

Amendment Number 0002

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH BAA 07-018  
"CONSOLIDATED SATELLITE COMMUNICATION APERTURES"

The purpose of Amendment Number 0002 is to answer questions received in response to The Office of Naval Research's BAA 07-018 entitled, "Consolidated Satellite Communication Apertures"

Question 1:

It would appear that the government has added a Ultra High Frequency (UHF) band to the bands previously discussed at the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) meeting on Integrated Topsides (November 8, 2006). Is there a reason why the government has added this UHF band and not other communication bands like C-band to the requirements?

Answer #1:

The addition of UHF was done because this is an up and coming Satellite Communication system for the Navy and other services. C band was not added, because the array would have to be too big.

Question 2:

Given the addition of this new band would the government consider granting a two week extension for white paper submissions and subsequent oral presentations to allow industry more time to address a UHF solution?

Answer 2:

No, the government will not grant an extension for white paper submissions and subsequent oral presentations.

Question 3:

Is the government requesting proposed costs for the six month study effort or the cost for developing a system?

Answer 3:

Paragraph 6. entitled "Research Opportunity Description" states that "The Office of Naval Research (ONR-31) seeks innovative technology development proposals for architectural studies directed to reduce the size, weight, and power (SWAP), as well as the cost of existing satellite communication antennas (including pedestals and radomes) on Naval Warships. The replacement of existing multiple satellite communications antennas with fewer apertures should be accomplished without impairing overall system performance. Both monostatic and bistatic concepts will be considered."

Question 4:

BAA 07-018 entitled, "Consolidated Satellite Communication Apertures", page 17 of 21 states favorable consideration to both Industry-Academia Partnering and Industry-Government Partnering. Can the same be assumed for Industry-Industry Partnering?

Answer 4:

Yes, but the intent of the BAA is to leverage other developments as well as previous Government developments.

Question 5:

Will there be an industry day or other additional information on requirements released prior to the white paper or proposal due dates? If so, are one-on-one meetings being considered as part of industry day?

Answer 5:

An Industry Day is planned, however, the date and time has not been established. No additional information is available for release at this time. If and when any additional becomes available it will be posted accordingly. One on one meetings are not being considered.

Question 6:

Are awards under BAA 07-018 entitled, "Consolidated Satellite Communication Apertures" eligible to be combined with or designated as ONR and Navy Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) awards?"

Answer 6:

The Office of Naval Research would like full disclosure of related development efforts by the offeror, since the Government can not fund the same effort with two different initiatives. Leveraging and building on other developments would be great.

Question 7:

Recent advances in digital Radio Frequency (RF) beam forming and digital RF distribution show considerable potential to significantly reduce aperture SWaP and cost but still require further development. Is it desirable and within the risk tolerance of BAA 07-018 entitled "Consolidated Satellite Communication Apertures" to pursue systems concepts that exploit these emerging capabilities?

Answer 7:

The BAA is seeking innovative ways to reduce the number of Satellite Communication Arrays, reducing ownership cost, and SWaP would help achieve those goals.

Question 8:

Can the total impact of this new capability (SWaP and cost) include improved or reduced RF distribution and terminal components as well as the aperture?

Answer 8:

Although, the focus of this BAA is reducing the number of Satellite Communication Arrays, ONR would entertain any viable potential solutions, including ones that address RF distribution and terminal components.

Question 9:

Are there any ground rules on "cross-decking" that should be considered in the potential solution?

Answer 9:

Offerors should use their best judgment on areas such as cross-decking.

Question 10:

Since BAA 07-018 entitled, "Consolidated Satellite Communication Apertures" identified the Fiscal Year 2012 timeframe for achieving a Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-6 Advanced Development Model (ADM), can it be assumed any solution achieved will be inserted into Navy Advanced EHF Multi-Band Terminal (NMT) as a part of a spiral improvement? Is it more likely that the resulting new capability would more likely be included in the Transformational Satellite Communication System (TSAT) baseline?

Answer 10:

Offerors should use their best judgment on when, where, and how their potential solution would be integrated into existing and planned Satellite Communication systems.

Question 11:

Regarding BAA 07-018 entitled, "Consolidated Satellite Communications Apertures", Fed Ex requires a name and telephone number for delivery of whitepapers. That information was not clear in the BAA instructions (there are no phone numbers provided). Please provide that information.

Answer 11:

Instructions for submitting a grant whitepaper are located on page 15 of 21 and instructions for submitting hard copy white papers are located on page 16 of 21 of the BAA.

Question 12:

Attachment number 1 under BAA 07-018 entitled, "Consolidated Satellite Communications Apertures" has some values that have been omitted due to their

classified nature. Having those values prior to providing a response would allow for a more accurate and thorough proposal.

Answer 12:

The offeror should use their best judgment in responding to the BAA via an unclassified white paper. ONR intentionally made the BAA unclassified and does not wish to have classified supplements or discussions at this time. ONR will determine if a classified meeting will be required in the future, and if so, will notify applicable parties at that time.