Q: With regards to Topic 6: Engines and Subsystems: Is Topic 6 aimed at air breathing propulsion or are you looking at missiles?	A: Topic 6 (Engines and Subsystems) is not limited to just airbreathing propulsion or just missiles. We are interested in a broad spectrum of propulsion technologies including, but is not limited to, airbreathing, rocket, and electric propulsion systems. Our primary objective under Topic 6 is to find novel and innovative manufacturing and design approaches that reduce the high costs and long timelines traditionally associated with all types of critical subsystems related to propulsion. The goal is to enable adaptability, rapid fielding, and scalable mass manufacturing.
Q: With regards to Topic 2: Modular Integration & Factorial Manufacturing: We did some work on material scalable missile design, basically reversing the design process loop from "Assuming the most exquisite material lets get the maximum performance within the envelope to Assuming variable material properties what's the best performance we can get from todays supply chain". Is that the sort of thing you are interested in?	A: Factorial manufacturing is more about validating a design space through realization of multiple designs simultaneously and establishing the performance delivered tracks with what models and design tools predict. IntelDevOps is closer to the concept you are asking about and that is an very high impact element of AOI 1. Supply chain level consideration (e.g., technology availability) is within scope of Endless Forge.
Q: Does AFRL/RXKM require a formal OCI Mitigation Plan submitted alongside the Step 1 White Paper, or is the standard OCI disclosure within the White Paper text sufficient at this stage?	A: At the white paper stage, a standard OCI disclosure is acceptable.
Q: Pending DD Form 2345: I submitted my DD2345 to the Joint Certification Program Office and am currently awaiting final approval. Question: Given the rolling nature of this Open Period Solicitation, is it acceptable to submit my White Paper documenting my pending DD2345 status or must I wait until final approval is granted to submit?	A: A white paper can be submitted prior a certified DD Form 2345. A certified DD Form 2345 would be required with any proposal submission.

Q: Other Transaction (OT) Authority: As a non-traditional defense contractor without a DCAA-approved accounting system, my assumption is that an Other Transaction (OT) for Prototype is the required vehicle. Can you confirm that AFRL/RX aims to heavily leverage OTs for non-traditional primes under this MAA?	A: AFRL reserves the right to award the instrument best suited to the nature of research proposed.
Q: Could you clarify the intended scope between manufacturing technologies and subsystems?	A: To clarify the intended scope, the Endless Forge program is fundamentally focused on modernizing the defense industrial base through innovative manufacturing approaches and digital processes, rather than just funding the traditional development of a new subsystem in isolation. When we refer to subsystems—such as engines, actuators, avionics, and fuel pumps—our goal is to find novel solutions and manufacturing approaches that drastically reduce the high costs and long timelines typically required to produce these items.
Q: Is the program primarily focused on funding manufacturing companies and production processes, or are you also interested in proposals from companies that design and produce subsystems such as engines, actuators, avionics, etc. where the design approach enables rapid manufacturing, modular integration, or scalable production?	A: The intent of the program is to align existing manufacturing processes using emerging digital technologies and identify areas where further tech development would yield faster manufacturing outcomes. It is our belief that design needs to be a continuous process in the manufacturing production networks we will support, but the goal is an actual manufacturing event. While weapon systems are the primary focus, subsystems , such as engines, actuators, avionics, etc, could also be valid applications for demonstration.