Strategic & Spectrum Missions Advanced Resilient Trusted Systems (S²MARTS)
Request for Solutions (RFS) – Revised 09 October 2026 (Rev 1)

in support of

Drone Dominance Program – Phase 3

Project No. 26-01

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A. OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

Project Title	Drone Dominance Program (DDP)
Project Sponsor	Office of the Secretary of War
Contracting Activity	Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division
Questions Deadline	October 7, 2026, 12:00 PM US Eastern Time
Response Deadline	October 13, 2026, 5:00 PM US Eastern Time
Anticipated Project Budget	Phase III: $450,000,000
Resultant Award Type	Prototype Other Transaction Agreements (10 U.S.C. § 4022)
NSTXL Membership	NSTXL membership is not required to submit a response to this RFS. Membership will be required prior to any award.

B. PROTOTYPE PROJECT DETAIL

1. Authority

10 U.S.C. § 4022, "Authority of the Department of Defense to Carry Out Certain Prototype Projects"

2. Problem Statement and Program Background Information

Drones are reshaping the character of war. To meet this challenge, the Department of War (DoW) must equip ground combat forces to locate, close with, and destroy the enemy by providing one-way attack (OWA) small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) fielded at low cost, at scale, and from a resilient supply chain. The Drone Dominance Program (DDP) is awarding $1.1 billion in prototype orders utilizing 10 U.S.C. 4022 over multiple independent phases. DDP is sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of War and jointly executed by the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Test Resource Management Center (TRMC). Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane holds contracting authority for DDP and issues prototype delivery orders based on Gauntlet test results.

By the completion of DDP, multiple U.S. vendors will have demonstrated the ability to produce capable, low-cost secure supply-chain sUAS at scale, enabling Services to integrate these capabilities into future acquisition pathways. DDP relies on industry to innovate to complete battlefield missions, reduce unit costs and scale production, with a preference for systems sourced and manufactured primarily in the United States. Each phase starts with a Gauntlet test event, run by the TRMC, and ends with delivery of sUAS via Other Transaction – Prototype delivery order for the winners of the Gauntlet.

In Phase 3, DDP is awarding $450M of funds available from Public Law 119-21 section 20004(a)31 to purchase approximately 60,000 drones (with 45,000 live payloads, 15,000 training payloads, and 60,000 Safe and Arm Device (SADs)) in one tranche, with a potential option for a second tranche of 40,000 drones, payloads and SADs. Tranche 1 is an approximately 60,000 units firm fixed price buy, split evenly between Deep Strike (DS) and Close-Quarters Battle (CQB) drone types with fixed prices set by the Government. Tranche 2 is a firm fixed price buy of up to 40,000 additional DS and/or CQB drones and payloads priced by vendor proposal and exercised at the Government's discretion. The Government will contract directly with the drone vendors and munition vendors via the Consortium Manager (CM).

3. Phase 3 Mission Areas & Operational Parameters

Phase 3 continues to focus on two mission areas: Mission A (Deep Strike) and Mission B (Close-Quarters Battle). The scenarios for each mission will increase in complexity as compared to Phase 2, and DDP encourages vendors to offer drones with more technical

capabilities. Phase 3 encourages advanced software features enabled via onboard compute, high-throughput communications, and rapid adaptability via Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA) interfaces – in short, turning the drone from a simple munition into a capable platform. Both mission scenarios will increase in operational tempo. Mission A will require operators to reprioritize and re-engage quickly across multiple simultaneous threats. Mission B will focus on rapid deployment and successive engagements, emphasizing a single operator's ability to cycle between multiple air vehicles with minimal equipment, setup or operator involvement during the mission

These mission areas are further described in ***Table 3-1*** and ***Table 3-2***. Systems that meet the desired technical capabilities and meet the desired deployment and portability specifications described in these tables will be more competitive in the Gauntlet III evaluation.

Table 3-1. Mission A Objectives

Mission A: Deep Strike (DS)	
Primary Mission	Find, Fix, & Finish at extended ranges (up to ~20KM) from a stand-off position
Mission Scenario	Operators conduct reconnaissance, identify and track enemy assets, and engage targets from a stand-off position at extended range. Emphasis is placed on beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations and the ability to maintain mission effectiveness in degraded or denied comms and Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) environments.
Target Set	Anti-personnel, light armor, anti-material, heavy armor, maritime surface, or landing craft
Mission Range	15-20KM
Operational Environment	Extended range operations across varied terrain and built-up environments against stationary and moving targets, including dispersed and moving formations that require the operator to reprioritize and re-engage quickly across multiple simultaneous threats
Desired Technical Capabilities	▪ One-to-many control, enabling a single operator to command and engage with multiple air vehicles simultaneously (e.g., 1 operator to 5 OWA drones) ▪ Automated target recognition (ATR), reducing operator workload in target identification and engagement ▪ Vision-based or other GNSS-denied navigation, enabling the system to report its position and maintain track when GNSS is degraded or denied
Desired Deployment & Portability	▪ Transportable and employable by a 2-3 person team, including air vehicles and required ground control equipment is preferred. While large supporting equipment is acceptable, preference is given to more portable configurations with reduced setup and operator burden. ▪ Designed with future containerized employment in mind, including the ability to integrate into multi air vehicle launch systems deployed on ground and maritime platforms. Containerized launch capability is not required for Gauntlet III but companies should have path for containerized employment in Gauntlet IV ▪ Preference for the ability to offset the transmitting portion of the Ground Control Station (GCS) from the operator's location by a minimum distance of 100m

Table 3-2. Mission B Parameters

Mission B: Close Quarters Battle (CQB)	
Primary Mission	Find, Fix, & Finish targets in rapid succession during close-quarters operations in support of ground maneuver
Mission Scenario	Operators conduct interior and exterior operations while maneuvering with a ground force, using sUAS to acquire and engage targets in rapid succession. Emphasis is placed on rapid deployment, successive engagements, and a single operator's ability to employ multiple air vehicles with minimal equipment and setup.
Target Set	Anti-personnel, light vehicles
Mission Range	<3KM
Operational Environment	Dense urban and close quarters environments, including building interiors and exteriors, trenches, bunkers, tunnels, forests, and other confined or complex spaces. Systems must operate against stationary and moving targets in these environments.

Desired Technical Capabilities	▪ Operable with and without a base station (Handheld is preferred, small body worn is acceptable) ▪ Multi-drone binding to a single controller for rapid switching ▪ Pit mode for systems bound to controller for rapid launch (e.g., idle systems waiting to be activated, drawing minimum power) ▪ Ability to repeat FMV (full motion video) and Command and Control (C2) signals via additional drones or inexpensive standalone repeaters - with the intent of allowing greater penetration into challenging radio frequency (RF) areas such as buildings, tunnels, and ships. ▪ Ability to stream FMV to an ATAK (Android Team Awareness Kit) device
Desired Deployment & Portability	▪ Airframe $\leq$ 5" (foldable frame and prop guards are desired, cage frame is also acceptable) is preferred. If prop guards are chosen, preference is for them to be field removeable/replaceable to allow for decreased drag in the event they are not needed (e.g. flying external to a building), or for easy replacement in case of damage. ▪ Backpack-portable: Preference for 6+ air vehicles in a single backpack, with all required equipment being dispersed across 2-3 personnel maximum using organic Service carrying systems or compatible industry systems. ▪ No lights and start up sounds when equipment is powered on is preferred.

The following operational parameters in ***Table 3-3*** apply across DS and CQB.

Table 3-3. Cross Cutting Operational Parameters

Common Operational Parameters	
Operating Conditions	Operations across representative adverse weather conditions, including rain, wind, heat, and cold weather and across day, low-light, and night conditions.
Electromagnetic (EM) Environment	Operate in contested electromagnetic environments and be resilient to RF jamming and GNSS denial
Lethality	All systems must be integrated with an approved Drone Dominance Lethality Vendor and follow lethality requirements in Section 4.
Command Link	Systems must have a wireless command link solution. Fiber capability is not required but encouraged. Systems utilizing fiber-optic tether will be tested with and without fiber. Hybrid multi-link and mesh networking are especially encouraged.

In Phase 3, DDP is not enforcing interoperability requirements but strongly encourages vendors to adopt the standards outlined in ***Table 3-4***. Vendors that demonstrate compliance with these standards will receive additional evaluation credit, as discussed in ***Section 5.7***.

Table 3-4. Desired Phase 3 Interoperability Standards

Preferred Standard	***Layer***	***Description***
APEX (Adaptive Payload Exchange) or **sUPI** (small Universal Payload Interface)[1]	Physical payload interface	Use as the physical interface between drone and munitions
MAVLink-M (Military)[2]	Airframe & payload communication protocol	Comply with MAVLink-M for command, control, and payload data communication between the ground control station, airframe, and integrated payloads, including SAD state and target handover data.
ATAK (Android Team Awareness Kit)[3]	External command, control, and situational awareness	Demonstrate ATAK compatibility for exchanging target and position data with operator and other C2 systems (including test infrastructure). Information can be found on TAK.gov or vendors can reach out to the DDP team for a government sponsor.

[1] APEX: https://github.com/Neros-Technologies/APEX; sUPI: https://github.com/DEVCOM-Armaments-Center/SUPI_V3.X
[2] MAVLink-M: https://github.com/Dronecode/mavlink-military
[3] ATAK: https://tak.gov/

Training Flight Mode: The government desires that the frequency and transition power be configurable to support a "Training Flight Mode". The intent of the Training Flight Mode would be to enable an administrator to custom set the frequencies and power to meet local regulations and laws that may include but not be limited to Federal Aviation Administration/ Federal Communication Commission or applicable governing bodies. This will expedite the warfighter's ability to quickly train and test with the drone in different locations worldwide. The government does not want to limit the capabilities of the drone in the event that the system is used in an active battle.

To enable dynamic frequency environments, the UAS vendor should consider use of a resilient 5G radio that supports all (incl. international) bands with carrier (multiband) aggregation, while considering 3GPP release 17 (or latest release) and Open Centralized Unit / Distributed Unit (OCUDU) software in their future designs to ensure communications capabilities remain current.

4. Lethality

Lethality is central to the DDP mission. The definition of lethal payloads, SADs, warhead variations, and communications/interfaces, and other components are defined in Section G.

All drone vendors competing in Phase 3 shall integrate a minimum of two commercial lethality providers with a preference for integrating with three commercial lethality solutions. All drone vendors are required to integrate with the complete Government-provided lethality solutions from Program Manager Close Combat Systems (SHANK), Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane (LoCo) (both the SAD and warhead) and repurposed MK118 warhead. Vendors shall use the APEX interface for the NSWC-Crane solution and the sUPI for the PMCCS solution. Only vendors competing in Mission A are required to integrate with the MK118 warhead. Vendors must use the either APEX or sUPI for the MK118 integration. Vendors are not responsible for creating or providing a training payload for the Government solutions. Outside of the Government payload solutions, vendors may choose either sUPI and/or APEX for commercial payload integration. See POCs below for Government solutions.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Each solution shall include its respective SAD, live payload, training payload, and associated interface(s) required for integration with the drone platform(s).

Approved commercial lethality vendors for the Phase 3 RFS include: American Ordinance, Bravo Ordinance, Kela, Kraken, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, Mountain Horse, Nammo, and Northrop Grumman. Each warhead provider shall provide each type of configuration (Anti-Personnel (APERs), Anti-Material (AMAT), and Explosively Formed Penetrator (EFP)). Warhead vendors are not required to compete in both mission areas. However, all three configurations (APERs, AMAT, and EFP) are required for a single mission area.

The Government will provide applicable Interface Control Documents (ICDs) to support integration of the Government-provided solution. Government-provided solutions, including live and training configurations and associated SADs, will be provided as Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) at the appropriate DDP test event(s). Government systems will not be shipped to vendors in advance, and vendors shall not include the cost of the Government provided systems.

Government solutions will be separate from but in addition to the payload allocations in ***Table 5-1***.

Approved commercial lethality vendors will be contacted directly by DDP to confirm drone vendor integration. Lethality vendors will then be given the opportunity to acknowledge Tranche 1 prices, associated payload quantities, and submit a fixed price proposal for Tranche 2 with quantity breaks.

4.1 Payloads

Phase 3 will evaluate payload effectiveness prior to and at Gauntlet III. Lethality vendors who do not provide systems for testing will receive a score of zero for the test. The payload for each system should be appropriately designed and sized to achieve the intended

lethal effect against the representative target set for its mission. Payload efficacy and SAD testing results will feed directly into the overall scoring of the Phase 3 event. Warheads should be categorized as follows and optimized for effect against the following targets in ***Table 4-1***.

Table 4-1. Phase 3 Payloads

Warhead Name	***Target Category***	***Example Target***	***Primary Payload Type***
Anti-Personnel (APERs)	Personnel	Exposed, 4x personnel in various positions (Standing, kneeling and prone) with and without body armor, incapacitate.	High-Explosive Fragmentation
Anti-Material (AMAT)	Light Material	Exposed, tactical transport truck Mobility Kill and Firepower Kill	High-Explosive Heavy-Fragmentation
Explosively Formed Penetrator (EFP)	Medium-Heavy Materiel	Exposed, Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) and main battle tank	High-Explosive Shaped-Charge, EFP

Lethality vendors must have all three configurations above per Mission Area in which they are participating.

4.2 Inert Trainer Payloads

The inert training payload must:

- Replicate the live payload in the following characteristics: form factor, weight, center of gravity, mechanical interface, electrical interface, and communication interface
- Simulate SAD functionality and arming sequence
- Capable of simulating all proposed payload variants within a single configuration. Vendors shall not provide multiple distinct training payload systems to represent different payload variants
    - The vendor shall provide a single training payload capable of simulating each variant
- Include indication of triggering of the payloads, omni-directionally visible in daylight conditions at 25 meters to assist in evaluation and force-on-force training

4.3 Safety Features

The following are the minimum safety features required for SADs:

- Sufficient safety architecture for submissions to Joint Service Weapon System Review (JSWSR)
- Visible SAFE/ARM status indicator on the SAD
- Built-in test (BIT) capability, with a visual indicator
- Operator initiated arm-enable condition (pull pin, etc.)
- Safe Separation Timer (SST), implemented through redundant timer architecture
- Command-based ARM/DISARM capability via pilot controllers
- True On-Screen Display (OSD) of SAD status (requires feedback from the SAD, not from just the drone flight controller).
- Mission termination or sterilization logic
- Impact or command-based detonation capability

The following are additional preferred features of SADs:

- OSD feedback on status of SAD after each gate is met in the arming sequence
- OSD countdown for SST
- Selectable and configuration detonation mechanisms, to include command detonation

4.4 Modular Payload Architecture

In Phase 3, the DDP will require greater interoperability between drones and payloads. Vendors must utilize a MOSA interface for the drone/payload interface. The preferred MOSA interfaces for Phase 3 are APEX and sUPI. All vendors are required to utilize both the

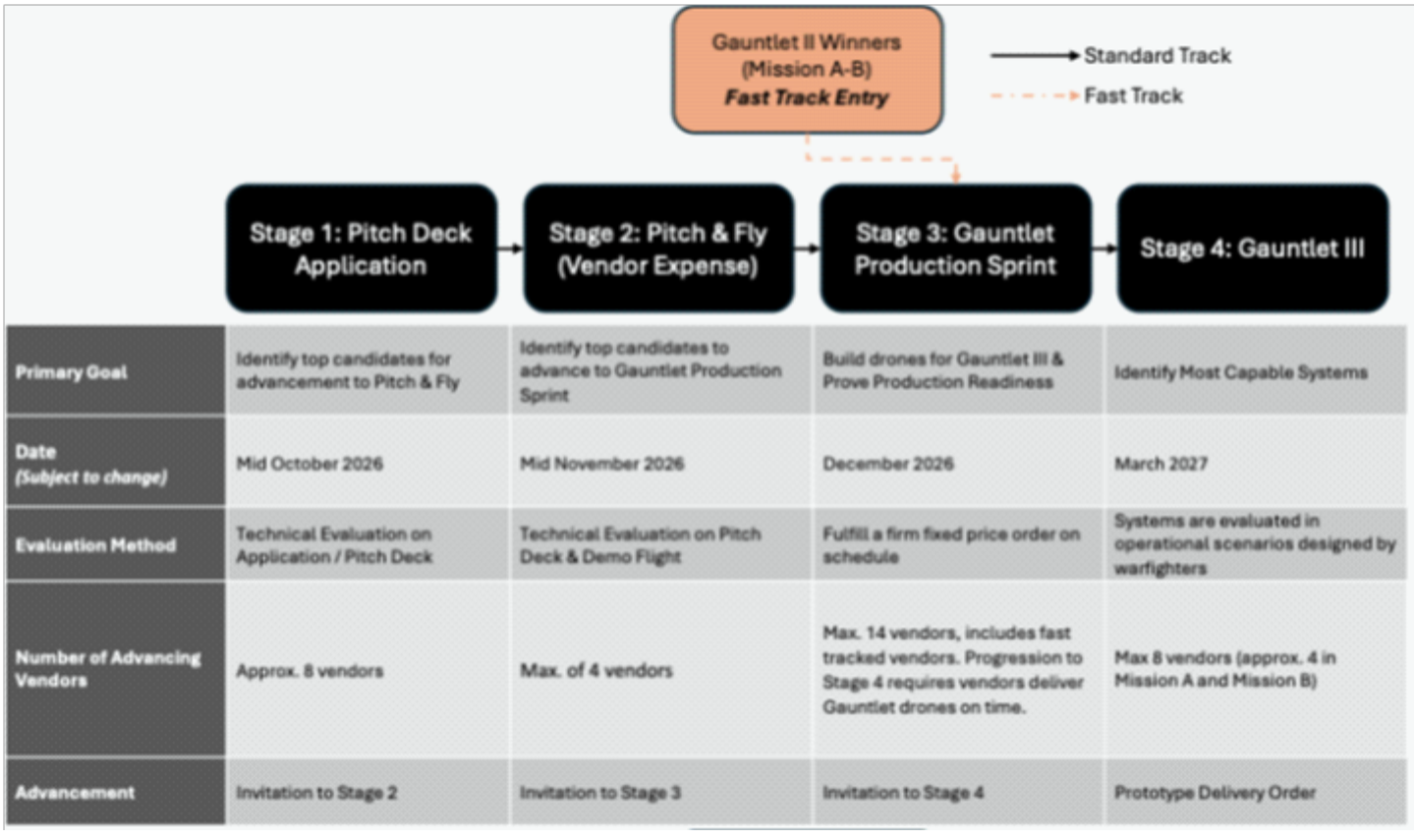
sUPI and APEX interface for the Government solutions. Vendors shall use the APEX interface for the NSWC-Crane Government payload solution and the sUPI for the PMCCS Government payload solution. Vendors must use either APEX or sUPI for the MK118 (Mission A only). Vendors may use either APEX or sUPI for all other commercial solutions. Following completion of DDP Phase 3, DDP will evaluate if one system has demonstrated sufficient performance to warrant selection as the DoW's choice of payload mounting standards. The Government will not provide the interface to the vendors.

5. Phase 3 Competition: Process & Evaluation

Participation in Gauntlet III is determined through a four-stage process designed to identify mature, mission capable systems that are ready for immediate production. Phase 3 represents a more selective stage of DDP, with fewer opportunities for new entrants than in Phases 1 and 2. The standard selection process is outlined in **Section 5.1**, and an expedited pathway for Gauntlet II awardees is described in **Section 5.2**.

5.1 Normal Track

Phase 3 competition begins at Stage 1 where drone vendors will submit a pitch deck that undergoes a Government evaluation of the proposed system's technical merit and the company's ability to successfully produce and deliver the system. Approximately 8 vendors will be invited to Stage 2 (Pitch & Fly). Vendors are responsible for all costs associated with Stage 1 and Stage 2. After the Pitch & Fly Event, DDP will down-select to a maximum of 4 vendors, in addition to the 10 winners from Gauntlet II, inviting a maximum of 14 vendors to fulfill a Gauntlet Production Order (Stage 3). The order must be completed on time in order to get paid and to participate in Gauntlet III (Stage 4). The top performing vendors at Gauntlet III will receive a prototype delivery order. Gauntlet III will select up to four vendors each in Mission A and Mission B. ***Figure 5-1*** summarizes Phase 3's four stage process.



	Stage 1: Pitch Deck Application	Stage 2: Pitch & Fly (Vendor Expense)	Stage 3: Gauntlet Production Sprint	Stage 4: Gauntlet III
Primary Goal	Identify top candidates for advancement to Pitch & Fly	Identify top candidates to advance to Gauntlet Production Sprint	Build drones for Gauntlet III & Prove Production Readiness	Identify Most Capable Systems
Date *(Subject to change)*	Mid October 2026	Mid November 2026	December 2026	March 2027
Evaluation Method	Technical Evaluation on Application / Pitch Deck	Technical Evaluation on Pitch Deck & Demo Flight	Fulfill a firm fixed price order on schedule	Systems are evaluated in operational scenarios designed by warfighters
Number of Advancing Vendors	Approx. 8 vendors	Max. of 4 vendors	Max. 14 vendors, includes fast tracked vendors. Progression to Stage 4 requires vendors deliver Gauntlet drones on time.	Max 8 vendors (approx. 4 in Mission A and Mission B)
Advancement	Invitation to Stage 2	Invitation to Stage 3	Invitation to Stage 4	Prototype Delivery Order

Figure 5-1. Stages of the Phase 3 Competition

5.2 Fast Track

The ten Gauntlet II winners from Mission A and B are fast-tracked through the Phase 3 competition and will enter Stage 3 through a direct invitation from DDP. Winners must compete in the same mission in which they won Gauntlet II. Qualification is mission specific: Mission A winners will compete in Mission A, and Mission B winners will compete in Mission B. Winners seeking to compete in a different mission must enter through the standard Phase 3 competition process outlined in Section 5.1 and are not eligible for the fast track for that mission. Gauntlet II winners may be excluded from an invitation if they have failed to deliver Gauntlet II drones on schedule or if delivered drones have failed to pass inspection or if other quality control issues have arisen.

For Gauntlet III, winners are encouraged to iterate on their drone design, rather than competing with the exact same drone design. Gauntlet II winners do not need to submit a pitch deck to this RFS but will be asked to submit revised paperwork on their drone, following an invitation from DDP. See Section 7 for additional details.

5.3 Stage 1: Pitch Deck Application

Phase 3 requires that all interested drone vendors submit an application which includes a comprehensive pitch deck in the DDP supplied format. The evaluation of this application is an evaluation that considers the technical merit of the proposed system, the company's maturity and capitalization, evidence of production and supply chain capabilities, and past performance in battlefield or other simulated environments. The Government will heavily weigh prior experience delivering small drones at meaningful scale. Companies must be able to demonstrate that they can produce a minimum of 8,000 drones in 5 months and that they can scale thereafter to annual production volumes of greater than 100,000 if ultimately chosen for future contracts. The Government reserves the right to conduct follow-up activities to verify the content of the application, including direct meetings with applicants and contacting suppliers or manufacturers.

Key application details are as follows:

- Vendors may only submit one application per mission area representing a single drone platform
- The ten Gauntlet II Mission A and Mission B winners are fast tracked and will skip Stage 1 and Stage 2

5.4 Stage 2: Vendor Pitch & Fly

The vendor pitch sessions are a comprehensive evaluation that focuses on the technical merit and maturity of the proposed drone, the company's capital base, evidence of current ability to produce at scale, successful operational use (preferably in contested environments) and military operator feedback. Pitch sessions include live flight for warfighters to have stick time with every drone. Vendors must also demonstrate integration with a minimum of one training munition.

Vendors are allowed to improve the design of their system between Stage 2 and Stage 3 and to integrate with additional lethality providers.

Additional details are as follows:

- Pitch sessions are anticipated to be held in early November 2026. Location TBD.
- Approximately 8 companies (4 in each mission) will be invited to pitch session
- The pitch session will be approximately 1.5 hours, in addition to approximately 60 minutes of flight flown by an experienced operator. Vendors will be responsible for setting up the drone. An experienced warfighter pilot will fly the drone. Only one full drone systems is required for the event but vendors may bring a back-up system.
- Gauntlet II Mission A and Mission B winners are fast tracked and will skip Stage 2

- **All vendor drones will be retained by the Government after the Pitch & Fly event until selection is made.** Those selected will be provided to DCMA for tear-down. Vendor drones that are not selected will be returned. If selected, the Government will not be purchasing the drone but will cover the cost of the DCMA tear-down and inspection.

5.5 Stage 3: Gauntlet Production Sprint

Vendors that advance to Stage 3 will be awarded a firm fixed price prototype order for the manufacturing delivery of drones and munitions for Gauntlet III from the $450M budget. This stage is designed for each company to prove their production readiness by testing a vendor's ability to fulfill an order, manage their supply chain and capitalization risk, and adhere to a strict schedule. The Government anticipates issuing awards by mid-December 2026. Drones in this order will be used and expended in Gauntlet III. The Gauntlet Production Sprint order must be delivered to the designated Government location no later than two weeks prior to the start of Gauntlet III, estimated to be held in March 2027.

As part of this order, vendors must also deliver materials for lethality arena testing and DCMA drone breakdown in advance of the remaining deliverables. Warheads for arena testing and deliveries to DCMA are due on January 8, 2027. Vendors must deliver two OWA vehicles and two sets of durable system components directly to DCMA for Government inspection and supply chain compliance verification. Companies must also provide updated bill of material (BOM) with technical points of contact (TPOCs) for their sub-tier component suppliers into the Blue List website (https://bluelist.dcma.mil) by the same date.

The Government will provide specific delivery instructions to invited vendors at a later date.

Table 5-1 specifies the delivery requirements for the Gauntlet Event Order. This order follows the same fixed price costs as specified in ***Section 6.1***.

Table 5-1. Gauntlet Event Order Delivery Requirements

Component	Description	Required Quantity
OWA Air Vehicles	The expendable aircraft (i.e., the drone)	400 units
Durable System Components	The reusable equipment to operate the air vehicles. This includes the ground control system (GCS), comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, load carrying equipment, and any supporting air assets (e.g., ISR/relay drones) to be used at Gauntlet III	20 units (1:20 ratio)
Night Vision System	Low-light imaging capability sufficient for target acquisition and engagement in darkness. Requires that cameras are a modular add-on to base drone.	120 units (30% of total order)
Fiber (Optional)	Fiber-optic control link providing a jam-resistant alternative to RF communication. Requires that vendors competing with fiber equip a spool with sufficient range to complete the mission area. Drones with fiber connections are optional but are strongly preferred by DDP.	80 units (20% of total order)
Gauntlet 3: Training Payloads	Drones vendors are required to integrate with 2 commercial munition providers with a preference with integrating with 3 commercial providers. Drones shall be equipped with a munition interface, associated SAD, and integrated with the 3 Government solutions (PMCCS, NSWC-Crane, and MK118). Each commercial lethality solution shall be integrated on no less than 25% of the total delivery quantity of 390. The Government lethality solutions will be provided separately by the	390 SADs 390 Training Payloads

	Government and are not included within the 390 SADs/Training Payloads. 390 SADs/Training Payloads represent only those from commercial munition providers and **will be purchased directly from the munition providers via the CM.**	
Gauntlet 3: Live Warheads	The Government will purchase live payloads for each approved commercial variant and drone pairing directly from the munition providers. The Government will purchase 2 live payloads for each munition variant (APERS, AMAT, EFP) per munition and drone pairings. Commercial munitions **will be purchased directly from the munition providers via the CM.** All drone vendors must integrate with the Government solutions (PMCCS, NSWC-Crane and MK118). The MK118 applies to Mission A only. The Government lethality solutions will be provided separately by the Government and are not included within the above requirement. Government will provide all required live payloads for Government solutions.	12-18 Lethal Payloads and SADs (6 Warheads x 2-3 Commercial Lethality Vendors) Quantity per Commercial Lethality Vendor: • 2x APERS & 2 SADs • 2x AMAT & 2 SADs • 2x EFP & 2 SADs
Arena Testing: Live Payloads	Arena Testing: Each lethality vendor shall provide six (6) live warheads for each payload configuration and mission size offered for evaluation. Payload configurations include APERs, AMAT, and EFP for Mission A and Mission B platforms. Each lethality vendor will provide 6 SADs per Mission. These systems will be used for efficacy and safety testing prior to the Phase 3 Gauntlet test event. Each warhead vendor is required to have all 3 configurations for any mission area they are participating in. Note: Warhead vendors are not required to compete in both missions. A location and date of the Arena test will be provided at a later date. **The Government intends to purchase these sets of lethal payloads directly from lethality providers and will coordinate with lethality providers directly at the conclusion of Stage 2.**	Quantity per Lethality Vendor: If competing in only one Mission • 6 x SADs • 6 x APERs • 6 x AMAT • 6 x EFP If competing in both Mission A and Mission B • 6 x SADs • 6 per mission (12 total) x APERs • 6 per mission (12 total) x AMAT • 6 per mission (12 total) x EFP

5.6 Stage 4: Gauntlet III Event

The Gauntlet III event is the final stage of the competition, designed to identify the most capable system for scaling and fielding. This event will be primarily piloted by warfighters. **The evaluation will focus on a system's total performance and suitability in the hands of an operator**, not just its technical specifications. As such, the event will consist of both controlled test lanes and operationally relevant mission scenarios and involved both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods.

To prepare warfighters for this event, a mandatory training period will be held approximately 1-2 weeks prior to Gauntlet III, anticipated to be held in early March 2027. During this time, vendors will be responsible for training warfighter teams over approximately three days, utilizing systems delivered in Stage 3. Remaining assets will be used for Gauntlet III. Participation at the Gauntlet III event, including test activities and operator training, is at the expense of the competing vendors.

5.7 Phase 3 Evaluation Criteria

The Phase 3 evaluation criteria will be based on a holistic assessment across five categories: Gauntlet Performance, Military Operator Evaluation, Lethality, Production Capabilities, and Supply Chain Compliance. The results will be posted on a public leaderboard at **www.dronedominance.mil**. The underlying government scoring methodology and internal calculations will not be shared.

- **Gauntlet Performance**: This category scores each system's execution across Gauntlet III test lanes. Both vendor pilots and warfighter pilots will be used in Gauntlet III but warfighter pilots will be prioritized. Test lanes are expected to include both

controlled testing, as well as also introduce an element of free play with a dynamic red cell. Scoring focuses on the system's ability to execute its core mission: find, fix and finish a target. Performance in degraded RF and/or GNSS environments is paramount and will be weighted to reflect their operational significance.

- **Military Operator Evaluation**: Structured feedback will be collected directly from military operators across a range of skill levels, using mixed qualitative and quantitative methods. Evaluations will assess usability, cognitive workload, operator trust, military utility, and other factors, alongside operational feedback on portability and ease of deployment in a combat environment.
- **Lethality**: Drone companies are expected to team with a minimum of 2 commercial lethality providers, two complete government lethality payload (one Army - PMCCS and one Navy – NSWC-Crane), and the Government repurposed MK118 warhead, and subsequently will be evaluated as the integrator responsible for that provider's system-level performance. The MK118 is only required for Mission A vendors. Evaluation will assess the vendor's demonstrated understanding of operational hazards, failsafe behaviors, and the overall technical risk associated with safe integration and flight execution. Lethality will be comprehensively evaluated through quality assurance testing, efficacy testing, and engineering evaluation.
- **Production Capabilities**: Vendors will be evaluated on their demonstrated track record of successful delivery, including performance on prior DDP phases (e.g., Phase 1 / 2 deliveries) and/or performance delivering to other Government customers. This may influence reference checks on delivery timeliness, quality/defect rates, and any history of performance-related disputes. The evaluation may also include production and manufacturing surveys/interviews and site visits to production facilities conducted by Government inspection teams.
- **Supply Chain Compliance**: Drones and ground control equipment must conform to the Drone Dominance Supply Chain Framework which is more restrictive than the NDAA and will be verified by the Drone Dominance Program. This framework is published at DroneDominance.mil and includes minimum required standards for Phase 3 and preferred standards that will receive higher scoring.

In addition to the primary evaluation criteria, there is a bonus category that rewards vendors for offering advanced capabilities.

- **Advanced Features & Interoperability:** This category rewards vendors for the presence and quality of advanced features that help find, fix, and finish multiple targets simultaneously or in rapid succession. On Mission A, this rewards capabilities such as one-to-many control, ATR, and vision-based navigation. On Mission B, this rewards capabilities such as multi-drone binding and pit mode. Additionally, fiber capability and features that make piloting easier for intermediate pilots (e.g., auto flight stabilization) are also encouraged. Finally, this category also rewards interoperability standards described in ***Section 3***.

5.8 Future Phases

The DDP is designed to move fast. The Government is committed to building a lasting, capable domestic supply chain and sees industry as a partner in that effort. At the same time, DDP is driven by urgent operational needs. Each successive phase will increase in both order volume and mission requirements. The Government will monitor market conditions, engage with industry, and allow competitive forces to inform future pricing. The following information on upcoming phases is provided to help vendors plan. Because both the threat and the market move fast, details are subject to change.

- **Phase 4** will place a premium on a vendor's ability to sustain rapid, continuous improvement alongside high-volume production. Vendors will be expected to demonstrate that they can iterate their systems at a responsible pace, responding to warfighter feedback and an evolving threat environment, without sacrificing production output. Companies that treat their product roadmap as fixed will find it difficult to remain competitive in this phase. Phase 4 is likely to focus on openness, modularity, and rapid integration. Autonomy interoperability will also be emphasized in preparation for future integration efforts with Autonomous Vehicle Orchestrator (AVO). For Mission A (Deep Strike), a particular focus is expected to be containerized employment. The Government may select new capabilities for integration in short sprints, to include launching from unknown containers and carrying Government specified payloads, etc.

6. Phase 3 Prototype Awards & Deliverables

6.1 Phase 3 Procurement Structure: Firm Buy and Priced Options

The DDP award of $450M is for the purchase of approximately 60,000 drones in Stage 4 of Phase 3, executed as prototype delivery orders, intended to be split evenly across CQB and DS drone types. In addition, there will be a Tranche 2, which is a priced option to buy up to 40,000 additional units of CQB or DS drones.

6.1.1 Tranche 1: Fixed-Price Firm Buy

DDP will define fixed-price orders for the first 60,000 drones, allocated by leaderboard rankings in ***Table 6-1***. The highest scoring vendors will receive the largest orders. The cost per drone and munitions pricing is fixed as defined in ***Table 6-2*** with additional delivery specifications defined in ***Section 6.2***. The Government reserves the right to adjust quantities if fewer than three vendors for each category are selected to ensure the entire $450M award is made. Vendors may elect to receive a smaller order than their ranking entitles them to, but no order will be made for fewer than 8,000 units. Vendors should only accept quantities they are confident they can deliver on time.

Table 6-1. Tranche 1: Projected Orders by Leaderboard Rank

DS		CQB	
Vendor Ranking	**Prototype Quantities**	**Vendor Ranking**	**Prototype Quantities**
1st place	12,000	1st place	12,000
2nd place	10,000	2nd place	10,000
3rd place	8,000	3rd place	8,000
Total Prototype Orders for Phase 3	**30,000**	**Total Prototype Orders for Phase 3**	**30,000**

The projected order quantities above assume three vendors are selected per mission, but up to four may be selected and are subject to change. The Government reserves the right to select fewer than 3 vendors in each Mission Area and adjust the rankings for higher quantity of orders.

Table 6-2. Fixed Costs for Tranche 1: Fixed Price Buy

Mission Area A – Deep Strike (DS)	
DS	$5,000 per Drone
DS Munition	$3,000 per Munition (Lethal Payload or Training Payload)
Mission Area B – Close Quarters Battle (CQB)	
CQB	$3,000 per Drone
CQB Munition	$2,750 per Munition (Lethal Payload or Training Payload)

6.1.2 Tranche 2: Priced Incremental Blocks

The Government intends to purchase up to an incremental 40,000 drones across Missions A and B (beyond the 60,000 detailed above) as part of Phase III of the DDP. When entering Stage 3 (Gauntlet Event Order) drone vendors and lethality vendors are invited to propose firm, fixed prices for minimum blocks of 5,000 additional drones and munitions, up to a maximum of 40,000 drones and munitions. Vendors choose the price at which they would sell such systems, the quantities they are willing to sell (in minimum increments of 5,000 to a maximum of 40,000) and the period in which they will commit to delivering them. For the avoidance of doubt, the price may vary for different quantities submitted. Each proposal will be made on the basis of all delivery specifications listed in ***Section 6.2.***

The Government retains full discretion to exercise some or none of the incremental blocks offered by any vendor, and to distribute Tranche 2 awards across multiple vendors based on combined price and performance ranking. Gauntlet III winners are not guaranteed selection for Tranche 2 awards.

6.2 Delivery Specifications

A complete prototype delivery consists of two components: the drone and supporting system hardware detailed in ***Section 6.2.1***, and the munitions package detailed in ***Section 6.2.2***. Both must be delivered in accordance with the specifications below. The specifications below apply to systems purchased under Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 unless otherwise specified as part of the Tranche 2 proposal.

6.2.1 Drone & System Components

- **OWA Air Vehicles**: The total quantity of expendable drones awarded to the vendor. For Tranche 1, the total number of drones is based on the ranking in ***Table 6-2.*** For Tranche 2, the total number of drones is based on options exercised by the Government.
- **Durable System Components**: The reusable equipment required to operate the air vehicles. This includes the Ground Control System (GCS), comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, and any supporting air assets (e.g., ISR or relay drones) that were required to pass the Gauntlet III event. These components must be delivered at a ratio of 1:20 (one complete set for every 20 OWA air vehicles awarded).
- **Spares**: Vendors must provide a 10% sparing of common failure components. At minimum this must include propellers, batteries, and chargers. Additional components should be self-identified by the vendor based on their system's known failure modes, subject to the Government review and approval.
- **Night Vision**: Night vision or low light capability is required for a minimum of 30% of sUAS systems**.** Modularity to enable field swapping is required.
- **Fiber (Optional):** Vendors that use fiber to pass the Gauntlet III event must deliver 20% of their awarded units with a fiber connection and spool with a minimum of 20km range for Mission Area A and 3km range for Mission Area B.
- **Operator Training & Support:** Vendors must deliver comprehensive training materials including manuals, guides, and digital or video formats, that enable end users to safely and effectively operate and maintain the entire system, including the drone and training on warheads and lethality. Vendors are also required to provide Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for on-site technical support for six CONUS locations during unit fielding for approximately one week per location with approximately 20 students per training. The costs of these six sessions are included in the price of the drones and munitions. Additional training may be negotiated at time of prototype delivery order award. To ensure documentation remains current, vendors must deliver an updated training and maintenance package reflecting any design changes within a phase that impact system operation or field maintenance.
- Drone companies will need to comply with all battery charging, battery transportation requirements, and labeling/packaging instructions. These specifications will be provided at a later date.

6.2.2 Munitions

- **Fire Sets:** Vendors must deliver complete fire sets for their total drone order. Of these, 75% will be delivered with lethal payloads and 25% with training payloads. The Government plans to purchase 60% APERs, 20% AMAT and 20% EFP. The Government may deviate from these planned allocations. A portion of this order may be Government payloads.
- **Lethality Provider Mix**: The Government will determine the ratio of warhead vendors within each drone vendor. The Government intends to buy munitions directly from the lethality providers.
- **Packing & Delivery**: Lethal payloads may be delivered pre-packed or field-packed, per the vendor's selected variant. No additional funding will be provided for transportation costs.
- **Shipping & Storage Compliance**: All payloads, warheads, SADs, and components must be shipped and stored in accordance with Government, Department of Transportation, and Department of War requirements, as well as applicable state and federal regulations. Proof of certification may be required for any munitions handling or storage.

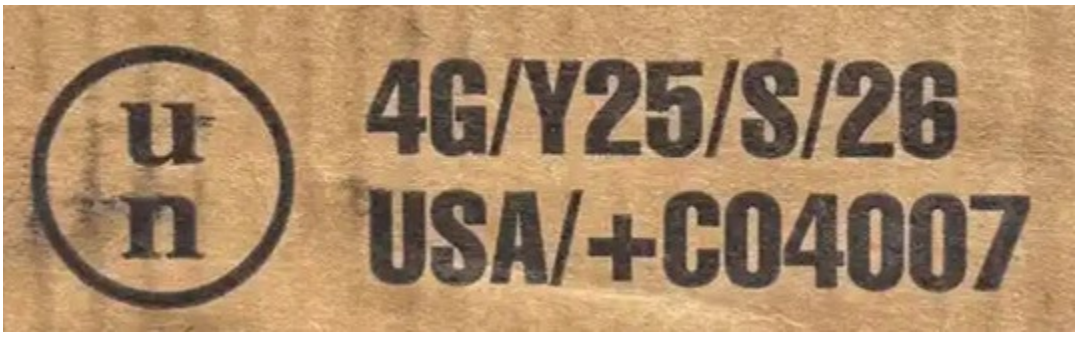
Delivered drone systems (to include Ground Control Station (GSC), Communication Infrastructure, Operator Interface, ISR/Relay drone (if applicable) must meet NDAA compliance requirements, adhere to the DDP Supply Chain Framework, and have a plan to address any cyber security findings. Military-Grade Cases (e.g. Pelican Cases / Hardened Containers) are not desirable, although packaging must ensure no damage occurs during handling and transit. Pelican cases, Tuff boxes, or hardened containers will not be utilized by units to carry and move aircraft during operations. Shipping sUAS aircraft via cardboard boxes or tri-walls is acceptable with the contents of the box clearly identified. It is acceptable to utilize hardened cases for Ground Control Stations which would be reused and routinely moved from location to location.

Hazmat material should be clearly marked and packaged to include 4G Fiberboard boxes for batteries.

Lithium-ion batteries must be shipped at a state of charge (SoC) of 30% or less of their rated capacity to reduce thermal run-away and fire risks during transport. Vendors will ship all sUAS Lithium-Ion Battery Packs in compliance with UN regulation UN3480, and equipment that may contain Li-Ion batteries in compliance with UN regulation UN3481. These standards are the globally recognized standard for shipping items classified as a Class 9 material, which Li-Ion batteries are.

Vendors will certify that all Li-Ion batteries to be shipped are proven to meet the requirements of each test set out in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, sub-section 38.3. Documentation will be required prior to shipping of Li-Ion batteries in order to ensure the safe and reliable transportation and use of such items.

Vendors will package all separate Li-Ion battery packs in accordance with the UN3480 standard, which includes compliant packaging such as 4G boxes. (see example pic).



Vendors will properly label any box, package, or larger container that does include Li-Ion battery packs per UN3480 (see pic).



Battery packs may be shipped with other items or larger containers, but must meet the minimum packaging requirement before being packed within a larger container.

Vendors may refer to the following UN regulations for more details:

UN regulation	Batteries covered
UN3090	Lithium metal batteries (shipped by themselves).
UN3480	Lithium-ion batteries (shipped by themselves) or inside equipment or packed separately with equipment.
UN3091	Lithium metal batteries contained in equipment or packed with equipment.
UN3481	Lithium-ion batteries contained in equipment or packed with equipment.

A comprehensive inventory list shall be included will all shipments to allow for proper receipt and acceptance. The inventory breakdown shall be indentured, to include all major hardware items, in addition to lower-level components as outlined within the Bill of Materials (BOM). The inventory checklist allows receiving services and installations to accurately and rapidly identify major end items are included per the agreed upon contract numbers. I.E. number of actual sUAS aircraft, number of batteries, number of GCS stations (with a breakdown of what is included in a GCS station), number of battery chargers, number of spare parts kits, number of lethality kits (shipped separate). This checklist is in addition to packing slips on each pallet or container that is shipped that accurately lists what is included in that delivery.

The BOM shall constitute what equates to one complete system. This will be down to the component level and will include the following list of items and quantities:

- All equipment required on the sUAS aircraft to put it into operation (to include prop (by size) size, battery, and any ancillary items
- All GCS equipment (to include batteries, antenna, control modules, tripods, cables/cords) required to put it into operation
- All Basic Issue Items to charge, repair, or maintain the system.
- The exterior of the shipment's packaging should clearly identify the performer's name on at least two sides, in addition to the Project Order Number.

- **Government Lethality Testing**: Quality Assurance Testing (QAT) will be conducted on randomly sampled OWA systems that are delivered to the Government. Arena testing will be conducted to evaluate warhead performance. SAD teardowns will be conducted to evaluate the electrical and mechanical designs.
- **Government Test Support Training**: Vendors must provide training to designated Government quality assurance and test personnel to support QAT, arena testing, and SAD teardowns. This training must cover safe handling and arming/disarming procedures for lethal payloads, warheads, SADs, and associated components; correct system setup and configuration to ensure valid test conditions; and any vendor-specific procedures necessary for safe and accurate teardown of electrical and mechanical assemblies. This training is separate from, and in addition to, the end-user Operator Training & Support requirements in ***Section 6.2.1***.
- **Quantity Adjustments Based on QAT and Safety Review**: Following QAT and safety review, the Government reserves the right to reduce specific payload delivery quantities if they fail safety review or reveal unmitigable design flaws during evaluation. Final payload configuration quantities will be determined following efficacy testing and Phase 3 performance.

6.3 Delivery Schedule & Payment Structure

Tranche 1 deliveries are structured in three equal batches out of Gauntlet III. Each batch consists of one-third (1/3) of the total OWA drone order and one-third (1/3) of the total fire set order. Early delivery is encouraged.

- Batch 1: Due NLT 2 months after the prototype deliver order
- Batch 2: Due NLT 3.5 months after the prototype deliver order

- Batch 3: Due NLT 5 months after the prototype deliver order

Tranche 2 delivery requires 100% of total OWA drone order and 100% of total fire set due NLT 5 months after protype delivery order. Early delivery is encouraged.

6.4 Late Penalties

Delivery performance for both drones and munitions will be evaluated against the following schedule:

- On time (delivered within 5 months of prototype delivery order): Full payment
- Late (delivered between 5 months and 8 months of prototype delivery order): Payment for drone and munition reduced by 20%
- Beyond 8 months: The Government reserves the right to cancel the award and undelivered quantities

Late or cancelled deliveries may affect future Phase award decisions.

6.5 Compliance & Post-Award Opportunities

- **Supply Chain Compliance**: All items specified in ***Section 6.2*** are required to be compliant with the Drone Dominance Supply Chain Framework. Failure to meet these requirements may result in the rejection of the prototype delivery and forfeiture of payment.
- **Production Follow-On**: Successful completion of a prototype delivery order under this OTA may allow the DoW to issue a follow-on production contract or other transaction without further competition. This transition may occur for a specific capability before the conclusion of all DDP phases.

7. Submission Process

7.1 Overview

Vendors interested in participating in DDP Phase 3 must submit a completed DDP Phase 3 Pitch Deck Template with the below Supporting Attachments via NSTXL. Pitch Decks will be thoroughly evaluated by the Government to determine which companies are invited to Stage 2 (Pitch & Fly event). Submission of a Pitch Deck does not guarantee participation in the Pitch & Fly Event. Vendors can only submit one application per mission area. Any information provided as part of the Application process necessary to execute the testing requirements herein will not be protected as source selection material and may be shared with the appropriate government agencies and their support contractors. This may include but not limited to TRMC, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), associated frequency managers, and test range personnel. Proprietary information will be protected in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Information determined to be source selection sensitive will be protected in accordance with the Procurement Integrity Act.

Gauntlet II awardees do not need to apply via NSTXL and will receive a direct invitation from DDP.

Supporting Attachments

A. Mandatory Section 889 Representation

B. DDP Phase 3 Pitch Deck Template

C. Required Application Attachments (Section 7.2)

7.2 Required Application Attachments

- These attachments are required for a complete application. These instructions do not apply to Gauntlet II awardees.

- Pitch Deck Application (See Attached Template) – Vendors shall complete the Government-provided template for the mission area to which they are applying. The template collects information on the proposed sUAS, production capabilities, supply chain, company maturity, etc. All fields must be completed. Vendors shall not add, remove, reorder, or reformat slides or tables. Submissions that do not use the template, or that are incomplete, may not be evaluated.
- System Safety & Technical Data Submission
    - Respondents shall submit existing technical, test, and safety data for the proposed drone and payload pairing in accordance with all DoW safety requirements, policies and doctrine in addition to the attached documents: Vendor's Guide to Data Requirements for Software Safety, Vendor's Guide to Data Requirements for Weaponized UAS Safety Concurrence and Weaponized UAS Software Safety Program.
    - Submissions shall include all available:
        - Internal and third-party test reports (e.g., flight anomalies, environmental, energetic qualification/characterization, and software/HIL testing).
        - System and software architecture descriptions, including open-source baselines and fail-safe/lost-link logics.
        - User, operator, and maintenance manuals detailing system states, arming sequences, and emergency procedures.
- Work orders or purchase orders demonstrating production activity within the past 12 months.
    - Production activity must prove that company is able to scale to a minimum of 8,000 drones in 5 months and that they can scale thereafter to annual production volumes of greater than 100,000 if ultimately chosen for future contracts
- Photographs of Production Facilities (6 minimum) covering: production order, assembly area, quality control / inspection area, component storage / inventory area, testing area, shipping & logistics area.
- Bill of Materials (BOM) – DCMA BOM Template
- Foreign Ownership Control or Influence (FOCI) Data Sheet
- Spectrum Paperwork: DD1494 or Part 15 Spectrum Template, depending on spectrum requests
- Certificate of Insurance: Proof of liability insurance coverage for Qualifiers participation

- Gauntlet II awardees will receive an invite to participate in DDP and are not expected to respond to this RFS. Gauntlet II winners will receive their invitation by Oct 15, 2026, and will be asked to respond with the following information by 1 Nov, 2026:
    - Gauntlet III Declaration of Intent Template (To be provided with official invitation), including but not limited to:
        - Revised specifications and photographs on OWA, ground control station, and other required equipment
        - Selected commercial lethality providers (2 minimum)
        - Revised Systems & Technical Data Submission, in accordance with requirements described above
    - Bill of Materials (BOM) – DCMA BOM Template
    - FOCI Data Sheet
    - Spectrum Paperwork: DD1494 or Part 15 Spectrum Template, depending on spectrum requests
    - Certificate of Insurance: Proof of liability insurance coverage for Qualifiers participation

- Mandatory Section 889 Representation

7.3 Submission Instructions

Vendors must submit their completed application packet through the NSTXL portal no later than the Response Deadline listed in the Opportunity Overview. Late submissions may not be reviewed.

- Direct Link: **NSTXL.org**

7.4 Review and Notification

All submitted applications will be evaluated by the Government.. Companies that are not invited to the Gauntlet III following the Pitch & Fly event will receive a high-level explanation of why they did not advance. Debriefings will not be provided. The Government reserves the right to conduct follow-up activities to verify the content of submitted applications, including direct meetings with vendors and contact with suppliers or manufacturers identified in the application.

7.5 Questions

Questions must be submitted no later than the Questions Deadline listed in the Opportunity Overview. Questions submitted after this deadline will not be answered.

Questions should be submitted via the opportunity page at: **NSTXL.org**

Answers to submitted questions will be posted publicly on NSTXL. Vendors are encouraged to monitor both sites for updates. No answers will be provided via direct communication.

C. SECURITY INFORMATION & RESTRICTIONS

Eligibility and compliance requirements for participation are as follows:

- *Open to companies based in the U.S. or U.S. Allied Nations. Companies must have ability to manufacture in the U.S. with preference for using U.S. made components and materials.*
- *By submitting a response, respondents shall certify whether covered telecommunications equipment or services will or will not be included as a part of its offered products or services to the Government in the performance of this effort.*
- *Covered Telecommunications Equipment Compliance Certification includes additional details regarding covered telecommunications equipment compliances, which must be signed and returned with any submissions.*

What is included under "covered telecommunications equipment or services"?

- ✓ Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ✓ For the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ✓ Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
- ✓ Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

All respondents/prospective performers must be compliant with the following:

(a) *DoDI 8582.01, "Security of Unclassified DoD Information on Non-DoD Information Systems" and DoDI 5200.48, "Controlled Unclassified Information."*

(b) *Research findings and technology developments arising from the resulting proposed solution may constitute a significant enhancement to the national defense and to the economic vitality of the United States. As such, in the conduct of all work related to this effort, the selected performer must comply strictly with the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (22 C.F.R. §§ 120-130), the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (Part 117 of Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations) and the Export Administration Regulations (15 C.F.R. §§ 730-774).*

(c) *DFARS 252.204-7025 Notice of Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements (NOV 2025), DFARS 252.204-7021 Contractor Compliance with the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements, and FAR 52.204-21 Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems.*

DFARS 252.204-7025 - NOTICE OF CYBERSECURITY MATURITY MODEL CERTIFICATION LEVEL REQUIREMENTS (NOV 2025)

(a) Definitions. As used in this provision, "controlled unclassified information (CUI)," "current," "Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) status," "Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification unique identifier (CMMC UID)," "Federal contract information (FCI)", and "plan of action and milestones" have the meaning given in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement 252.204-7021, Contractor Compliance With the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements, clause of this solicitation.

(b)(1) Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) level. The CMMC level required by this solicitation is: CMMC Level 2 (Self). The CMMC level required for prototype delivery award is: CMMC Level 2 (Self). This CMMC level, or higher (see 32 CFR part 170), is required prior to award for each contractor information system that will process, store, or transmit Federal contract information (FCI) or controlled unclassified information (CUI) during performance of the contract.

(b)(2) The Offeror will not be eligible for award of a contract, task order, or delivery order resulting from this solicitation if the Offeror does not have, for each of the contractor information systems that will process, store, or transmit FCI or CUI and that will be used in performance of a contract resulting from this solicitation—

(i) The current CMMC status entered in the Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS) (https://piee.eb.mil) at the CMMC level required by paragraph (b)(1) of this provision; and

(ii) A current affirmation of continuous compliance with the security requirements identified at 32 CFR part 170 in SPRS.

(c) Plan of action and milestones. If the Offeror has a CMMC Status of Conditional, the Offeror shall successfully close out a valid plan of action and milestones (32 CFR 170.21) to achieve a CMMC Status of Final.

(d) CMMC unique identifiers. The Offeror shall provide, in the proposal, the CMMC unique identifier(s) (CMMC UIDs) issued by SPRS for each contractor information system that will process, store, or transmit FCI or CUI during performance of a contract, task order, or delivery order resulting from this solicitation. The Offeror also shall update the list when new CMMC UIDs are generated in SPRS. The CMMC UIDs are provided in SPRS after the Offeror enters the results of self-assessment(s) for each such information system.

DFARS 252.223-7002 – Safety Precautions for Ammunition and Explosives

DFARS 252.223-7003 – Changes in Place of Performance – Ammunition and Explosives

D. REQUIRED LEVEL OF DATA RIGHTS

The Government will maintain limited rights to all technical data generated under this effort, as defined below.

Limited Rights: The rights to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose technical data, in whole or in part, within the Government. The Government may not, without the written permission of the party asserting limited rights, release or disclose the technical data outside the Government, use the technical data for manufacture, or authorize the technical data to be used by another party, except under the following conditions:

(a) *The reproduction, release, disclosure, or use is necessary for emergency repair and overhaul; or*

(b) *The release or disclosure is made to:*

- *A covered Government support contractor in performance of its covered Government support contract; or*
- *A foreign government, or technical data other than detailed manufacturing or process data, when use is in the interest of the Government and required for evaluation or informational purposes*

(c) The recipient is subject to a prohibition on further reproduction, release, disclosure, or use of the technical data; and

(d) The contractor asserting the restriction is notified of such reproduction, release, disclosure, or use.

E. SOLUTION REVIEW & ASSESSMENT

The Government will award prototype delivery orders from the total $450M budget, via NSTXL, to the respondents whose solutions are assessed to be most advantageous to the Government when all factors are considered (e.g. price, technical capabilities, manufacturing capabilities, etc.). The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all objectives of the RFS and reserves the right to reject a submission deemed incomplete or that does not clearly provide the requested information.

F. ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

- Eligibility Requirement: In order to be eligible for award under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 4022, respondents must meet one of the following conditions:
    - There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor or nonprofit research institution participating to a significant extent in the prototype project.
    - All significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses (including small businesses participating in a program described under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)) or nontraditional defense contractors.
    - At least one third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by sources other than the Federal Government.
- What is a nontraditional defense contractor?
    - 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 Department of Defense for the procurement or transaction, any contract or subcontract for the Department of Defense that is subject to full coverage under the cost accounting standards (CAS).
- The United States Navy, specifically Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, maintains release authority on any and all publications or press releases related to this prototype project.
- Unsuccessful respondents will be notified by NSTXL, however, debriefings for this project will not be provided.
- Certain types of information submitted during the RFS and award process of an OT are exempt from disclosure requirements of 5 U.S.C. §552 (the Freedom of Information Act or FOIA). It is recommended that respondents mark business plans and technical information that are to be protected from FOIA disclosure with a legend identifying the documents as being submitted on a business confidential basis.
- No classified data shall be submitted within the proposal. To the extent that the project involves DoD controlled unclassified information, respondents must comply with DoDI 8582.01 Security of Non-DoD Information Systems Processing Unclassified Nonpublic DoD Information and DoDI 5200.48 Controlled Unclassified Information. Respondents must report any cyber incidents that affect controlled unclassified information directly to DoD at https://dibnet.dod.mil.
- This is to advise that non-Government advisors will assist in the evaluation. The use of non-Government advisors will be strictly controlled. Non-Government advisors will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) prior to working on the effort. Agreements Officer will review NDAs for conflict prior to allowing access to source selection information. All non-Government advisors will only have access to the information corresponding to their area(s) of expertise. The companies identified herein have agreed to not engage in the manufacture or production of hardware/services/research and development that is related to this effort, and to refrain from disclosing proprietary information to unauthorized personnel.

- The following companies will have non-Government personnel advising:

KBR, Inc. CAGE: 7NUQ6
601 Jefferson ST Ste 3400
Houston, TX 77002

Scientific Research Corporation CAGE: 0D5A6
2300 Windy Ridge Pkwy STE 400S
Atlanta, GA 30339

- The following companies will be assisting with data collection at the Gauntlet III:

Covan Group, LLC CAGE: 7DPS4
1127 International Parkway RM 281
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406

- There may be non-Government Recognized Assessors throughout Phase 3 for those selected for participation to assist in component source verification.

G. Definitions

- Dummy Payload: Weight commensurate to the total weight of the interface and the same center of gravity as the training payload/lethal payload and Safe and Arm/Fuzing Device.
- Field-Packable Payload: payload configuration in which the warhead housing and explosive material are separate. Warfighters or other SMEs are required to place explosives and blasting cap inside the housing before execution.
- Munition Interface: Standardized mechanical, electrical, and logical interface that enables integration and communication of payloads with compatible drones (Eg. sUPI or Apex)
- Lethal Payload: Housing and its subcomponents that produce the intended terminal effect.
- Pre-Packed Payload: Fully assembled, sealed and ready-to-employ, to include explosive material.
- Safe and Arm/Fuzing Device: Subsystem that prevents inadvertent initiation, controls the transition from a safe condition to an armed condition, and initiates the warhead only under defined conditions. This includes electronic, electro-mechanical, and integrated safe-and-arm fuze implementations.
- Training Payload: Safe and Arm/Fuzing Device (Eg. ESAD, ESAM, EMSAD etc.), training device (non-lethal) and interface. Training payload must match the total weight and center of gravity as the lethal payload. Training payload must simulate ESAD/EMSAD behavior without producing explosive effects.