

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

Office of Naval Research

Air Warfare and Naval Weapons Applications Division (352)

1.0 DESCRIPTION

1.1 This publication constitutes a Request for Information (RFI) notice, and no formal Request for Proposals (RFP) or other types of solicitation will be issued. Follow-up questions may be asked of responders for clarification, but this will not indicate a selection or preference. The Office of Naval Research (ONR) will not issue paper copies of this announcement.

1.2 Responses to this notice will be used for market research by ONR to determine industry capabilities and thus help validate the Government's requirements for future solicitations. Information from this research could be used to establish promising areas of technology development and investment under the ONR Future Naval Capability (FNC) program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 and beyond.

1.3 Responders are advised that the U.S. Government will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP or other solicitation, if any is issued. If a solicitation is released at a future date, it will be synopsized on the Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps) website and the Office of Naval Research Central website at <http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/Funding-Opportunities/Requests-for-Information.aspx>. It is the responsibility of the potential offerors to monitor these sites for additional information pertaining to this requirement.

2.0 PROGRAM BACKGROUND

2.1 The ONR Future Naval Capability (FNC) Program was conceived in 1999 to address the perception that ONR had too few programs with sufficient funding to reach technical maturity for transition to acquisition. The FNC program was designed to focus S&T critical mass on highest priority capabilities of the Naval Forces and to ensure focused transition to acquisition. The FNC program is composed of Enabling Capabilities (ECs) which develop and deliver quantifiable products (e.g., prototype systems, knowledge products, and technology improvements) in response to validated requirements for insertion into acquisition programs of record.

2.2 Each year, new ECs are proposed and selected. An ONR-wide process for selection of ECs to start development in FY13 will begin this September with the nomination of a number of EC proposals by various ONR departments. Following a down selection

process, the successful EC proposals are assigned program officers who will arrange for the publication of solicitations that will lead to awards. These solicitations would probably not be issued before 2012.

3.0 REQUESTED INFORMATION

This RFI is soliciting information that could be used to develop several EC proposals likely to be nominated by ONR's Air Warfare and Naval Weapons Applications Division (ONR 352) for inclusion in the next round of ECs. ONR 352 is looking for industry information on technologies that would meet the following criteria:

3.1 At the point of program initiation (FY13):

- Require Science & Technology (S&T) investment (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) at start of 3 to 4 reaching TRL 6 at completion)
- Take three to five years for products to mature following start of technology development in FY13
- Be transitional to a Navy or Marine Corps acquisition program
- Be on the cutting edge of technology (this will likely require development investment from some other source between now and FY13)

3.2 Fall within the scope of responsibility of ONR 352, which includes:

- Fixed and rotary wing air vehicle structure, subsystems, flight control
- Rotorcraft aeromechanics
- Vertical / short takeoff and land systems
- Ship / Aircraft interface
- Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) (not including sensors or communications)
- UAV autonomous operations, mission planning, dynamic re-planning, command and control, and multi-vehicle coordinated operations
- Air vehicle propulsion
- Directed energy weapons
- Air and surface launched weapons and airborne precision targeting systems
- Offensive Information Operations

3.3 Address a Science & Technology (S&T) gap in needed Naval war fighting capability.

4.0 RESPONSE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS, DATE AND FORMAT

4.1 ONR is seeking from responders a short information paper focusing on one or more aspects of the ONR 352 technologies outlined above in section 3.0. Gaps in those technologies will also be presented in a government industry day briefing scheduled for late May (see sections 6.0 & 7.0 below). Of particular interest would be (1) those specific areas in which industry leaders are expending their own R&D funds in the expectation of

technological advancement, and (2) recent breakthroughs or significant improvements in scientific subjects is in the department's areas of responsibility of which the Navy may not already be cognizant. The information paper solicited should offer insights into current and near-term future industry achievements in the areas identified in section 3.0. This is not a call for companies to focus on their own product or process successes but rather to highlight the overall advancements in the field and those reasonably anticipated to be reached within the next three years. Emphasis on individual company solutions and products is not desired in the information paper.

4.2 It is preferred that information papers be nonproprietary and focus on overall trends. However, information papers with company-sensitive data and concepts will be accepted, and the Government will respect restricted data markings. Classified material will not be accepted. The information paper should be limited to a single MS PowerPoint quad chart format. A template will be available on the ONR events registration website (<http://www.onr.navy.mil/about/events>). It is anticipated that the papers received will reflect the best available technology assessments from those companies, universities and other research entities that are particularly knowledgeable in the fields of military aircraft, air warfare, and weapons. Consolidated technology assessments from groups of performers are not anticipated. The Navy will analyze the information papers received and reach its own independent conclusions regarding the ECs that shall be included in later year solicitations.

4.3 Information papers should be prepared and submitted by **31 May 2010**. However, late-received papers will be reviewed as time allows. All submissions become Government property and will not be returned.

4.4 Information papers must be submitted in hard copy or by email to the Program Officer listed in section 5.0.

5.0 QUESTIONS AND POINTS OF CONTACT

Questions regarding this announcement shall be submitted in writing by e-mail to the following personnel:

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6.0 GOVERNMENT BRIEFING

The Air Warfare and Naval Weapons Applications Division will conduct a two hour classified briefing for potential responders on **25 May 2010** in Arlington, VA. The purpose of the briefing will be to provide potential responders with a better understanding of the ONR FNC program, the PR-13 New Start EC process, ONR 352 priorities, and an overview of the applicable technology gaps to which responders can address potential solutions.

7.0 REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT BRIEFING

Interested responders **MUST** register for this government briefing at the ONR Events website <https://secure.onr.navy.mil/events/regdetail.asp?cid=638>. The deadline to register is **21 May 2010**. Walk-in registrations will not be accepted. This URL also has directions to ONR and all relevant information specific to this RFI. All participants for the government briefing must be U.S. citizens. No substitutions in the attendee list are allowed after the registration deadline. Because unforeseen circumstances may cause changes to the briefing schedule or venue, it is the responder's responsibility to check the specific event link at the above mentioned website for updates and information. If requested attendance exceeds capacity, it will be necessary to limit attendance of personnel from each organization, and organizations will be notified. All interested parties are encouraged to visit this website regularly.