

Request for Solutions (RFS) Under DIBC OTA Number: HQ0034249C00B

Amendment 01 – Released July 20, 2026:

- Updates Section 2
- Add Section 4.4 Non-Government Advisors
- Changes are indicated in red text.

RFS Number: DIBC-26-03

Title: Industrial Forge Quenching

RFS Issue Date: 13 July 2026

Due Date: 31 July 2026 at 12:00 PM ET

ATTACHMENTS: (Attachments 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 to be completed by Member)

Attachment 1 – DIBC-26-XX Statement of Need

Attachment 2 – Warranties and Representations

Attachment 3 – Solution Paper Template

Attachment 4 – Telecommunication Representation

Attachment 5 – DIBC WIRE Project Quad Chart

Attachment 6 – Cost & Pricing Breakdown

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Information

The purpose of the DIBC is to spur innovative development, demonstration, and expedited delivery of prototypes to increase Warfighter readiness via **strengthening supply chain resilience, scaling advanced manufacturing, mitigating industrial base vulnerabilities, and fostering robust domestic production capabilities**. A consortium has been established to develop prototypes directly relevant to enhancing the mission effectiveness of military personnel and the supporting platforms, systems, components, or materials proposed to be acquired or developed by the Department of War (DOW), or to improve the platforms, systems, components, or materials in use by the Armed Forces. This Request for Solutions (RFS) is issued under the DIBC OTA in support of **the Industrial Base Resilience (IBR) Warfighting Investments, Resourcing, and Execution Office (WIRE)**. To meet the strategic requirement for expanding geographically distinct heavy industrial infrastructure, the Government seeks proposals that drive direct economic participation and localized industrial impact.

Using the Other Transaction Authority under 10 U.S.C. §4022(f), successful prototypes executed under a competitively awarded prototype Project Sub Agreement (PSA) may be transitioned to a production effort either through another Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) or a Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) based contract. The Government will not reimburse Members for Solution Paper (SP) preparation costs. The Government may cancel the RFS at any time. If the RFS is canceled after the submission of Solution Papers, evaluations will not occur and they will not be placed in the Basket for up to 36 months for future consideration. The Government reserves the right to make single or multiple awards to Members under each Statement of Need. Additionally, the Government reserves the right to award to a Member whose solution does not meet all of the requirements but provides attributes or partial solutions of value however, the proposed solution must still be assigned an “Acceptable” rating as part of the evaluation in RFS

Section 4.2. The Government may consider prototype project submissions for each prototype requirement for up to 36 months after submission. Submission of a Solution Paper does not guarantee award of a prototype project. The Government reserves the right to contact none, one, some, or all Members prior to award. Furthermore, the Government may elect to use a two-step award process that includes a Request for Solutions, followed by a second step that requests additional technical detail, Statement of Work revisions, and/or demonstration. The Government reserves the right to use this two-step process if it is determined to be in its best interest. The Consortium Management Organization (CMO) will provide the Members any additional evaluation criteria to be used for the second step of the selection process. Members shall handle Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) in accordance with Article XV of the DIBC Base Agreement, "Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting"

1.2 Eligibility

All parties are eligible to submit Solution Papers; however, only Members of the DIBC will be eligible for the Basket and/or Award. Any selected projects will be funded through a PSA issued by the CMO, Advanced Technology International, Inc. (ATI). A sample of the DIBC Base Agreement may be provided upon request. Please visit <https://www.dibconsortium.org/> for more information regarding membership.

2. SOLUTION PAPER Submission and Format

The purpose of this Request for Solution is to identify potential solutions for the stated need. Solution Papers are to address how members propose to solve the need and achieve government goals and objectives. Solution Papers that deviate substantially from these guidelines or that omit substantial parts or sections may be found unresponsive and eliminated from further consideration for award.

2.1 RFS Questions and Points of Contact

Communication with the Government Technical Point of Contact (TPOC) is prohibited after the RFS release date. The status of the submission will not be discussed until the evaluation process is complete. Upon completion of the evaluation process, Offerors will receive feedback on their submission as discussed in Section 4 of the RFS.

For technical questions regarding the RFS, Members must contact the DIBC CMO, ATI, Attn: Ms. Jackie Gray, E-mail: DIBC.Contracts@ati.org no later than 12:00 PM ET on 17 July 2026. Questions received after the deadline may not be answered. Questions shall not include proprietary data as the Government reserves the right to post submitted questions and answers, as necessary (and appropriate) to facilitate Member solution responses. Submitted questions will be posted without identifying company names.

For submission or administrative questions, Members can contact the DIBC CMO, ATI, Attn: Ms. Jackie Gray, E-mail: DIBC.Contracts@ati.org until the submission date.

2.2 AMP Submission

Solution Papers shall be submitted in accordance with section 3.0 of this document, no later than,

31 July 2026, 12:00 ET. Solution Papers shall be submitted by the date and time specified above using the ATI Acquisition Management Platform (AMP): <https://dibc-amp.ati.org/dashboard>

An automated AMP receipt confirmation will be provided by email. Files shall be submitted in Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat format and not be larger than 5MB each. ZIP files and other application formats are not acceptable. All files shall be print-capable, without a password. Filenames must contain the appropriate extension and shall not contain special characters.

3.0 SOLUTION PAPER SUBMISSION

3.1 Technical Volume

Members shall submit a Solution Paper detailing their technical approach to addressing the industrial base challenges outlined in Attachment 1 (Statement of Need). The technical narrative must move beyond basic research and focus on prototype delivery, production scaling, and industrial resilience. Members must specifically address the following in their approach:

- **Manufacturing Readiness:** Current and projected DoW Manufacturing Readiness Levels (MRL) of the proposed solution. Reference – www.dodmrl.org
- **Technology Readiness:** Current and projected Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) of the proposed solution. Reference - <https://www.cto.mil/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/TRA-Guide-Feb2025.v2-Cleared.pdf>.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** A comprehensive Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM) strategy, including the identification of critical sub-tier suppliers, mitigation plans for single-source points of failure, and reliance on foreign sourcing (specifically entities of concern).
- **Domestic Production:** Strategies for utilizing, establishing, or scaling domestic manufacturing capabilities and tooling to meet the DoW's capacity requirements.
- **Additional phases:** For partial solutions, include a **summary** of logical/planned next step effort(s) or prototype phase(s), including estimated schedule(s) and rough order of magnitude (ROM) costs to fully address the statement of need. This should include major prototype/phase milestones and provide a clear goal of the final solution.
- **Transition to Production:** A clear roadmap detailing how the prototype will transition to scalable production following successful validation.

3.2 Cost and Pricing Volume

Members must submit a firm-fixed-price or expenditure-based breakdown for the prototype project. The cost/price volume must align with the technical milestones and include detailed estimates for labor, tooling, materials, travel, and any necessary facility modifications required to achieve the proposed manufacturing capability. (See Attachment 6 – Cost & Pricing Breakdown).

4.0 EVALUATION AND SELECTION

4.1 Evaluation Criteria

The Government will evaluate Solution Papers based on a holistic assessment of the proposed prototype's ability to meet the DIB mission requirements. The primary evaluation factors are:

1. **Industrial and Technical Merit:** The feasibility, innovation, and maturity of the approach to scaling production, resolving supply chain bottlenecks, or delivering advanced manufacturing capabilities. This includes the viability of the Member's SCRM plan.
2. **Schedule:** The realism and feasibility of the proposed schedule to achieve critical manufacturing milestones and deliver the prototype within the required period of performance.
3. **Cost/Price:** The overall affordability and realism of the proposed cost relative to the technical approach and anticipated industrial base benefits.
4. **Economic Participation:** If applicable, the highest evaluation preference will be given to proposed solutions that establish or expand operations within regions offering established heavy manufacturing ecosystems, high-capacity energy grids, and strategic logistical access to rapidly scale domestic infrastructure capabilities.

4.2 Evaluation Ratings

The Government will assign an overall rating of "Acceptable" or "Unacceptable" based on the criteria above. Only submissions rated as "Acceptable" will be eligible for an award or placement in the DIBC Electronic Basket for future funding consideration.

4.3 Statement of Objectives (SOO) and Statement of Work (SOW)

The Government intends to make award based on alignment between the Government and Awardee with a Statement of Objectives. When a solution is identified for potential award, the Government and the vendor shall work together to form a SOO. If the parties are unable to come to agreement, the Government may move to another Acceptable solution. The SOO will be utilized for award. Upon execution of the award, the selected vendor shall have 60 days to develop and submit a SOW. The SOW must directly translate the objectives into work. In addition, a Kick-off meeting will occur within the first 30 days after award. Additional details will be discussed and provided during pre-award exchanges.

4.4 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.

5.0 SECURITY, DATA RIGHTS, AND EXPORT CONTROLS

5.1 Security and CUI

Members must comply with all requirements for the safeguarding of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and Covered Defense Information (CDI) in accordance with NIST SP 800-

171. Prototype projects involving manufacturing schematics, supply chain vulnerabilities, or critical material formulations will likely be designated as CUI.

5.2 Export Control (ITAR/EAR)

Due to the nature of Defense Industrial Base prototyping, proposed solutions may involve technologies subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) or Export Administration Regulations (EAR). Members are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable export control laws and regulations prior to executing the prototype Project Sub-Agreement (PSA).

5.3 Intellectual Property and Data Rights

The Government desires Data Rights commensurate with its investment and the need to maintain long-term industrial base resilience. Members must clearly assert any restrictions on the Government's use of technical data, computer software, or manufacturing processes in their Solution Paper (See Attachment 2 – Warranties and Representations).

6.0 DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING

Specific deliverables will be negotiated prior to the award of a prototype Project Sub-Agreement (PSA) based on the Member's Statement of Work. However, at a minimum, all selected performers must provide:

1. Monthly Technical and Financial Status Reports.
2. A comprehensive Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM) Plan.
3. A Final Prototype Technical Report detailing MRL advancement and transition-to-production strategies.
4. Physical delivery or Government inspection of the modernized facility/prototype tooling.

7.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND CLASSIFICATION

7.1 Intellectual Property (IP) and Data Rights

Because these prototype projects are funded via RDT&E to establish critical national security infrastructure and address Congressional interests, the Government expects a strong return on investment regarding Intellectual Property.

- **Minimum Requirement:** The Government seeks **Government Purpose Rights (GPR)** as a minimum for all technical data, computer software, and manufacturing processes developed under this agreement.
- **Member Assertions:** Members must explicitly detail any proposed restrictions on data rights in their Solution Paper. Proposals offering greater data rights to the Government will be evaluated favorably under the technical and industrial merit criteria.

7.2 Security and Classification Limits

All work performed under these prototype projects must be conducted at the appropriate security level.

- **Classification Ceiling:** The maximum classification level for work generated under any of these four topics shall be **Secret**.
 - For these requirements, members must possess or be capable of obtaining the necessary facility clearances (FCL) and safeguarding capabilities for Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). If a member's solution leverages Secret-level data, the member is responsible for identifying this within its solution and what information and sub-vendors would be impacted.
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