Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic

Rapid Capabilities Office (RCO)

Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO)

N65236-26-S-0001

This announcement introduces the NIWC Atlantic RCO, Commercial Solutions Opening. This CSO will serve as a streamlined acquisition tool to accelerate the adoption of advanced technology, curate solutions to technology gaps, and lead rapid prototyping.

Period of Availability: November 5, 2025 through November 4, 2028

1. Objective

This announcement is intended to enable the rapid selection of innovative commercial solutions through a three-phased, competitive process for commercially available technologies fueled by commercial or strategic investment, concept demonstrations, pilots, and agile development activities that can incrementally improve commercial technologies, existing Government-owned capabilities, or concepts for defense application.

2. Overview

Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic's mission is to conduct research, development, prototyping, engineering, test and evaluation, installation, and sustainment of integrated information warfare capabilities and services across all warfighting domains with an emphasis on Expeditionary Tactical Capabilities & Enterprise IT and Business Systems in order to drive innovation and warfighter information advantage.

To achieve these mission imperatives, NIWC Atlantic has established the Rapid Capabilities Office (RCO) to act as a change agent to rapidly assess and accelerate the delivery of capabilities to address emergent fleet needs. To accelerate the adoption of advanced technology, curate solutions to technology gaps, and lead rapid prototyping NIWC Atlantic issues this RCO CSO as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3458 for the acquisition of innovative commercial products or commercial services through the use of a general solicitation. In this context "Innovative" means—

1. Any technology, process, or method, including research and development, that is new as of the date of submission of a proposal; or
2. Any application that is new as of the date of submission of a proposal of a technology, process, or method existing as of such date.

3. Scope

NIWC Atlantic is seeking innovative commercial solutions relevant to the following areas of technological exploration:

3.1 Battlespace Connectivity

Assured communications and transport across all domains and platforms for all payloads/sensors. NIWC Atlantic recognizes Battlespace Connectivity is essential to conduct joint all-domain operations, gain warfighting advantages, and achieve military objectives. The Battlespace Connectivity focus area includes the full spectrum of doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLPF) required to provide connectivity and transport of voice and data to joint warfighting functions across and within all domains and echelons. Solutions are necessary across all aspects of communications and networking including but not limited to the following: wired communications and protocols; wireless communications, protocols, and waveforms across all bands (including optical and quantum) and topologies; data encryption, in-transit communications security, and zero trust;

capabilities reducing the vulnerability or detectability of communications; spectrum monitoring (including emissions control (EMCON)), orchestration, and resilience; interference filtering; antennas; modular and/or reprogrammable capabilities across all form factors; and systems spanning all domains from shore, undersea, surface, airborne, and space.

3.2 Battlespace Command and Control (C2)

NIWC Atlantic recognizes Command and Control (C2) is essential to conduct joint all-domain operations, gain warfighting advantages, and achieve military objectives. The Battlespace C2 focus area comprises the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities (DOTMLPF) required to execute and synchronize C2 with other joint warfighting functions across and within all domains and echelons. Strategic priorities include integrated and interoperable C2 systems within and across echelons and Services; common operational, tactical, and intelligence pictures; applications to provide decision support (i.e. battle management aids), manage employment of kinetic and non-kinetic effects, enable cross-domain transfer of data, and automate C2 processes and legacy systems; innovative solutions for C2 and operations center resiliency, reconstitution, and augmentation; and constructive and virtual C2 training environments.

3.3 Robotics and Autonomous Systems

C2, autonomy, and communications of unmanned across all domains for any mission. Guided by DoD and Naval priorities, robotic and autonomous systems (RAS), augmenting the multi-mission conventional force, provides opportunities to expand the reach, resilience, and lethality of the combined manned-unmanned Navy team. As the Navy works on delivering a truly hybrid fleet, nearer term operational challenges demand that we integrate proven RAS capabilities as soon as possible. Future challenges include hybrid fleet capabilities across mission areas that include find, fix, track, target (F2T2), anti-access area denial (A2/AD), maritime domain awareness (MDA), and battle damage assessment (BDA). Areas of interest include capabilities that provide abilities to: (1) integrate beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) situational awareness and control of RAS, including automation capabilities to ease the burden on users operating many vehicles; (2) Communications and networking capabilities for unmanned systems; (3) Multi-vehicle autonomy and tactical decision making for unmanned systems; (4) Autonomous battlespace awareness capabilities on unmanned vehicles (UxVs), and (5) Methods and tools to test, evaluate, verify, and validate (TEVV) unmanned and autonomy capabilities.

3.4 Non-Kinetic Effects

EMSO, C-C5ISRT, Cyber, and counter unmanned through the detection, collection, deception, decoy and exploit/attack of information. Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) and Non-Kinetic Effects (NKE) are a strategic priority due to the increasingly congested, contested and constrained environments. The nation's economy and security will be exposed to significant risk without the ability for our forces to assert

Electromagnetic Spectrum Dominance. NIWC Atlantic has a history of developing non-kinetic capabilities on and concurrent with multi-function electronic warfare hardware and software platforms from early prototype experimentation to Joint exercises to operations, maintenance and sustainment. NIWC Atlantic recognizes the need for new NKE capabilities that are integrated with Naval Command, Control and Communications (C3), are fully integrated into the Joint Planning and Execution cycle, and support trusted autonomous decision making at the edge.

3.5 Decision Advantage

Warfighter-centric solutions within AI/ML, enterprise, tools/dashboards, etc. With the changing strategic landscape, NIWC Atlantic recognizes the growing need for Digital Decision Support backed by self-healing and sustaining systems that can be rapidly reconfigured to support new mission needs and deliver decision advantage to the warfighter. Software Modernization and ML Operations are transformative initiatives that will impact multiple mission areas. This requires collaboration across the Naval ecosystem to align requirements, technology development, modern practices and infrastructure to deploy digital decision support to the tactical edge to close the kill chain.

4. Authority

Pursuant to Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 212.7002, NIWC Atlantic will use this CSO to obtain innovative solutions or potential capabilities that fulfill requirements and close capability gaps, or provide potential innovative technological advancements. All products and services acquired using this CSO will be treated as commercial products or commercial services, awarded on a fixed-price basis.

In accordance with DFARS 206.102-70 (a), awards made under this CSO announcement will be competitively selected based on a review by scientific, technological, or other subject-matter expert peers. As a result of the competitive processes used under this CSO Announcement, multiple awards may be executed. The methods utilized to execute awards include: Other Transaction Agreements (OTA) prototype and follow-on production, traditional FAR based, and/or Bailment Agreements.

Under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 4022, NIWC Atlantic may award an Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) to vendors to carry out prototype project(s) directly relevant to enhancing the mission effectiveness of personnel of the Department of Defense or improving platforms, systems, components, or materials proposed to be acquired or developed by the Department of Defense, or to improvement of platforms, systems, components, or materials in use by the armed forces.

Under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 4023, NIWC Atlantic may procure (by contract or otherwise) ordnance, signal, chemical activity, transportation, energy, medical, space-flight, telecommunications, and aeronautical supplies, including parts and accessories, and designs thereof, that the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary concerned considers necessary for

experimental or test purposes in the development of the best supplies that are needed for the national defense.

5. CSO Process

5.1 Areas of Interest

NIWC Atlantic will use this CSO to release Areas of Interest (AOIs) for capabilities that fall within the five RCO focus areas defined in paragraph 3 above. AOIs will be published separately and posted on SAM.gov with reference to this CSO number N65236-26-S-0001. AOIs can be issued at any time during the CSO period of availability, as a requirement arises. AOIs will include specific instructions for submission as it relates to the capabilities being sought by industry.

AOIs will be written in broad terms to maximize latitude in creativity when approaching a problem and to allow for maximum participation from nontraditional defense contractors as defined in 10 U.S.C 3014 and interested parties (entities) who may be unfamiliar with submitting traditional proposals to Government solicitations.

AOI's issued under this CSO will follow a streamlined three phase process:

Phase 1- Solution Brief

Phase 2- Pitch

Phase 3- Full written proposal

5.2 Phase 1 Solution Briefs

AOIs may solicit Solution Briefs from industry as specified in Section 7.2 of this CSO. If a specific AOI requires unique security clearance levels to participate, additional information will be provided in the specific AOI highlighting those procedures. The Government will evaluate Solution Briefs against the evaluation criteria stated in this CSO. The Government will not pay entities for the costs associated with Solution Brief submissions.

5.3 Phase 2 Pitch

Respondents whose Solution Briefs are evaluated to be of merit may be invited to provide a pitch following the instructions provided in Section 7.3 of this CSO. The Government reserves the right to limit the number of parties invited to pitch. As such, a company's solution may be evaluated to be of merit, but not invited to pitch. In the event that the Government requires a demonstration, additional information will be provided in the specific AOI highlighting those procedures, otherwise Phase 2 will be comprised solely of the pitch. The Government will not pay entities for costs associated with pitches, unless otherwise stipulated.

5.4 Phase 3 Proposal

Those entities whose Pitch is evaluated to be of merit and is selected for potential award may be invited to submit a full written proposal following the instructions provided in Section 7.4 of this

CSO. The Government will not pay entities for costs associated with the proposal in Phase 3, unless otherwise stipulated.

6. Information About Potential Awards

6.1 General Guidelines

Upon favorable review and available funds, NIWC Atlantic may choose to make an award. Only NIWC Atlantic Warranted Contracting Officers or Agreements Officers operating under UIC N65236 may obligate the Government by entering into or modifying a binding agreement on behalf of the Government using this CSO vehicle.

Awards made under this CSO will be Firm Fixed Price (FFP) or Fixed Price Incentive (FPI). The award vehicle will be finalized during Phase 3 but can include Other Transaction Agreement for prototype (10 U.SC 4022), FAR based contracts or bailment agreements. Multiple awards may be made to pursue similar or dissimilar solutions should they all meet the technical criteria, be selected for award, and if funds are available.

6.2 Award Parameters

1. The Government reserves the right to cancel this CSO, or any AOI issued under this CSO, at any time and is under no obligation to reimburse any costs associated with responding to this CSO or any AOIs issued against this CSO.

2. This CSO has no ceiling value or price estimate. Individual awards are not expected to exceed $100 million.

3. Entities must have a DUNs and CAGE Code registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) to receive an award. Companies are advised to commence SAM registration upon receipt of a proposal request.

4. Awardees must be determined to be responsible by the Contracting or Agreements Officer and must not be suspended or debarred from award by the Federal Government nor be prohibited by Presidential Executive Order and/or law from receiving award.

5. Receipt of a proposal request does not guarantee receipt of award. The Government reserves the right, at any point prior to award, to cancel the request.

6. Upon award, awardees must register in the prescribed Government invoicing system (e.g. Wide Area Work Flow).

7. Compliance with National Institute of Standards Technology (NIST) Special Publications (SP) 800-171 Revision 2 applies to commercial contracts awarded under this CSO. Where applicable, potential awardees shall have a Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS) assessment rating verifiable via the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE) platform (https://piee.eb.mil).

8. Companies will be required to identify any Intellectual Property and the associated restrictions on the Government's use of Intellectual Property.

9. Responding parties are hereby notified that the Government will assess all submissions for the existence of a conflict of interest (COI) or the appearance of a COI. It is incumbent upon the respondent to disclose all relevant facts related to the existence of or potential existence of a COI early in the process.

7. Guidelines for Industry Submissions

7.1 General

1. Unnecessarily elaborate brochures or proposals are not desired.
2. Use of a diagram(s) or figure(s) to depict the essence of the proposed solution is strongly encouraged.
3. Companies may submit multiple Solution Briefs in response to any single AOI if each submission represents a separate and distinct concept.
4. The period of performance for any Solution Brief or proposal submitted under this CSO should generally be no greater than 24 months.
5. Technical data with military application may require appropriate approval, authorization, or license for lawful exportation.
6. All Solution Briefs, Pitches, and Proposals shall generally be unclassified, unless uniquely addressed in an AOI. Solution Briefs, Pitches, and Proposals containing data that is not to be disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the Government except for evaluation purposes shall include the following sentences on the cover page:

"This [select one: Solution Brief, Pitch, or Proposal] includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the Government, except to non-Government personnel for evaluation purposes, and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this submission. If, however, an agreement is awarded to this Company as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the

Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent agreed upon by both parties in the resulting agreement. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use the information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets [insert numbers or other identification of sheets]"

Each restricted data sheet should be marked as follows:

"Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal."

7. Foreign-Owned businesses may independently submit a solution or do so as part of a teaming arrangement with one or more United States-Owned businesses. However, the ability to obtain an agreement based upon a submission may depend upon the ability of the Foreign-Owned business to obtain necessary clearances and approvals to obtain proscribed information identified in the AOI.

8. Submissions must be submitted electronically as specified in the individual AOI.
9. Submissions sent through other channels or after the AOI solicitation has ended will not be reviewed or evaluated by the Government.
10. Solution Briefs that are chosen for the Phase 2 Pitch will be notified in writing as soon as practicable.

Note: Individual AOIs may add, change, remove, or reprioritize evaluation criteria for the specific AOI. AOIs may contain clarifying information associated with the criteria listed above.

7.2 Phase 1 Solution Brief

7.2.1 Content

Solution Briefs should not exceed five (5) written pages using 12-point font. Alternatively, Solution Briefs may take the form of briefing slides which should not exceed fifteen (15) slides. Briefs should include at a minimum:

Title Page (does not count against page limit)

Entity Name, Entity Cage Code (if available), Date, Point of Contact Name, E-Mail Address, Phone, and Address.

Specifically identify the AOI for which the Solution Brief is submitted.

Executive Summary of the technology (one page, included in the five page limit)

Describe the concept and unique aspects of the technology or solution as it relates to the AOI.

Unique Industry technology or Solution

Describe your approach to the AOI problem identified. Detail the proposed work and unique elements of the technology being addressed in the AOI. Identify whether the solution is an existing technology that has satisfied a pilot or demonstration (i.e., commercially ready and viable technology), or the if the solution will require development for defense application.

If development or adaptation is proposed, identify a suggested path to mature the technology.

Identify aspects of the solution which may be considered proprietary or Intellectual Property (IP)

Provide a brief overview of the company, including a summary of product commercialization and go-to-market strategy.

7.2.2 Basis of Evaluation

All solution briefs correctly submitted in response to an AOI will be evaluated against the stated criteria below.

1. (Y/N) The proposed innovative commercial solution, technology, process, or method, is new as of the date of submission of a proposal; or is an application that

is new as of the date of submission of a proposal of a technology, process, or method existing as of such date.

2. Relevance of the Solution Brief in addressing the AOI.
3. Technical Merit and feasibility of the solution to address Government AOI problem statement.

Additional technical evaluation criteria specific to a particular project may be used in addition to the criteria above. In these instances, the additional criteria will be posted within the AOI announcement on the SAM.Gov.

Solution Briefs will be evaluated on the basis of the merit of the proposed concept in addressing the AOI, not against other Solution Briefs submitted in response to the same AOI.

All submissions will be fairly evaluated; however, the government reserves the right to limit the number of entities invited to pitch based on this evaluation. Solution Briefs that are chosen for the Phase 2 Pitch will be notified in writing as soon as practicable**.**

7.3 Phase 2 Pitch

7.3.1. Content

In Phase 2, entities shall provide an in-person or virtual pitch to demonstrate and provide further details on their proposed innovative commercial solution and the technical and business viability of the proposed solution. The Government may elect to use external market research during the Pitch to evaluate viability. In addition to the Pitch, the Government, at its discretion, may request for consideration an additional written submission to further supplement the information provided in the Phase 1 Solution Brief. During the Phase 2 Pitch, the Company must detail/address:

- Proposed Schedule and requested type of award vehicle (OT, far based, etc.)
- Rough order of magnitude (ROM) or pricing
- Anticipated Data Rights Assertions
- During the Pitch, the Government may request additional information/detail with respect to the information provided in the Phase 1 Solution Brief.

7.3.2 Basis of Evaluation

Individual pitches will be evaluated against the following factors:

1. Relevance of the pitch in addressing the AOI and the ability of the presenter to adequately address Government questions or concerns regarding the proposed application or use of the innovative commercial solution.
2. The solution has technical merit, adequately & realistically addresses Government need and is feasible.
3. Reasonableness of the ROM
4. The associated delivery schedule is expeditious and realistic

5. Potential Impact of data rights assertions.

Individual pitches will be evaluated based on the above factors. Pitches will not be evaluated against, or compared to any other Pitches held under the same AOI. Pitch submissions will be valid for 24 months after the pitch date. Upon completion of evaluations, the Government will notify the Company that:

(1) the proposed concept/technology/solution has been selected for possible award and the entity will be invited to submit a Proposal under Phase 3.

(2) the proposed concept/technology/solution is not of interest to the Government; or

(3) the proposed concept/technology/solution is of interest, but not eligible for a proposal due to availability of Government resources.

If the proposed innovative commercial solution is of interest, but not eligible for a proposal due to availability of Government resources, the Company's successful pitch will remain viable for 24 months after the pitch date. These successful pitches will be stored by NIWC Atlantic and if Government resources become available, the company may be contacted with a Request for Proposal to formally move into Phase 3. If after 24 months from the pitch date, Government resources are not identified to formally move into Phase 3, the entity will no longer be eligible for an award under that particular AOI.

7.4 Phase 3 Proposal

7.4.1. Content

The final phase of the evaluation process is the proposal. Based upon the evaluation process detailed in Phase 1 and 2, the Government may request a proposal. The entity will be invited to develop and submit a written proposal and negotiate appropriate terms and conditions. Entities may discuss ideas and questions related to the proposal with the Government POC during the proposal writing process.

Each proposal submitted shall consist of two sections: Section 1 shall consist of the technical proposal; Section 2 shall consist of the price/cost/schedule. Proposals will be assessed by NIWC Atlantic technical and Contracting subject matter experts. Entities may propose their own internal terms and conditions (e.g., Service License Agreements (SLA) and/or User License Agreements (ULA)) to be considered during negotiations with the Government. Note, there are certain terms and conditions the Government is unable to accept. Awards made under this authority will only be issued as fixed price awards in accordance with DFARS 212.7002(b).

Section 1- Technical Proposal

At a minimum, the written technical proposals must contain:

- Title Page

- Company Name, Point of Contact Name, Date, E-Mail Address, Phone, and Address and any subcontractors or team members. Include an abstract which provides a concise description of the proposal.
- Description of the proposed innovative commercial solution
- Background and objectives of the proposed solution, deliverables, and resources needed to execute. Include the nature and extent of the anticipated results. Include ancillary and operational issues such as certifications, algorithms, and any engineering/software development methodologies to be used.
- A Statement of Work (SOW) identifying the work to be performed and the deliverables required.
- Provide a detailed project schedule that outlines the various phases of work to be accomplished within the proposed period of performance. You may refer to the Solution Brief that prompted this proposal request, but do not duplicate it.
- Identify any Government material, equipment, data, or other items necessary.

Section 2- Price Proposal

The entity shall propose a fixed price for the item or service and provide any data or supporting information necessary for the determination of a fair and reasonable price. This can include, but is not limited to, commercial price catalog or other proprietary information such as historical prices paid for these commercial products/services to help the Government assess the proposed price.

Additionally, if proposing an OT, while not required to be specifically addressed in the proposal (with the exception of the 1/3 cost-share requirement, if applicable), the Government will review the proposal to determine if the following OT statutory requirements are met:

1. Fits the definition of a prototype
2. Meets non-traditional participation/cost share requirement: Non-traditional defense contractor contributes to a significant extent or not; if not, 1/3 cost share implementation is addressed
3. Defense Utility: Solution is applicable to a DoD platform, system or component

8. Comptroller General Access to Information

In OT projects that provide for payments in a total amount in excess of $5,000,000, the Agreement will include a mandatory clause that provides for the Comptroller General the ability to examine the records of any party to the agreement or any entity that participates in the performance of the agreement.

9. Procurement Integrity Act (PIA)

All awards under this CSO shall be treated as Federal Agency procurements for purpose of 41 U.S.C. Chapter 21. Accordingly, the CSO competitive solicitation process and awards made thereof must adhere to the ethical standards required by the PIA.

10. Iterative Prototyping

As it is the mission of NIWC Atlantic to enable access to commercially-derived disruptive capabilities across the entirety of the DoD enterprise, Prototype OTAs awarded against this CSO will allow for an iterative prototyping process.

An iterative prototyping process will allow the Government to modify, by mutual agreement, the work in a prototype project to allow the adaptation and modification of the technology being prototyped to meet additional unique and discrete purposes/mission sets. These additional unique and discrete purposes/mission sets can be generated by the original Government customer or originate with other organizations within the Federal Government.

11. Follow-on Production

Upon successful completion of a prototype project under the OTA, the Government may negotiate a follow-on production contract or agreement without further competition. Any concept/technology/solution successfully proven through a Prototype OTA can be transitioned to production. AOIs posted by the Government under this CSO and Prototype OTAs awarded will include language providing for the potential award of a follow-on production contract or agreement as authorized under 10 U.S.C. § 4022 Individual AOIs and CSO prototype OTAs will explicitly identify follow-on Prototype OTAs as a potential outcome of a successful prototyping effort.

12. Successful Completion

A transaction for a prototype project is complete upon the written determination of the appropriate approving official (program manager and Agreement Officer) for the matter in question that efforts conducted under a Prototype OTA:

(1) met the key technical goals of a project;

(2) satisfied success metrics incorporated into the Prototype OTA; or

(3) accomplished a particularly favorable or unexpected result that justifies the transition to production.

Furthermore, successful completion can occur prior to the conclusion of a prototype project to allow the Government to transition any aspect of the prototype project determined to provide utility into production while other aspects of the prototype project have yet to be completed. Any Prototype OTA shall contain a provision that sets forth the conditions under which that prototype agreement must be successfully completed.

13. Non-Government Advisors

Non-Government advisors may be used in the evaluation of Solution Briefs, Pitches and during Proposal development and negotiations. Non-Government advisors will have signed non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with the Government. Companies may enter into specific NDAs directly with the Non-Government advisors or their corporate entities. Submission of an offer under this CSO will constitute a grant of authority by the submitting company to the Government to allow the use of non-Government advisors to participate in evaluations of all phases of the CSO process. The Government understands that information provided in response to this CSO is presented in confidence and may contain trade secret or commercial or financial information, and it agrees to protect such information from unauthorized disclosure to the maximum extent permitted or required by Law, to include:

1. 18 U.S.C. 1905 (Trade Secrets Act);
2. 18 U.S.C. 1831 et seq. (Economic Espionage Act);
3. 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) (Freedom of Information Act);
4. Executive Order 12600 (Pre-disclosure Notification Procedures for Confidential Commercial Information); and,

Any other statute, regulation, or requirement applicable to Government employees.

NIWC Atlantic policy is to treat all submissions as source selection sensitive information, and to disclose their contents only for the purpose of evaluation. Restrictive notices notwithstanding, during the evaluation process, submissions may be handled by support contractors for administrative purposes and/or to assist with technical evaluation. All NIWC Atlantic and DoD support contractors performing this role are expressly prohibited from performing NIWC Atlantic sponsored technical research and are bound by appropriate NDAs.

Submissions will not be returned. The original copy of each submission received will be retained at NIWC Atlantic and all other non-required copies destroyed. A certification of destruction may be requested, provided the formal request is received at this office within 5 calendar days after notification that a proposal was not selected.