REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

RFI Number: HQ003426RFIJETO

RFI Title: Joint Energetics Transition Office Energetic Modernization and Prototyping

Issued by: Washington Headquarters Services Acquisition Directorate

in support of

Office of the Secretary of War (OSW), Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Resilience, Office Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSW A&S), Joint Energetics Transition Office (JETO)

Date Issued: August 12, 2026
Response Due Date & Time: September 10, 2026, 2:00 PM ET

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 DISCLAIMER

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued solely for information, market research, and planning purposes. It does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP), a Request for Quotation (RFQ), or a promise to issue an RFP or RFQ in the future. This RFI does not commit the U.S. Government to contract for any supply or service whatsoever.

The U.S. Government is not at this time seeking proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Respondents are advised that the U.S. Government will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future solicitation, if one is issued.

1.2 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code

The anticipated NAICS code for this requirement is 541715 for Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences. This is for market research purposes only and may not be the final NAICS code used in a future solicitation.

1.3 Response Instructions

- Point of Contact: All responses regarding this RFI shall be submitted electronically to Advanced Technology International (ATI) as the Consortium Management Organization (CMO) supporting the Joint Energetics Transition Office (JETO) using the following link: https://atisc.formstack.com/forms/jeto_rfi_submission_form
- All questions shall be submitted to DIBC.Deliverables@ati.org.
- Format: White Papers shall be submitted in Microsoft Word per Attachment A (RFI White Paper Template).
- Page Limit: Responses are limited to 10 pages, 8.5" x 11" paper, with 1-inch margins, using a 11-point, standard font (e.g., Times New Roman or Arial). Cover pages, tables of contents, and glossaries do not count toward the page limit.
- File Naming: Please name the submission files in the following format: [*HQ00342RFIJETO]_[Response Title]_[Your Company Name].*

SECTION 2: PROGRAM BACKGROUND & PROBLEM STATEMENT

2.1 Introduction

To maintain overmatch in future conflicts, the United States (U.S.) must rapidly modernize its energetic materials technologies. Established in response to Title 10, United States Code, Section 148 (10 USC § 148), the JETO leads, coordinates, and ensures consistency across research, development, test, and evaluation efforts in energetic materials within the Department of War (DoW) and its interagency partners. The JETO's core mission is to drive game-changing energetic material innovation, rapid adoption, and agile industrialization. Grounded in guiding principles of optimizing range, speed, lethality, survivability, capacity, and manufacturability, the JETO's approach focuses on funding full-scale Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4 or 5 prototypes, as defined in Attachment B (TRL Definitions), to demonstrate operational value and reduce transition risk for future program adoption.

To continue aligning Government and industry partners with DoW energetics modernization efforts and to identify impactful areas for collaboration, the JETO is releasing this RFI to conduct external market research to inform JETO's Fiscal Year (FY) 27 investment strategy and strategic planning. This RFI seeks to identify current, innovative prototypes, at a TRL 4 or higher, that are readily accessible to help inform the requirements community and burn-down risk for program offices by advancing the technology to a TRL 6, 7, or 8. Respondents are requested to submit their proposed solutions via Attachment A of this document.

2.2 Area of Interest

The JETO seeks to address the challenges of the current energetics landscape by aligning future operational capabilities with targeted strategic investments. The U.S. defense energetics sector has relied primarily on legacy formulations (such as RDX and HMX) while global competitors have rapidly modernized and integrated advanced, high-energy-density materials into fielded systems. This presents a direct challenge to the traditional military overmatch of U.S. conventional munitions. In parallel, the domestic supply chain for critical chemical precursors remains fragile, single-source dependent, and highly exposed to foreign vulnerabilities. To reverse these trends, the JETO envisions an agile, modernized, and resilient domestic energetics defense enterprise that continuously matures and transitions ready-now technologies to the warfighter.

To help identify readily accessible prototypes, this RFI invites submission of a broad spectrum of energetic technologies, including but not limited to raw materials, novel chemical compounds and formulations, supplementary enhancing technologies, innovative manufacturing processes and digital design tools. The JETO seeks to collaborate with partners to demonstrate solutions characterized by the guiding principles and core capabilities outlined below:

- Optimized Range and Speed: High-impulse propellants, fuels, binders, oxidizers, and enhancing technologies that enable tactical weapons systems and rocket motors to outrange and outpace current capabilities.
- Enhanced Lethality and Payload Capacity: Advanced energetic formulations and packaging that deliver significantly higher explosive yields, enabling greater terminal effects.
- Survivability: High-energy materials and technologies that balance increased power with robust safety, meeting stringent Insensitive Munitions (IM) criteria to remain safe during transit, storage, and handling.
- Agile Manufacturability: Advanced, high-throughput manufacturing methodologies (such as continuous synthesis, additive manufacturing, automated loading, etc.) that optimize production footprints and minimize hazardous chemical waste.

The JETO encourages responders to highlight how their ready-now prototypes (TRL 4 or higher) or advanced manufacturing methodologies align with one or more of the following potential investment targets:

- Warheads and Explosive Formulation Technologies: Innovative explosives and reactive materials designed to maximize terminal lethality within rigid physical constraints.
- Propulsion Technologies and Formulations: Advanced propellants and enhancing technologies to boost range, speed, and overall performance for artillery, rocket motors, ramjets, and hypersonics.
- Modeling & Simulation (M&S) and Digital Infrastructure: Verified, validated, and accredited digital engineering tools that predict hazard and performance properties to accelerate design-to-fielding timelines.
- Testing & Evaluation (T&E) Improvements and Demonstration Campaigns: High-throughput test methods and rapid qualification schemes to streamline safety certifications and lower transition risks.
- Production Support and Scaling: Advanced manufacturing methods (such as continuous flow chemistry) that secure domestic capacity, increase throughput, and reduce raw chemical waste.

Respondents are encouraged to quantify their prototype capabilities with data and performance metrics (e.g., projected range increases, explosive yield multipliers, production footprint reductions, chemical waste reduction percentages, etc.) to help the JETO understand the scale, feasibility, and operational impact of the proposed solutions.

2.3 Program Goals and Objectives

The Government's high-level objectives for this effort include:

- Objective 1: To identify and evaluate readily accessible energetic technologies capable of optimizing range, speed, lethality, survivability, capacity, and/or manufacturability
- Objective 2: To understand the maturity, scalability, and affordability of potential high TRL prototype solutions.
- Objective 3: To accelerate the fielding of innovative capabilities to the Warfighter.

SECTION 3: REQUESTED INFORMATION

Please provide responses to the following questions. Respondents are not required to answer every question but should focus on those areas most relevant to their capabilities.

3.1 Corporate Experience & Capabilities

- 3.1.1 Company Information: Provide your company name, physical address, CAGE code, and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- 3.1.2 Business Information: Provide your business size (Large, Small) and any socioeconomic classifications (e.g., 8(a), Small Disadvantaged Business, Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), HUBZone).
- 3.1.3 Nontraditional Defense Contractor (NTDC) Status: Please state whether your organization qualifies as an NTDC as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 3014. An NTDC is an entity that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the one-year period preceding the solicitation, any contract or subcontract for the DoW that is subject to full coverage under the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS).
- 3.1.4 Capability Statement: Provide a brief capability statement (no more than 2 pages) outlining your core competencies, facilities, personnel qualifications, and any relevant certifications.

- 3.1.5 Past Performance: Describe up to three (3) projects from the last five (5) years (no more than half a page per project) that are of similar scope and complexity to the effort described in this RFI. For each, detail the client, period of performance, contract value, and your specific role.

3.2 Technical Approach

- 3.2.1 Conceptual Solution: Based on the area(s) of interest in Section 2.2, describe a potential energetic technical solution or high-level approach you might propose.
- 3.2.2 Technology Readiness: What is the current TRL and/or Manufacturing Readiness Level (MRL) of the key components of your notional solution? What is the roadmap to achieve a higher level of maturity? What specific types of testing and performance data do you have to support your assessment?
- 3.2.3 Innovation: Describe any innovative technologies, processes, or business practices your company could bring to this effort that might offer a significant improvement over traditional approach. What types of supporting data do you have to support your assessment?
- 3.2.4 Risks and Mitigation: What are the primary technical risks and integration challenges you foresee for this effort? Please suggest potential mitigation strategies.
- 3.2.5 Data and Intellectual Property (IP): What is your notional approach to data rights and IP for this type of project? If applicable, describe how said data is stored and managed. Describe any proprietary technology central to your approach and your typical licensing models.

3.3 Cost & Schedule Estimation (For Planning Purposes Only)

- 3.3.1 Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM): Provide a non-binding ROM cost estimate for the approach you described. Please break down the estimate by major tasks or phases (e.g., design, prototyping, testing) and by Government Fiscal Year.
- 3.3.2 Cost Drivers: What are the primary cost drivers for your notional approach? Are there specific requirements or assumptions that significantly increase cost?
- 3.3.3 Pricing Structure: What type of pricing structure (e.g., Firm-Fixed-Price, Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee) would you consider most appropriate for this effort and why?
- 3.3.4 Cost Sharing: Would your organization be willing to consider a cost-sharing arrangement where a portion of the project costs are covered by non-federal sources? If so, describe a typical cost-share ratio you might propose.

SECTION 4: SPECIAL NOTICES

4.1 Potential for Other Transaction Authority

The Government is considering multiple acquisition pathways for this requirement, which may include the use of an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) for a prototype project pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 4022. Information gathered from this RFI may be used to inform a potential solicitation. A key feature of a successfully completed, competitively awarded Prototype OT is the potential for a direct, non-competitive follow-on Production OT or FAR-based contract.

4.2 Proprietary Information

Respondents bear the sole responsibility for appropriately marking proprietary or competition-sensitive information. Any information submitted that is considered business sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential must be clearly and conspicuously marked as such. The header and footer of every page containing such information should be marked "CONTAINS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION." A legend

should also be included on the title page stating that the response contains proprietary information. The U.S. Government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information. All submissions become Government property and will not be returned. The U.S. Government reserves the right to use any non-proprietary technical information in any resultant solicitation.

4.3 Notice of Government Use of Support Contractor Services

Respondents are advised that information submitted in response to this RFI may be reviewed and accessed by Government support contractors assisting the JETO. These support contractors provide technical, programmatic, and administrative assistance to the Program Office and are bound by law and contract to protect proprietary and competition-sensitive information.

All support contractor personnel are required to sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and are subject to strict Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) provisions and mitigation plans as required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 9.5. These measures prohibit them from disclosing any information submitted by respondents and bar them from using such information for any purpose other than providing direct support to the U.S. Government for this RFI review.

Submission of a response to this RFI constitutes the respondent's acknowledgement and consent that its information may be shared with these authorized Government support contractors.

4.4 Industry Engagement

In conjunction with this RFI, the JETO is hosting an informational breakout session at the upcoming DIBX event in August 2026. In addition to an overview of the Office, this session can provide a brief overview of the AOI and allow for a Q&A session. Attendance is optional and not a prerequisite for submitting an RFI response. If you will not be attending DIBX and have questions, please follow instructions in section 1.3 of this RFI.

SECTION 5: ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: RFI White Paper Template

Attachment B: TRL Definitions