REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

RFI Number: *HQ003427RFI-CC-MFG*

RFI Title: Critical Manufacturing Consumables

Issued by: Washington Headquarters Services Acquisition Directorate

in support of

Office of the Undersecretary for Acquisition & Sustainment, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Policy, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Resilience

Date Issued: October 27, 2026
Response Due Date & Time: January 5, 2027, 5:00 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

There is no specific NAICS code this call is soliciting since Manufacturing Consumables crosses several relevant NAICS codes. This call is for market research purposes only.

1.3 Response Instructions

- Point of Contact: All responses shall be submitted electronically to the ATI Acquisition Management Portal (AMP) at https://dibc-amp.ati.org/. Any questions regarding this RFI shall be submitted via email to DIBC.Deliverables@ati.org.
- Format: Responses shall be submitted in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel Format using the required attachments.
- ATTACHMENT A *(required)*– Company Information: Responses are limited to 1 page, 8.5" x 11" paper, with 1-inch margins, using a 11-point, standard font (e.g., Times New Roman or Arial).
- ATTACHMENT B *(required fields provided in Section 3.2.1)*– Manufacturing Process Chemicals Industry Response Template (no row limits)

- ATTACHMENT C – Criticality and Fragility Definitions (use in determining ratings in ATTACHMENT B)
- File Naming: Please name submission files in the following format: [*HQ003427RFI-CC-MFG]*_[*Response Title]*_[*Your Company Name*].

SECTION 2: PROGRAM BACKGROUND & PROBLEM STATEMENT

2.1 Introduction

The Department of War is assessing the resilience of supply chains for the thousands of manufacturing process chemicals that support industrial production capabilities. Many manufacturing processes depend on specialized chemicals for cleaning, surface preparation, processing, lubrication, bonding, protection, finishing, and contamination control.

A disruption in the availability, quality, qualification status, or production capacity of a process chemical may affect manufacturing throughput, product quality, worker safety, environmental compliance, cost, schedule, or the ability to produce critical components and end items.

2.2 Area of Interest

The Government seeks to identify manufacturing process chemicals that may present elevated replacement difficulty or supply disruption risk due to factors such as:

- Limited commercial demand or defense-unique requirements;
- Restricted availability of qualified manufacturers;
- Domestic or foreign-source dependency;
- Specialized production equipment, facilities, raw materials, or workforce requirements;
- Long lead times, limited surge capacity, or extended requalification periods;
- Environmental, safety, transportation, or other regulatory constraints;
- Sole-source or single-facility manufacturing;
- Obsolescence, discontinuance, formulation change, or supplier exit risk;
- Lack of technically equivalent substitutes; or
- Difficulty in qualifying alternative materials, suppliers, or production processes.

The Government is especially interested in process chemicals used in textile wet processing, coatings and lamination, metal forming, melting and refining, heat treatment, surface conditioning, powder processing, additive manufacturing, welding, brazing, and adhesive bonding.

2.3 Program Goals and Objectives

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

- Objective 1: To identify process chemicals and chemical families used in the manufacturing areas within scope
- Objective 2: Understand the domestic and international supplier base for those materials
- Objective 3: Identify opportunities for domestic sourcing, alternate qualification, material substitution, stockpiling, process redesign, or other risk-mitigation approaches

SECTION 3: REQUESTED INFORMATION

Please provide responses to the following questions. Respondents should provide information only for materials, chemical families, and capabilities relevant to their organization.

3.1 ATTACHMENT A - Company Information **(required)**

- 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 DoD that is subject to full coverage under the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS).
- 3.1.4 Capability Statement: Provide a brief capability statement outlining your core competencies, facilities, personnel qualifications, and any relevant certifications.

3.2 ATTACHMENT B - Manufacturing Process Chemicals Industry Response Template

Complete ATTACHMENT B - Manufacturing Process Chemicals Industry Response Template provided with this RFI. Submit one row for each chemical, chemical mixture, proprietary product, or materially distinct grade for which the respondent is providing information.

- 3.2.1 **Required** Chemical Information: Chemical/material name; Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number, if applicable; Trade name or commercial designation, if applicable; Area of use; Criticality rating; Additional comments.

- 3.2.2 **Optional** Chemical Information: Manufacturer; Country of origin; Manufacturer versus distributor status; Specifications, standards, or qualification requirements and name; Known qualified manufacturers; Current availability and lead time; Typical annual production and purchase cost; Identified substitutes or alternate sources; Identified fragility factors; Recommended risk-mitigation actions.

3.3 ATTACHMENT C - Criticality and Fragility Information

- 3.3.1 For each reported material, respondents should assess criticality and, if known, fragility using the following definitions and ATTACHMENT C:
    - **Criticality** addresses the degree to which a chemical would be difficult to replace if disrupted.
    - **Fragility** addresses the likelihood that supply of the chemical could be disrupted or become unavailable when needed.
- 3.3.2 Respondents should select a rating of **a, b, c, d, or e**, where:
    a = minimal impact/risk;

b = limited impact/risk;

c = moderate impact/risk;

d = strong or significant impact/risk;

e = very strong, severe, or high impact/risk.

- 3.3.3 Purpose: These ratings are intended for comparative market research purposes and are not Government determinations or source-selection criteria. These scores are approximations useful for broad comparison and prioritization, rather than precise measures.

3.4 Industry Input

Please provide recommendations regarding:

1. Whether the scope and taxonomy categories are clear and complete;
2. Chemical families or manufacturing applications that should be added to the scope;
3. Data elements that would be unduly burdensome, commercially sensitive, or unlikely to produce reliable results;
4. Appropriate methods for protecting proprietary and competition-sensitive information; and
5. Potential approaches for future Government-industry engagement.

SECTION 4: SPECIAL NOTICES

4.1 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.

4.2 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 Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Resilience. 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.