI 1: Domestic Production of 18650/21700 Lithium-Ion Cells (Requirement ID: BES-RPP-BES-26-01-001)

This AOI seeks to establish an initial domestic prototype manufacturing line for 18650 and 21700 format Li-ion cells. The objective is to create a sustainable, commercially viable production capability that meets DoD performance requirements while minimizing reliance on Foreign Entities of Concern (FEOC). Successful solutions will demonstrate a credible plan to produce cells that meet the technical specifications outlined in the table below utilizing secure domestic supply chains.

Requirements for AOI 1 Lithium-Ion Cells:

Solutions for AOI 1 must address a plan to produce 18650 and/or 21700 cells that meet the following requirements.

- Technical Specifications
- Production Line and Commercial Viability
- Safety and Certification
- Supply Chain

The table outlines the minimum Threshold and desired Objective performance characteristics for the cells.

| <u>Technical Specifications</u> | <u>Threshold (Minimum)</u> | <u>Objective (Ideal)</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Energy Density (Wh/kg) | 21700: 270Wh/kg | 21700: 340Wh/kg | at standard conditions, room temp, ½ C rate |
| | 18650: 260 Wh/kg | 18650: 330 Wh/kg | |
| Energy Density (Wh/L) | 21700: 700 Wh/L | 21700: 850 Wh/L | N/A |
| | 18650: 680Wh/L | 18650: 780 Wh/L | |
| Discharge Rate Capability (cont./pulse) | 21700: 3C / 5C | 21700: 5C/10 C | @20°C (duty cycle added) |
| | 18650: 1.5C / 5C | 18650: 3C/10 C | |
| Cycle life | 300 | 1000 | ½ C charge, 1 C discharge for energy design to 80% BOL |
| Storage Temperature (°C) | -30-55 | -40-70 | @100% SOC |
| Operating Temperature (°C) | Charge: 0-55* Discharge: -20-55 | Charge: -20-60* Discharge: -30-60 | *Charge rate below 0°C may be reduced |
| Capacity Delivered at -20°C | 50% | 80% | At 1 C |
| Annual Self-Discharge Rate | 5% | <3% | At 20°C |
| Zero Volt Capability | no capability | some capability | Refers to ability for 0V storage with limited or no lifetime/performance impacts |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|-------|----------------------|
| Cell Internal Resistance | 35mΩ | <25mΩ | At 20°C and 100% SOC |
|--------------------------|------|-------|----------------------|

Production Line & Commercial Viability Requirements:

- Production Capacity: Demonstrate a path to achieve a minimum annual production capacity of 50 MWh for 18650 or 21700 cells within two years after award, with an objective target of scaling to 3 GWh.
- Flexibility: Describe the line's ability to cross produce both 18650 and 21700 formats.
- Commercial Viability: Include a viable business plan demonstrating the commercial marketability of the battery cells to ensure long-term sustainability of the production line.
- Cell Price: Demonstrate a clear path to achieve cost parity with high-energy Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) cells by 2030.

Safety & Certification Requirements:

- Cell Level: Cells must be designed to be compliant with UL 1642 and comparable to modern COTS cells, incorporating safety features such as a cell vent and Current Interrupt Device (CID). The objective is to achieve safety performance better than high-energy COTS cells.
- Pack Level: Describe how cells will support integration into battery packs that meet UL 2054 requirements.
- Transportation: Cells must be designed to pass UN/DOT 38.3 transportation testing.
- MIL-STD-810 environmental testing for UAS batteries
- Demonstrated fail-safe features and thermal runaway prevention for battery packs

Supply Chain Security Requirements:

- Manufacturing Equipment:
 - Threshold: A minimum of 50% of manufacturing equipment (by value) must be secured from non-FEOC sources.
 - Objective: 100% of equipment to be from non-FEOC sources.
- Cell Components: Detail a plan to meet the following domestic content thresholds for electrode active materials:
 - Threshold: Meet domestic content requirements as defined by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
 - Objective: Achieve >95% of electrode active material within each cell, by value, from sources compliant with FEOC restrictions as defined in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Section 40207(a)(5).

AOI 2: Modernization of Silver-Zinc (Ag-Zn) Battery Production (Requirement ID: BES-RPP-BES-26-01-002)

This AOI seeks to modernize and automate a U.S.-based Silver-Zinc battery prototype production facility. The objective is to create a reliable, efficient, and high-yield production source capable of meeting the stringent quality and volume demands for batteries used in critical strategic systems. (such as the TRIDENT II and Minuteman III)

Requirement for AOI 2 Silver-Zinc modernization:

Solutions for AOI 2 must detail a credible, economically viable plan to modernize and automate a U.S. based Silver-Zinc battery production facility.

Technical and Modernization:

- **Throughput & Efficiency:** The proposed solution must demonstrate how automation and process controls will reduce battery activation and testing cycle times by at least 30% compared to current industry performance levels.
- **Process Yield:** The proposal must detail improvements to the zinc plate deposition and positive formation processes to increase the first-pass yield of defect-free plates to over 99%.
- **Advanced Manufacturing:** The proposal must include a plan to prototype and test an additively manufactured (3D-printed) battery case or internal support structure that achieves one of the following:
 - Reduces component weight by at least 15%, OR
 - Increases internal volume for active materials by 10%.
The new component must not compromise structural integrity under relevant shock and vibration standards.
- **Infrastructure & Workforce:** The proposal must outline a plan to modernize critical manufacturing infrastructure and establish a robust training program to cultivate a skilled workforce.

2.1 Special Considerations:

- **Anticipated Security Level:** Unclassified; however, Controlled Technical Information and/or Controlled Unclassified Information may be required.
- **Environmental Questionnaire:** All respondents will complete and submit an Environmental Questionnaire.
- **Disclose any/all Foreign Investment or Control.**
- **Resource sharing for any proposed project.**
- **Anticipated Data Rights:** Data rights may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. The Government seeks to protect commercial IP while ensuring DoW's ability to maintain supply chain visibility.
- **Supply chain information for suppliers and sub-contractors that includes supply chain data of components relevant to the completion of this prototype.**

Consortium Members shall:

- Collect, document, and report supply chain data including data from subcontractors

Data shall include the following:

1. Vendor name
2. Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) and/or Unique Entity Identification (UEID) code(s), if applicable
3. Part/product and descriptions to include as applicable:
 - a. Purchaser part number
 - b. Vendor part number
 - c. Description of if the part/ product is connected to a higher or lower-level part

3.0 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Compliance: Consortium Member(s) interested in submitting a proposed project solution in response to this RPP must ensure their submission meets all of the requirements detailed herein.

3.2 Submission Deadline: Submissions must be received no later than **12:00 PM (Eastern) on July 17, 2026**. Submissions received after the deadline may not be reviewed or considered.

3.2.1 The Government reserves the right to close the RPP at any time. Submissions received after the RPP closing date may not be reviewed or considered.

3.2.2 The Government may cancel the RPP at any time. If the RPP is canceled, submissions will not be evaluated and will not be retained for future consideration under this announcement.

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

3.3.1 All proposed project solutions shall be submitted electronically via the ATI Acquisition Management Portal (AMP): which is located at: [dibc-amp.ati.org](https://www.dibconsortium.org/solicitations/) 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.

3.3.1.1 AMP 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 The Government will not reimburse Consortium Member(s) for any costs associated with developing their submissions for either phase of this RPP process.

3.4 Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI): 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 submissions shall be treated as “source selection information” as defined by 41 U.S.C. § 2101(7), and contents shall only be disclosed 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 assisting with technical evaluations. Non-Government advisors and Government support personnel will have signed and be bound by 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.

3.7 Proposed Project Solutions shall be submitted as separate files as indicated in the table below:

| Phase | File | Page Limit | File Type |
|-------|---|------------|--|
| 1 | Quad Chart <i>Mandatory template must be used</i> | N/A | MS PPT or PDF |
| 2 | Cover Page <i>Mandatory template must be used</i> | 2 | MS Word or PDF |
| 2 | Project Execution Plan <i>Mandatory template must be used</i> | 15 | MS Word |
| 2 | Price Information <i>Mandatory Pricing Spreadsheet must be used; additional justification information may be provided via separate document, if needed</i> | N/A | MS Excel and MS Word or PDF, if needed |
| 2 | Affirmation of Business Status Certification <i>Mandatory template must be used</i> | N/A | MS Word or PDF |
| 2 | Environmental Assessment Questionnaire <i>Mandatory template must be used</i> | N/A | MS Word |
| 2 | End User License Agreement <i>Mandatory template must be used</i> | N/A | MS Word or PDF |
| 2 | Conflict of Interest Disclosure <i>Mandatory template must be used</i> | N/A | MS Word or PDF |

3.7.1 Additional Submission Instructions:

- Templates shall be used as provided with no changes to syntax format, except to convert to final PDF.
- All files shall be unencrypted, not password protected.
- Files shall not exceed 5MB

4.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

All submission documents shall reference the RPP number provided at the top of page 1. Consortium Member(s) may discuss ideas and details of the proposed solution with the Government during the proposal writing process.

The proposal submission shall include all documentation outlined in Section 4.1, Project Solution Documentation. If applicable, the submission shall also include documentation proving the Company's ownership of or possession of appropriate licensing rights to all patented inventions (or inventions for which a patent application has been filed) that will be utilized under the proposed solution. If a patent application has been filed for an invention that the Company's proposed project solution intends to utilize, but the application has not yet been made publicly available and contains proprietary information, it may provide only the patent number, inventor name(s), assignee names (if any), filing date, filing date of any related provisional application, and a summary of the patent title, together with either: (1) a representation that the Company owns the invention, or (2) proof of possession of appropriate licensing rights in the invention.

All submission 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 on the cover page: *"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 Company 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]"*

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."*

4.1 Project Solution Documentation: This RPP consists of a two-phase, competitive down-select process: Phase 1 – Quad Chart and Phase 2 – Proposal. Below are the document submission guidelines for each phase:

Phase 1, Document 1 - Quad Chart: Interested Consortium Members shall use the mandatory Quad Chart template to submit a concise outline of their proposed project solution (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_Quad Chart Template).

Phase 2 – Proposal: Consortium Member(s) invited to participate in Phase 2 shall submit the following documents:

Document 1 - Cover Page: shall submit a cover page that provides the information specified in the template. (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_A1_Cover Page Template)

Document 2 - Project Execution Plan (PEP): Consortium Members shall submit a PEP using the mandatory PEP template. The PEP shall describe the project solution tasks to be completed and shall address all sections identified in the template. 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. (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_A2_PEP)

Document 3 - Price Information: Consortium Members shall propose a total price the Government will pay for the proposed project solution using the mandatory pricing template (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_A3_Pricing Template).

Proposed pricing should align with the milestone payment schedule included in the PEP (Document 2), with the milestone schedule serving as the payment schedule for any subsequent award(s). While other award types can be proposed and negotiated, the Government anticipates fixed-price agreement(s).

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 price reasonableness determination. The price justification shall provide the Government with a clear understanding of how the proposed labor, materials, equipment, other direct costs, travel, etc. directly support the proposed project solution and why they are essential to the success of the project.

Proposed project solutions must be determined reasonably priced in order to be eligible for award. The Government reserves the right to request additional pricing information in order to make a price reasonableness determination. Failure to provide sufficient price justification documentation may prohibit the Government from awarding the proposed project solution.

Resource Contributions: Use of 10 U.S.C. § 4022 prototype authority for proposed project solutions is contingent on either the significant participation of at least one Nontraditional Defense Contractor (NDC) or Nonprofit Research Institution (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 | |

Document 4 - Affirmation of Business Status Certification (ABSC): Consortium Members shall submit a completed and signed copy of the provided Affirmation of Business Status Certification template for itself and every entity (separate company or individual resource) that is participating to a significant extent (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_A4_ABSC).

Document 5 - Environmental Assessment Questionnaire: Consortium Members invited to participate in Phase 2 shall complete the provided Environmental Assessment Questionnaire template (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_A5_EA Template). Additional supporting documentation may be requested. Proposed project solutions must demonstrate all of the following:

- Existing environmental notices at the location(s) of proposed activity, if they will be impacted by proposed activity, and if so, ongoing actions to comply with requirements.
- Describe plans for control and oversight of environmental compliance and pollution prevention, reasonable for the scale of the proposed activity.
- Enable scalable solutions that will support future compliance requirements, including responsible biproduct and waste management practices and incorporation of maximum achievable or best available control technology (MACT or BACT), and plan for obtaining and maintaining necessary environmental coordination and permits that may be needed to develop prototype to scale.

Document 6 – End User License Agreement: If applicable, the Company shall submit a proposed End User License Agreement (EULA). If a EULA is not applicable, insert [INTENTIONALLY DELETED] in the provided Attachment 3 document “[INTENTIONALLY DELETED]”. (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_A6_EULA).

Document 7 - Potential, Actual, or Perceived Conflicts of Interest Disclosure: Respondents shall provide the information required in the Potential, Actual, or Perceived Conflicts of Interest Disclosure document. (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_A7_COI)

5.0 BASIS FOR PROPOSED PROJECT SOLUTION EVALUATION

5.1 Phase 1 – Quad Chart: Timely Phase 1 submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- (1) Relevance to the AOI. *Submissions that are determined not relevant will be excluded from further consideration.*
- (2) Merit and feasibility to the AOI.

5.2 Phase 2 – Proposal: Based on the results of Phase 1 evaluations, select Consortium Member(s) may be invited to participate in Phase 2. Phase 2 submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- (1) Reasonableness / feasibility of technical approach
- (2) Reasonableness of the proposed schedule.
- (3) Reasonableness and/or adequacy of the proposed project cost.
 - a. If value is over \$100M but not \$500M use the following:
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
 - b. If value is over \$500M use the following:
Feasibility and/or adequacy of the proposed project cost, and use of the authority is essential to meet critical national security objectives.
- (4) Potential impacts of the proposed data rights assertions.
- (5) Demonstration that the proposed 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 Company.

6.0 BASIS FOR PROPOSED PROJECT SOLUTION AWARD

6.1 The Government will review the proposed project solution using the criteria stated above, focusing on the overall project solution, price reasonableness, and alignment with the Government's objectives. If the proposed project solution is determined not to meet one of the criteria above, it will not be evaluated for the remaining criteria and will be declined for further consideration of an award. The Government may, at its sole discretion, decline further consideration of the proposed project solution if it:

- Does not adequately address the objectives of the AOI.
- Presents a technically unsound or infeasible approach.
- Proposes an unrealistic schedule.
- Proposes an unreasonable project cost.
- Does not meet the definition of a prototype project.
- Presents unacceptable data rights risk the Government's ability to utilize and share the resulting technology.
- Is deemed not to be of interest to the Government.

Following evaluation of Phase 2 submissions, the Government may enter negotiations with the Consortium Member(s). 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 Government may communicate directly with Consortium Member(s) during negotiations. Communications may be held in-person or via virtual meeting platforms (e.g. MS Teams, video conference, etc.). 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.*

The Agreements Officer must make the following determinations in order for the proposed project solution to be eligible for award: 1) the proposed price must be determined reasonable and 2) the proposed project solution must meet the statutory requirements for use of prototype OT authority.

6.1.1 Phase 1 submissions that meet all evaluation criteria but are not selected for Phase 2 will be placed in “the basket” for a minimum of 24-months and are eligible to receive an invitation to participate in Phase 2 during that time.

6.1.2 Phase 2 submissions that meet all evaluation criteria but are not selected for award will also be placed in “the basket” for a minimum of 24-months and are eligible to receive an award during that time.

6.1.3 Submissions in “the basket” may be made available to other Government agencies for review and consideration for other award opportunities. The proposed solution(s) will be available with access restricted to Government Only.

6.1.4 Participation in this process does not guarantee that the Consortium Member will be awarded an agreement.

6.2 Government Feedback: The Government appreciates all Consortium Member(s) that participate in the competitive process. Consortium Member(s) are advised that the Government may not provide feedback on submissions during either phase of the RPP process. Companies will be notified if selected to move from Phase 1 to Phase 2. By submitting a response to this RPP, the Consortium Member acknowledges that it may not receive feedback on its submission(s).

6.3 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 Company 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.

7.0 OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 The Government will leverage various other award types, non-procurement transactions, financial tools and incentives, between Government and industry, particularly for technologies, materials, and supplies critical to national security and resilience. The following is an example:

- Direct Equity Stake – Government investment in company ownership shares
- Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE) – Convertible instrument providing the government the right to equity upon a future financing event
- Convertible Note – Debt instrument that converts into equity upon specified triggers or events
- Percent of Revenue (Royalty or Revenue Share) Agreement – Government participation in company or product line revenues, potentially including:
 - Convertible revenue share agreement
 - Royalty agreements with warrants
 - Equity-linked royalty structures
- Offtake Agreements at a Guaranteed Price Point – Government commitment to purchase a defined quantity of goods or services at an agreed price, potentially incorporating an equity-linked component

7.2 Additionally, potential use of other relevant authorities and associated mechanisms, including:

- Purchase commitments or guarantees – under DPA Title III, 50 U.S.C. §4533, purchase commitments create a guaranteed demand to reduce risks for industry to make their own investments
- Loans – under DPA Title III, 50 U.S.C. §4532, loans may be extended when private financing is beyond the risk of the commercial market and projected earnings following the loan are sufficient to cover repayment costs
- Loan guarantees – under DPA Title III, 50 U.S.C. §4531, loan guarantees may be extended when credit is not available to the loan applicant under reasonable terms and conditions sufficient to finance the activity, and the prospective earning power of the loan applicant and the character and value of the security pledged provide a reasonable assurance of loan repayment.

8.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 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 award from this RPP.

8.2 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.

8.3 Foreign Investment and/or Control: As stated in Section 2.0, Area of Interest, Consortium Members responding to the RPP shall disclose any/all Foreign Investment or Control, included any partnerships and/or teaming arrangements involving companies with foreign investment or control. The ability to obtain an award under this RPP may depend upon the ability of the Foreign-Owned business to obtain necessary clearances and approvals to obtain proscribed information.

9.0 FOLLOW-ON PRODUCTION

9.1 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’.

9.2 Successfully Completed: In accordance with DoW 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.*

10.0 MANDATORY GOVERNMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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 (Reference document: P07 RPP-BES 26-01_A8_DIBC 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.

11.0 QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding the RPP should be emailed to the CMO at DIBC.Contracts@ati.org prior to the Q&A deadline of June 29, 2026 at 12:00 PM ET. The CMO will coordinate with the Government and responses will be provided at <https://www.dibconsortium.org/solicitations/to> all Proposers. The Government reserves the right to not provide responses to all questions. The status

of any submissions after the announcement closes, even that of their own submission, or the evaluation timeline will not be discussed until the evaluation process is complete. Upon completion of the evaluation process, Proposers may receive feedback on their submission as discussed in Section 5.