BAA Call N00014-23-S-BC05
Amendment 0001
Special Program Announcement for Office of Naval Research
Research Opportunity:
Physical and Networking Layer Prototype (PNLP)

Attachment 1 – Questions and Answers from the 10 February 2023 Industry Day

1.) Q: Is local storage of data or metadata desired/required at the nodes (underwater, above water, or at the air/water interface?

A: Not worried about data storage or capacity but if your architecture already has capability we are interested.

2.) Q: What are desired depth and horizontal range for underwater comm?

A: Not deeper than 1500 ft. Horizontal – will be set in threshold/objective criteria provided if encouraged to submit a full proposal.

3.) Q: What are desired altitude and horizontal range for in-air comms?

A: Surface vice altitude – not over horizon. Can propose anything.

4.) Q: Are relays acceptable to reach range desired for air or water?

A: Yes

5.) Q: Are there size/dimension or other form factor constraints?

A: No

6.) Q: What frequency bands are of interest?

A: All bands (not restricted)

7.) Q: What is the target range of interest?

A: Not more than 1 NM (nautical mile)

8.) Q: Are comms bi-directional through the air-water interface?

A: No

9.) Q: This sounds like a 3 year program – can it still go to 5 years?

A: Contracts can legally go 5 years – but this is a 3 year program. Give base and option periods in your proposals. Need to show cost share & how you can execute 6.4 funds (in final option).

10.) Q: Is it 1.5M per year, per award? Max value of award?

A: 5 awards – 1.5M per year

11.)Q: What is the TRL (technology readiness level) expected out of submission?

A: For all FNCs it is generally 5 or 6

12.)Q: Are there down-select after each phase?

A: As this is an FNC it is generally considered low-risk (Needs to transition to POR after 3 years), so needs to be relatively mature. If less mature than TRL5/6 we can still consider.

13.)Q: Are you also looking for the modeling (acoustic, environ, comms performance) of the overall system?

A: Yes – of interest

14.)Q: Are there LPI/LPD/LPCD objectives?

A: Yes – will be set in threshold/objective criteria provided if encouraged to submit a full proposal.

15.)Q: Multimodal communications: What does this entail?

A: Propose the modality which best fits your use case and performance.

16.)Q: How much of networking and routing, Channel access, and scheduling algorithm is in scope?

A: All within scope of program

17.)Q: Will you cover EA (environmental approval) & in-water test?

A: ONR is doing all EA approvals.

18.)Q: For AWI - Is there surface expression?

A: Yes

19.)Q: Do you want AWI buoy deployable or persistent? How about a mobile buoy?

A: Deployable and will consider all options within scope of program.

20.)Q: Is ONR only accepting unclassified white papers?

A: No, classified white papers are also acceptable. Please refer to the submission instructions detailed in BAA N00014-23-S-B001.