

SPECIAL NOTICE:
**Assessment of the Current State and Future Advances in Energetic Materials Research,
Development, and Manufacturing Technology**

DESCRIPTION

This publication constitutes a Special Notice. Follow-up questions may be asked of responders for clarification.

Responders are advised that the U.S. Government will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this Special Notice; all costs associated with responding to this Special Notice will be solely at the interested party's expense. If a follow-on solicitation is released at a later date, it will be synopsised 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.

BACKGROUND

This Special Notice is being published to solicit information concerning energetic materials (EM) for consideration by the Department of Defense (DoD). For the purposes of this Special Notice, EM involve materials that have high amounts of chemical energy that can be released. EM are employed by DoD in propellants, explosives, and pyrotechnics. Reactive materials, novel materials, and ingredients for all types of EM are within scope. Common logistical fuels are outside scope, e.g., gasoline, diesel, and Jet Propellant-8. Rocket propellants for space launch and other DoD applications are within scope.

The purpose of this Special Notice is to inform the Department of Defense as it prepares a report to Congress in response to the report language presented below.

The Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2647, National Defense Authorization Act for 2010, (Report 111-288, pp. 707-708) states:

“Executive agent for advanced energetics

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 245) that would have established an executive agent for advanced energetics within the Department of Defense.
The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the importance of advanced energetic materials in the development of next-generation defense capabilities.

The conferees direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to provide a report describing the plan and process it is using to address the concerns raised in the original House provision (sec. 245). The report should clearly indicate how the activities envisioned to be undertaken by the proposed executive agent are currently being executed with existing Departmental processes. The report should be provided to the congressional defense committees no later than October 1, 2010.”

The Section 245 provision referenced above is found in House Report 111-166, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010:

“SECTION 245--EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR ADVANCED ENERGETICS

This section would require the establishment of an executive agent to oversee Department of Defense activities related to advanced energetics. In the committee report (H. Rept. 110-652) accompanying the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, the committee expressed concerns over the known advances in energetic materials research, development, and manufacturing technologies by foreign countries. The committee noted that such advances could pose a national security risk arising from new and unanticipated energetic materials developed by foreign governments. The committee further noted that the Department of Defense has not maintained a robust energetics program necessary to develop future innovative munitions and the next generation of energetic scientists and engineers. As a result of these concerns, the committee directed the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with other federal agencies, to assess the current state and future advances in energetic material research, development, and manufacturing in both foreign countries and the United States and submit its findings to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2009. As of May 2009, the Department has yet to submit the report.

The committee believes the Department lacks a consistent, future capability-based strategy for energetics research, development, and manufacturing and notes that efforts to address these concerns have been underfunded and disjointed. Fragmented programs supporting energetic research and the decline of the workforce affiliated with these programs create a significant loss of capacity for such a critically important capability. The committee believes that advanced energetic technology crosses the domain of all the military departments and requires a consolidated and focused approach to enhance the capability across the Department. “

The Explanatory Statement, Division A, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2010, is also relevant:

“ENERGETICS

House language noted that the efforts of the military Services as coordinated through the Office of the Secretary of Defense, with the Department of Energy, have led to steady progress in the last decade in advancing the science of energetics and revitalizing the research and development workforce.

However, a report on energetics in the Department of Defense, as directed in House Report 110-652, and which was to be provided to the congressional defense committees

not later than March 1, 2009, was completed June 2009, and was finally delivered September 2, 2009.

House language recommended that the Department of Defense capitalize on best practices within the individual Services to advance the state of the energetics field, and directed that no funds be expended for the creation of a new Executive Agent or Executive Director for Advanced Energetics. The Senate included no similar language.

The recommendation includes no language regarding the use of funds for the creation of a new Executive Agent or Executive Director for Advanced Energetics and directs instead that the Secretary of Defense shall provide a report to the congressional defense committees not later than October 1, 2010, on progress being made on the findings and actions in the June 2009 report.“

REQUESTED INFORMATION

The objective of this Special Notice is to provide information for consideration by the Department of Defense in development of its report responsive to the Congressional reporting requirements presented above. DoD does not intend to make available copies of the classified June 2009 report referenced above. Instead, it is requesting respondents to provide their independent perspectives. There are no substantive constraints on responses or respondents.

The Department of Defense has selected the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) to support this assessment. All information received will be provided to IDA for use to support development of a report to Congress. The IDA personnel involved in the assessment have executed non-disclosure agreements.

RESPONSE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS, DATE AND FORMAT

Each response should be as succinct as possible while at the same time providing actionable insight. Recommended format specifications include 12 point font, single-spaced, single-sided, 8.5 by 11 inches paper, with 1-inch margins in either Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format.

i. Cover Page

- a. Title of paper
- b. Organization
- c. Respondent's technical and administrative points of contact (names, addresses, phones and fax numbers, and email addresses)

ii. Technical Content (1-5 pages recommended)

- a. Executive summary
- b. Detailed description of the technical solution proposed

Information papers should be prepared and submitted **NOT LATER THAN 30 DAYS after the posting of this Special Notice**. However, late-received papers will be reviewed as time allows. Information papers submitted in response to this notice can be either unclassified or classified.

Send **unclassified** submission papers via email or conventional mail to the following address:

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Send **classified** submission papers via email or conventional mail to the following address:

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE (no classification marking):

Office of the Director, Defense Research and Engineering
Document Control Unit
3030 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3030

The inner wrapper of the classified submission papers should be addressed in the following manner:

INNER ENVELOPE (stamped with the overall classification of the material)

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QUESTIONS

Send questions via email or conventional mail to the following address:

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