Request for Information (RFI)
ONR RFI Announcement # N00014-16-R-RFI2
Title: Tactical Decision Aids to Improve Navy's Plan, Brief, Execute, and Assess Process

I. DISCLAIMER:

This announcement constitutes a Request for Information (RFI) for the purposes of determining market capability of sources or obtaining information. It does not constitute a Request for Proposals (RFP), a Request for Quote (RFQ) or an indication that the Government will contract for any of the items and/or services discussed in this notice. Any formal solicitation that may subsequently be issued will be announced separately through Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps). Information on the specific topics of interest is provided in the following sections of this announcement. Neither ONR nor any other part of the federal government will be responsible for any cost incurred by responders in furnishing this information.

II. BACKGROUND:

The Office of Naval Research (ONR), with assistance from the U.S. submarine force, set out to advance the mission planning capabilities of U.S submarines. Developed as part of the Capable Manpower program in the Office of Naval Research's Future Naval Capabilities initiative, the Mission Planning Application is an interactive software program that can drastically reduce the amount of time required to plan safe submarine missions. The Mission Planning Application software for Program Executive Office Submarine's Advanced Processing Build FY13 (APB-13) is just beginning to be delivered to the fleet. A second spiral software version is currently being developed for APB-15. The software is installed in the submarine combat system and is comprised of a geographical map, timeline, and multiple tactical decision aids. Ship events (e.g., engineering, training, watch bill, etc.) populate the timeline to allow crewmembers to understand where and when each event will occur on the map and to de-conflict future events. This configuration allows crew to plan, brief, execute, and assess in a single software application. Fleet users report that Mission Planning Application reduces opportunities for human error and combines multiple information sources, identifying hazards and inconsistencies automatically.

In FY16, ONR is expanding the Mission Planning Application efforts to the surface fleet with the advent of the Operational Planning Tool. The Operational Planning Tool software will facilitate the "Plan-Brief-Execute-Assess" planning cycle at the Carrier Strike Group level, preparing them for operational and combat missions at sea. Operational Planning Tool's shared workspace will improve the efficiency of the planning process and allow for easier re-planning to adjust to changing mission requirements. The Operational Planning Tool's software, Mission Planning Application APB-15 is the baseline, is based on Ozone Widget Framework architecture which is a customizable open-source web application that allows for the addition of new software tools, and for those tools to communicate with each other. Ozone Widget Framework allows users to access multiple tools from one location. Widgets within Ozone Widget Framework behave like apps on a cell phone, allowing new capabilities to be added quickly and easily. Some example widgets that have been demonstrated in the Mission Planning Application include, but not limited to, Satellite Vulnerability Tool, EO-IR Vulnerability Tool, and METOC services. Numerous other decision aids could be created and easily integrated into the Mission Planning Application.

Navy Command and Control (PMW-150), Submarine Combat and Weapons Control (PMS-425), Aegis Integrated Combat Systems (PEO IWS1), and SSBN Security Technology Program (N975) are few transition customers of the Operational Planning Tool. These acquisition customers are interested in using the Operational Planning Tool and any new tactical decision aids that could be easily added via Ozone Widget Framework widgets and services. The Office of Naval Research in partnership with these acquisition offices are interested in hearing what new tactical decision aids are available that could aid the war fighter's Plan, Brief, Execute, and Assessment process.

III.   SPECIFIC INFORMATION OF INTEREST:

1. ONR is seeking input with regard to potential tactical decision aids that could provide additional functionality to the Operational Planning Tool. Based on responses to this RFI, performers will be offered the opportunity to present their software to a Navy audience, at a date and time to be determined. To be considered for this RFI, the tactical decision aid software does not need to be coded in Ozone Widget Framework. Instead, ONR and the Operational Planning Tool acquisition customers want to understand what capabilities exist and to what level of effort is required to integrate the proposed tactical decision aid software into the Operational Planning Tool software. Details regarding demonstration needs will be part of the down select process.

IV.   SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS and FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Responses are requested by **Monday, 30 November 2015, 12:00 am Eastern Standard Time (EST)**. Any response received after this date will also be considered but may not be included in initial reporting or assessments.

2. All responses should be given in PDF format and emailed to the technical points of contract: Dr. William Krebs at william.krebs@navy.mil. The subject line of the email should read as follows "Operational Planning Tool RFI Submission."

    Files too large for email can be sent via CD by the same response date to:

    Dr. William Krebs
    Office of Naval Research
    875 North Randolph Street, room 1045
    Arlington, VA 22203

3. Responses should not exceed six (6) pages and should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, single spaced, with 1-inch margins. All information received in response to this RFI that is marked proprietary will be handled accordingly.

4. A suggested submission organization:

    A. A cover letter (optional).

B. A cover page labeled with the heading "Operational Planning Tool RFI Submission" including the product name, organization, organization's address, technical point of contact, telephone number and email address, and at least one screenshot of the product.

C. No more than five (5) pages including

1. Objective: Clear and concise statement of the purpose of the software and how it will improve the Navy Planning (Plan, Brief, Execute, and Assess) process.

2. Background: Describe the software. Explain how this software helps one or more of the Plan, Brief, Execute, and Assess processes. Provide details about the software capabilities and how it could improve operator's performance.   If the software was demonstrated to fleet users, describe the demonstration and summarize fleet user feedback.

3. Characteristics and/or specifications concerning the product as related to the capabilities, interests/focus items above, to include the below as applicable:

    a)   Description of the level of maturity (i.e. Technology Readiness Level) of the software

    b)   Description of programming language and format (ex. web-based, Java, desktop application, etc.)

    c)   In order for the software to operate onboard U.S. Navy ships, list input data sources required, export output to what operator display, and list assumptions that must be met for the software to operate.

    d)   Identify if the product is currently fielded and by whom

    e)   One or two screen shots of the software interface with a brief description of pertinent functions.

    f)   Intellectual property claims

    g)   Earliest availability for a technical demonstration at no cost or risk to the government. Demonstrations will be conducted in person or telephone conference line.

No cost or pricing information should be provided. Any received will be deleted and destroyed.

V.   QUESTIONS AND POINT OF CONTACT

Questions of a technical nature regarding this RFI may be sent to the following Technical Point of Contact:

Dr. William Krebs, Program Officer
Office of Naval Research
875 North Randolph Street, Suite 1045
Arlington, VA 22203
Email Address: william.krebs@navy.mil