Missile Defense Agency

Mobile Integrated Launch Capability

Solicitation No.
HQ0860-26-S-C006

Missile Defense Agency
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Approved for public release 26-MDA-12366 (23 June 26)

SECTION I. OVERVIEW

A. **Federal Agency Name:** Missile Defense Agency (MDA)

B. **Program Name:** Directorate for Test (DT)

C. **Solicitation Name:** Mobile Integrated Launch Capability (MILC)

D. **Solicitation No.:** HQ0860-26-S-C006

E. **Solicitation Period:** June 24, 2026, to September 30, 2028. White papers will be accepted anytime throughout the open period of this solicitation. Selection of white papers for Step-Two may also be made anytime through this period.

F. **Solicitation Process:** This is a two-step process, which provides for the competitive selection of white papers. This solicitation details the process for Step-One. Step-Two will vary based on selection of the white paper (all or part) and the recommended award type (Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) or non-FAR based).

   Step-One: Submission, evaluation, and selection of white papers. Selected white papers will proceed to Step-Two.

   Step-Two: Offerors selected to proceed to Step-Two will receive a detailed request for information and/or documentation needed to proceed with negotiation towards an award.

G. **North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code:** 541715 - Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology).

H. **Agency Contact:** mda.schriever.ics.mbx.tc-futureacquisitions@mail.mil (Unclassified email only)

SECTION II. PURPOSE

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) "Mobile Integrated Launch Capability (MILC)" solicitation offers industry an ongoing opportunity to provide the Government with innovative, cost-efficient alternatives to current air drop C-17 target launches. Rapid demonstrations of mobile launch platforms capable of deploying and launching short to long range target missile systems from multiple locations worldwide will be considered. This solicitation is for a two-phase effort. Phase I - Detailed Design and Analysis - shall consist of detailed design, engagement analysis, and detailed protype costing information for all candidate MILC concepts. Phase II - Prototyping and Testing - shall include prototyping, ground testing, and launch of a candidate target system from a designated location.

Offerors are advised, should they be selected for an award, they will be required to access, handle, receive, and store Secret (S) information in performance of the effort. The selected

awardee(s) must have an active Secret Facility Clearance Level (FCL) with Secret safeguarding level verified by MDA upon award.

SECTION III. USE AND AVAILABILITY

This solicitation is under MDA's "Nimble Options for Buying Layered Effects (NOBLE)" Announcement, HQ0860-25-S-0001.

SECTION IV. AUTHORITIES

This solicitation is issued under the following authorities:

-
- *Revolutionary Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Overhaul (RFO) 6.101(b)(3) – Other competitive procedures*
- *RFO 35.102 – Broad agency announcement*
- *Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) RFO 235.102 – Broad agency announcement*
- *DFARS RFO 235.172 – Competition*
- *10 U.S.C. § 4022 – Authority of the Department of Defense (DoD) to carry out certain prototype projects*
-

Offerors are required to identify the proposed authority to which they are submitting a white paper response (Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) – RFO Part 35.102 or Other Transaction for Prototype – 10 U.S.C. § 4022). Offerors proposing under BAA authority are reminded BAAs are utilized by the agency to fulfill the requirements for scientific study and experimentation directed toward advancing the state-of-the-art or increasing knowledge and understanding rather than focusing on a specific system or hardware solution. Offerors are responsible for ensuring their submission aligns with one of the authorities listed above.

SECTION V. DESCRIPTION

A. Overview

Refer to the MDA NOBLE Announcement, HQ0860-25-S-0001.

B. Topic Areas

This solicitation is issued under Topic Area #9 Innovative Technologies and Application for Targets from the MDA NOBLE Announcement, HQ0860-25-S-0001.

9. Innovative Technologies and Applications for Targets: Targets is looking for advancements in areas including but not limited to: materials research and evaluation (digital and physical); conceptual designs (digital and physical) from component level to subsystem level to system level; prototype development, ground testing, and flight testing; and, the modeling, simulation, and analyses necessary to demonstrate the viability of the concepts. These

advancements are not limited to target performance, but also performance predictions, acquisition cost, and acquisition lead time. These advancements may apply to payloads, associated objects, launch vehicles, or launch platforms.

C. Technical Description

This solicitation seeks industry innovation for the design, prototyping, and test demonstration of a Mobile Integrated Launch Capability (MILC) to augment legacy target system launch mechanisms in support of testing the Missile Defense System. To effectively provide target vehicles that support defined trajectories required to test missile defense systems, MDA is examining launch services to increase and augment traditional launch methods capable of operating from any location worldwide at a considerably decreased cost that is also capable of increasing launch cadence.

Proposed concepts must utilize open system architecture standards, and it is preferable the concepts maximize the use of:

- Department of War (DoW)/Military (MIL-STD) & widely accepted Commercial Standards
- Commercially available off-the-shelf (COTS) / Government off-the-shelf (GOTS) components and supply chains
- Previously developed systems & subsystems
- Rapid and low-cost manufacturing practices

Concepts in response to this solicitation shall be modular in design with open architectures, utilizing industry standard interfaces that minimizes recycle time and maximizes flexibility in launch location. Offerors are encouraged to demonstrate their capability to integrate with existing legacy solid target systems and/or other commercially available (liquid or solid) launch systems.

Offerors shall focus on reduced cost and schedule goals, leveraging industry best practices, with offerors free to trade system performance details in order to leverage COTS/GOTS legacy components while maximizing utility and meeting minimum capability goals.

This is intended to be a concept demonstration effort with an abbreviated schedule compared to the traditional development cycle for projects of this magnitude. It will be divided into two phases to permit the Government, if it chooses, to allow multiple vendors to develop their concepts, followed by the selection of some or none of the concepts for prototyping and testing. The period of performance for the first phase shall not exceed six (6) months and the second phase shall not exceed twenty-four (24) months. This period of performance does not allow for extensive technological development; therefore, offerors should focus on the integration of COTS/GOTS technologies and subsystems.

Phase I - Detailed Design and Analysis: The first phase of the MILC development shall consist of detailed design and engagement analysis of a candidate MILC concept. Phase I shall also include detailed prototyping cost information with high level technical objectives. The detailed design and cost shall include at a minimum: all major subsystems including, but not limited to,

platform, boosters, controls, communications, fire control interface, and launch support equipment, sufficiently detailed so prototype construction can begin in Phase II. MDA is accepting a number of launch capability types to include; ground, sea, and air-launched solutions.

The offeror shall include in their recommended approach options for launches of all classes of target vehicles including ballistic, maneuvering (MaRV, HGV, and FOB/MOB) and air breathing targets with ranges from Short to Intercontinental. The Government will designate the final target vehicle configuration (launch vehicle and payload/RV) for the Phase II test demonstration.

Phase II - Prototyping and Testing: The second phase of the MILC development shall include prototyping, ground testing, and launch of a target system from a designated location. The development shall verify the integration, operation, and performance of the mobile launch capability. At the end of Phase II, the vendor shall deliver one (1) launch platform and associated services to integrate, transport, and launch a target vehicle system.

If a concept is selected, documents for all major systems must be provided with, at a minimum, Government Purpose Rights (GPR). These rights will enable integration with other launchers, target vehicles, and vehicle-specific launch support equipment.

SECTION VI. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Communication

Dialogue with any Government representative related to this solicitation shall not constitute a commitment by the Government. Any dialogue that takes place will not be taken into consideration during evaluation of responses to this solicitation. Only Contracting and Agreements Officers are legally authorized to make commitments on behalf of the Government.

B. Eligible Offerors

All qualified offerors who meet the requirements of this solicitation are eligible to submit a white paper. Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Private industry (large and small businesses)
- Commercial and/or non-traditional defense contractors (defined at 10 U.S.C § 3014)
- Domestic accredited colleges, universities, or institutions of higher learning registered by the U.S. Department of Education

Government entities (including Government and/or National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) interested in this solicitation should email mda.schriever.ics.mbx.tc-futureacquisitions@mail.mil for further information.

Federally Funded Research Development Centers (FFRDCs) and University Affiliated Research Corporations (UARC) are not prohibited from responding to this solicitation. However, white paper submissions from FFRDCs and UARCs must include: 1) Determination by the FFRDC/UARC's sponsoring agency that the effort being proposed falls within the purpose, mission, and general scope or special competency of the FFRDC/UARC; 2) Determination that

the work proposed would not place the FFRDC/UARC in direct competition with domestic private industry; and 3) A plan to transition the proposed effort to industry.

C. System for Award Management (SAM)

Offerors must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) https://www.sam.gov at time of response to this solicitation and prior to any award. This includes completion of all required representations and certifications.

D. Security Requirements

White papers in response to this solicitation can be submitted at the Unclassified (U), Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), or Secret (S) level. To make a submission at the CUI or Secret (S) level, send an Unclassified email to mda.schriever.ics.mbx.tc-futureacquisitions@mail.mil for further instruction.

Offerors are advised, should they be selected for an award, they will be required to access, handle, receive, and store Secret (S) information in performance of the effort. The selected awardee(s) must have an active Secret Facility Clearance Level (FCL) with Secret safeguarding level verified by MDA before any award can be made. Any award(s) resulting from this solicitation will contain a DD Form 254, DoD Contract Security Classification Specification.

E. Export Control

The technical areas in this solicitation contain export-controlled technologies that are subject to U.S. Export Control laws, including the Arms Export Control Act (22 USC Chapter 39), the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) 22 CFR § 120-130, and/or the Export Administration Regulation (EAR) 15 CFR § 730-774). Access to CUI and legacy For Official Use Only (FOUO) shall be limited to U.S. Persons and dual citizens that do not violate the Countries list in 22 CFR 16.1.

F. Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting

Protection of Covered Defense Information (CDI), to include Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and Controlled Technical Information (CTI), is of paramount importance to MDA and can directly impact the ability of MDA to successfully conduct its mission. Any awards resulting from this solicitation may include certain regulations related to the protection of CDI that resides on awardee information systems and requirements for rapid reporting of any cyber incident involving CDI. CDI, CUI, and CTI are defined in DFARS Subpart 204.7301. Awardee information systems may be subject to the security requirements in National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-171, "Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Information Systems and Organizations" (available at **https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/sp800**) in effect at the time of this solicitation. Offerors selected for an award will be required to have at least a Basic NIST SP 800-171 DoD Assessment that is current (not more than three (3) years old) posted to the Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS) at https://www.sprs.csd.disa.mil.

G. Organizational Conflicts of Interest

It is an MDA policy to ensure all appropriate measures are taken to resolve Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCIs) and unfair competitive advantages to prevent the existence of conflicting roles that might bias an offeror's judgement and deprive MDA of objective advice or assistance, and to prevent offerors from gaining an unfair competitive advantage. All offerors are responsible for identifying and analyzing any potential or actual OCIs that exist as a result of responding to this solicitation.

All offerors, regardless of award type, are subject to the OCI rules, procedures, and responsibilities described in RFO Subpart 9.5 "Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest" and DFARS Subpart 209.5 "Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest." These regulations prescribe responsibilities, general rules, and procedures for identifying, evaluating, and resolving OCIs. All offerors, regardless of award type, are also subject to the rules in FAR 3.101-1 "Standards of Conduct – General" and the cases implementing it (See Health Net Fed. Svcs., B-401652.3 and others), which address unfair competitive advantages that can result from contractors hiring or associating with former Government employees.

H. Rights in Intellectual Property to include Technical Data and Computer Software

All offerors, to the maximum extent practicable, should be prepared to appropriately define the rights of the Government regarding Intellectual Property, including but not limited to rights in technical data and/or computer software to be delivered to the Government under any proposed effort. This includes both commercial and non-commercial items.

If no restrictions to the Government's use of Intellectual Property including technical data and/or computer software delivered under the effort are intended, the offeror should so state. Government rights in Intellectual Property may be further negotiated prior to the award, which could include priced options.

I. Use of Non-Government Personnel

The Government may use selected FFRDC, University Affiliated Research Center (UARC), non-Government contracted support, and other non-Governmental personnel to assist in the technical review and administrative handling of responses. These persons are bound by appropriate non-disclosure agreements and organizational conflict of interest statements to protect proprietary information. Non-Government advisors are limited to reviewing responses and providing technical advice to the Government and are prohibited from conducting evaluations and making recommendations for selection. A response submitted to this solicitation constitutes the offeror's acknowledgment and consent to the use of non-Government personnel. Offerors with questions or objections to the use of non-Government personnel relative to this solicitation should contact mda.schriever.ics.mbx.tc-futureacquisitions@mail.mil.

J. Ineligibility

White papers may be considered ineligible if the requirements of this solicitation are not met.

SECTION VII. SOLICITATION INFORMATION

A. Response Dates

Inquiries: Inquiries about this solicitation will be accepted throughout the solicitation period. All Unclassified inquiries should be sent via email to mda.schriever.ics.mbx.tc-futureacquisitions@mail.mil. For inquiries higher than Unclassified, email mda.schriever.ics.mbx.tc-futureacquisitions@mail.mil for further instruction.

White Papers: White papers will be accepted throughout the solicitation period. Offerors shall refer to "Attachment 3 - White Paper Requirements" for white paper submission requirements.

Offerors are responsible for monitoring https://www.sam.gov for any updates or amendments to this solicitation.

B. Award Type

MDA anticipates using a mix of FAR and non-FAR award types to include, but not limited to:

- *FAR-based Procurement Contract* (See Attachment 1 for additional details on FAR-based Procurement Contracts)
- *Other Transaction (OT) Agreement or OT-like Agreement* (See Attachment 2 for additional details on OT Agreements)

As part of the Step-One white paper submission, offerors should recommend an award type (FAR-based Procurement Contract or OT Agreement) to be considered for the effort. Should the white paper submission be selected for Step-Two, the Government and offeror will further negotiate the best award type for the effort. Other award types may be considered, and some award types may be prioritized as mandated by law or policy.

C. Period of Performance

The objective period of performance for Phase I - Detailed Design and Analysis is three (3) months with a threshold of six (6) months. The objective period of performance for Phase II - Prototyping and Testing is twelve (12) months with a threshold of no later than twenty-four (24) months.

Offerors may also propose and justify an alternate period of performance based on their technical approach, and Phase I and Phase II schedules.

D. Funding Availability

Due to the varying scientific and technical approaches anticipated, there is not a defined budget or funding level associated with this solicitation. Offerors are welcome to propose a cost-sharing type arrangement. Funding may become available throughout the open period of this solicitation to pursue promising innovative concepts of interest. Offerors should be aware that funding availability might change with little or no notice.

E. Within-Scope Modifications

Offerors are advised that due to the inherent uncertainty of research and development and science and technology efforts, awards resulting from this solicitation may be modified during performance to make within scope changes, to include but not limited to, modifications which increase the overall ceiling, funding amounts, and/or period of performance. Modifications will be governed by the applicable authority.

F. Responses

MDA will protect all white papers and proprietary information from unauthorized disclosure and will only disclose the contents for the purpose of evaluation. Offerors are responsible for marking proprietary information with the proper disclosures, along with any required security markings. All white papers submitted in response to this solicitation will be considered expired, and properly disposed of, six (6) months following the closing date of this solicitation.

This solicitation does not commit the Government to pay for the preparation of white papers. The cost of preparing a response to this solicitation is <u>not</u> considered an allowable direct charge to any resulting award. The Government intends to evaluate white papers and make recommendations for Step-Two without discussion(s); however, the Government reserves the right to contact offerors if deemed necessary.

<u>SECTION VIII. EVALUATION AND SELECTION</u>

A. Evaluation Criteria

White papers will be evaluated utilizing a peer and/or scientific review process based on the following criteria:

- Technical Merit
  - Execution Potential: The proposed effort offers a high-confidence approach to execution. The offeror should demonstrate they have the capability to execute the project with a high likelihood of success.
  - Innovation: The proposed effort represents an innovative, novel approach that meets the Government's requirements.

- Importance to Agency Programs
    - Potential Utility: The proposed approach is beneficial to the agency and increases the agency's capability to test the missile defense system.
    - Schedule: The proposed effort and approach support a fast-paced schedule and a higher frequency test cadence.
- Cost
    - Approach and innovation results in low lifecycle cost.
    - Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) for each phase or period: Cost will be evaluated based on realism and reasonableness for the work to be performed.

B. Selection Criteria

Multiple selections are anticipated under this solicitation. MDA reserves the right to select all, some, or none of the responses submitted to this solicitation. MDA also reserves the right to select all, some, or none of a particular white paper response.

Selection of white papers for Step-Two will be based on the overall technical merit, importance to agency programs, and funding availability. The requirements for Step-Two are dependent on selection of the white paper (all or part) and the recommended award type (FAR or non-FAR based).

C. Notices

The MDA Contracting Office will notify offerors if their white papers were selected or not selected for Step-Two. Notifications will state whether the entire white paper or a portion of the white paper is being pursued. If offerors are selected for Step-Two, the MDA Contracting Office will contact the offeror with further instructions. Any communication from the MDA Contracting Office does not constitute assurance of an award.

MDA may make selections any time during the open period of this solicitation. White papers not selected due to funding availability may be considered eligible, if funding becomes available, any time throughout the solicitation period and for up to six (6) months following the closing date of the solicitation.

SECTION IX. FEEDBACK

When requested in writing, within five (5) days of receiving the Government's notice of non-selection, a debrief will be provided to the requesting offeror. The debriefing content will summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed effort.

SECTION X. ATTACHMENTS

A Common Interface Control Document may be provided upon request. Please email mda.schriever.ics.mbx.tc-futureacquisitions@mail.mil to request the documents.

1. FAR-based Procurement Contract Requirements
    a. OCI Analysis and Disclosure Form
2. OT Agreement Requirements
3. White Paper Requirements
    a. CUI Marking Trifold for MDA Industry Partners (Jan. 8, 2024)
    b. ROM Tables (Excel)

Approved for public release 26-MDA-12366 (23 June 26)