Space Development Agency

Broad Agency Announcement
Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture
Systems, Technologies, and Emerging Capabilities

 # FA240126S0001

March 4, 2026

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II. OVERVIEW INFORMATION

- **Federal Agency Name** – Space Development Agency
- **Funding Opportunity Title** – Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture (PWSA) Systems, Technologies, and Emerging Capabilities (STEC)
- **Announcement Type** – Initial Announcement
- **Funding Opportunity Number** – FA240126S0001

  Dates: All Times are Eastern Standard Time Zone (ET)

  - Posting Date: 4 March 2026
  - Proposal Due Date and Time: 3 March 2027, 12:00 AM Eastern
- **Concise description of the funding opportunity –** The Space Development Agency (SDA) is soliciting executive summaries, invited proposal abstracts and proposals for novel architecture concepts, systems, technologies, and capabilities that enable leap-ahead improvements for future PWSA tranches, capability layers, or enable new capability layers to address other emerging or evolving warfighter needs.

- **Anticipated individual awards** – Multiple awards are anticipated.
- **Types of instruments that may be awarded** – Procurement (FAR-based) contract or other transaction agreement (OTA).
- **Cost Sharing Requirements** – In accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 4022, cost sharing may be required for OT for Prototype or OT for Research Agreements.
- **NAICS Code** – 541715 - Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology).
- Questions and Answers (Q&As) – All administrative, technical and award questions should be emailed to the Agency Point of Contact (POC) stated below. All questions must be written in English.
- **Agency POC:** Technical and administrative point of contact for this effort can be reached via: ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil Space Development Agency ATTN: FA240126S0001, 1670 Air Force Pentagon Washington, DC 20330

III. FULL TEXT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT

A. Funding Opportunity Description

This publication constitutes a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) as contemplated in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2) and 35.016. Any resultant award negotiations will follow all pertinent law and regulation, and any negotiations and/or awards for procurement contracts will use

procedures under FAR 15.4, Contract Pricing, as specified in the BAA. The following information is for those wishing to respond to the BAA.

B. Overview

The National Defense Strategy (NDS) acknowledges that space is vital to the U.S. way of life, our national security, and modern warfare. In an era of renewed great power competition, maintaining our advantage in space is critical to winning any such long-term strategic competitions. Potential adversaries seek to undermine this goal by employing strategies that exploit real or perceived vulnerabilities in our current and planned National Security Space architecture. In addition, potential adversaries are developing and demonstrating multi-domain threats to national security much faster than we can deploy responsive space-based capabilities. The Acting Secretary of Defense established as a separate Defense Agency pursuant to Title 10, U.S.C. sections 112, 191, and 192, on 12 March 2019 in response to these challenges. SDA transferred to the United States Space Force (USSF) as a Direct Reporting Unit (DRU) on 1 October 2022 to ensure the PWSA was fully integrated into the complete National Security Space enterprise to the benefit of the joint warfighter.

SDA is responsible for defining and monitoring the Department of Defense's (DoD's) future threat-driven space architecture and accelerating the development and fielding of new military space capabilities necessary to ensure U.S. technological and military advantage in space for national defense. To achieve this mission, SDA is responsible for unifying and integrating next-generation space capabilities to deliver the PWSA, a resilient military sensing, custody and data transport capability via a proliferated space architecture in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). SDA will not necessarily develop and field all PWSA capabilities but rather orchestrate those efforts across DoD and fill in gaps in capabilities while providing the integrated architecture.

The PWSA is comprised of the following layers, addressing the critical priorities for space identified within the DoD Space Vision:

<u>Cornerstone Missions</u>

- **Tactical Comms** - providing assured, resilient, low-latency military data and communications connectivity worldwide to the full range of warfighter platforms;
- **Navigation** - establishing a Global Positioning System (GPS)-independent navigation capability, including a LEO-based position, navigation, and timing (PNT) service provided to GPS-denied environments;
- **Tracking** - providing global indications, warning, tracking, targeting and eventual defeat of advanced missile threats, including hypersonic missile systems;
- **Custody** - providing 24x7x365, all-weather custody of time-sensitive targets (e.g., to support beyond line-of-sight targeting for advanced missiles, airborne targets or other time sensitive/time critical targets);

<u>Key Enablers</u>

- **Battle Management** - providing architecture tasking, mission command and control, and data dissemination to support time-sensitive kill chain closure at campaign scales;
- **Ground and Launch** - enabling ground and launch segments to support a responsive,

resilient pLEO space architecture.

SDA's mission begins and ends with the warfighter. SDA recognizes that "good enough" capabilities in the hands of warfighter sooner may be better than delivering the perfect solution too late. SDA began delivering capabilities to our joint warfighting forces in two-year tranches, beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. While SDA is issuing separate solicitations for the capability layers outlined above, seeking systems and technologies that can be developed and fielded on PWSA tranche timelines to address timely warfighter needs, SDA also recognizes the need to establish, maintain and harvest an "intellectual pipeline" to access ideas from across the community to inform the future capabilities of the architecture. While this is SDA's intent, our ability and appetite for technology development are limited and our focus is and will remain at the architecture level to better serve the warfighter and ensure mission accomplishment.

Through this BAA, SDA specifically seeks emerging PWSA concepts, systems, technologies, and capabilities that:

- Enable capability improvements for future tranches of currently planned proliferated architecture capability layers
- Enable new capability layers to address other emerging or evolving warfighter needs

SDA is soliciting Executive Summaries, invited White Papers or proposal Abstracts, and invited Proposals in the focus areas described below. Although ***not required***, SDA ***strongly encourages*** submitting an Executive Summary first to ensure interest and potential funding availability. Submission instructions can be found in Section V. Evaluation criteria for this solicitation can be found in Section VI.A. SDA anticipates making multiple awards from this solicitation, leading to detailed technical studies, architecture or system-level technical designs, and/or proofs-of-concept or risk reduction demonstrations. Throughout the period of performance for this BAA, SDA may issue Special Notices for specific topics to be addressed. In those instances, clear proposal submission instructions will be provided.

C. SDA Focus Areas

SDA is seeking architecture studies, concepts of operations (CONOPS), modeling and simulation, analyses, system designs, key technologies, and/or risk reduction prototypes that are responsive to the following capability vectors.

1. Resilient Beyond Line-of-Sight Tactical Communications (RF, Optical)

This thrust is primarily aligned with the PWSA Transport Layer. This focus area features capabilities enabling global access to low-latency communications and space data transport for Joint warfighters and warfighting systems, including but not limited to:

- **Advanced Space-to-Terrestrial Optical Communications:** SDA is interested in advanced optical terminal designs, development, testing and interoperability enabling space-to-air (S2A), space-to-ground (S2G) and space-to-maritime (S2M). SDA is particularly interested in emerging capabilities which would significantly lower complexity and manufacturing requirements while enhancing on-orbit performance within the PWSA and with emerging commercial, national security and/or Allied data transport to remote sensing constellations
- **Dual-Use Commercial Architectures (e.g., Secure 5G, embedded waveforms):** Solutions that adapt commercial communication architectures to substantially improve tactical edge capabilities

in contested environments. SDA is particularly interested in the acceleration of dual-use commercial 5G services over UHF to address future DoD Narrowband requirements, ensure interoperability with legacy handset radios, and inform future acquisition strategies for commercial services.

- **Low SWAP-C Communications Payload Components:** This includes free-space optical communication terminals (OCTs) capable of high-bandwidth (>1 Gbps) data rates at low, medium, and geostationary relevant ranges that are compatible with the SDA OCT Open Standard. To support these data rates, SDA also seeks advanced modem, router, and switch designs capable of high-throughput (>50 Gbps) modulation/demodulation and packet forwarding. For all components, designs and enabling technologies that increase overall manufacturability while maintaining and enhancing technical performance are of particular interest.
- **Multi-beam / multi-user tactical data link connectivity**: low SWaP-C antenna technologies enabling tactical data link connectivity with multiple user terminals and including but not limited to active electronically scanned arrays (AESA)
- **Advanced tactical data links and/or waveforms (Novel communications modalities)**: concepts and implementations enabling new and emerging tactical data link message translation and rebroadcast via alternate communication networks and/or advanced waveforms enabling resilient tactical communications on the modern battlefield; concepts and implementations involving novel communications phenomenologies or novel applications of mature communications techniques applicable to and valuable in Joint All-Domain Operations

2. Advanced Target Custody, Warning, Tracking, and Defeat

Aligned primarily with the PWSA Tracking and Custody Layers, this focus area seeks novel solutions to enable operationally relevant detection, tracking, targeting, and kill/battle damage assessment of adversary systems spanning multiple domains, with an emphasis on advanced missile threats and time-critical land and maritime targets. In addition, this topic spans the range of possible complementary missions with space-based sensors, including space-based environmental monitoring (SBEM), space domain awareness (SpDA for the purpose of this BAA), and battle damage assessment (BDA). While SpDA, SBEM and BDA are not primary PWSA missions at this time, novel solutions that offer enhanced warfighting capability and contribute to any of these mission areas would be considered. In addition, exceptionally low SWaP-C solutions that enable these missions and are of minimal competition for PWSA space vehicle resources might be considered favorably as add-on capabilities. Specific areas of investigation here are, including but not limited to:

- **Advanced Infrared (IR) Missile Warning, Missile Tracking (MW/MT) and Missile Defense (MD) fire control:** Seeking technology solutions that advance Missile Warning, Tracking, and Missile Defense fire control capabilities. Proposals should encompass advanced IR sensor technologies (including optics, focal plane arrays, and resiliency technologies), mission data processing techniques for LEO operation, and advanced architecture approaches that utilize multi-layer, multi-node cueing for enhanced data fusion and operational autonomy. A critical element of these solutions is the integration of automatic target recognition (ATR) algorithms that use trusted artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to classify objects in sensor data feeds. To be considered, proposed

ATR capabilities must be trained and demonstrated using specific sources of real (not simulated) data to ensure they can be immediately applied to address current military gaps at the tactical edge.

- **Novel Sensing for Expanded Mission Capabilities:** Innovative sensor system designs, novel remote sensing phenomenologies, or dual-use applications of existing sensor payloads that enable or enhance a range of critical missions. These missions include, but are not limited to, Missile Defense, Target Discrimination, Air Moving Target Indicator (AMTI), Space Domain Awareness (SpDA), Battle Damage Assessment (BDA), and the full suite of Space-Based Environmental Monitoring (SBEM) missions (e.g., space weather, theater weather imagery, cloud characterization, ocean surface vector winds).
- **Advanced Data Fusion at the Edge**: Algorithms, AI/ML-enabled concepts, and systems that fuse multi-modal sensor data from systems spanning multiple domains to develop and maintain targeting solutions against time-sensitive targets; space-based fusion implementations are of particular interest to include specific sources of real (not simulated) training/demonstration data enabling computations to be performed at the tactical edge or in-theater.
- **Sensor and Satellite Resilience Technologies**: Advanced technologies to enhance the resilience and survivability of PWSA space vehicles and payloads in contested LEO environments. Solutions should provide robust protection against adversary threats and environmental hazards. This includes countermeasures for directed energy weapons (e.g., hardened optics, rapid sensor recovery), advanced anti-jam and anti-spoofing electronic protection for all data links, and onboard systems that enable autonomous threat detection and response. Technologies that provide enhanced radiation tolerance at a low SWaP-C are also of significant interest.

3. Advanced/Alternate Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT)

This thrust is primarily aligned with the PWSA Navigation Layer, a capability enabled by the optically interconnected Transport layer. This focus area features capabilities enabling global operations in GPS-denied or degraded environments, including but not limited to:

- **Resilient GPS-agnostic space networking:** Systems and algorithms enabling highly precise and accurate range measurements with free-space optical communications incorporating precise nanosecond time transfer as an integral component of proposed systems
- **GPS-agnostic Alt-PNT solutions:** Capabilities required to enhance Speed, Time, And Ranging (STAR) and Constellation, Speed, Time, and Ranging (COSTAR) navigation and timing performance in GPS-denied environments. Technology solutions may include but not limited to: communication systems (e.g., PNT solutions delivered either via a dedicated signal or as an embedded function over existing communication links), mass-producible low SWaP-C atomic clocks, space vehicle (SV) guidance navigation and control systems and optical timing/ranging measurement systems that when fused form an onboard orbit and clock determination (OCDA) application for space-based autonomous navigation.
- **GPS Situational Awareness (SA)**: Space-based GNSS SA systems that act as monitors for GNSS signal-in-space integrity, and can measure potential terrestrial interference

4. Global Battle Management

This thrust is aligned primarily with the PWSA Battle Management and Ground & Launch Layers and includes algorithms, frameworks, and hardware supporting advanced processing, command and control, user interface/interaction/experience, and seamless interoperability of architecture elements, including but not limited to:

- **Network Defense**: Architectures, protocols, intrusion detection, mitigation and response, and tools for layered cyber defense of the ground and space segment, with emphasis on adaptable, lightweight systems for malware and network intrusion detection, authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA); and security incident and event management
- **Secure Enclave Operations (e.g., Zero Trust, Seamless multi-level security (MLS)) operations**: Robust MLS solutions that protect PWSA operations across heterogeneous platforms, multiple warfighting domains, and at multiple levels of security
- **Dynamic tasking and networking (Autonomous Operations, Network Orchestration):** Dynamic, status-aware, and optionally AI-enabled algorithms and systems to provide for the automation of resource allocation, scheduling, and network orchestration. Solutions must enable the real-time prioritization of software processes, dynamic tasking of missile tracking and surveillance resources, intelligent power cycling of payloads, and the adjustment of data routing to meet evolving mission demands.
- **Distributed command and control in contested environments**: Mission-informed distributed implementations of command-and-control capabilities supporting the development of operational plans and courses of action, selection of courses of action, and real-time adjustments to employment strategies
- **Radiation-hardened and radiation-tolerant advanced processors**: High- performance, low SWaP-C on-orbit processing capabilities such as rad-hard or rad-tolerant GPUs, CPUs, FPGAs or other components, hardware/software/firmware architectures, storage, and algorithms, including implementations supporting distributed processing
- **Advanced Cryptographic Solutions and Scalable Architectures**: Advanced cryptographic solution, including both hardware devices and software-based implementations, capable of securing high-speed, ground – and space-based communications. Hardware solutions, such as very high-speed High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptors (HAIPE), must be mass-producible and low SWaP-C. Software-based solutions should be flexible and efficient. All proposed solutions must follow the latest guidance in quantum resilience and zero-trust properties
- **Enterprise System of Systems Digital Engineering for Mission Analysis, Test, and Training:** Rapidly developed, low-cost, low maintenance calibrated digital engineering tools and approaches to advance the SDA PWSA Enterprise Digital Ecosystem. This environment must support mission modeling, simulation, and analysis (MS&A), as well as system testing and operator training activities. Solutions should be built upon a common set of reference data across the PWSA design, development and operations lifecycle, without labor-intensive administration of comprehensive, high-fidelity digital twins.

- **Advanced Tools and Environments for Operations, Test and Training**: Advanced tools, components, and modules that can contribute to a government-owned, integrated digital environment supporting the full Lifecyle of the PWSA. This interest in modular contributions across operations, test and training, including intuitive visualization interfaces for Operation Centers that fuse mission data into a common operational picture, robust tools for automated system testing and performance validation, and high-fidelity modules for realistic operator training in contested scenarios.
- **Ground Segment Framework Evolution and Integration**: Advancements that enable a more modular, scalable, and resilient PWSA Ground Segment. May include MOSA-aligned framework designs; abstraction layers that simplify integration of new applications and services, such as Custody Mission Management and Network Orchestration; approaches that enhance interoperability across ground, space, and mission-partner environments; and techniques that support low-risk evolution or rehosting of existing Ground Segment capabilities. Enabling solutions should provide tangible artifacts that lower the barrier for third-party application integration and further enable cross-tranche interoperability. These shall include, but are not limited to, standardized APIs, Software Development Kits (SDKs), and executable digital models that prove system interoperability.
- **Dynamic Operations:** Coordinated autonomous control of space vehicles, payloads, and network resources to achieve a desired mission effect. This includes dynamic, status-aware, and optionally AI-enabled algorithms and systems for the automation of resource allocation, scheduling, and network orchestration. Solutions must enable the real-time prioritization of software processes, dynamic tasking of missile tracking and surveillance resources, intelligent power cycling of payloads, and the adjustment of data routing to meet evolving mission demands in a contested environment.

Attachments to this Broad Agency Announcement (BAA):

- *Sample* – Prototype OTA

IV. Award Information

A. General Award Information

Multiple awards are anticipated. The number of resources made available under this BAA will depend on the quality of the proposals received, the direct correlation between anticipated results and enhanced warfighting capability, and the availability of funds.

The Government reserves the right to select for negotiation all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this solicitation and to make awards without discussions with proposers. The Government also reserves the right to conduct discussions if it is determined to be in the Government's best interest. If warranted, portions of resulting awards may be segregated into pre-priced options. Additionally, the Government reserves the right to accept proposals in their entirety or to select only portions of proposals for award. In the event that the Government desires to award only portions of a proposal, negotiations will be opened with that proposer for those specific portions selected. The Government reserves the right to fund proposals in phases with options for continued

work, as applicable, based on the accomplishments of previously funded efforts.

Awards under this BAA will be made to proposers on the basis of the evaluation criteria listed below (see Section VII, "Application Review Information"), and program balance to provide overall value to the Government. The Government reserves the right to request any additional, necessary documentation once it makes the award instrument determination. Such additional information may include but is not limited to Representations and Certifications (see Section VIII.E.4, "Representations and Certifications"). The Government reserves the right to remove proposals from award consideration, should the parties fail to reach agreement on award terms, conditions, and/or cost/price within a reasonable time, or the proposer fails to provide requested additional information in a timely manner. Proposals identified for negotiation may result in a procurement contract or OTA, depending upon the nature of the work proposed, the required degree of interaction between parties, and other factors. Any requests for or assumptions regarding Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) or Government Furnished Information (GFI) shall be clearly stated in the proposal or may not be provided.

For any OTA awarded in accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 4022, the Government may award a follow-on production contract or OTA under this BAA if: (1) that participant in the OTA, or a recognized successor in interest to the OTA, successfully completed the entire prototype project provided for in the OTA, as modified; and (2) the OTA provides for the award of a follow-on production contract or OTA to the participant, or a recognized successor in interest to the OTA. In all cases, the Government contracting/agreements officer shall have sole discretion to select award instrument type, regardless of instrument type proposed, and to negotiate all instrument terms and conditions with selectees.

Any award resulting from this BAA will include a requirement for SDA permission before publishing any information related to the SDA-funded effort. The following, or similar, language will be incorporated into awards:

> There shall be no dissemination or publication, except within and between the contractor and any sub awardees, of information developed under this contract/agreement or contained in the reports to be furnished pursuant to this contract/agreement without prior written approval of SDA. All technical reports will be given proper review by the appropriate authority to determine which Distribution Statement is to be applied prior to the initial distribution of these reports by the contractor.

When submitting material for written approval for open publication, the contractor/awardee must submit a request for public release to SDA and include the following information: (1) Document Information: document title, document author, short plain language description of technology discussed in the material (approximately 30 words), number of pages (or minutes of video) and document type (e.g., briefing, report, abstract, article or paper), event date, desired date for SDA's approval; (2) SDA Program Manager/COR/AOR and contract/agreement number; and (3) Contractor/Awardee's Information: POC name, email and phone. Allow four (4) weeks for processing; due dates under four (4) weeks require written justification. Unusual electronic file formats may require additional processing time. Requests may be sent either via email to ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil or by mail at Space Development Agency, 1670 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330.

V. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

All responsible sources capable of satisfying the Government's needs may submit a proposal that shall be considered by SDA.

1. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs), and Government Entities

(1) FFRDCs and UARCs

FFRDCs and UARCs are subject to applicable direct competition limitations and cannot propose to this BAA in any capacity unless they meet the following conditions: (1) FFRDCs/UARCs must clearly demonstrate that the proposed work is not otherwise available from the private sector, and (2) FFRDCs/UARCs must provide a letter on official letterhead from their sponsoring organization that (a) cites the specific authority establishing their eligibility to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry, and (b) certifies the FFRDCs/UARCs compliance with the associated FFRDC/UARC sponsor agreement's terms and conditions. These conditions are a requirement for FFRDCs/UARCs proposing to be awardees or sub awardees.

All proposers are expected to address transition; transition is part of the evaluation criteria in Section VI.A. However, given their special status, FFRDCs/UARCs should describe how and when a proposed technology/system will transition and identify to which non-FFRDC organization(s).

2. Government Entities

Government Entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) are subject to applicable direct competition limitations. Government Entities must clearly demonstrate that the work is not otherwise available from the private sector and provide written documentation citing the specific statutory authority and contractual authority, if relevant, establishing their ability to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry. This information is required for Government Entities proposing to be awardees or sub awardees.

3. Authority and Eligibility

At the present time, SDA does not consider 15 U.S.C. § 3710a to be sufficient legal authority to show eligibility. While 10 U.S.C.§ 4892 may be the appropriate statutory starting point for some entities, specific supporting regulatory guidance, together with evidence of agency approval, will still be required to fully establish eligibility. SDA will consider FFRDC/UARC and Government Entity eligibility submissions on a case-by-case basis; however, the burden to prove eligibility for all team members rests solely with the proposer.

4. Non-U.S. Organizations and/or Individuals

Non-U.S. organizations and/or individuals may participate to the extent that such participants comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances.

5. Security

5.1 Classified Work

Proposed work could potentially involve access to or the generation of classified information. Proposals that anticipate classified work will include a security plan. The security plan will detail how the team's security capabilities will enable the technical plan (facilities, key personnel clearances, networks, security personnel assigned to support), as well as identify possible security challenges and proposed solution(s) unique to the proposer team and technical plan. Common program security requirements and challenges include but are not limited to A classified IT systems, classified facility construction and accreditation, operational security (OPSEC), Intelligence Oversight (IO), contracting sub-contracting, foreign participation or materials utilization, range utilization and support plans (air, sea, land, space, and cyber), data dissemination, asset transportation, classified test activity, and classified material asset disposition. The security plan does not count as part of the 5 -page limit.

5.2 Unclassified Submissions

Unclassified abstracts must be submitted through the Broad Agency Announcement designated email address. Please see submission instructions in sectionsVI.

5.3 Classified Submissions

Classified abstracts and proposals must be submitted in accordance with the requirements, instructions, and procedures contained within the Classified Submission Requirements, Instructions, and Procedures in Section VI. Classified submissions must NOT be submitted through the Broad Agency Announcement designated email address.

B. Organizational Conflicts of Interest

1. FAR 9.5 Requirements

In accordance with FAR 9.5, proposers are required to identify and disclose all facts relevant to potential OCIs involving the proposer's organization and *any* proposed team member (sub awardee, consultant). Under this Section, the proposer is responsible for providing this disclosure with each proposal submitted to the BAA. The disclosure must include the proposer's and, as applicable, proposed team member's OCI mitigation plan. The OCI mitigation plan must include a description of the actions the proposer has taken, or intends to take, to prevent the existence of conflicting roles that might bias the proposer's judgment and to prevent the proposer from having unfair competitive advantage. The OCI mitigation plan will specifically discuss the disclosed OCI in the context of each of the OCI limitations outlined in FAR 9.505-1 through FAR 9.505-4.

2. Agency Supplemental OCI Policy

In addition, SDA has a supplemental OCI policy that prohibits contractors/performers from concurrently providing Scientific Engineering Technical Assistance (SETA), Advisory and Assistance Services (A&AS), Mission System Engineering and Integration (MSE&I) Services, Operations and Integration Services, or similar support services and being a technical performer.

Therefore, as part of the FAR 9.5 disclosure requirement above, a proposer must affirm whether the proposer or *any* proposed team member (sub awardee, consultant) is providing SETA, A&AS, or similar support to SDA under: (a) a current award or subaward; or (b) a past award or subaward that ended within one calendar year prior to the proposal's submission date.

If SETA, A&AS, or similar support is being or was provided to SDA, the proposal must include:

- The prime contract number;
- Identification of proposed team member (sub awardee, consultant) providing the support; and
- An OCI mitigation plan in accordance with FAR 9.5.

Government Procedures

In accordance with FAR 9.503, 9.504 and 9.506, the Government will evaluate OCI mitigation plans to avoid, neutralize or mitigate potential OCI issues before award and to determine whether it is in the Government's interest to grant a waiver. The Government will only evaluate OCI mitigation plans for proposals that are determined selectable under the BAA evaluation criteria and for which funds are available.

The Government may require proposers to provide additional information to assist the Government in evaluating the proposer's OCI mitigation plan. Proposers shall clearly delineate their approach to ensure physical, organizational and financial separation of the proposing entity and the potentially conflicted entity.

If the Government determines that a proposer failed to fully disclose an OCI; or failed to provide the affirmation of SDA support as described above; or failed to reasonably provide additional information requested by the Government to assist in evaluating the proposer's OCI mitigation plan, the Government may reject the proposal and withdraw it from consideration for award.

C. Cost Sharing/Matching

Cost sharing is not required; however, it will be carefully considered where there is an applicable statutory condition relating to the selected funding instrument. Cost sharing is encouraged where there is a reasonable probability of a potential commercial application related to the proposed research and development effort.

For more information on potential cost sharing requirements for Other Transactions for Prototype, see: https://aaf.dau.edu/aaf/contracting-cone/ot/.

VI. Application and Submission Information

A. Application Assistance

All administrative correspondence and questions on this solicitation, including requests for information on how to submit an Executive Summary, invited Proposal Abstract, or invited full Proposal to this BAA, should be directed to ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil

B. Content and Form of Submission

Proposers are **strongly encouraged** to submit an Executive Summary and, encouraged to submit, a Proposal Abstract in advance of a full Proposal. This procedure is intended to minimize unnecessary effort and cost in proposal preparation and review. Proposers are reminded that SDA's ability and appetite for technology development are limited, and our focus is and will remain at the PWSA level to better serve the warfighter and ensure mission accomplishment. SDA highly values industry partnership and seeks to ensure your resources are applied efficiently and effectively wherever possible.

All submissions must be written in English with type not smaller than 12-point font. A page is defined as being no larger than an electronically formatted page of 8.5" by 11.0" with type not smaller than 12 point and margins no smaller than one (1) inch on all sides. Smaller font (no less than 10 point) may be used for figures, tables, and charts. Copies of all documents submitted must be clearly labeled with the SDA BAA number, proposer organization, SDA focus area(s) as described in Section III.C, and proposal title/proposal short title.

For a proposal that includes both classified and unclassified information, the proposal may be separated into an unclassified portion and a classified portion. The proposal should use the unclassified portion to the maximum extent reasonable. Submissions should be made according to the instructions outlined in Section VI.D.

NOTE: Non-conforming submissions that do not follow the instructions herein may be rejected without further review.

1. Executive Summary (ES) Format

Executive Summaries are **strongly encouraged** in advance of submitting invited proposal abstracts and invited full proposals to provide potential proposers with a rapid response to minimize unnecessary effort. Proposers should specifically and clearly address the innovation of their proposed system or subsystem component development, the scientific or technical basis for innovative claims, and the architectural impact of the proposed development on warfighter mission capabilities, efficiency, or effectiveness. SDA policy is to treat all submissions as source selection information (see FAR 2.101 and 3.104), and to disclose their contents only for the purpose of evaluation. The executive summary should be clearly marked "EXECUTIVE SUMMARY," and the total length shall not exceed two [2] pages. All executive summary submissions must be written in narrative form. No formal transmittal letter is required, but submissions must include the organization name, submission title, SDA focus area(s) as described in Section III.C, and technical POC information (e-mail and mailing address).

2. Proposal Abstract (PA) Format

Proposers are **strongly encouraged** to submit a proposal abstract, or white paper, in advance of a proposal. * Abstracts should follow the same general format as described for proposals (see Section VI.B.3) but include ONLY sections I and II of Volume I, Technical and Management Proposal. The abstract must include a statement of the anticipated Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) cost and the anticipated duration of the proposed effort. It is recommended that proposers provide sufficient information to assess the technical performance claims – SDA policy is to treat all submissions as source selection information (see FAR 2.101 and 3.104), and to disclose their contents only for the purpose of evaluation. The cover sheet should be clearly marked "ABSTRACT," and the total length should not exceed five [5] pages. The maximum page count excludes the cover page in Volume I, Technical and Management Proposal, section I, and official transmittal letter, but does include any figures, tables, or other graphics. An official transmittal letter is not required.

* In some cases, a proposer may be encouraged by the Government to proceed from an executive summary to a full proposal without submitting an abstract.

3. Full Proposal (FP) Format

All proposals must be in the format given below. Non-conforming proposals may be rejected without review. The typical proposal should express a consolidated effort in support of one (1) or more related technical concepts or ideas. Disjointed efforts should not be included into a single proposal. Proposals shall consist of two (2) volumes: 1) Volume I, Technical and Management Proposal (composed of three (3) parts), and 2) Volume II, Cost Proposal. The maximum page limit for Volume I is 15 pages (25 pages if the proposal total value exceeds $1 million). Bracketed numbers by each section denote page limits. The page limitation for full proposals includes all figures, tables, and charts.

Ensure that each section provides the detailed discussion of the proposed work necessary to enable an in-depth review of the specific technical and managerial issues. Specific attention must be given to addressing cost, schedule, technical and programmatic risks, and architectural payoff of the proposed work that make it of specific mission value to SDA.

Volume I, Technical and Management Proposal, described below, may include an attached bibliography of relevant technical papers or research notes (published and unpublished), which document the technical ideas and approach upon which the proposal is based. Copies of not more than three (3) relevant papers may be included with the submission. The bibliography and attached papers are not included in the page limits. The submission of other supporting materials along with the proposals is strongly discouraged and will not be considered for review.

4. Volume 1, Technical and Management Proposal

Section I: Administrative

(1) Cover Sheet to include {no page limit}:

(2) BAA number (FA240126S0001)

(3) SDA focus area(s);

(4) Lead organization submitting proposal;

(5) Type of organization, selected among the following categories: “LARGE BUSINESS,” “SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS,” “OTHER SMALL BUSINESS,” “HBCU,” “MI,” “OTHER EDUCATIONAL,” OR “OTHER NONPROFIT”;

(6) Proposer’s reference number (if any);

(7) Other team members (if applicable) and type of organization for each;

(8) Proposal title;

(9) Technical point of contact to include: salutation, last name, first name, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone, electronic mail;

(10) Administrative point of contact to include: salutation, last name, first name, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone, electronic mail;

(11) Total funds requested from SDA, including total base cost, estimates of base cost in each year of the effort, estimates of itemized options in each year of the effort, and the

amount of cost share (if any);

(12) Award instrument requested: cost-plus-fixed-fee (CPFF), cost-contract – no fee, cost sharing contract – no fee, or other type of procurement contract (specify), or other transaction;

(13) Place(s) and period(s) of performance;

(14) Summary of the costs of the proposed research, including total base cost, estimates of base cost in each year of the effort, estimates of itemized options in each year of the effort, and cost sharing if relevant;

(15) Name, address, and telephone number of the proposer's cognizant Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) administration office (if known);

(16) Name, address, and telephone number of the proposer's cognizant Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) audit office (if known);

(17) Unique Entity ID (UEI);

(18) Cage code (lead organization);

(19) Proposal validity period (minimum 180 days);

(20) Affirmation of existing SETA or A&AS support contracts (see Section IV, Section B). If none, state "none";

(21) Statement of Unique Capability Provided by Government or Government- Funded Team Member {no page limit};

(22) Per Section V.A – Eligible Applicants, proposals that include Government or Government-funded entities (i.e., FFRDCs, UARCs, National laboratories, etc.) as prime, subcontractor or team member, shall provide a statement that clearly demonstrates the work being provided by the Government or Government- funded entity team member is not otherwise available from the private sector. If none of the team members belongs to a Government or Government-funded entity, then the proposer should state "Not Applicable."

(23) Date proposal was submitted.

5. **Official transmittal letter {1}**
6. **Table of Contents {no page limit}**
7. **Summary of Proposal {NTE 4 pages}**

Note: The Summary of Proposal should not have any unique information not contained in the Detailed Proposal Information.

(1) Innovation: Succinctly describe the uniqueness and benefits of the proposed research relative to the existing body of research and industry work. Provide a basic description of the scientific or technical basis for the innovative claims.

(2) Results: Provide a short description of the deliverables associated with the proposed

research – discuss the results, products, transferable technology, and transition path.

(a) Include in this section all proprietary claims to the results, prototypes, intellectual property, or systems supporting and/or necessary for the use of the research, results, and/or prototype. If there are no proprietary claims, this should be stated. For forms to be completed regarding intellectual property, see Section VI.C.5(8) – Intellectual Property of this BAA. There will be no page limit for the listed forms.

(b) Proposers responding to this BAA must submit a separate list of all technical data or computer software that will be furnished to the Government with other than unlimited rights. The Government will assume unlimited rights if proposers fail to identify any intellectual property restrictions in their proposals.

(3) **Technical Rationale:** Provide a short description of the impact of the proposed development on military mission capabilities, efficiency, or effectiveness.

(a) Should include general discussion of other research in this area.

(b) The purpose of this section is to explain why the specific technical approach you chose is superior to other technical approaches. This section is not intended to expand on the military utility of your concept.

(4) **Technical Approach:** Provide a short description of the technical approach and constructive plan for accomplishment of technical goals in support of innovative claims and deliverable production.

(5) **Experience:** Describe the unique capabilities of project and corporate team members. Describe the proposer's previous accomplishments and work in closely related research areas.

(6) **Cost:** Cost, schedule and measurable milestones for the proposed research, including estimates of cost for each task in each year of the effort delineated by the prime and major subcontractors, total cost and company cost share, if applicable. (Note: Measurable milestones should capture key development points in tasks and should be clearly articulated and defined in time relative to start of effort.)

8. Detailed Proposal Information {NTE 11, or NTE 21 if proposal total value exceeds $1 million}

(1) Statement of Work (SOW)

In plain English, clearly define the technical tasks/subtasks to be performed, their durations, and dependencies among them. The page length for the SOW will be dependent on the amount of the effort. For each task/subtask, provide:

(a) A general description of the technical objective (for each defined task/activity);

(b) A detailed description of the approach to be taken to accomplish each defined task/activity in support of the innovative claims and deliverable production;

(c) Identification of the primary organization responsible for task execution (prime, sub, team

member, by name, etc.);

(d) A top-level schedule for all major tasks and the completion criteria for each task/activity (a product, event or milestone that defines its completion). Please include where the effort could be partitioned into initial and future phases – future phases should be identified as options.

(e) Define all deliverables (reporting, data, reports, hardware, software, technology, products, etc.) to be provided to the Government in support of the proposed tasks/activities; and

(f) Clearly identify any tasks/subtasks (to be performed by either an awardee or sub awardee) that will be accomplished on-campus at a university, if applicable.

Note: It is recommended that the SOW should be developed so that each Phase of the program is separately defined. ***The SOW is not included as part of the Volume I page limit.*** Do not include any proprietary information in the SOW.

(2) Technical Rationale:

(a) Provide the technical rationale for the objective requirement, including technology advancements and value-added to DoD capabilities and SDA's proliferated architecture.

(b) Provide technical rationale, scientific basis, and any supporting analysis for the technical approach for each major task/activity.

(c) Provide a comparison of the technical objectives and technical approach with other ongoing research and existing state-of-the-art, indicating advantages and disadvantages of the proposed effort.

(3) Risk and Risk Reduction

(a) Provide an initial list of critical cost, schedule, technical and programmatic risk areas.

(b) Describe the formal process for identifying and tracking the risk elements that translate into critical and unique technologies, processes and system attributes associated with a technology objective.

(c) For each proposed risk reduction task:

- Provide a detailed discussion of the objectives of each of the proposed risk reduction tasks as well as quantifiable success metrics.
- Describe the approach for each risk reduction task.
- Describe the value of performing the risk reduction activities during the initial phase, as opposed to deferring them until future phases.

(d) Describe the process for identifying and evaluating applicable technologies available from other Government and industry R&D programs.

(e) Address mitigation of life-cycle and sustainment risks associated with transitioning intellectual property for U.S. military applications, if applicable.

(4) Results

(a) Describe the results, products, transferable technology and expected technology transfer/transition paths.

(b) Provide a description of all proprietary claims to the results, prototypes, intellectual property, or systems. If there are no proprietary claims, this should be stated. For forms to be completed regarding intellectual property

(c) VI.C.5. (8) – Intellectual Property. There will be no page limit for the listed forms.

(5) Organization

(a) Describe the programmatic relationship of corporate team members.

(b) Describe the responsibilities of corporate and project team members.

(c) Describe the teaming strategy among the team members.

(d) Identify the key personnel by name and include descriptions of their roles. SDA requires key personnel identified in the proposal to be assigned as proposed, and the resulting contract/agreement will indicate no substitution shall be made without prior approval of the Government.

(e) Describe the proposer's previous accomplishments and work in closely related research areas.

(f) Submit a clearly defined organization chart for the project team which includes, as applicable:

- The programmatic relationship of team members;
- The unique capabilities of team members;
- The task of responsibilities of team members;
- The teaming strategy among the team members; and
- The key personnel along with the amount of effort to be expended by each person during each year.

(6) Facilities

(a) Provide a description of any unique facilities necessary for execution of the proposed effort that would be used for the proposed effort, e.g., the requirement for a Co-Use Agreement.

(7) Project Management:

(a) Management Plan:

- Describe program management process that will be utilized to achieve the technical objective.
- Include a description of how the team will function and share technical and financial information among the team members and with the Government.
- Provide short (not to exceed one (1) page) résumés for the key personnel in key disciplines/risk areas.

(b) Schedule: Provide a detailed integrated schedule of all initial phase activities, including risk reduction tasks. Proposals below $1 million shall provide an Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) at a minimum at WBS Level 2. Proposals that exceed $1 million (total proposed value, regardless of potential cost share) shall provide an IMS at WBS Level 3.

- Measurable critical milestones should occur no less than quarterly after the start of the effort. Additional interim non-critical management milestones are also highly encouraged at regular intervals. Milestones must not include proprietary information.
- Top-level schedules are required for optional phases and should be based on the proposer's initial risk reduction strategy.
- Include key events and demonstrations as appropriate for the technology concept. An electronic copy of the IMS in MS Project or Project-compatible format shall be included with proposal submissions.
- All tasks in the IMS shall be linked and the ability to display the critical path shall be implemented.

C. Volume II, Cost Proposal

All proposers, including FFRDCs/UARCs, must submit the following:

Section I: Administrative

1. Cover sheet to include:

(1) BAA number (FA240126S0001);

(2) SDA focus area(s);

(3) Lead Organization submitting proposal;

(4) Type of organization selected among the following categories:

(5) "LARGE BUSINESS," "SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS," "OTHER SMALL BUSINESS," "HBCU," "MI," "OTHER EDUCATIONAL," OR "OTHER NONPROFIT";

(6) Proposer's reference number (if any);

(7) Other team members (if applicable) and type of organization for each;

(8) Proposal title;

(9) Technical point of contact to include: salutation, last name, first name, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone, fax (if available), electronic mail (if available);

(10) Administrative point of contact to include: salutation, last name, first name, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone, fax (if available), and electronic mail (if available);

(11) Award instrument requested: cost-plus-fixed-fee (CPFF), cost-contract—no fee, cost sharing contract – no fee, or other type of procurement contract (specify), or Other Transaction;

(12) Place(s) and period(s) of performance;

(13) Total proposed cost separated by basic award and option(s) (if any);

(14) Name, address, and telephone number of the proposer's cognizant Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) administration office (if known);

(15) Name, address, and telephone number of the proposer's cognizant Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) audit office (if known);

(16) Date proposal was prepared;

(17) Unique Entity ID (UEI);

(18) CAGE Code;

(19) Sub awardee Information; and

(20) Proposal validity period.

2. Detailed Cost Proposal

Note: Nonconforming proposals may be rejected without review.

3. Supporting Cost and Pricing Data:

(1) The proposer should include supporting cost and pricing information in sufficient detail to substantiate the summary cost estimates and should include a description of the method used to estimate costs and supporting documentation. The Government strongly encourages that tables included in the cost proposal also be provided in an editable (e.g., MS Excel or compatible) format with calculation formulas intact to allow traceability of the cost proposal numbers across the prime and subcontractors.

(2) The awardee is responsible for compiling and providing all sub awardee proposals for the Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO).

(3) Sub awardee proposals should include Interdivisional Work Transfer Agreements (ITWA) or similar arrangements.

(4) All proprietary sub awardee proposal documentation, prepared at the same level of detail as that required of the awardee's proposal and that cannot be uploaded with the proposed awardee's proposal, shall be provided to the Government either by the awardee or by the sub awardee organization by e-mail (ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil) when the proposal is submitted.

(5) Where the effort consists of multiple portions that could reasonably be partitioned for purposes of funding, these should be identified as options with separate cost estimates for each.

(6) For IT and equipment purchases, include a letter stating why the proposer cannot provide the requested resources from its own funding.

(7) Each copy must be clearly labeled with the SDA BAA number, proposer organization, and proposal title (short title recommended).

(8) Cost Breakdown Information and Format: Detailed cost breakdown to include the following.

(9) Provide the total cost and costs broken down by initial phase and options.

(10) Provide costs broken down by task for the initial phase, including at a minimum:

- Major tasks by fiscal year
- A summary of projected funding requirements by month
- Direct labor, including labor categories and man-hours, and labor rates;
- Cost by the prime and major subcontractors;
- Cost by major risk/activity;
- Materials;
- Other Direct Costs (ODCs) (e.g., travel, equipment, etc.);
- Overhead/Indirect charges, and rates used to calculate overhead/indirect costs; provide the source, nature, and amount of any industry cost-sharing.

(11) An itemization of major subcontracts and equipment purchases, including:

- Documentation supporting the reasonableness of the proposed equipment costs (vendor quotes, past purchase orders/purchase history, detailed engineering estimates, etc.) and a description of the method used to estimate costs and supporting documentation.
- Identification of pricing assumptions of which may require incorporation into the resulting award instrument (e.g., use of Government Furnished Property/Facilities/Information, access to Government Subject Matter Experts, etc.)
- Any information technology (IT) purchase, as defined by FAR 2.101: Documentation supporting the reasonableness of the proposed equipment costs (vendor quotes, past purchase orders/purchase history, detailed engineering estimates, etc.) shall be provided, including a letter stating why the proposer cannot provide the requested resources from its own funding for prime and all sub-awardees.

NOTE: If PDF submissions differ from the Excel submission, the PDF will take precedence.

Cost Note: Per FAR 15.403-4, certified cost or pricing data shall be required if the proposer is seeking a procurement contract award per the referenced threshold, unless the proposer requests and is granted an exception from the requirement to submit cost or pricing data. Certified cost or pricing data are not required if the proposer proposes an award instrument other than a procurement contract (e.g., other transaction.)

4. Sub awardee Proposals

The awardee is responsible for compiling and providing all sub awardee proposals for the Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO)/Agreements Officer (AO), as applicable. Sub awardee proposals should include Interdivisional Work Transfer Agreements (ITWA) or similar arrangements. Where the effort consists of multiple portions that could reasonably be partitioned for purposes of funding, these should be identified as options with separate cost estimates for each.

All proprietary subcontractor proposal documentation, prepared at the same level of detail as that required of the prime and which cannot be uploaded with the proposed prime contractor's proposal, shall be provided to the Government either by the prime contractor or by the subcontractor organization by e-mail (ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil)when the proposal is submitted. The subject line of the e-mail shall contain the lead organization's proposal title, lead organization name, lead organization proposal submission date, and subcontractor name. The sub awardee must provide the same number of copies to the PCO/AO as is required of the awardee. See Section VI.D of this BAA for proposal submission information.

(1) Other Transaction Requests

- The Government may award either a FAR based contract or an OTA for Prototype for system development. All proposers requesting an OT must include a detailed list of milestones. Each milestone must include the following:
- Milestone description;
- Completion criteria;
- Due date; and
- Payment/funding schedule (to include, if cost share is proposed, awardee and Government share amounts).

It is noted that, at a minimum, milestones should relate directly to accomplishment of program technical metrics as defined in the BAA and/or the proposer's proposal. Agreement type, expenditure or fixed price based will be subject to negotiation by the Agreements Officer. Do not include proprietary data. If the proposer requests award of an OT for Prototype as a non-traditional contractor, information must be included in the cost proposal to support such a claim.

The term non-traditional defense contractor, with respect to a transaction authorized under 10 U.S.C. Section 4022, means an entity that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the one-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by the DoD for the procurement or transaction, any contract or subcontract for the DoD that is subject to full coverage under the cost accounting standards prescribed pursuant to section 1502 of title 41 and the regulations implementing such section.

5. Additional Proposal Information

(1) Proprietary Markings

Proposers are responsible for clearly identifying proprietary information. Submissions containing proprietary information must have the cover page and each page containing such information clearly marked with a label such as "Proprietary." NOTE: "Confidential" is a classification marking used to control the dissemination of U.S. Government National Security Information, as dictated in Executive Order 13526, and should not be used to identify proprietary business information.

(2) Marking Classified Submissions

Submission instructions for classified information can be found in Section VI.D. If a determination is made that the award instrument may result in access to classified information, a Security Classification Guide (SCG) and DD Form 254, "DoD Contract Security Specification," will be issued by SDA and attached as part of the award.

Classified submissions shall be transmitted and marked in accordance with the following guidance: S D A -Security Classification Guide (SCG) and SDA DD Form 254.

If a submission contains Classified National Security Information or the suspicion of such, as defined by Executive Order 13526, the information must be appropriately and conspicuously marked with the proposed classification level and declassification date, according to DoD Manual 5200.01, Volume 2, May 14, 2019, "DoD Information Security Program: Marking of Information."

Submissions requiring SDA to make a final classification determination shall be marked as follows:

> "CLASSIFICATION DETERMINATION PENDING. Protect as though classified_(insert the recommended classification level: Top Secret, Secret or Confidential)."

NOTE: Classified submissions must indicate the classification level of not only the submitted materials, but also the classification level of the anticipated award.

(3) Disclosure of Information and Compliance with Safeguarding Covered Defense Information Controls

The following provision and clause apply to all OT or FAR-based solicitations and contracts:

- DFARS 252.204-7000, "Disclosure of Information"
- DFARS 252.204-7008, "Compliance with Safeguarding Covered Defense Information Controls"
- DFARS 252.204-7012, "Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting"

Compliance with the above requirements includes the mandate for proposers to implement the security requirements for Information Systems, specified by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-171, "Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Information Systems and Organizations" (see https://csrc.nist.gov/pubs/sp/800/171/r3/final) that are in effect at the time the BAA is issued.

The full text of the above solicitation provisions and contract clauses can be found at https://www.acquisition.gov/dfars.

(4) Prohibition on the Acquisition of Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services/Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment and Services

The following provisions and clauses apply to all OT or FAR-based solicitations and contracts:

- FAR 52.204-24, "Representations Regarding Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment"
- FAR 52.204-25, "Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Equipment"
- FAR 52.204-26, "Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services"
- DFARS 252.204-7016, "Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services – Representation

- DFARS 252.204-7017, "Prohibition on the Acquisition of Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services – Representations"
- DFARS 252.204-7018, "Prohibition on the Acquisition of Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services

The full text of the above solicitation provisions and contract clauses can be found at https:/www.acquisition.gov.

(5) Approved Cost Accounting SystemDocumentation

Proposers that do not have a Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) complaint accounting system considered adequate for determining accurate costs that are negotiating a cost- type procurement contract must complete an SF 1408. For more information on CAS compliance, see http://www.dcaa.mil/. To facilitate this process, proposers should complete the SF 1408 found at http://www.gsa.gov/portal/forms/download/115778 and submit the completed form with the proposal.

(6) Small Business Subcontracting Plan

Pursuant to Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 637(d)) and FAR 19.702(a)(1), each proposer who submits a contract proposal and includes subcontractors might be required to submit a subcontracting plan with their proposal. The plan format is outlined in FAR 19.704.

(7) Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 749d)/FAR 39.2

All electronic and information technology acquired or created through this BAA must satisfy the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 749d)/FAR 39.2.

(8) Intellectual Property

All proposers must provide a good faith representation that the proposer either owns or possesses the appropriate licensing rights to all intellectual property that will be utilized under the proposed effort. If not specified, the Government will assume unlimited rights.

(a) For Procurement Contracts

Proposers responding to this BAA requesting procurement contracts will need to complete the certifications at DFARS 252.227-7017. If no restrictions are intended, the proposer should state "none." The table below captures the requested information:

Technical Data Computer Software To be Furnished With Restrictions	Summary of Intended Use in the Conduct of the Research	Basis for Assertion	Asserted Rights Category	Name of Person Asserting Restrictions
(LIST)	(NARRATIVE)	(LIST)	(LIST)	(LIST)

(b) For All Non-Procurement Contracts

Proposers responding to this BAA requesting an OTA shall follow the applicable rules and regulations governing these various award instruments, but in all cases, should appropriately identify any potential restrictions on the Government's use of any Intellectual Property contemplated under the award instrument in question. This includes both Noncommercial Items and Commercial Items. Proposers are encouraged use a format similar to that described in Paragraph (1) above. If no restrictions are intended, then the proposer should state "NONE."

(9) System for Award Management (SAM) and Universal Identifier Requirements

All proposers must be registered in SAM unless exempt per FAR 4.1102. FAR 52.204-7, "System for Award Management" and FAR 52.204-13, "System for Award Management Maintenance." Registration instructions can be found at https://sam.gov/entity-information.

NOTE – For proposers requesting FAR Based Contracts, additional FAR and DFARS clauses and provisions will apply. The specific clauses are based on the award type, award amount, business size, security restrictions and other factors. The text and guidelines for inclusion of these provisions and clauses can be found at https:/www.acquisition.gov.

D. Submission Instructions

SDA will acknowledge receipt of all submissions. Submissions will not be returned. An electronic copy of each submission received will be retained at SDA.

The typical submission should express a consolidated effort in support of one (1) or more related technical concepts or ideas. Disjointed or separate efforts should not be included into a single submission.

Executive summaries and proposal abstracts should be submitted on or before 4:00 PM Eastern Time, 15 December 2026. Full proposals must be submitted on or before 12:00 AM Eastern Time, 14 January 2026. Submissions received to FA240126S0001 after these times and dates may not be evaluated. The ability to review and select proposals submitted will be contingent on availability of funds.

1. Unclassified Submission Instructions

Unclassified concepts sent in response to this BAA may be submitted via email to the following address: ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil. All submissions must be attached as zip files (.zip or .zipx extension). The final zip file should be no greater than 20 MB in size. Only one (1) zip file will be accepted per submission. Submissions should be made separately; multiple submissions submitted in the same email (or zip file) will not be reviewed.

Classified submissions and proposals should NOT be submitted to this email address. Instructions for a proposal that includes both classified and unclassified information can be found below under "Submission Instructions for both Classified and Unclassified Submissions."

Proposers submitting classified information must have, or be able to obtain prior to award, cognizant security agency approved facilities, information systems, and appropriately cleared/eligible personnel to perform at the classification level proposed. All proposer personnel performing

Information Assurance (IA)/Cybersecurity related duties on classified Information Systems shall meet the requirements set forth in DoD Manual 8570.01-M (Information Assurance Workforce Improvement Program). Additional information on the subjects discussed in this section may be found at http://www.dss.mil.

Proposers choosing to submit classified information from other collateral classified sources (i.e., sources other than SDA) must ensure (1) they have permission from an authorized individual at the cognizant Government agency (e.g., Contracting Officer, Program Manager); the proposal is marked in accordance with the source Security Classification Guide (SCG) from which the material is derived; and (3) the source SCG is submitted along with the proposal.

2. Confidential, Secret, and Top Secret Information

Use transmission, classification, handling, and marking guidance provided by previously issued SCGs, the DoD Information Security Manual (DoDM 5200.01, Volumes 1 - 3), and the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual, including the Supplement Revision 1 (32 CFR Part 117), when submitting Confidential, Secret, and/or Top Secret classified information.

3. Confidential and Secret

Confidential and Secret classified information: Proposers shall send a request to ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil identifying the required network for submission. Following the request a mailbox for proposal submission will be provided. Please do not transmit classified content over an unclassified email system.

4. Top Secret Information

Top Secret information: Proposers shall send a request to ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil identifying the required network for submission. Following the request a mailbox for proposal submission will be provided. Please do not transmit classified content over an unclassified email system.

Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI):

SCI must be marked, managed and transmitted in accordance with DoDM 5105.21 Volumes 1 – 3. Proposers shall send a request to ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil identifying the required network for submission. Following the request a mailbox for proposal submission will be provided. Please do not transmit classified content over an unclassified email system.

Hard copy submission via USPS, or any other type of shipping method, will not be accepted for classified submissions.

Questions regarding the transmission of SCI may be sent to the SDA Technical Office Program Security Officer (PSO) via the BAA mailbox. Successful proposers may be sponsored by SDA for access to SCI. Sponsorship must be aligned to an existing DD Form 254 where SCI has been authorized. Questions regarding SCI sponsorship should be directed to the attention of the SDA Personnel Security Office via unclassified email to ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.security@mail.mil with

"BAA Number FA240126S0001" in the Subject Line.

5. Special Access Program (SAP) Information

SAP information must be marked in accordance with DoDM 5205.07 Volume 4 and transmitted by specifically approved methods which will be provided if required.

Proposers choosing to submit SAP information from an agency other than SDA are required to provide to the SDA PSO written permission from the source material's cognizant Special Access Program Control Officer (SAPCO) or designated representative. For clarification regarding this process, contact SDA at unclassified email ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.security@mail.mil with "BAA Number FA240126S0001" in the Subject Line.

6. Submission Instructions for both Classified and Unclassified Submissions

For a proposal that includes both classified and unclassified information, the proposal must be separated into an unclassified portion and a classified portion. The proposal should include as much information as possible in the unclassified portion and use the classified portion ONLY for classified information. The unclassified portion can be submitted to ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mill, per the instructions in "Unclassified Submission Instructions" above. The classified portion must be provided separately, according to the instructions outlined in the 'Classified Submission Instructions, Requirements, and Procedures' section above.

7. Funding Restrictions

Not Applicable.

8. Other Submission Requirements

Not Applicable.

VII. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

Conforming proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria, listed in descending order of importance. Evaluators will base their conclusions only on information contained in the proposal. It cannot be assumed that evaluators are acquainted with the firm or key individuals or any referenced experiments. Relevant supporting data such as journal articles, literature, including Government publications, etc., should be contained or referenced in the proposal and will count toward the page limit.

1. Overall Operational and Technical Merit

The proposed technical approach is innovative, feasible, achievable, and complete. Concepts shall specifically and clearly address the innovation proposed and the operational or technical basis of the claims. The proposed technical team shall reflect the expertise and experience to accomplish the proposed tasks. Task descriptions and associated technical elements provided are complete and in a logical sequence with all proposed deliverables clearly defined such that a final outcome that achieves the goal can be expected as a result of award.

Sufficient information demonstrating an executable course of research shall be provided for reviewers to determine whether it would enable capabilities beyond state-of-the-art or state-of-

practice. The proposal identifies major risks and planned mitigation efforts are clearly defined and feasible. Barriers to implementation shall be discussed and potential mitigations for such barriers addressed.

2. Potential Contribution and Relevance to the SDA Mission

Proposals will also be assessed against the SDA mission and the focus on PWSA enhancements that benefit the warfighter. SDA is not interested in approaches or technologies that are comparable to the current state-of-practice, or duplicative of on-going efforts. Proposals will also be evaluated on the potential for commercial (Government or private sector) application and the benefits expected to accrue from resulting commercialization or commoditization. SDA is interested in technologies that can be rapidly introduced into the proliferated LEO space marketplace in component, subsystem or system form. In addition, technologies which have the potential to become commodity components, subsystems or systems are also of interest and will be evaluated more favorably. The proposer will be evaluated on their capability to transition the technology to the research, industrial, and/or operational military communities in such a way as to enhance U.S. warfighting capability. In addition, this evaluation will take into consideration the extent to which the proposed intellectual property (IP) rights will potentially impact the Government's ability to transition the technology to the research, industrial, and operational military communities.

3. Cost Realism

The proposed costs are realistic for the technical and management approach and accurately reflect the technical goals and objectives of the solicitation. The proposed costs are consistent with the proposer's Statement of Work and reflect a sufficient understanding of the costs and level of effort needed to successfully accomplish the proposed technical approach. The costs for the prime proposer and proposed sub awardees are substantiated by the details provided in the proposal (e.g., the type and number of labor hours proposed per task, the types and quantities of materials, equipment and fabrication costs, travel and any other applicable costs and the basis for the estimates).

It is expected that the effort will leverage all available relevant prior research to obtain the maximum benefit from the available funding. For efforts with a likelihood of commercial application, appropriate direct cost sharing may be a positive factor in the evaluation. SDA recognizes that undue emphasis on cost may motivate proposers to offer low- risk ideas with minimum uncertainty and to staff the effort with junior personnel to be in a more competitive posture. SDA ***strongly*** discourages such cost strategies.

4. Realism of Proposed Schedule

The proposed schedule aggressively pursues performance metrics in an efficient time frame that accurately accounts for the anticipated workload. The proposed schedule identifies and mitigates potential risks.

5. Proposer's Capabilities and/or Related Experience

Proposals will be evaluated based on the qualifications of the proposed principal/key investigators, supporting staff, and consultants. These staff should reflect the expertise and experience needed to accomplish the proposed tasks within the cost and schedule constraints in the proposal. Qualifications include not only the ability to perform the research and development but also the ability to

commercialize/commoditize the results. The proposer's prior experience in similar efforts should clearly demonstrate an ability to deliver the product proposed and meet the proposed technical performance within the proposed budget and schedule. In addition, the proposed team's expertise to manage cost and schedule should be documented. Finally, similar efforts completed/ongoing by the proposer in this area should be fully described, to include identification of other Government sponsors.

B. Review of Submissions

1. Review Process

It is the policy of SDA to ensure impartial, equitable, comprehensive evaluations based on the criteria listed in Section VI.A and to select the source (or sources) whose offer meets the Government's technical, policy, and programmatic goals. To provide the desired evaluation, qualified Government personnel will conduct reviews and (if necessary) convene panels of experts in the appropriate areas. SDA will conduct a scientific/technical review of each conforming proposal. Conforming proposals comply with all requirements detailed in this BAA; proposals that fail to do so may be deemed non-conforming and may be removed from consideration. Proposals will not be evaluated against each other since they are not submitted in accordance with a common work statement. SDA's intent is to review proposals as soon as possible after they arrive; however, proposals may be reviewed periodically for administrative reasons.

Award(s) will be made to proposers whose proposals are determined to be the most advantageous to the Government, consistent with instructions and evaluation criteria specified in the BAA herein, and availability of funding.

2. Handling of Source Selection Information

SDA policy is to treat all submissions as source selection information (see FAR 2.101 and 3.104), and to disclose their contents only for the purpose of evaluation. Restrictive notices notwithstanding, during the evaluation process, submissions may be handled by support contractors for administrative purposes and/or to assist with technical evaluation. All SDA support contractors performing this role are expressly prohibited from performing SDA- sponsored technical research and are bound by appropriate nondisclosure agreements. Subject to the restrictions set forth in FAR 37.203(d), input on technical aspects of the proposals may be solicited by SDA from non-Government consultants/experts who are strictly bound by the appropriate non-disclosure requirements.

3. Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information (FAPIIS)

Per 41 U.S.C. 2313, as implemented by FAR 9.103 and 2 CFR § 200.205, prior to making an award above the simplified acquisition threshold, SDA is required to review and consider any information available through the designated integrity and performance system (currently FAPIIS). Awardees have the opportunity to comment on any information about themselves entered in the database, and SDA will consider any comments, along with other information in FAPIIS or other systems prior to making an award.

VIII. Award Administration Information

A. Selection Notices and Notifications

All official notifications will be sent via email to the Technical and/or Administrative POC

identified within the submission. SDA will attempt to reply to executive summaries in writing within thirty (30) calendar days. SDA will attempt to reply to proposal abstracts and full proposals via the same method within forty-five (45) and sixty (60) days, respectively. These timeframes are goals and proposers are cautioned that due to workload and staffing realities these deadlines may not be achievable. SDA will respond as soon as possible.

B. Executive Summaries

SDA will respond to executive summaries with a statement as to whether SDA is interested in the idea. A letter of interest will encourage the submission of a proposal abstract. Regardless of SDA's response to an executive summary, proposers may submit a proposal abstract or a full proposal but do so with the understanding that funding or interest levels may not support selection for award. SDA will review all submissions submitted using the published evaluation criteria and without regard to any comments resulting from the review of an executive summary.

C. Proposal Abstracts

SDA will respond to abstracts with a statement as to whether SDA is interested in the idea. If SDA does not recommend the proposer submit a full proposal, SDA will provide feedback to the proposer regarding the rationale for this decision. Regardless of SDA's response to an abstract, proposers may submit a full proposal but do so with the understanding that funding or interest levels may not support selection for award. SDA will review all conforming full proposals using the published evaluation criteria and without regard to any comments resulting from the review of an abstract. A favorable response to a proposal abstract is not an assurance that a full proposal on the proposal abstract's topic will ultimately be selected for award.

D. Full Proposals

All full proposals must be determined to be conforming to receive an evaluation. Proposals that are determined to be "Non-Conforming" will receive a "Non-Conforming" letter. After the evaluation of a proposal is complete, the proposer will be notified that (1) the proposal has been selected for funding pending award negotiations, in whole or in part, or (2) the proposal has not been selected.

E. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Meeting and Travel Requirements

Proposers shall include within the content of their proposal details and costs of any travel or meetings they deem to be necessary throughout the course of the effort, to include periodic status reviews by the government.

2. FAR and DFARS Clauses

Solicitation clauses in the FAR and DFARS relevant to procurement contracts and FAR and DFARS clauses that may be included in any resultant procurement contracts are incorporated herein and can be found at https://www.acquisition.gov/.

3. Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) on Non-DoD Information Systems

Further information on CUI on Non-DoD Information Systems is incorporated herein and can be found in DoD 8582.01 "Security of Non-DoD Information Systems Process Unclassified Nonpublic DoD Information" at https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/issuances/dodi/ and also (NIST) Special

Publication (SP) 800-171 and NIST 800-172." (171 is a baseline and 172 contains updated specifics.).

4. Representations and Certifications

In accordance with FAR 4.1102 and 4.1201, proposers requesting a procurement contract must complete electronic annual representations and certifications at https://www.sam.gov/. In addition, resultant procurement contracts may require supplementary SDA-specific representations and certifications.

F. Reporting

The number and types of reports will be specified in the award document but will include as a minimum monthly technical and financial status reports. The reports shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the procedures contained in the award document and mutually agreed on before award. Reports and briefing materials will also be required as appropriate to document progress in accomplishing program metrics. A Final Report that summarizes the project and tasks will be required at the conclusion of the performance period for the award, notwithstanding the fact that the research may be continued under a follow-on vehicle. At least one (1) copy of each report will be delivered to SDA and not merely placed on a SharePoint site.

G. Electronic Systems

1. Wide Area Work Flow (WAWF)

Performers will be required to submit invoices for payment directly to https://piee.eb.mil/, unless an exception applies. Performers must register in WAWF prior to any award under this BAA.

IX. Agency Contacts

Administrative, technical, or contractual questions should be sent via e-mail to ussf.pentagon.sda.mbx.fa-240126s-001@mail.mil. All requests must include a name, e-mail address, and phone number of an organizational point of contact.

X. Other Information

N/A