

**ONR CSO Announcement # N0001424SC001  
Amendment 02**



**Automated Target Recognition for Rapid Area  
Detection “ATR for RAD” and Rapid Large Area  
Clearance of Unexploded Ordnance “RLAC”  
Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO)**

The purpose of Amendment 02 to Commercial Solutions Opening N0001424SC001 are as follows:

1. Provide industry questions, with answers concerning various technical aspects of the phases. If your firm was registered for Industry Day, and received a box.com link, one may find the questions and answer file located therein.

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The purposes of Amendment 01 to Commercial Solutions Opening N0001424SC001 are as follows:

1. Change Phase II: Solution Briefs submission date from 20 February 2024 to 23 February 2024. Updated date is highlighted in yellow.
2. Change Notification of Selection for Phase III date from 27 February 2024 to 29 February 2024. Updated date is highlighted in yellow.

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# I. OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

## A. Required Overview Content

### 1. Federal Awarding Agency Name

Office of Naval Research,  
One Liberty Center  
875 N. Randolph Street  
Arlington, VA 22203-1995

### 2. Funding Opportunity Title

Automated Target Recognition for Rapid Area Detection “ATR for RAD”  
and Rapid Large Area Clearance of Unexploded Ordnance “RLAC”

### 3. Announcement Type

Initial Announcement

### 4. Commercial Solutions Opening Number

N0001424SC001

### 5. Phases and Key Dates (See also Section D.4)

Anticipated Schedule of Events *		
Event	FY24 Date	Time (Local Eastern Time)
Phase I: Industry Day Presentation	6 February 2024	3:00 pm
Phase II: Solution Briefs	23 February 2024	3:00 pm
Notification of Selection for Phase III	29 February 2024	23:59
Phase III: Oral Presentation	4-6 March 2024	TBD
Notification of Selection for Phase IV	8 March 2024	23:59
Phase IV: Test and Evaluation(T&E)	18-22 March 2024 (Track 1a), Up to 13 December 2024 (Track 1b & Track 2)	TBD
Notification of Selection for Phase V	12 April 2024 to 17 January 2025	23:59
Phase V: Full Proposals	19 April 2024 – 30 September 2024	3:00 pm

Phase VI: Integration into a Government-led System	FY24 Q3-Q4, FY25 Q1-Q4	
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*\*These dates are estimates as of the date of this announcement.*

ONR expects to issue new CSO Announcements in FY25 and FY26 for this program. As part of the proposal process, proposers are advised to review the newly issued CSO at the start of each fiscal year. The new CSO Announcements will contain important updates.

**6. Agreements Officer** - The Agreements Officer will negotiate directly with the Company on the terms and conditions of the Other Transaction Agreement (OTA), including payments, and will execute the OTA on behalf of the Government. Only an Agreements Officer has the authority to enter into, or modify, a binding agreement on behalf of the Government.

## II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

### A. Program Description

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) solicits proposals under this Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO #N0001424SC001) under 10 U.S.C. §3458 – Authority to Acquire Innovative Commercial Products and Commercial Services using General Solicitation Competitive Procedures.

The Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal (JEOD) Community seeks commercial solutions for a lightweight capability that can rapidly assess unexploded ordnance (UXO) in large operational areas and mitigate UXO at standoff distances. UXO is also referred to as targets herein. In this opportunity, an airfield will be considered the large operational area for rapid assessment and clearance of UXO. This CSO has two tracks:

1. Track 1, Automated Target Recognition for Rapid Area Detection, “ATR for RAD”: JEOD seeks innovative, commercial solutions to enable an automated target recognition (ATR) capability for rapid assessment including detection, identification and mapping of unexploded ordnance in large operational airfields (further referenced as the “ATR for RAD”). This track seeks lightweight capabilities for rapid technology transition to the Joint Service EOD community as part of a larger prototype and experimentation program. ATR for RAD is the first step to support the full mission for rapid clearance of UXO on airfields. Proposers can provide algorithms only (Track 1a) or platform, sensor and algorithm solutions (Track 1b).
2. Track 2, Rapid Large Area Clearance, “RLAC”: JEOD seeks a full mission solution for the rapid assessment as well as the clearance of UXO at standoff distances and reduced operational timelines for detection, location, mapping, identification and UXO clearance or target mitigation (further referenced as “Rapid Large Area Clearance or RLAC”).

Proposers can participate in both Track 1 and Track 2 opportunities. A Government Furnished Information (GFI) package will be provided to registered Industry Day participants. It will include UXO target characterization data, labelled data sets and bases for metric calculations. Registrants will receive the GFI target data via box.com and must enable this capability within their institution systems. The Government will provide test facilities and capabilities for Track 1 ATR capabilities, which will be evaluated for selection for awards. For Track 2, the Government will provide a series of test opportunities for incremental system of system demonstrations of commercial solutions.

Operational Problem & Desired Solutions

Section 1.1: Problem

JEOD forces require the capability to rapidly detect, identify and clear explosive hazards impeding operations, especially in and around critical infrastructure and logistical hubs. Hundreds to thousands of UXO threats remain after a single engagement, which will prevent airfields from being operational, deny maneuver and risk personnel by their presence. These hazards can result from several sources ranging from intended emplacement to remnants of battlefield debris. Application of technology advancements and innovations are required to reduce the timeline for rapidly assessing, detecting, identifying and clearing UXO as well as providing EOD forces with increased standoff from these threats during operations.

## Section 1.2: Desired Solutions

JEOD forces seek novel solutions that enable lightweight capabilities for RLAC Operations of UXO in cluttered airfields. Desired solutions are organized into two tracks, which reflect the initial operational step of Rapid Area Detection (RAD) of UXO and the overall mission of RLAC mitigation of UXO at standoff distances. Desired solutions for Track 1 require ATR sensors and algorithms with unmanned, human teamed platforms to close the Rapid Area Detection (RAD) gap for UXO in cluttered airfields. Track 1 is further referenced as ATR for RAD. Selected Track 1 Awardees will integrate into a system of systems clearance advanced technology prototype project (FY24-FY25). Track 2, further referenced as RLAC, seeks a commercial, full-mission solution of rapid detection to UXO clearance and provides additional time and testing opportunities with milestones for participants to address explosive safety and complex integration challenges for mitigation of UXO at standoff distances. Section 2 provides further details on proposed solution qualities and preferences.

## Section 2: Proposed Solution Qualities & Preferences

This section describes proposed solution qualities and preferences for Track 1, ATR for RAD and Track 2, RLAC.

### Section 2.1: Track 1 -Automated Target Recognition for Rapid Area Detection of UXO (“ATR for RAD”) Solution Qualities & Preferences

JEOD forces seek a lightweight, commercial solution to detect, locate, map and identify UXO in large, cluttered airfield environment. The desired solution is an Automated Target Recognition capability that is able to detect, identify and map both small (golf ball) size UXO and up through larger UXO, such as 155mm munitions. It is preferred that the capability can also be trained to identify other hazards such as impact craters, UXO penetrator holes and debris. The small target detection and clutter reduction are challenging, as they will require algorithms that can process data obtained from sensors with minimal pixels on target or pixel density. The desired solution is an edge-processed capability with a high probability of detection/identification, low false alarm rate and low circular error of probability for geolocation of UXO. The desired solution space could consider a small-unmanned system with up to two Small

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and one medium sized EOD robot that can autonomously survey the airfield and rapidly assess the operational environment. It is preferred that identified UXO geolocations are presented in the Air Force Research Lab Team Awareness Kit (TAK).

Track 1a solutions for ATR for RAD can be algorithms that can process video feed collected via the Government sUAS survey in order to meet evaluation criteria. A preferred solution is to be able to train on-site.

Track 1b solution proposers can demonstrate their developed capability from their own unmanned system(s), sensor package and algorithms. Proposers must provide Small UAS and sensor systems that are compliant with Department of Defense standards and must meet all test range environmental and safety standards for their systems and pilots. It is preferred that sensors and unmanned platforms have well defined physical and logical interfaces. A preferred solution is to be able to train on site.

Section 2.2: Track 2 - Rapid Large Area Clearance (“RLAC”) – UXO detect, locate, map, identification and clearance Solution Qualities & Preferences

Track 2, RLAC solutions would incorporate the above Track 1 assessment solution qualities and preferences in addition to the following:

- The RLAC capability would be an end-to-end, lightweight, mission that enables standoff assessment and UXO geolocation handover to clearance tools to mitigate or clear UXO.
- The RLAC capability would be a modular architecture with known interface control documents for integration with multiple services and the capability to handover UXO geolocations to tools. The Team Awareness Kit (TAK) is preferred.
- The RLAC capability would mitigate or clear (render safe, neutralize, disrupt) with techniques that are small and can be deployed via small unmanned systems as much as practicable.

ONR reserves the right to fund all, some, or none of the proposals received under this CSO. The Government provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs. Technical and cost proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to this CSO will not be returned. It is the policy of ONR to treat all proposals submitted under this CSO as sensitive competitive information and to disclose their contents only for the purposes of evaluation.



## **B. Federal Award Information**

**1. Anticipated Individual Awards** - More than one OTA-Prototype and/or OTA-production award may result from this CSO. Companies are advised that any Prototype OTA awarded in response to this solicitation may result in the direct award of a follow-on production contract or agreement without the use of further competitive procedures. Follow-on production activities may result from successful prototype completion and subject to funds availability.

A follow-on production contract or agreement will be available for use by one or more organizations within the Department of Defense (DoD). As a result, the magnitude of the follow-on production contract or agreement could be significantly larger than that of the Prototype OT agreement. All Prototype OT agreements will include the following statement relative to the potential for follow-on production: In accordance with 10 USC U.S.C. § 4022, ONR may award a follow-on production contract or OTA for any OTA awarded under this CSO if: (1) the participant(s) in the OTA successfully completed the entire prototype project provided for in that OTA, as modified, and (2) the OTA provides for the award of a follow-on production contract or OTA to the participant(s).

In accordance with 10 U.S.C. §3458 any resultant OTA will be limited to fixed-price or fixed-price incentive arrangements.

ONR's OTA-Prototype template may be provided by request. Contact the Agreements Specialist listed in Section G.3.

**2. Funded Amount and Period of Performance** - Up to \$25 million over three (3) years may be available for awards under this announcement, subject to availability of funds. The table below provides guidance by topic. The breakout of topic investments may not equal the total amount listed below due to the uncertainty associated with the availability of funding. Actual award funding levels will be dependent on both the cost of the proposed research and individual agency and topic funding levels.

The funded amount and period of performance of each proposal selected for award may vary depending on the research area and the technical approach to be pursued by the offeror selected. Individual awards may be fully funded for an entire performance period or incrementally funded, with continued funding dependent on funding availability, the assigned Program Officer's assessment of work progress, and the award's terms.

Topic Name	Anticipated # of Awards	Individual Award Amount Range per year	Total Performance Period (years)
Track 1: Automated Target Recognition for Rapid Area Detection, "ATR for RAD"	2-6	150K-3.0M (OTA prototype)  OTA production – TBD	2-3
Track 2: Rapid Large Area Clearance, "RLAC"	1-3	150K-5.0M (OTA prototype)  OTA production TBD	2-3

**3. Instrument Type(s)** - It is anticipated that awards will be in the form of Other Transaction Agreements. However, ONR reserves the right to award contracts to appropriate parties, should the situation warrant use of an instrument other than an OTA.

ONR under the authority of 10 U.S. Code § 4022 seeks to partner with nontraditional and traditional defense contractors and non-profit research institutions to carry out prototype, and possible production projects "...to plan, foster, and encourage scientific research in recognition of its paramount importance as related to the maintenance of future naval power, and the preservation of national security."

One of the following conditions must also be met for ONR to award the prototype project. Enumerated items are not required to be addressed specifically in the proposal (with the exception of the 1/3 cost-share if applicable), but will be reviewed to determine statutory compliance:

- a. At least one nontraditional defense contractor (NDC) or nonprofit research institution participation.
- b. All significant participants in the transition are small businesses or NDCs.
- c. At least 1/3 of the total cost of the prototype project are funds provided by other than the Government.

To seek innovative technologies in response to this CSO, the proposal, and award must contain the following elements:

- a. Innovative commercial products and commercial services definition is the following: (1) any technology, process, or method, including research and development, that is new as of the date of submission of a proposal; or (2) any application that is new as of the date of submission of a proposal of a technology, process, or method existing as of such date.
- b. Products and services acquired using the authority under subsection shall be treated as commercial products and commercial services.

The following provides brief descriptions of the OTA potential instrument types:

- a. *Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) for Prototype*: A legal instrument, consistent with 10 U.S. Code § 4022, which may be used for prototype projects directly relevant to enhancing the mission effectiveness of military personnel and the supporting platforms, systems, components, or materials proposed to be acquired or developed by the Department of Defense, or for improvement of platforms, systems, components, or materials in use by the armed forces. The effort covered under an OTA shall not be duplicative of effort being conducted under an existing DoD program. Please refer to the DoD “Other Transactions Guide” dated July 2023, for additional information. This document, along with other OTA resources, may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/dpc/cp/policy/other-policy-areas.html>
- b. *Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) for Production*: A legal instrument, consistent with 10 U.S. Code § 4022, which may be used for organizations seeking to use follow-on production authority after successful completion of a prototype OTA. Successful completion can occur prior to the conclusion of a prototype project to allow the Government to transition any aspect of the prototype project determined to provide utility into production while other aspects of the prototype project have yet to be completed. Please refer to the DoD “Other Transactions Guide” dated July 2023, for additional information. This document, along with other OTA resources, may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/dpc/cp/policy/other-policy-areas.html>

## C. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request (Access) Application Package** - This CSO may be accessed from the sites below. Amendments, if any, to this CSO will be posted to these websites when they occur. Interested parties are encouraged to periodically check these websites for updates and amendments.

- a. Sam.gov - Contract Opportunities (<https://www.sam.gov/>)
- b. ONR website <https://www.nre.navy.mil/work-with-us/funding-opportunities/announcements>

## 2. **Content and Format of Application Submission**

### a. **General Information**

All submissions will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with applicable law, and DoD/DoN regulations. Offerors are expected to appropriately mark each page of their submission that contains any proprietary information.

Titles given to the submissions should be descriptive of the work they cover and not be merely a copy of the title of this announcement.

**b. Security Classification**

An unclassified Government Furnished Information (GFI) package will be provided to registered Industry Day participants. It will include unclassified UXO target characterization data, labelled data sets and bases for metric calculations.

If a classified proposal is submitted and selected for award, the resultant contract will be unclassified.

Classified proposals shall be submitted directly to the attention of ONR's Document Control Unit at the following address and marked in the following manner:

**OUTSIDE ENVELOPE - (no classification marking):**

“Office of Naval Research  
Attn: Document Control Unit  
ONR Code 54  
875 North Randolph Street  
Arlington, VA 22203-1995”

The inner wrapper of the classified Solution Brief and/or Full Proposal should be addressed to the attention of the cognizant Technical POC, Jean McGovern, ONR Code 32 and marked in the following manner:

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

“Program Name:  
Office of Naval Research  
ATTN: ONR Program Officer Jean McGovern  
ONR Code: Code 32  
875 North Randolph Street  
Arlington, VA 22203-1995”

**c. Non-Proprietary Submission**

For all proposals, a non-proprietary version of submissions must be submitted. Do not put proprietary data or markings in or on submitted documents. For proposals containing data that the offeror does not want disclosed to the public for any purpose, or used by the Government except for evaluation purposes, the contractor shall mark the title page with the following legend:

*“This proposal includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed--in whole or in part--for any purpose other than to evaluate the proposal. If, however, a contract is awarded to this offeror as a result of--or in connection with-- the submission of this data, the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract. This restriction does not limit the Government's*

*right to use information contained in this data if is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in (insert numbers or other identification of sheets).”*

Each sheet of data that the offeror wishes to restrict must be marked with the following legend:

*“Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal.”*

#### **d. Content for Submission & Participation**

##### **Phase Description Participation**

**Phase I - Industry Day Presentation:** The ONR Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal Program will conduct an unclassified Industry Day briefing for potential Offerors for the Automated Target Recognition for Rapid Area Detection “ATR for RAD” & Rapid Large Area Clearance of Unexploded Ordnance “RLAC” Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) on 06 February 2024 at the Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston, 4610 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. The Industry Day will be a combination of in-person and virtual (via MS TEAMS) attendance. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide potential Offerors with a better understanding of the scope of the Program and objectives of this CSO. A Government Furnished Information (GFI) package will be provided to registered Industry Day participants. It will include UXO target characterization data, labelled data sets and the basis for performance metric calculations. Registrants will receive the GFI target data via box.com and must enable this capability within their institutional systems (company or standard Box.com access).

The briefing will be held in-person from 9:30am-1130am Local Eastern Time with check-in beginning at 8:45am 06 February 2024. All attendees are required to pre-register by COB 02 February 2024 via the following link:

<https://www.onlineregistrationcenter.com/ATR2024>

Please click “In-person” under “Attendance” in the link if attending in-person. You will also be required to annotate your company’s active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued by the System for Award Management (SAM). You can check the status of your UEI or create a new UEI by going to the SAM.gov website: SAM.gov | Duns - Sam UEI. Though the Industry Day is an unclassified event, audio or visual recordings/pictures are prohibited. Pre-registration via enclosed link is mandatory; WALK-IN REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

If attending the Industry Day virtually, please click the “Virtual via MS TEAMS Link” box in the pre-registration site, under “Attendance”, and a link will be provided by COB on 05 February 2024, following successful registration, to your registered email address.

If you are unable to attend the Industry Day in-person or virtually, and would still like more information, please click the “Unable to attend in-person or virtually, but interested in pursuing participation in this CSO” box under “Attendance” and complete the registration. Upon confirmation of your company’s active UEI, we will send additional information for participation in the CSO Evaluation to the TPOC listed. Industry Briefs will be accessible on the GFI Box.com site.

**Phase II - Solution Briefs:** The due date for FY24 solution briefs is no later than 3:00 PM Local Eastern Time on 23 February 2024.

Solutions briefs shall be no more than seven power point slides and submitted via email as pdf files with attachments that are under 20MB. The following is a guide for suggested contents:

- Title Page: Please include a title referencing the ONR CSO name; indicate if the brief addresses Track 1 (a or b) or Track 2; company name; date; and a point of contact name, e-mail address, phone number, and address (this will not count against the page limit)

- Executive Summary: A short summary of the technology.

- Technology Concept: Describe the unique aspects of your technology and the proposed work as it relates to the ATR for RAD and/or RLAC tracks to which you are responding. Identify whether the effort includes the pilot or demonstration of existing commercial technology (identified as commercially ready and viable technology), or the development of technology for the applications. If development or adaptation is proposed, identify a suggested path to mature your technology. Lastly, identify and label the pages which aspects of your technology may be considered proprietary. Diagrams or graphics depicting the essence of the proposed solution are strongly encouraged. As a mandatory solution brief requirement, please identify and provide:

- o Known or forecasted subsystem and system weights, including unmanned platforms and initial sensors. Algorithm only solutions do not have to supply system weights if the plan is to use Government furnished video feed.

- o Known or forecasted target Probability of Detection (Pd), false alarm density, and time to process given the search area, target quantity, target type, and search area.

- Operational Relevance: Describe how the proposed technology/engineering innovation addresses one (or more) of the specific Track 1 ATR for RAD and/or Track 2 RLAC problems.

- Company Information: Provide a brief overview of your company, including a summary of gross sales/revenue or current fundraising to date including

investors/funding rounds (if applicable). Provide a summary of product commercialization history, roadmap, and go-to-market strategy.

- Unnecessarily elaborate brochures or proposals are not desired.

Companies may submit multiple solution briefs in response to the solicitation if each submission represents a separate and distinct concept. Individual solution briefs to individual Tracks may only address one concept. Submissions must be submitted electronically as email attachments (pdf) as referenced in the CSO solicitation.

**Solution Brief Evaluation/Notification:** Evaluations of the Solution Briefs will be issued via email notification on or about 29 February 2024.

**Phase III - Oral Presentation:** ONR will select proposers for presentations of their Solution Briefs. The purpose of the oral presentation is to provide an in-person description of the slides and address how the proposed technology will affect military applications. The date and time for oral presentations will be between 4-6 March 2024 throughout business hours. The location, and briefing format of the oral presentations, if requested, will be provided at a later date via email notification.

**Oral Presentation Evaluation/Notification:** Navy evaluations of the oral presentations will be issued via email notification on or about 8 March 2024. Participation in test and evaluation will be subsequently encouraged from those Offerors whose proposed technologies have been identified through the aforementioned email as still being of “particular value” to the Navy. Any Offeror whose oral presentation was not identified as being of “particular value” to the Navy is ineligible to participate in the test and evaluation.

#### **Phase IV – Test & Evaluation (T&E):**

##### Track 1 ATR for RAD Test & Evaluation

Selected participants will be provided with coordination material and dates for test and evaluation of ATR solutions. The test environment will be a Government or Government selected facility airfield that will have the targets supplied in the GFI package on the surface of the runway. Proposers can receive imagery from output from the current Government solution or they can pilot their own small, lightweight unmanned systems and sensors. Any equipment brought to the test site must undergo all safety, test range (i.e. spectrum & flight clearance) and environmental reviews for compliance.

##### Track 2 RLAC Test & Evaluation

The Government will provide a series of test opportunities for incremental system of system demonstrations of commercial solutions for selected Track 2 participants. Any equipment brought to the test site must undergo all safety, test range (i.e. spectrum & flight clearance) and environmental reviews for compliance.

**T&E Evaluation/Notification:** Navy evaluations of the test and evaluation phase will be issued via email notification starting between 12 April 2024 to 17 January 2025. A full proposal will be subsequently encouraged from those Offerors whose proposed technologies have been identified through the aforementioned email as still being of “particular value” to the Navy. Any Offeror whose solution was not identified as being of “particular value” to the Navy is ineligible to submit a full proposal.

**Phase V - Full Proposals:** The T&E email notification will provide content and instructions on the submission of full proposals. The due date for receipt of Full Proposals is three weeks after notification of selection. The following documents with attachments comprise a complete proposal package: 1) Technical Proposal Template including the content requested via the above aforementioned email notification, 2) Non-proprietary Statement of Work, and 3) Cost Proposal for prime and all proposed subcontractors.

**e. Format & Method for Submission**

1. Method of Submission – send phase submission requirements to both the Program Officer, and Agreements Specialist at the emails listed in section G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts.

2. Format for Full Proposal Submission – Notwithstanding the above direction for page limitations, proposer shall use the “Technical proposal template” and “Cost proposal template” (Excel) at the following ONR website link for Phase V proposal submission. Non-proprietary version of the Statement of Work must also be submitted. Do not put proprietary data or markings in or on the Statement of Work.

<https://www.nre.navy.mil/work-with-us/how-to-apply/submit-contract-proposal>

3. The cost proposal spreadsheet must be submitted in a Microsoft Excel compatible format. The Excel spreadsheet should be in a “useable condition” to aid the Government with its evaluation. The term “useable condition” indicates that the spreadsheet should visibly include and separately identify within each appropriate cell any and all inputs, formulas, calculations, etc. The Offeror should not provide “value only spreadsheets” similar to a hard copy.

**3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)** – All offerors submitting proposals must:

- a. Be registered in the SAM prior to submission;
- b. Provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and
- c. Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or proposal under consideration by a Federal awarding agency;

SAM may be accessed at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>



A Federal awarding agency may not make a Federal award to an offeror until the offeror has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an offeror has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Federal awarding agency is ready to make a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency may determine that the offeror is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another offeror.

**4. Submission Dates and Times** – See Section I.A.5 above, “Phases and Key Dates” for information.

#### **Submission of Late Proposals (Applicable to Solution Briefs and Full Proposals)**

Any Solution Brief, proposal, modification, or revision, that is received at the designated Government office after the exact time specified for receipt of proposals is “late” and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made, the contracting officer determines that accepting the late proposal would not unduly delay the acquisition and

- (a) If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the announcement, it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government infrastructure not later than 5:00 p.m. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals; or
- (b) There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the Government installation designated for receipt of proposals and was under the Government’s control prior to the time set for receipt of proposals; or
- (c) It was the only proposal received.

However, a late modification of an otherwise timely and successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the Government will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

Acceptable evidence to establish the time or receipt at the Government installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government personnel.

If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal Government processes so that proposals cannot be received at the Government office designated for receipt of proposals by the exact time specified in the announcement, and urgent Government requirements preclude amendment of the announcement closing date, the time specified for receipt of proposals will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the announcement on the first work day on which normal Government processes resume.

All applicants will receive a notification email advising if their proposal has been selected or not selected for recommendation for award.

## **D. Application Review Information**

### **1. Criteria**

a. The primary basis for selecting proposals for acceptance will be technical merit, operational relevance and funds availability. To the extent appropriate, cost realism and reasonableness may also be considered when selecting proposals. However, technical and operational relevance are more important than overall price. ONR reserves the right to request and require any additional information and documentation after it makes the type of award instrument determination. ONR reserves the right to remove Offerors from award consideration when the parties fail to reach agreement on award terms, conditions, and cost/price within a reasonable time, or when the Offeror fails to timely provide requested or required additional information.

b. The following discusses the sequential order and criteria for each phase. One must be notified of successful previous phase completion prior to invitation and participation of next phase. Successful selection in a particular phase does not guarantee movement to next phase unless notified.

1. Phase I Criteria: Industry Day registrants are reviewed for UEI/SAM registration, and contacted via email for download of Track 1 and/or Track 2 Government Furnished Information (GFI) package(s) via box.com. Participants must enable box.com on their institutional systems in order to receive the GFI package(s). While physical or virtual participation is not mandated for the specified meeting, SAM registration and Industry Day registration is required.

2. Phase II Criteria: Solution Briefs will be received in Phase II and selected by a review panel for an in-person brief based on the following technical and operational evaluation criteria.

Technical and Operational Evaluation criteria for Phase II Solution Brief evaluation is provided for each Track.

a. Phase II Technical and Operational Criteria for Track 1 (a) ATR for RAD

i. Technical Criteria for Track 1a

- Able to meet GFI Package Criteria for Track 1a.
- Able to process sensor data in real-time (not post mission analysis for detection and identification).
- Able to be installed on embedded hardware.
- Able to adapt or interface with other sensing and cooperative autonomy capabilities.
- Preferred ability to retrain on-site.
- Preference for capabilities that can transition from prototype to low rate production in two years.
- Technical maturity of the technology/engineering innovation.

ii. Operational Criteria for Track 1a

- Provides a capability improvement for the specific problems described.
- Operational impact in the relevant environment and impact to warfighter performance.

b. Phase II Technical and Operational Criteria for Track 1 (b) ATR for RAD

i. Technical Criteria for Track 1b (sUAS, sensors & algorithms):

- Able to meet GFI Package Criteria for Track 1b.
- Able to process sensor data in real-time (not post mission analysis for detection and identification).
- Able to be installed on embedded hardware.
- Able to adapt or interface with other sensing and cooperative autonomy capabilities.
- Preferred ability to retrain on-site.
- Unmanned Platforms and sensors must meet Department of Defense small UAS standards and meet all pilot, safety and environmental standards for test & evaluation at a US Government facility.
- Size, Weight and Power (SWAP), lower SWAP capabilities are preferred.
- Preference for capabilities that can transition from prototype to low rate production in 2 years.
- Technical maturity of the technology/engineering innovation.

ii. Operational Criteria for Track 1b

- Provides a capability improvement for the specific problems described.
- Operational impact in the relevant environment and impact to warfighter performance.

c. Phase II Technical & Operational Evaluation Criteria for Track 2: RLAC

i. Phase II Technical Evaluation Criteria for Track 2

- Able to meet GFI Package Criteria for Track 2.
- Able to process sensor data in real-time (not post mission analysis for detection and identification).
- Able to be installed on embedded hardware.
- Able to adapt or interface with other sensing and cooperative autonomy capabilities.
- Preferred ability to retrain on-site.
- Unmanned Platforms and sensors must meet Department of Defense small UAS standards and meet all pilot, safety and environmental standards for test & evaluation at a US Government facility.
- Size, Weight and Power (SWAP), lower SWAP capabilities are preferred.
- Preference for capabilities that can transition from prototype to low rate production in 2 years.
- Technical maturity of the technology/engineering innovation.

ii. Phase II Operational Evaluation Criteria for Track 2

- Provides a capability improvement for the specific problems described.
- Operational impact in the relevant environment and impact to warfighter performance.

3. Phase III Criteria: Oral presentation of Track 1a, 1b and 2 Solution Briefs will be in-person and apply the criteria below resulting in possible selection for the Phase IV Test & Evaluation. Results of the evaluation will be communicated via email.

All of Phase II Criteria applies, with additional Oral Presentation criteria of:

- Ability of the presenter to communicate an understanding of the problems, desired solutions and GFI package criteria.
- Ability of the presenter to clearly explain the proposed technological solution, maturity of the technology and how it responds to the operational problem.

4. Phase IV Evaluation Criteria for Test & Evaluation:

For Track 1a, 1b and 2, all of Phase II technical and operational criteria apply along with the additional Test & Evaluation criteria of:

- An analysis and comparison of the results from Phase IV Test & Evaluation against the criteria presented in the Track 1a, 1b, and 2 GFI packages as applicable.

The Government will notify all proposers of test and evaluation results along with decisions for proposals via email.

5. Phase V Criteria: For Track 1a, 1b and 2, all of Phase II and IV technical and operational criteria apply.

## 2. Review and Selection Process

### a. Evaluation Panel

Solution briefs, presentations, and Proposals submitted under this CSO will be protected from unauthorized disclosure. The cognizant Program Officer and other Government scientific experts will perform the evaluation of solution briefs and technical proposals. Restrictive notices notwithstanding, one or more support contractors may be utilized for administrative purposes or as subject-matter-expert technical consultants. However, proposal selection and award decisions are solely the responsibility of Government personnel. Each support contractor's employee(s) having access to solution briefs, technical presentations, and proposals submitted in response to this CSO will be required to sign the ONR Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) for Contractor Support prior to receipt of any submissions. This NDA includes third-party beneficiary language giving the submitter of proprietary information a right of direct action against the contractor employee and/or his/her employer in the event that the NDA is violated.

### b. Recommendation for Award

Proposals will not be evaluated against each other since they are not submitted in

accordance with a common work statement. ONR's intent is to review all proposals received as soon as possible after they arrive; however, proposals may be reviewed periodically for administrative reasons.

The ultimate recommendation for award of proposals is made by ONR's scientific/technical community. Recommended proposals will then be forwarded to the ONR Contracts office. Any notification received from ONR that indicates that the Offeror's full proposal has been recommended does not ultimately guarantee an award will be made. This notice indicates that the proposal has been selected in accordance with the evaluation criteria stated above and has been sent to the Contracting Department to conduct cost analysis, determine the offeror's responsibility, to confirm whether funds are available, and to take other relevant steps necessary prior to making an award. When applicable, certain offerors may be required to demonstrate compliance/the ability to comply with enhanced cybersecurity requirements prior to award.

## **E. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **1. Federal Award Notices**

All applicants will receive a notification email advising if their proposal has been selected or not selected for recommendation for award.

Applicants whose proposals are recommended for award may be contacted by an Agreements Specialist to discuss additional information required for award. This may include representations and certifications, revised budgets or budget explanations, and/or other information as applicable to the proposed award.

The notification e-mail must not be regarded as an authorization to commit or expend funds. The Government is not obligated to provide any funding until a Government Agreements Officer, signs the award document.

Only an award document signed by the Agreements Officer is the official go-ahead to commence the prototype project.

Office of Naval Research (ONR) award/modification documents are only available via the Department of Defense (DoD) Electronic Document Access System (EDA) within the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE) (<https://piee.eb.mil/piece-landing//>).

### **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

#### **a. Applicable to All Awards**

##### *i. Export Control:*

Offerors are responsible for ensuring compliance with all U.S. export control laws and regulations, including the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR)(22 CFR Parts 120 - 130) and Export Administration Regulation (EAR) (15 CFR Parts 730 – 774), as applicable. In some cases, developmental items funded by the Department of Defense are now included on the

United States Munition List (USML) (22 CFR Part 121) and are therefore subject to ITAR jurisdiction. In other cases, items that were previously included on the USML have been moved to the EAR Commerce Control List (CCL). Offerors should address in their proposals whether ITAR or EAR restrictions apply to the work they are proposing to perform for ONR. The ITAR and EAR are available online at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/ECFR?page=browse>. Additional information regarding the President's Export Control Reform Initiative can be found at <https://export.gov/ecr/index.asp>.

Offerors must comply with all U.S. export control laws and regulations, including the ITAR and EAR, in the performance of any award or agreement resulting from this CSO. Offerors shall be responsible for obtaining any required licenses or other approvals, or license exemptions or exceptions if applicable, for exports of hardware, technical data, and software (including deemed exports), or for the provision of technical assistance.

ii. *Security Classification:*

In order to facilitate intra-program collaboration and technology transfer, the Government will attempt to enable technology developers to work at the unclassified level to the maximum extent possible.

If it is determined that access to classified information will be required during the performance of an award, a Department of Defense (DD) Form 254 will be attached to the award, and Federal security requirements will be incorporated into the Agreement.

iii. *Requirements for Operation and Procurement of Commercial Off the Shelf Unmanned Aircraft Systems*

(a) Commercial Off-The-Shelf Unmanned Aircraft Systems (COTS UAS) may not be purchased pursuant to this contract or other transaction agreement for prototype until a Cyber Exception to Policy (ETP) is obtained by the cognizant ONR Program Officer.

(b) Exception. A Cyber ETP is not required when the research is supported via a grant award AND it is unclassified and funded with either basic research funds (i.e., 6.1) or applied research funds (i.e., 6.2) and performed on campus by a university. For all other grants and assistance agreements, a Cyber ETP must be obtained prior to purchase and/or flight operations.

(c) Notwithstanding (b) above, a Cyber ETP is required for all efforts (regardless of award or funding type) that involve interactions with military personnel, DoD property, or DoD facilities; work conducted by US Government laboratories, UARCs, or FFRDCs; or are Public Aircraft Operation (PAO), classified, or explore specific military utility. For these efforts, and depending on the UAS platform and Cyber Operating Environment, a Cyber ETP, FAA issued Certificate of Airworthiness or a NAVAIR Airworks Authority to Operate (ATO) must be obtained.

(d) Prospective or current performers are required to notify the cognizant ONR Program Officer of any anticipated COTS UAS purchase that may be subject to exception at solution brief, presentation, proposal submission or award changes. Performers shall provide documentation specifying the details including the type of drone, effort, location, etc.

(e) Performers will agree to cooperate and provide additional information as requested to support the cyber vulnerability assessment and other requirements identified above in (c).

(f) Notwithstanding, procedures and requirements identified above, restrictions identified in Section 848 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, Pub. L. No. 116-92, 10 U.S.C 4871 note, as amended, continue to apply. Performers are notified that effective October 1, 2024 additional restrictions will apply to new awards, extensions or renewals of existing contracts

*iv. Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment*

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this provision-*Backhaul, covered telecommunications equipment or services, critical technology, interconnection arrangements, reasonable inquiry, roaming, and substantial or essential component* have the meanings provided in the clause 52.204–25, Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.

(b) *Prohibition.*

(1) Section 889(a)(1)(A) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232) prohibits the head of an executive agency on or after August 13, 2019, from procuring or obtaining, or extending or renewing a contract to procure or obtain, any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. Nothing in the prohibition shall be construed to—

(i) Prohibit the head of an executive agency from procuring with an entity to provide a service that connects to the facilities of a third-party, such as backhaul, roaming, or interconnection arrangements; or

(ii) Cover telecommunications equipment that cannot route or redirect user data traffic or cannot permit visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or otherwise handles.

(2) Section 889(a)(1)(B) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232) prohibits the head of an executive agency on or after August 13, 2020, from entering into a contract or extending or renewing a contract with an entity that uses any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. This prohibition applies to the use of covered

telecommunications equipment or services, regardless of whether that use is in performance of work under a Federal contract. Nothing in the prohibition shall be construed to—

(i) Prohibit the head of an executive agency from procuring with an entity to provide a service that connects to the facilities of a third-party, such as backhaul, roaming, or interconnection arrangements; or

(ii) Cover telecommunications equipment that cannot route or redirect user data traffic or cannot permit visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or otherwise handles.

(c) *Procedures.* The Offeror shall review the list of excluded parties in the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov>) for entities excluded from receiving federal awards for “covered telecommunications equipment or services.”

(d) *Representations.* The Offeror represents that—

(1) It  will,  will not provide covered telecommunications equipment or services to the

Government in the performance of any contract, subcontract or other contractual instrument resulting from this solicitation. The Offeror shall provide the additional disclosure information required at paragraph (e)(1) of this section if the Offeror responds “will” in paragraph (d)(1) of this section; and

(2) After conducting a reasonable inquiry, for purposes of this representation, the Offeror

represents that— It  does,  does not use covered telecommunications equipment or services, or use any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services. The Offeror shall provide the additional disclosure information required at paragraph (e)(2) of this section if the Offeror responds “does” in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(e) *Disclosures.* (1) Disclosure for the representation in paragraph (d)(1) of this provision. If the Offeror has responded “will” in the representation in paragraph (d)(1) of this provision, the Offeror shall provide the following information as part of the offer:

(i) For covered equipment—

(A) The entity that produced the covered telecommunications equipment (include entity name, unique entity identifier, CAGE code, and whether the entity was the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or a distributor, if known);

(B) A description of all covered telecommunications equipment offered (include brand; model number, such as OEM number, manufacturer part number, or wholesaler number; and item description, as applicable); and

(C) Explanation of the proposed use of covered telecommunications equipment and



any factors relevant to determining if such use would be permissible under the prohibition in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.

(ii) For covered services—

- (A) If the service is related to item maintenance: A description of all covered telecommunications services offered (include on the item being maintained: Brand; model number, such as OEM number, manufacturer part number, or wholesaler number; and item description, as applicable); or
- (B) If not associated with maintenance, the Product Service Code (PSC) of the service being provided; and explanation of the proposed use of covered telecommunications services and any factors relevant to determining if such use would be permissible under the prohibition in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.

(2) Disclosure for the representation in paragraph (d)(2) of this provision. If the Offeror has responded “does” in the representation in paragraph (d)(2) of this provision, the Offeror shall provide the following information as part of the offer:

(i) For covered equipment—

- (A) The entity that produced the covered telecommunications equipment (include entity name, unique entity identifier, CAGE code, and whether the entity was the OEM or a distributor, if known);
- (B) A description of all covered telecommunications equipment offered (include brand; model number, such as OEM number, manufacturer part number, or wholesaler number; and item description, as applicable); and
- (C) Explanation of the proposed use of covered telecommunications equipment and any factors relevant to determining if such use would be permissible under the prohibition in paragraph (b)(2) of this provision.

(ii) For covered services—

- (A) If the service is related to item maintenance: A description of all covered telecommunications services offered (include on the item being maintained: Brand; model number, such as OEM number, manufacturer part number, or wholesaler number; and item description, as applicable); or
- (B) If not associated with maintenance, the PSC of the service being provided; and explanation of the proposed use of covered telecommunications services and any factors relevant to determining if such use would be permissible under the prohibition in paragraph (b)(2) of this provision.

*v. Prohibition on funding a Confucius Institute Host*

Per NDAA 2021 Section 1062, beginning October 1, 2024, DoD may not fund institutions of higher education (as defined by 20 USC 1002) that host a Confucius Institute, other than amounts provided directly to students as education assistance, unless a waiver is provided. A Confucius Institute is defined as a cultural institute directly or indirectly funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

## **F. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts**

### **1. Communications**

a. All UNCLASSIFIED communications shall be submitted via e-mail to the Technical Point of Contract (POC) with a copy to the designated Business POC, as designated below.

b. Comments or questions submitted should be concise and to the point, eliminating any unnecessary verbiage. In addition, the relevant part and paragraph of the CSO should be referenced. Questions submitted within two (2) weeks prior to a deadline may not be answered, and the due date for submission of the full proposal will not be extended.

### **2. Questions of a technical nature should be submitted to:**

Point of Contact Name: Jean McGovern, and Patrick Smith

Point of Contact Occupation Title: Program Officer/Program Contract Support

Address: Office of Naval Research

ONR Code 32

One Liberty Center

875 N. Randolph Street

Arlington, VA 22203-1995

Email Address: Jean McGovern, [jean.m.mcgovern.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:jean.m.mcgovern.civ@us.navy.mil) and Patrick Smith, [patrick.j.smith5.ctr@us.navy.mil](mailto:patrick.j.smith5.ctr@us.navy.mil)

### **3. Questions of a business nature, regarding proposal submissions, or suggestions for improvement should be submitted to:**

Point of Contact Name: Derek Petersen

Point of Contact Occupation Title: Agreements Specialist

Address: Office of Naval Research

ONR Code 252

One Liberty Center

875 N. Randolph Street

Arlington, VA 22203-1995

Email Address: [derek.w.petersen.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:derek.w.petersen.civ@us.navy.mil)