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1-Step Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) with Calls

To access hyperlinks from this electronic solicitation – Hit CTRL and click on the link.

1.0 Overview Information

Federal Agency Name	Air Force Research Laboratory, 711th Human Performance Wing, RHW
BAA Title	**Joint All-DomainTransformational Model II**
BAA Number	FA2384-26-S-B004
BAA Type	This is the ***Initial Announcement***
Competition Type	'Other Competitive Procedure' as described in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2) and 35.016, as well as 2 CFR §200.203 and 10 USC §4001
Proposal Due Date and Time	**NO PROPOSALS ARE REQUESTED AT THIS TIME.** Potential offerors are invited to monitor this announcement for the release of individual solicitations which will detail specified Air Force Objectives. Each individual solicitation will identify Proposal due date(s) and time(s).
Anticipated Award Date	TBD per individual solicitation.
Estimated Program Cost	TBD per individual solicitation.
Anticipated Number of Awards	TBD per individual solicitation.
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	The NAICS Code for this acquisition is ***541715 (Research and Technology in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology)****, and the small business size standard is* ***1,000*** *employees.*
Contract/Instrument Types	The Air Force reserves the right to award the instrument best suited to the nature of research proposed, such as Any appropriate contract type under the FAR or Other Transaction (OT) for Prototype, grant, cooperative agreement, or OT for Research
Agency Contacts	Address general BAA questions to: 711HPW.RAKH.Workflow@us.af.mil

2.0 Full Text Announcement

2.1 Program Description:

Air Force Research Laboratory, RHW is soliciting technical and cost proposals on the following research effort:

The Joint All Domain Persistent Adaptive Collaborative Technologies Project is exploring command and control (C2) concepts that enable use of AI/autonomy. C2 Decision Advantage Events provide support for C2 associated decisions and an opportunity to learn about and explore many different AI/ML/automation approaches for C2. The events and R&D aim to ensure warfighter involvement in the development of AI/ML/automation and Human-Machine Teaming (HMT) concepts to further identify areas where autonomy would help warfighters.

2.2 Statement of Objective/Description of Technical Area(s):

Solicitations issued under this BAA will seek approaches covering one or more of the technical areas found in the attached Statement of Objectives.

2.3 Communication Between Prospective Offerors and Government Representatives:

Dialogue between prospective offerors and Government representatives is encouraged until submission of proposals. Discussions with any of the points of contact shall not constitute a commitment by the Government to subsequently fund or award any-proposed effort. Only Contracting Officers are legally authorized to commit the Government.

Address technical questions to the Technical POC:

Primary Technical POC:
Dr. Elizabeth Frost
711 HPW/RHTWC
elizabeth.frost.7@us.af.mil

Alternate Technical POC:
Katelyn Emmerich
711 HPW/RHWTE
katelyn.emmerich@us.af.mil

Alternate Technical POC:
Lt Col Timothy Wintch
ABMS CFT (AF/A57RB)
timothy.wintch@us.af.mil

Address contracting questions to the Contracting POC:

Primary Contracting POC:
Michelle Goss
AFRL/RAKHC
michelle.goss.1@us.af.mil

Alternate Technical POC:
Miranda Fryman

AFRL/RAKHC
Miranda.Fryman@us.af.mil

2.4 Within Scope Modifications:
Potential offerors are advised that due to the inherent uncertainty of research and development efforts, awards resulting from this announcement may be modified during performance to make within scope changes, to include but not limited to, modifications which increase overall contract ceiling amount and modifications under authority of DFARS 235.006-71.

2.5 Deliverable Items: See Attachment #3, Contract Data Requirements List (CDRL).

2.6 Schedule: This Broad Agency Announcement will remain active for three years from the date of posting.

2.7 Other Requirements:

a. This announcement incorporates FAR and supplement provisions and clauses by reference. The full text of provisions and clauses can be found at Acquisition.gov.

b. Program Security Classification: Unclassified.

c. OPSEC: See attached SOO for OPSEC guidance.

d. Export-Controlled Items: As prescribed by DFARS 225.7901-4, DFARS 252.225-7048, "Export-Controlled Item (JUN 2013)" is contained in this solicitation. This clause shall be contained in ALL resulting contracts.

2.8 Science and Technology (S&T) Protection:
S&T Protection requirements are governed by Air Force Research Laboratory Instruction (AFRLI) 61-113, *"Science and Technology (S&T) Protection for the Air Force Research Laboratory*. However, the Government may require the offeror to submit additional information &/or a mitigation plan for any identified S&T protection risks. If the Government determines the offeror failed to provide adequate additional information; or an acceptable mitigation plan; or it is determined the offeror's S&T protection approach is high risk & does not provide adequate protection of S&T information, the Government may reject the proposal & withdraw it from consideration for award.

2.9 Other Information:

2.9.1 Government Furnished Property (GFP) Availability:
GFP is not anticipated to be made available under any resulting contract.

2.9.2 Base Support/ Network Access:
Available Base Facilities: N/A

2.9.3 Multiple awards subject to Fair Opportunity:
Is not anticipated.

2.10 Contract Type/Instrument:
The Government may award any appropriate contract type under the FAR or Other Transaction (OT) for Prototype, grant, cooperative agreement, or OT for Research. The Air Force may also consider award of an appropriate technology transfer mechanism if applicable. It is anticipated that awards under this BAA will generally be firm fixed price.

2.11 Data Rights Desired:
This is a Research and Development contract where the government anticipates funding the development of the data.

(1) Other Than Commercial Technical Data: Unlimited Rights

(2) Other Than Commercial Computer Software: Unlimited Rights

(3) Other Than Commercial Software Documentation: Unlimited Rights

(4) Commercial Computer Software Rights: Customary Commercial License consistent with Federal statutes and regulations

Terms used in this section are defined in the clauses at 252.227-7013, Rights in Technical Data-Other Than Commercial Products and Commercial Services, and 252.227-7014, Rights in Other Than Commercial Computer Software and Other Than Commercial Computer Software Documentation.

Offerors that propose delivery of other than commercial technical data, other than commercial computer software, or other than commercial computer software documentation subject to less than Unlimited Rights should fully explain how a portion or all of the data was developed at private expense. Specifically, offerors must explain what other than commercial technical data, other than commercial computer software, or other than commercial computer software documentation developed with costs charged to indirect cost pools and/or costs not allocated to a Government contract will be incorporated, how the incorporation will benefit the program, and address whether those portions or processes are segregable.

Offerors shall include the data rights assertions as required by DFARS 252.227-7017*,* Identification and Assertion of Use, Release, or Disclosure Restrictions. The data rights assertions list is included in Section K (an attachment to the solicitation) and is due by the proposal due date listed within the solicitation. Assertions must be completed with specificity. Each assertion must identify the other than commercial technical data or computer software to be delivered and the associated item, component, process, software, or documentation developed exclusively or partially at private expense to which it pertains. Nonconforming data rights assertions will be returned until the table complies with DFARS 252.227-7017.

In accordance with DFARS 252.227-7013(c)(1) and 252.227-7014(c)(1), the Government shall receive unlimited rights in all other than commercial technical data and computer software developed exclusively with Government funds.

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE (COMMERCIAL AND OTHER THAN COMMMERCIAL):

In accordance with DFARS 252.227-7014(d), for commercial computer software, the Government will neither accept nor execute a DD Form 250 for such software deliverables until the Contractor obtains from all third party software suppliers and/or vendors (Licensor) licenses for any commercial computer software to be delivered that are consistent with Federal Statutes, Federal Case Law, and Federal Regulations.

If any such software, other than commercial or commercial, is not reasonably identifiable at proposal submission, it must still be approved by the contracting officer prior to incorporation. This obligation to obtain pre-approval by the contracting officer, as described above, continues throughout contract administration and performance.

Other Than Commercial Computer Software:

All other than commercial computer software will receive the appropriate level rights set forth in DFARS 252.227-7014(c). Which include: Unlimited rights, Government Purpose Rights (GPR), Restricted Rights, or rights identified within a specifically negotiated license attached to the contract.

DFARS 252.227-7014(d) describes requirements for incorporation of third party other than commercial copyrighted computer software or computer software documentation.

3.0 Award Information

3.1 Anticipated Award Date:
TBD per individual solicitation.

3.2 Anticipated funding:
For the program (not per contract) FY26 ($1.2M) /; FY27 ($1.2M) /; FY28 ($1.3M) /; FY29 ($1.3M)

This funding profile is an estimate only and not a contractual obligation for funding. All funding is subject to change due to Government discretion and availability. Potential offerors should be aware that due to unanticipated budget fluctuations funding in any or all areas may change with little or no notice.

4.0 Eligible Offeror:
This is an unrestricted solicitation. Small businesses are encouraged to propose**.**

4.1 Cost Sharing or Matching:
Cost Sharing is not required.

4.2 Federally Funded Research and Development Centers:
The following guidance is provided for Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) contemplating submitting a proposal, as either a prime or subcontractor. FAR 35.017-1(c)(4) prohibits an FFRDC from competing with any non-FFRDC concern in

response to a Federal agency request for proposal for other than the operation of an FFRDC (with exceptions stated in DFARS 235.017-1(c)(4)). There is no regulation prohibiting an FFRDC from responding to a solicitation. However, the FFRDC's sponsoring agency must first make a determination that the effort being proposed falls within the purpose, mission, general scope of effort, or special competency of the FFRDC, and that determination must be included in the FFRDC's proposal. In addition, AFRL must make a determination that the work proposed would not place the FFRDC in direct competition with domestic private industry. Only after these determinations are made, would a determination be made concerning the FFRDC's eligibility to receive an award.

4.3 Government Agencies:
If a Government agency is interested in performing work, contact the Program Manager identified in the BAA. If those discussions result in a mutual interest to pursue your agency's participation, the effort will be pursued independent of this announcement.

4.4 Other:

4.4.1 Proposal Limits:
There are no limits on the number of proposals an offeror may submit. If an offeror submits multiple proposals, each proposal must provide unique approaches.

4.5 Ineligibility:
You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the proposal due date as identified above.

5.0 Proposal and Submission Information

5.1 Overview:
Proposals submitted shall be in accordance with this announcement. The Government intends to review proposals and award some, all, or none of the proposals received without negotiation/discussion; however, the Government reserves the right to negotiate with those offeror(s) whose proposal is selected for funding.

Offerors should be alert for any BAA amendments that may change proposal requirements or permit extensions to the proposal submission date.

For additional information, a copy of the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Guide for Industry is located at
https://www.afrl.af.mil/Portals/90/Documents/HQ/BAA%20Ind%20Guide%202020.pdf?ver=7AivkWvoUoptKgypgCuIvw%3d%3d

5.2 Proposal and Submission Instructions:
The paragraphs below identify proposal format and content.

a. **General Instructions**:
   (1) Offerors should apply the restrictive notice prescribed in FAR 52.215-1(e) Instructions to Offerors—Competitive Acquisition. Refer to the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Guide for Industry to assist in proposal preparation. The guide is located at:

https://www.afrl.af.mil/Portals/90/Documents/HQ/BAA%20Ind%20Guide%202020.pdf?ver=7AivkWvoUoptKgypgCuIvw%3d%3d

(2) Technical/management and cost/business volumes should be submitted in separate volumes and must be valid for 180 days.

(3) Proposals must reference the announcement number FA2384-26-S-B004.

(4) The cost file(s) spreadsheets must be in Microsoft Excel and include the formulas for calculating cost element bases (i.e., G&A, O/H, etc.)

(5) Offerors are advised that only Contracting Officers are legally authorized to contractually bind or otherwise commit the Government.

(6) The cost of preparing proposals in response to this BAA is not considered an allowable direct charge to any resulting or any other contract; however, it may be an allowable expense to the normal bid and proposal indirect cost as specified in FAR 31.205-18.

(7) No classified technical proposals or cost volumes are expected. Offerors are encouraged to keep all elements of the proposal package unclassified. In the rare case where an offeror has a need to submit a classified appendix, please contact the technical POC for delivery instructions.

c. **Technical/Management Proposal**:

(1) Page Limitations: The following describes proposal page limitations:

a) The Technical/Management Proposal shall be limited to *5* pages. Technical/Management proposals and Statements of Work must be provided in Microsoft Word. Signed pages may be submitted in Adobe.

b) Font shall be standard 10-point business font Arial, New Times Roman, or Calibri. Pages shall be double-spaced, 8.5 by 11 inches, with at least one-inch margins. Font and line spacing requirements do not have to be followed for illustrations, flowcharts, drawings, diagrams, cover page, table of contents, and restrictive/proprietary markings (in header or footer). Pages shall be numbered starting with the cover page being Page 1, and the last page being no greater than Page 5. The page limitation covers all information (foldouts counted as 1 page for each 8.5 by 11 portion). The Government will not consider pages in excess of these limitations.

c) The proposal page limit does not include the offeror's proposed Statement of Work (SOW); however, the same formatting rules apply to the SOW, which is limited to up to 5 pages.

d) **Please Note: The Government will check the proposal and SOW for conformance to the stated requirements. Any pages in excess of the stated page limitation after the format check will not be considered for review purposes.**

(2) The Technical/Management proposal(s) shall include a discussion of the nature and scope of the research and the technical approach. Additional information on prior work in this area, descriptions of available equipment, use of base support (if desired), data and facilities and resumes of personnel who will be participating in this effort should also be included as attachments to the technical proposal. This volume shall include a SOW detailing the technical tasks proposed to be accomplished under the

proposed effort and suitable for contract incorporation. ***Do not include any proprietary information in the SOW.*** Refer to the BAA Guide for Industry referenced above to assist in SOW preparation. In addition to the contractor proposed SOW, a Government generated SOW attachment containing additional contracting requirements will be included in any resulting contracts. The SOO is included as Attachment **1** to this BAA.

(3) Any questions concerning the technical proposal or SOW preparation shall be referred to the Technical POC.

d. **Cost/Business Proposal**:

(1) Separate the proposal into a business section and cost section. Adequate price competition is anticipated. If it is later determined APC does not exist, and the threshold for a negotiated contract is equal to or expected to exceed $2,000,000, submission of certified cost or pricing data may be required.

a) The business section should contain all business aspects to the proposed contract, such as type of contract, any exceptions to terms and conditions of the announcement including the model contract, any information not technically related, etc. Provide rationale for exceptions.

b) Associate Contractor Agreements: Associate Contractor Agreements (ACAs) are agreements between contractors working on Government contracts that require them to share information, data, technical knowledge, expertise, or resources. The contracting officer may require ACAs when contractors working on separate Government contracts must cooperate, share resources or otherwise jointly participate in working on contracts or projects. Prime contractor to subcontractor relationships do not constitute ACAs. For each award, the contracting officer will identify associate contractors with whom agreements are required.

c) Identify any technical data that will be delivered with less than unlimited rights.

d) Subcontracting Plans: N/A

e) Limitations on Pass-Through Charges: N/A

f) Completed Certifications and Representations (Section K) are due with the proposal. Certifications and Representations (Section K) can be found at Atch **2**. Offerors may also be required to submit updated or supplemental Certifications and Representations based on the specifics of their proposal.

(2) **Cost Element Breakdown:** Clear, concise, and accurate cost proposals reflect the offeror's financial plan for accomplishing the effort contained in the technical proposal. As a part of its cost proposal, the offeror shall submit the information outlined below, together with supporting breakdowns. All direct costs (labor, material, travel, computer, etc.) as well as labor and overhead rates should be provided by contractor fiscal year (CFY). Detailed cost element breakdowns by Government Fiscal Year or calendar year are not required. The supporting schedules may include summary level estimating rationale used to generate the proposed costs. The cost element breakdown should include the following if applicable.

a) **Direct Labor**: Direct labor should be detailed by number of labor hours by category of labor.

b) **Labor and Overhead Rates**: Direct labor hours, with their applicable rates, must be broken out and the bases used clearly identified. The source of labor and overhead rates and all pricing factors should be identified. For instance, if a Forward Pricing Rate Agreement (FPRA) is in existence, that should be noted, along with the Administrative Contracting Officer's (ACO's) name and telephone number. If the rates are based on current experience in your organization, provide the historical base used and clearly identify all escalation, by year, applied to derive the proposed rates. If computer usage is determined by a rate, identify the basis used and rationale used to derive the rate.

c) **Material/Equipment:** List all material/equipment items by type and kind with associated costs and advise if the costs are based on vendor quotes, data and/or engineering estimates; provide copies of vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data.

d) **Subcontractor Costs**: Submit all subcontractor proposals and analyses with your cost proposal (See FAR 15.404-3(b)). If the subcontractor will not submit cost and pricing information to the offeror, this information must be submitted directly to the Government for analysis. On all subcontracts and interdivisional transfers, provide the method of selection used to determine the subcontractor and the proposed contract type of each subcontract. An explanation shall be provided if the offeror proposes a different amount than that quoted by the subcontractor. The offeror's proposal must:

(i) Identify principal items/services to be subcontracted.

(ii) Identify prospective subcontractors and the basis on which they were selected. If non-competitive, provide selected source justification.

(iii) Identify the type of contractual business arrangement contemplated for the subcontract and provide rationale

(iv) Identify the basis for the subcontract costs (e.g., firm quote or engineering estimate, etc).

(v) Identify the cost or pricing data submitted by the subcontractor.

(vi) Provide an analysis of the proposed subcontract in accordance with FAR 15.404-3(b). Provide an analysis concerning the reasonableness, realism and completeness of each subcontractor's proposal. If the analysis is based on comparison with prior prices, identify the basis on which the prior prices were determined to be reasonable. The analysis should include, but not be limited to, an analysis of: materials, labor, travel, other direct costs and proposed profit or fee rates.

e) **Special Tooling or Test Equipment:** When special tooling, and/or test equipment is proposed, attach a brief description of items and indicate if they are solely for the performance of this particular contract or project and if they are or are not already available in the offeror's existing facilities. Indicate quantities, unit prices, whether items are to be purchased or fabricated, whether items are of a severable nature and the basis of the price. These items may be included under Direct Material in the summary format.

f) **Consultants:** When consultants are proposed to be used in the performance of the contract, indicate the specific project or area in which such services are to be used. Identify each consultant, number of hours or days to be used and the consultant's rate per hour or day. State the basis of said rate and give your analysis of the acceptability of the consultant's rate.

g) **Travel:** Travel costs must be justified and related to the needs of the project. Identify the number of trips, the destination and purpose. Travel costs should be broken out by trip with number of travelers, airfare, per diem, lodging, etc.

h) **Computer Use:** Detail the amount and kind of computer usage, the cost, and how the costs were derived.

i) **Facilities Capital Cost of Money:** If Facilities Capital Cost of Money is proposed, a properly executed DD Form 1861 is required.

j) **Project Funding Profile:** Offerors should include a project funding profile by Government Fiscal Year (GFY) (1 Oct through 30 Sept) for budgetary purposes. This will enable the Government to easily identify program funding needs by GFY.

k) If an offeror takes exceptions to the requirements called out in the announcement (e.g., base support, Government-furnished property (GFP), CDRLs), the exceptions should be clearly stated in the cost proposal.

l) **Forward Pricing Rate Agreements:** Offerors who have forward pricing rate agreements (FPRA's) and forward pricing rate recommendations (FPRR's) should submit them with their proposal.

m) Cost/Business proposals have no page limitations.

e. **Proposal Content Summary**: You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the proposal due date.

6.0 Proposal Review Information

6.1 Peer or Scientific Review Criteria

Proposal Peer or Scientific Review Criteria: Proposals will be reviewed against the criteria listed below. The technical aspect, which is ranked as the first order of priority, shall be reviewed based on the following criteria that are of descending order of importance.

a. **Technical**:

(1) Unique and innovative approach proposed to accomplish the technical objectives. New and creative solutions and/or advances in knowledge, understanding, technology, and the state of the art.

(2) The offeror's understanding of the scope of the technical effort.

(3) Soundness of the offeror's technical approach including whether the proposal identifies major technical risks, clearly defines feasible mitigation efforts, and demonstrates related experience and qualifications of technical personnel.

(4) The potential to transition the research and development deliverables to future Government needs. Any proposed restriction on technical data or computer software will be considered.

b. **Cost/Price**: The cost/price criterion includes the realism of the proposed cost. Cost/Price is a substantial factor, but ranked as the second order of priority. (If an offeror proposes the use of GFP other than any GFP identified in this BAA, and that proposed GFP provides the offeror an unfair competitive advantage, then FAR 45.202 requires rental equivalent be applied to the Cost Factor for evaluation purposes only).

6.2 Review and Selection Process

a. **Categories**: Based on the Peer or Scientific Review, proposals will be categorized as Selectable or Not Selectable (see definitions below). The selection of one or more sources for award will be based on the Peer or Scientific Review, as well as importance to agency programs and funding availability.

(1) **Selectable:** Proposals are recommended for acceptance if sufficient funding is available.

(2) **Not Selectable:** Even if sufficient funding existed, the proposal should not be funded.

Note: The Government reserves the right to award some, all, or none of proposals. When the Government elects to award only a part of a proposal, the selected part may be categorized as Selectable, though the proposal as a whole may not merit such a categorization.

b. No other criteria will be used.

c. Prior to award of a potentially successful offer, the Contracting Officer will make a determination regarding price reasonableness.

d. As indicated in Paragraph 2.8 above, the Government will conduct a S&T Protection Initial Risk Review only for those proposals categorized as Selectable and selected for funding and negotiations.

7.0 Award Administration Information

7.1 Award Notices:

Solicitations will identify when Offerors will be notified whether their proposal is recommended for award. The notification is not to be construed to mean that any contract or assistance award is assured, as availability of funds and successful negotiations are prerequisites to any award.

7.2 Administrative and National Policy Requirements:

See Section 2.0.

7.3 Reporting:

Refer back to paragraph 2.5.

8.0 Other Information

8.1 Acquisition of Commercial Items:
Based upon market research, the Government is not using the policies contained in Part 12, Acquisition of Commercial Items, in this solicitation. However, interested offerors may identify to the Contracting Officer their interest and capability to satisfy the Government's requirement with a commercial item within 15 days of this notice.

8.2 Support Contractors:
Only Government employees will participate in Peer or Scientific Reviews. Offerors are advised that employees of commercial firms under contract to the Government may be used to administratively process proposals, monitor contract performance, or perform other administrative duties requiring access to other contractors' proprietary information. These support contracts include nondisclosure agreements prohibiting their contractor employees from disclosing any information submitted by other contractors or using such information for any purpose other than that for which it was furnished.

8.3 Feedback Sessions:

a. **Contracts:** When requested, a Feedback Session will be provided with content consistent with the procedures that govern BAAs (FAR 35.016). The process will follow the time guidelines outlined in the award notice described in Paragraph 7.1.

8.4 Item Unique Identification and Valuation:
It is DoD policy that contractors shall be required to identify the Government's unit acquisition cost for all deliverable end items for which Item Unique Identification applies. Therefore, proposals must clearly break out the unit acquisition cost for any deliverable items. See DFARS 211.274-3, Policy for Valuation, for more information. (Per DoD, "fully burdened unit costs" to the Government would include all direct, indirect, G&A costs, and an appropriate portion of fee).

8.5 Pre-Award Clearance:
Pursuant to FAR 22.805, a preaward clearance must be obtained from the U.S. Department Of Labor, Office Of Federal Contract Compliance Program's (OFCCP) prior to award of a contract (or subcontract) of $10,000,000 or more unless the contractor is listed in OFCCP's National Preaward Registry https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/pre-award. Award may be delayed if you are not currently listed in the registry and the contracting officer must request a preaward clearance from the OFCCP.

8.6 Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters:
Any contract or assistance award that exceeds $600,000; and when offeror checked "has" in paragraph (b) of the provision FAR 52.209-7, shall contain the clause/article, FAR 52.209-9 "Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters."

ATTACHMENTS

List of Attachments:

List of Attachments:

1. Statement of Objective(s)
2. Certifications and Representations
3. CDRLs

List of S&T Protection Appendices:

1. Appendix 2 – Security Program Questionnaire
2. Appendix 3 – Research and Related Senior and Key Person Profile Worksheet
3. Appendix 4 – Privacy Act Statement