

Notice Type:

Special Notice

No contracts will be awarded based on this announcement or any subsequent supplemental RFI announcements.

INTRODUCTION

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) will host ongoing conversations with industry and academia throughout FY20. These conversations are an opportunity to explore emerging technologies suitable for any national security applications as well as novel business models to enable the more efficient application of emerging technologies to these applications. It is also desired to incorporate suggestions from industry, academia and other non-federal entities in the design and operation of the Sea Land Air Military Research initiative (SLAMR) research facility to be designed and operated adjacent to the main campus.

The Sea Land Air Military Research (SLAMR) Initiative at the Naval Postgraduate School is a primary entity for establishing these conversations. Companies, educational institutions, laboratories, foundations and other organizations are invited to submit potential topics for conversation that may lead to an invitation to participate in FY20 SLAMR activities

Additionally, any emerging technology that potentially addresses any published priority area or challenge associated with the Navy and Marine Corps, the Combatant Commands and/or the Department of Defense is a suitable subject for engaging in a conversation. Similarly, any business mechanism or collaborative process that might enable more effective and/or efficient collaboration between federal and non-federal entities is potentially a suitable subject for a conversation.

OBJECTIVE

Background: Following the guidance of both the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy, the Naval Postgraduate School seeks to engage in a robust conversation with industry and other non-government entities to ensure the best business and operational practices are considered in national security processes involving emerging technologies. Invitations to participate in these conversations will be made based on an ongoing review of the responses to this RFI. These conversations are intended to enable rapid iteration on potential technologies and operations models with the direct input of non-federal experts and entities. The expertise of appropriate federal experts will be incorporated via normal processes. These engagements may, or may not, lead to more formal arrangements such as Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, Grants, or invitations to participate in other activities, such as field experimentation events or classroom presentations, via the appropriate processes.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND AREAS OF INTEREST

Proposal Process: The submission process is managed through the NPS SLAMR website (www.nps.edu/web/slamr). Proposed conversations will be reviewed and selected respondents will be invited to participate in a SLAMR conversation. NPS will provide venue and/or conference line for these conversations. Any respondent's costs including, but not limited to travel, will be at the respondent's expense. Please visit the SLAMR website (www.nps.edu/web/slamr) and click the "Suggestions" tab if you wish to propose a conversation. Multiple conversations may be proposed by each respondent. Submissions may be reviewed by warfighter representatives, service subject matter experts (SMEs), and support contractors, in addition to NPS faculty, staff, or students (as appropriate).

Security Requirements: Participants should not submit classified or restricted information. Generally, only freely releasable information is desired for conversation proposals. Do not submit proprietary or other sensitive information in proposals. Instructions for participation in conversations that may include proprietary or sensitive information will be promulgated to proposers selected to participate in follow up conversations.

Other Special Requirements: DO NOT SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING. SUBMIT ONLY CONVERSATION PROPOSALS. No contracts will be awarded based on this announcement or any subsequent supplemental RFI announcements.

SLAMR Facility Design Aspects:

SLAMR Facility Design Conversation topics – All technologies and capabilities needed to conduct research and experimentation focused on the multi-domain unmanned, semi-autonomous, and autonomous systems design, deployment and operations to include but not limited to:

Command and Control (C2) for Multi-Domain Operations
C2 for Swarms and Coordinated multi-UxS Operations
Cybersecurity for C2 and Operations of UxS
Man-machine Teaming
Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS)
Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) Systems
Unmanned Naval Surface Vehicles (USV)
Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUV)
Unattended Ground Sensors (UGS)
Improved Power and Antennas for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).
Cross-Domain Unmanned, Semi-Autonomous and Autonomous Systems.
Technologies Supporting Swarming Unmanned and Autonomous Systems
Unmanned, semi-autonomous, and autonomous systems design, deployment and operations
Countering Unmanned Systems
UAS Detection and Surveillance Systems.
UAS Defeat Systems.
Mobile Ad-hoc Networking for UxS Control
Heads-Up Display Situational Awareness/Tracking/Physiological Monitoring for UsX control
Untethered, underwater communication systems.
Precision Navigation and Timing (PNT) in GPS Denied Environments.
Air to Ground to Surface to Sub-Surface Communications

SLAMR Facility Operations or Business Model Conversation topics – Operations and business models for funding and/or operating the facility are desired. The proposed site for the SLAMR facility is adjacent to the NPS campus, and the federal government already owns the land. It is envisioned that one or more types of partnership will be used for the construction and/or operation of the SLAMR facility. Examples of arrangements that could potentially be viable include government owned– contractor operated model, public or private build, leased to private sector models etc. Novel arrangements, even those including new legislative authority are open to discussion as well. Existing types of partnership/agreement vehicles include but are not limited to:

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)
Letters of Intent (LOI)
Statement of Intent (SOI)
Cooperative Agreements (CA)
Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA)
Limited Purpose Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (LP-CRADA)
Joint Venture Partnerships (JV)
Public Private Partnerships (P3s)
Other Transactional Authority (OTA)

BASIS FOR SELECTION TO PARTICIPATE

Selection of respondents to participate in a conversation will be based on the extent to which the conversation proposed represents a technology, topic, process, or concept that addresses a naval or national security challenge and is of interest to NPS subject matter experts, students or faculty. Other considerations could include:

Relevance to current NPS educational and research needs
Novelty or uniqueness of approach

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lessons learned from these conversations may be broadly disseminated. If selected for participation in SLAMR conversations, you may be requested to provide additional information following any or all of the conversations. Replies to any such request are voluntary.

Use of Information: The purpose of this notice is to solicit information leading to Government/NGO/IO/Industry interaction regarding the potential of emerging technological capabilities and to identify the key attributes of these capabilities. It is also intended to acquire information related to new businesses processes that might enable more rapid adoption/adoption of emerging technologies. Proprietary information should not be included in any response. This information is requested to enable participants, government representatives and NPS students and faculty to learn more about potential capabilities for application to joint, naval and interagency challenges.

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