

SPECIAL NOTICE 12-SN-0002

ONR Workshop Notice  
Autonomous Aerial Cargo / Utility Vehicle (AACUS) INP

General Information:

Classification Code: A – Research & Development

NAICS Code: 541712

Synopsis:

THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT A SOLICITATION. 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.

Description: The Office of Naval Research (ONR) plans to conduct a workshop to present a new program for the Autonomous Aerial Cargo / Utility Vehicle (AACUS) Innovative Naval Prototype. Industry participation in this workshop is encouraged in order to promote discussion of relevant current state-of-the art technologies, potential technical and sociotechnical gaps, and Broad Agency Announcement teaming possibilities.

The primary focus of AACUS is to develop advanced autonomous capabilities to enable unmanned and optionally manned VTOL air systems to be fully capable of providing affordable and reliable rapid response cargo delivery to distributed small units in demanding conditions. AACUS will lead the way in developing and implementing VTOL-based obstacle detection and avoidance and autonomous landing site selection and dynamic execution capabilities for unprepared landing sites, with goal-based supervisory control by any field personnel with no special training. These capabilities, expected to form part of an open architecture framework in order to be used across different VTOL platforms, should have sufficient reliability to be entrusted with precision cargo delivery and evacuating human casualties from remote sites.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide an overview of AACUS for FY12-FY17 including expected milestones, deliverables, demonstrations, and approximate funding levels. A preliminary concept of operations (CONOPS) will be posted to the ONR website in advance of the workshop. Participants from a cross-section of industry, government laboratories, FFRDCs, and academia are encouraged to attend. However, all workshop participants will be expected to present, in an open setting, their areas of expertise that they see contributing to the AACUS program. These presentations will take the form of 5-10 minute presentations and/or poster presentations depending on the interest level.

The workshop will be held at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport, 1480 Crystal Dr. Arlington, VA 22202, 703-416-1600, [www.cpnationalairport.com](http://www.cpnationalairport.com), on 1-2 November 2011. Check-in will begin at 7:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time and the meeting will begin at 8:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time both days. The meeting will conclude each day at 4:30 PM. There will be a no-host networking reception

on the 1 of November, venue to be announced at a later date. Details concerning registration to attend this event are available at the following website: <http://www.onr.navy.mil>.

Pre-registration for the ONR AACUS Industry Workshop is required. Walk-ins will not be permitted. Registration is limited to two (2) representatives from each organization attending the Industry Workshop. However if requested attendance exceeds the capacity of the conference room, it may be necessary to further limit attendance of personnel from each organization to just one (1). ONR will reply via e-mail with the registration confirmation. All expenses associated with attendance will be the responsibility of the participant(s). Registration by telephone will not be accepted. Security clearances are not required and all discussions will be unclassified. The deadline for submitting registration requests is **28 OCT 2011** at 4:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

Parties interested in submitting proposals in response to any future solicitation regarding the subject of this workshop are advised that they must be in compliance with the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) at the time of proposal submission.

Questions/comments related to the AACUS INP Workshop will be accepted via e-mail until 27 October 2011. Submit questions/comments to the following e-mail address: Angelo Collins, [collinsa@centratechnology.com](mailto:collinsa@centratechnology.com). Questions/comments shall be reviewed and addressed at the workshop.

Related questions/comments submitted after the AACUS INP Workshop will be accepted via Angelo Collins ([collinsa@centratechnology.com](mailto:collinsa@centratechnology.com)) from the date of workshop conclusion on 2 November 2011 until 23 November 2011. This limited time frame for questions/comments is to allow for potential feedback to be incorporated into any resulting BAA /solicitation. Responses to written questions and comments both before and after the workshop will be posted on the ONR website.

Points of Contact:

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