

National Security Prototype to Production Consortium (NSPPC)

Naval Affordable Interceptor Prototype Request for White Papers (RFPW)

Overview

The proliferation of low-cost one-way attack turbojet-powered unmanned aircraft, cruise-missile-like threats, and other massed low-altitude aerial threats creates an unfavorable cost and magazine-depth problem for traditional air and missile defense. The Department of the Navy (DON) seeks mature, affordable, missile-based air-defense interceptor solutions that can be rapidly adapted for maritime employment and produced at scale. The DON intends to procure a family of interceptors with different characteristics over time; this request represents the first capability in that family.

Desired Solution

The DON seeks a solution with the following minimum characteristics that can be achieved within a 12-month period to support rapid fielding.

- Proven interceptor that can provide counter-air capabilities against a range of threats and has demonstrated its maturity through a series of private and/or government test events.
- A containerized launcher concept that maximizes ready rounds (minimum of 60 per container) within a practical shipboard footprint and avoids permanent ship modification.
- A credible path to rapid production at operationally relevant quantities (minimum of 500 annually), including propulsion, energetics, seeker, electronics, and other critical supply-chain elements.
- A highly affordable cost per effect, including both unit price and the number of rounds required to achieve a high probability of defeat against multiple types of aerial threats.

Competition Process

The request for white papers represents Phase 1 of a two-phase process. Offerors who are evaluated as highly capable of meeting the minimum characteristics within the identified timeframe will be selected to submit a full proposal as part of Phase 2 of the competition process. The Government reserves the right to select zero, one, or multiple offerors from this RFPW.

Responses are accepted from NSPPC Consortium Members only. Membership is free and open; companies may apply for membership at NSPPC.org.

Evaluation Criteria

White papers will be evaluated on the offeror's demonstrated ability to meet each of the four minimum characteristics within the 12-month timeframe described in the Desired Solution section.

Submission Content

Vendors shall submit a white paper of no more than 5 pages or 10 slides that include the following:

1. A cover sheet with the following information:
 - a. Prototype Project Title
 - b. Primary point of contact (name, address, phone, and e-mail)
 - c. Secondary point of contact (name, address, phone, and e-mail)
 - d. A certification that the offeror's Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence disclosures on file with the Consortium Manager remain accurate, or updated disclosures reflecting any change
2. A company overview and description of relevant experience.
3. A detailed description of the interceptor, the intended threat set and the current maturity level to include component and subsystem development and demonstrated pedigree to date. Include any details on expected probability of defeat assumptions for the interceptor.
4. An overview of the launcher concept, ready-round capacity, reload approach, dimensions, and ship-alteration assumptions.
5. An initial 12-month production plan for 500+ interceptors and associated launchers, including capacity to support scaled production.
6. A ROM-level prototype interceptor and launcher cost including costs at different production quantities.

Papers submitted should use Times New Roman 10 (or larger) and be single-spaced in an 8.5 by 11 inches format. DO NOT SUBMIT ANY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Submission Instructions and Schedule

White papers shall be submitted to info@nsppc.org. Submissions will be accepted as soon as submitted, but no later than September 25, 2026, 5:00 PM EST, and will be reviewed on a rolling basis as received. Questions regarding this RFWP shall be submitted to the same address.

Condition of Award

Offerors shall identify which of the following conditions applies to the proposed prototype project:

- There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor or nonprofit research institution participating to a significant extent in the prototype project, or
- 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, or
- 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.

Data Rights

Data rights will be negotiated in each award. The consortium default posture is Government Purpose Rights on prototype deliverables. Detailed data rights assertions will be required with Phase 2 full proposals.

Availability of Funds.

The Government's obligations under a potential Agreement are subject to the availability of funds. Nothing herein shall be construed as creating an obligation in advance of or in excess of available appropriations. No work for which funds have not been obligated shall be undertaken unless and until the Agreements Officer provides written notice that funds have been made available.

Contractor Teaming Arrangements

Offerors may submit contractor teaming arrangements, including prime contractor-subcontractor relationships, joint ventures, or other teaming structures consistent with applicable law and regulation.

Secure Facilities and Personnel Clearances

The selected performer(s) shall have the ability to obtain facility accreditation and personnel clearances at the appropriate security level that is required for successful project execution.

Spiral Development:

The Government reserves the right to pursue spiral development efforts for this prototype project, at its sole discretion, beyond this current increment of capability; any such efforts will be subject to negotiation and availability of additional funding.

Transition to Production:

Successful completion of the initial prototype may result in the award of a follow-on production under 10 U.S.C. § 4022(f). Should the OT prototype project be successful by achieving the Key Technical Goals/Milestones or in the event that a particularly favorable or unexpected result is accomplished that justifies transition to production, the Government may consider a follow-on production contract or production OT.