DEPARTMENT OF WAR
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETRARY OF WAR
FOR INDUSTRIAL BASE POLICY
2026 DIBX Networking Sessions at DoW Maintenance Symposium
SOURCES SOUGHT NOTICE

1. **General Information**
   Document Type: Sources Sought Notice
   Title: **DIBX Networking Sessions at 2026 Maintenance Symposium**
   Sources Sought Posted Date: November 9, 2026
   Sources Sought Response Date: November 23, 2026

2. **Background**
   The Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy (OASW(IBP)) and representatives across DoW investment teams invite representatives from the Defense Industrial Base (DIB) to participate in networking sessions at the 2026 Maintenance Symposium. These sessions are focused on building a more resilient, secure, and integrated DIB by aggressively expanding industry participation and lowering barriers for new entrants. These targeted sessions will offer a forum to provide the DoW with insights and recommendations to cultivate a broader vendor base. In addition, the DoW welcomes insight into current structural hurdles, from initial contract onboarding to cybersecurity posture, as well as constructive suggestions for an enhanced, collaborative framework going forward.

3. **Sources Sought Notice**

   To supercharge the DIB, OASW(IBP) is conducting networking sessions at the 2026 Maintenance Symposium.

   Respondents must select who they'd like to meet with to include representatives from IBP's Warfighting Investments, Resourcing, and Execution (WIRE), Industrial Base Growth (IBG), Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR), Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT), and Manufacturing Technology (DoW ManTech). These sessions will focus on gathering industry feedback to build a more resilient, secure, and integrated DIB. OASW(IBP) is specifically seeking feedback on three critical operational areas:

   - **New Entrants and Barriers to Entry:** Identifying and eliminating friction points that prevent non-traditional and emerging companies from doing business with the DoW.

   - **Sector Focus Areas:** Industry insights and solutions to critical DIB focus areas (e.g., kinetics, strategic & critical materials, microelectronics, workforce, energy storage and batteries, manufacturing, forward manufacturing, civil reserve manufacturing network (CRMN), CMMC, etc.)

   - **DIB Policy and Strategy feedback:** Shaping our strategy and identifying opportunities for alignment, optimization, and enhanced collaboration.

Responses and session registrations are invited from all interested parties, including small businesses, non-traditional defense contractors, and large organizations.

OASW(IBP) will schedule **unclassified** networking sessions (10-15 minutes) with each down selected organization. We recommend having not more than two representatives from your organization participate in these sessions to maximize discussion time and focus. While no special presentation equipment is required, participants are welcome to bring any reference materials they find helpful (such as capability briefs, laptops, tablets, or notebooks) to facilitate the discussion.

This Sources Sought Notice is for informational purposes only. It is not to be construed as an obligation on the part of the OASW(IBP). This Sources Sought Notice is not a request for proposal (RFP). No contract will be awarded from this announcement. No reimbursement will be made for any cost associated with providing information in response to this announcement. Currently, no solicitation exists; therefore, please do not request a copy of the solicitation. Responses in any form are not offers.

3.1 Place of Performance

2026 Maintenance Symposium
Broward County Convention Center
1950 Eisenhower Blvd
Fort Lauderdale FL 33316

3.2 Anticipated Period of Performance

Targeted Period of Performance will be between December 8 – December 11, 2026

3.3 Security Requirements

This is an open event, and all content and discussions will be at the unclassified level. In the unlikely event you are unable to meet with the OASW(IBP) staff, you are encouraged to register and attend the 2026 DoW Maintenance Symposium. To register, go to https://www.sae.org/dow/reg

4. Submission Requirements

Interested entities should reply with applicable responses to the following:

a) Select which organization your company would like to meet with
   - **a.** WIRE
   - **b.** IBG
   - **c.** SBIR/STTR
   - **d.** APFIT
   - **e.** DoW ManTech

b) Provide a brief overview of your company, including your primary business focus, core capabilities, and whether you classify as a traditional defense contractor, a

non-traditional entity, or an emerging startup.

- Describe your organization's historical experience working with the DoW or, if you are a new entrant, your experience in the broader commercial market.

c) What specific friction points, hurdles, or compliance challenges have you encountered when attempting to enter the DoW market, win contracts, or scale your production capacity?

- Provide specific examples of how these barriers to entry have impacted your project timelines, operational costs, or ability to deliver innovative solutions.

d) What immediate changes could the DoW implement to eliminate friction points and streamline the acquisition process for non-traditional or emerging companies?

- Highlight any specific processes or compliance mechanisms that could be adapted to lower barriers to entry.

e) Which of the DoW's critical sector focus areas (e.g., kinetics, strategic & critical materials, microelectronics, workforce, energy storage and batteries, manufacturing, forward manufacturing, Civil Reserve Manufacturing Network [CRMN], etc.) best aligns with your companies' capabilities?

- Describe the specific technologies or innovative approaches your company is developing to address capability gaps or vulnerabilities within these targeted sectors.

f) What specific obstacles have you faced when attempting to introduce or scale new technologies within these critical sectors for DoW needs?

- Include examples of supply chain limitations, testing requirements, or scaling challenges, and propose how the DoW can help overcome them.

g) Based on your experience, what actionable policy changes or process optimizations could the DoW implement to better align its strategies with modern commercial industry practices?

- Highlight any specific structural challenges related to public-private partnerships or compliance mandates that currently hinder optimal collaboration and propose methods for improvement.

h) How can the DoW improve its communication and engagement with industry to more effectively shape its strategy, forecast its needs, and solicit feedback?

- Provide suggestions for fostering stronger alignment and a more resilient DIB.

5. **Instructions**

All responses should be no more than two (2) pages in total and shall be submitted electronically no later than **November 23, 2026**, using the following link: https://atisc.formstack.com/forms/dibx_networking_sessions_at_2026_maintenance_symposium

Replies will not be returned. No telephone requests will be honored. No hard copy submissions will be accepted. Submissions after this date will not be considered. The Government will not provide or acknowledge receipt of the information received, provide feedback with respect to any information submitted or provide any follow-up information well after the deadline of this Notice.

6. **Sources Sought Responses:**

Entities must reply by demonstrating their ability to comply with the requirements in this Sources Sought Notice in order to be considered capable of satisfying the Government requirement.
All interested entities having the experience, skills and capabilities necessary to fulfil the stated requirements are requested to provide a brief description of their company along with answers to the prompts in section 4, listed above. If providing an attachment, responses should not exceed two (2) pages in "Times New Roman" 12-inch font on 8.5 x 11 paper.
To facilitate a timely and comprehensive review of all submitted responses, entities should respond using the format requested to this Notice.

6.1 General Information (Page 1)

- Company name, address, point of contact name, telephone, email address and web address.
- Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code and Unique Entity Identifier.
- If applicable, potential proposed teaming arrangements to include business size and classification of prime subcontractors, as well as potential partners in DoW organizations, other federal government organizations, and/or academia.

6.2 Prompts (Page 2)

- Responses to questions in Section 4 a) through 4 g).

6.3 Additional Information:

- Any information that is unduly restrictive to performance.
- Please submit any other questions or comments along with your response.
- **Proprietary information and trade secrets shall <u>NOT</u> be submitted as part of a response.** Please be advised that all submissions become Government property and will not be returned. All Government and contractor personnel reviewing Sources Sought responses will have signed non-disclosure agreements and understand their responsibility for proper use and protection from unauthorized disclosure of proprietary information as described in 41 USC 423. **The Government shall not be held liable for any damages incurred if proprietary information is submitted, as it is clearly stated this type of information shall <u>NOT</u> be submitted.**