The Office of Naval Research (ONR) seeks to understand the current market capabilities of entities that are performing, or are eligible to perform, as Partnership Intermediaries under the authority of 15 U.S.C. § 3715 located in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia (DMV) Region.

This announcement constitutes a Request for Information (RFI) for the purpose of determining market capability of sources or obtaining information. Submission of information under this RFI does not guarantee that any potential partner(s) will be issued a PIA; however, the Government may use the information submitted under this RFI to hold discussions with one or more potential agreement holders which may lead to award of a PIA.

The Government shall not reimburse, as a direct cost, any costs associated with responding to this RFI.

**Background:** To carry out United States Department of Defense (DoD) policy in DoD Instruction 5535.8, DoD Technology Transfer (T2) Program (Ch. 1, Sept. 1, 2018), the Office of Naval Research (ONR) has an interest in entering into one or multiple PIAs, under the authority of 15 U.S.C. § 3715, with a Partnership Intermediary, as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 3715(c) to work closely with NavalX, the Department of the Navy's (DON) Agility Cell.

Under any resultant PIA, the Partnership Intermediary will identify ways to facilitate NavalX specific outreach, events, programs; education to break down barriers to entry; and technology transition to increase the likelihood of success in the conduct of collaborative or joint activities between the DON, small business firms, and educational institutions. The Partnership Intermediary will assist NavalX with stimulating and promoting diverse performers to engage in technology development; ease communication and understanding of unique government requirements; and transfer technology from across the DON to the private sector and/or other branches of the Government. Any resultant PIA will be a non-Federal Acquisition Regulation based agreement made pursuant to the authority of 15 U.S.C. § 3715.

NavalX explicitly reaches for transformational change instead of incremental advances for the DON. To accomplish this, they must work with innovation ecosystems that include academic, corporate, and governmental partners, with a constant focus on national security challenges.

NavalX will lean on all the FAR and non-FAR based authorities available to collaborate more effectively and efficiently, including the PIA authority.

It is important that the DON continue to be a place for diverse collaborators in industry and academia, especially as more non-traditional contractors enter the market and additional non-government investments and advancements in research occur. Furthermore, as necessary protections are put into place regarding DoD research resulting in potential barriers to entry (e.g., CMMC, Section 889 ban, foreign influence) new ways of continuing DON's history of collaboration are needed.

**Description:** NavalX is requesting Capabilities Statements from those entities that are interested in partnering with the Department of the Navy, have experience with successfully aiding non-traditional and diverse small businesses and academia, and are eligible to enter into a PIA as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 3715(c).
NavalX PIA Objectives include:

1. Outreach and Events
   a. Foster and track the network of innovation industrial base members, keeping them up to date on DON engagements with industry, funding opportunities, etc.
   b. Plan and execute outreach, training, events, and other programs for industry and academic stakeholders.
   c. Promote NavalX events and DON engagements that will increase opportunities for the innovation industrial base.
   d. Interface with other PIA partners to maximize efficiency of efforts and scale opportunities across the innovation industrial base.
   e. Research and suggest strategies and campaigns successful in reaching key markets and stakeholders in the small business and educational institutions, including underutilized and diverse performers such as Minority Institutions (MIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

2. Breaking Down Barriers of Entry for Small Businesses and Academia
   a. Provide access to a physical collaboration space(s) with tools that can enable virtual engagements. Host planned and ad-hoc engagements with NavalX and members of the innovative industrial base in the DMV and beyond.
   b. Provide private industry, academia, and other non-government stakeholders interested in partnering with the DON information and materials that will help them comply with government terms and conditions.
   c. Create playbooks for successful navigation of DON opportunities.
   d. Introduce DON challenges and funding opportunities to small business and educational institutions with a focus on start-ups and non-traditional partners.
   e. Intellectual property (IP) – provide strategies that recognize and protect IP to ensure the legal and proper allocation of rights to performers and assignees of IP developed in the course of DON funded innovation research and development, including information regarding challenges for companies receiving investment from foreign nations that seek to do our country harm.

3. Transition and Integration
   a. Commercial sector scanning – research and analyze access to potential markets, determine pertinent technologies, and understand opportunities to transition and integrate emerging DON funded technologies into the commercial sector.
   b. Government sector scanning – evaluate strategies and campaigns to assist in the transition and integration of technologies into the Services, DoD laboratories, or other branches of the U.S. Government.
   c. Assist small companies and academic stakeholders with defense and dual-use applications identify non-traditional resources to mature, test, and scale their technology and businesses. This could include partnering with Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, business growth accelerators, other DOD opportunities, private capital, etc.
Submission / Eligibility Requirements:

It is recommended that potential agreement holders review the draft PIA terms and conditions which accompany this RFI.

A potential agreement holder should be able to demonstrate a proven track record of assisting small businesses scale their businesses; transfer dual-use technology to and from local and/or federal government; maintain meaningful engagements with a large network; facilitate and generate meaningful exchanges between disparate stakeholders; dutifully manage fiscal investments of private and public funds; and generate value for academic, commercial, and government-affiliated stakeholders. NavalX also desires a PIA partner(s) with a strong working relationship(s) with the innovation industrial base in the DMV.

In order for NavalX to understand the current market, potential agreement holders shall provide the following in their Capabilities Statement:

1. Name and address of organization, Cage Code, and DUNS Number.

2. Name, address, email, and phone number for the primary point of contact for the RFI.

3. Written evidence of how your entity qualifies as a PIA Partner in accordance with the statute 15 U.S.C. § 3715(c). Acceptable evidence can include an organizational charter or bylaws.

4. Written evidence that that entity is owned in whole or in part by, chartered by, funded in whole or in part by, or operated in whole or in part by or on behalf of a State or local government and any applicable funding agreements between the government and the entity.

5. Provide the most recent copy of the organization’s Internal Revenue Service Form 990.

6. Briefly summarize your organization’s capability to meet one, two, or all three of the PIA objectives. Specifically, what type of work has your organization performed in the past in support of the same or similar requirements?

7. For each objective that you respond to, briefly summarize your organization’s experience in managing tasks of this nature.

8. Briefly summarize your organization’s experience in managing a team of subcontractors. Include in the response how many subcontractors your organization has managed at one time.

9. For each objective that you respond to, briefly summarize your organization’s technical skills that ensures your capability in performing the requirements as stated above.

10. What is the status of your organizations’ Accounting System (i.e., does your firm have a Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) approved Accounting System capable of managing a Cost-type Contract)? Does your organization have any other Government approved business systems, i.e. Estimating or Purchasing systems?

11. Provide a brief description of any/all PIA’s your entity has had in the past 5 years. Include the following:
   a. PIA identification number
   b. Period of Performance
   c. Government Partner
d. Location Where Primary Services Performed

e. Cumulative dollar value of each Agreement

f. Brief summary of types of services provided

Capabilities Statement Submission: Capabilities Statements shall not exceed ten (10) pages and should address the entity’s ability to meet the objectives outlined above, its qualification as a Partnership Intermediary, and its eligibility under 15 U.S.C. § 3715(c). An entity does not need to respond to every objective, but may only be contacted to discuss those objectives that it addresses. All technical and administrative correspondence, questions regarding this announcement, how to respond to this RFI and submissions themselves should be sent to Ms. Mary Helen Dent, at mary.dent@navy.mil and Ms. Jessica Young at jessica.d.young@navy.mil. Please refer to NavalX Partnership Intermediary Agreement RFI in all correspondence.

Capabilities Statement Due Date and Time: The due date for Capabilities Statements submitted in response to this announcement is no later than 4:00 PM ET on 18 November 2021 to the email addresses above. All technical and administrative correspondence and questions regarding this announcement should be submitted to the above email addresses. E-mail sent directly to individual ONR program managers and/or telephone inquiries will not be accepted. This announcement contains all information required to submit a response. No additional forms, kits, or other materials are needed.

NOTE: ONR may conduct individual discussions with respondents as necessary to gain a full understanding of the technical requirements, partnership models, and/or capabilities submitted. ONR will contact respondents individually via e-mail.

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DISCLAIMERS AND NOTICES

An entity’s response to this RFI, or its further discussions with ONR, may result in an offer to participate in a PIA. The Government reserves the right to enter into one, multiple, or no agreements pursuant to this announcement. An offer to enter into an agreement is based on the subjective consideration of the entity’s capabilities and the particular needs of ONR in furthering some or all of the objectives stated herein. An entity does not need to satisfy every objective to be considered for an agreement and an agreement does not give the entity exclusive rights to a particular objective.

Neither ONR nor any other part of the federal government will be responsible for any cost incurred by responders in furnishing this information. NO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RFI RESPONSE. It is the submitter’s responsibility to clearly define to the Government what is considered proprietary data. Any proprietary information should be clearly labeled as “proprietary.”