



Research Announcement

10-01

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Shipbuilding Research Program Advanced Shipbuilding Enterprise (NSRP ASE) is interested in receiving proposals on the research effort described below. The NSRP ASE program goal is to reduce the cost of building and maintaining U.S. Navy ships. To accomplish this, NSRP ASE is focused on industry-wide implementation of solutions to common cost drivers – these solutions include both leverage of best commercial practices, use of new technologies and creation of industry-specific initiatives. Successful projects are those that: incorporate aggressive technology transfer to, and buy-in by, multiple U.S. shipyards, demonstrate value and clearly reduce total ownership costs with benefits that can be delivered by varied combinations of cost reductions in acquisition and fleet life-cycle costs.

The Research Announcement (RA) is posted on the [NSRP website](#) and [Federal Business Opportunities \(FedBizOpps\)](#). It will be modified as necessary to reflect changes in government and/or industry priorities. Potential proposers are reminded that there are several requirements incorporated in NSRP Research Announcements that merit particular attention, including cost share requirements and the need for a strong business case that can and will be supported by project metrics. Further details are provided in this announcement.

This is an unrestricted solicitation.

2.0 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST

This announcement is issued to solicit proposals for research, development and implementation of best practices in the U.S. shipbuilding and repair enterprise that will achieve one or more of the following:

1. Improved quality in ship construction and/or repair
2. Reduction in Total Ownership Cost of ships
3. Improved energy efficiency and/or environmental impact in shipyards and/or ships

The following table contains subjects that are of particular interest to the Navy and NSRP ASE:

Major Focus Area	Areas of Concentration
Promoting Modular Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outfitting Modules / Standard Interim Products • Cable Splicing / Connectorization / Cable Routing • Testing of Modules • Equipment Protection • Controlling Environment for Efficient Outfitting
Reducing Re-work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process Control via statistical analysis of accuracy • First Time Quality initiatives
Improving Production Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Span Time Reduction • Optimized Sequencing of Work • Definition of Interim Products • Cellular Manufacturing / Process Lanes • Development and Implementation of Best Practices related to Process Technologies, Build Strategy and Design for Affordability
Improving Specifications and Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unnecessary and/or redundant requirements
Improving Manufacturing Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding Process Improvements • Advanced Metalworking Technologies • Surface Preparation and Coatings Process Improvements • Electrical Process Improvements
Improving Production Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimized Work Packages

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Package Development Tools • Capacity Planning Analysis • Optimized Sequencing of Work
<p>Improving Integration of Shipboard Warfare Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of warfare system integration costs across new construction and modernization (in-service) platforms • Analysis of past cost drivers and best practices between ship classes and shipyard activities for warfare system installation, ship integration and test...identification of investment areas to improve affordability • Resolution of alteration maturity, scheduling, installation, test, evaluation and certification issues associated with warfare system installation efforts during in-service fleet availabilities • Accelerated use of automated manufacturing and installation techniques for warfare system installation and testing, in the shipyard industrial environment • Standardization of combat system interfaces with shipboard hull, mechanical and electrical systems
<p>Improving Data Exchange</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating internal systems (ERP, estimating, planning, scheduling, procurement, etc.) • External Exchange (Navy-Industry)
<p>Improving Safety & Health / Reducing Environmental Impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing Injuries • Increasing tool ergonomic features • Reducing shipbuilding energy consumption
<p>Improving Education and Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Processes • Standardization across Industry
<p>Total Ownership Cost</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Use of Composites

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design for Maintenance and Repair• Parts Commonality and re-use across platforms• Any other area in which ship total ownership costs can be reduced
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Further information can be found in the NSRP [Strategic Investment Plan](#).

3.0 IMPORTANT DATES

The following is a list of important dates associated with this Research Announcement:

Event	Date	Further Information
Abstract Submission Deadline	June 17, 2011 (11:59 PM ET)	Section 4.2 <i>See Section 4.2.1 for elaboration</i>
Proposal Submission Deadline	September 9, 2011 (12:00 NOON ET)	Section 4.4
Oral Reviews	November 2011 (estimate)	Section 4.4
Project Award	December 2011 (estimate)	Section 5.0

4.0 RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS

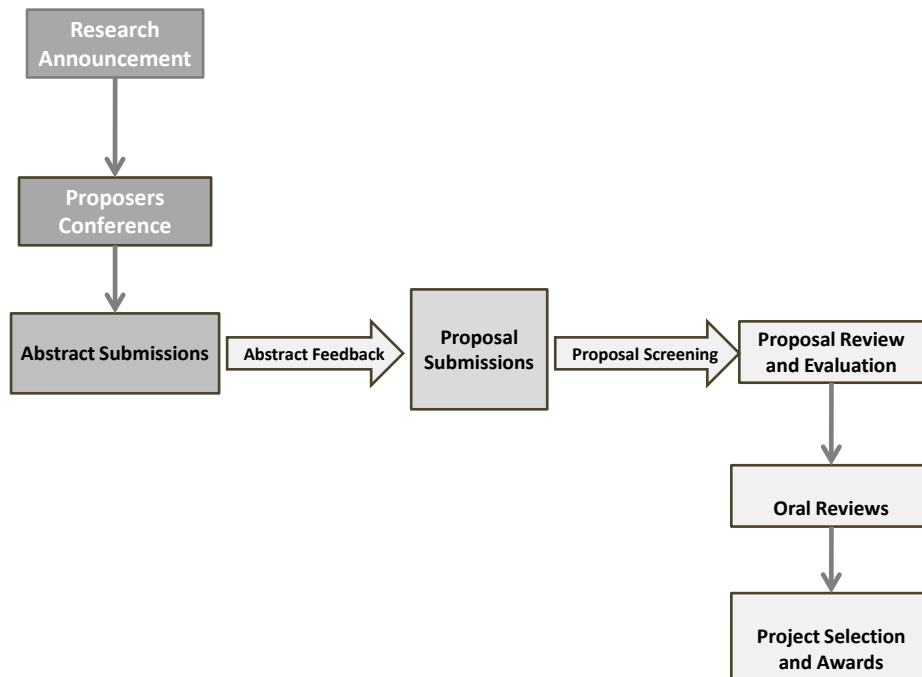


Figure 1 - Research Announcement 10-01 Process

4.1 Proposers Conference

After the Research Announcement is issued, NSRP will provide an on-demand, web-based Proposers Conference presentation on the NSRP website throughout the abstract and proposal submission period. The Proposers Conference provides an overview of the Program and explains proposal requirements, as well as the submission and selection process. Registration is required. Conference details will be posted on the NSRP website in the near future, and sent via the Program email distribution list. It is recommended that proposers check the NSRP website regularly for updated Proposers Conference information

4.2 Mandatory Abstracts

Abstracts for this research announcement are mandatory, and should include the following:

- Problem to be addressed/general objectives (WHAT)
- Business Case Synopsis (WHY)
- Outline of Technical Strategy and Key Innovations (HOW)
- Implementation and Technology Transfer Plans (COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT AND WILLINGNESS TO SHARE)
- Participants (Confirmed or Anticipated) (WHO)

Additionally, the abstract should:

- Include a cover sheet with the project title and point of contact
- Be no more than three (3) pages, exclusive of the cover sheet
- Contain no tables or cost information.

4.2.1 Abstract Submissions

Abstracts are to be submitted electronically through the NSRP website - [NSRP RA10-01 Abstract Submissions](#) - and are due by **11:59 PM Eastern Time on 17 June 2011**. **Abstracts may optionally be submitted as late as 11:59 PM Eastern Time on 1 July 2011, but NSRP feedback is assured only for those abstracts received by the original 17 June deadline.**

4.2.2 Abstract Review

Abstracts will be shared with Naval Sea Systems Command, its affiliated Program Executive Officers and their staffs, and U.S. Coast Guard engineering and acquisition representatives for their comments and input as to the potential value of the proposed projects. Feedback on the abstracts from the NSRP Executive Director staff will be provided to submitters 2-3 weeks after the abstract due date. Feedback from Navy and Coast Guard reviewers will be provided as it is received. Abstracts and feedback will not be shared with other proposers or proposal evaluators.

Further Abstract guidance can be found in [Section 3.1 of the Proposal Preparation Kit](#).

4.3 Proposal Preparation Information

Proposals shall reference the RA number (NSRP ASE 10-01). Proposals are required to be submitted in two volumes -- one technical and one cost -- and shall be valid for 180 days.

Submission requirements can be found in [Section 4.4](#) of this announcement.

All responsible sources may submit proposals for evaluation according to the criteria set forth herein. Offerors are advised that only NSRP ASE Program Office contracting officers are legally authorized to contractually bind or otherwise commit the program.

[The Proposal Preparation Kit](#) (PPK) is a key resource developed to assist potential proposers by providing background material on the NSRP ASE project selection process, guidance for the preparation of abstracts and proposals for this Research Announcement, and required forms and instructions. Offerors should apply the restrictive notice prescribed in the [PPK](#) to trade secrets or privileged commercial and financial information contained in their proposals.

4.3.1 Technical Proposal

The technical proposal shall include a discussion of the nature and scope of the research, the technical approach and appropriate metrics to gauge progress toward implementation. Proposal formats specified in the NSRP ASE [Proposal Preparation Kit](#), including those for Statements of Work and Milestone Schedules, are mandatory. If the PPK requires a particular section, and the offeror determines that the section is not applicable to their proposal, the section title shall be included and annotated as not applicable with a brief explanation as to why it is not applicable.

Evaluation Criteria

The Technical Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria, listed in no particular order, defined in more detail in the PPK:

- Strategic economic impact of the project, the degree to which it addresses industry consensus priorities, and potential for leveraging project results across the shipbuilding industry or beyond.
- Inclusion of a convincing, credible, well-articulated business case.
- Degree of innovation and technical merit in addressing an important problem or exploiting a promising opportunity.
- Plans for rigorous technology transfer activities and likelihood of widespread implementation across the industry. Refer to the [Technology Transfer and Implementation Facilitation Guide](#) for further details.
- Quality and completeness of the project management plan; strength of teaming arrangements and qualifications, capabilities and experience of the project management team; and level of commitment by project team members.

Other factors that will be considered include the following, also described in more detail in the PPK:

- Workforce Impacts
- Level of Effort Realism
- Shipyard Specificity
- Project Execution
- Metrics

Page Parameters

- **Page limit:** no more than 40 single-spaced, single-sided pages measuring 8.5 by 11 inches.

- **Font:** fixed pitch font of 12 or fewer characters per inch or proportional font point size 10 or larger. Smaller type may be used in figures and tables, but must be clearly legible.
- **Margins:** at least 1-inch on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right)

The page limitation is **exclusive of** the Cover Page, Table of Contents, List of Figures and Tables, Resumes, Statement of Work, and Letters of Commitment. Pages in excess of this limitation will not be considered. Offerors are advised that the number of pages should be commensurate with the degree of complexity of the proposed effort. It is expected and encouraged that less complex, less expensive proposals will be significantly less than 40 pages in length.

4.3.2 Cost Proposal

The cost proposal/price breakdown must include the requested information as indicated in the Cost Proposal section of the [Proposal Preparation Kit](#) (Cost Proposal forms are included in the PPK).

Evaluation Criteria

The Cost Proposal will be evaluated for completeness, reasonableness and realism of the proposed costs. Additionally, proposed spending profiles will be considered in the context of program financial requirements and constraints.

Page Parameters

Cost proposals have no page limitations; however, offerors are requested to keep cost proposals to less than 45 pages as a goal.

Note: Proposal reviewers frequently comment on how lack of adherence to format requirements, particularly font size in tables and graphics, negatively impacts their ability to review proposals. Offerors are strongly encouraged to comply with the specifications above to avoid the possibility of being eliminated during the screening stage.

4.3.3 Proposal Preparation Cost

This announcement does not commit the program to pay for any response preparation cost. The cost of preparing proposals in response to this announcement is not considered a direct charge to any resulting award or any other contract.

4.3.4 Proposer Questions

A link for submitting questions regarding the proposal process will be provided on the [NSRP website](#). All questions received and corresponding answers will be posted to this site, which is publicly accessible.

Any questions concerning preparation of the cost proposal, technical proposal, or Statement of Work shall be directed to the [Point of Contact](#) cited in this announcement.

4.4 Proposal Submission Requirements

All responsible sources may submit proposals for evaluation according to the criteria set forth herein. Offerors are advised that only NSRP ASE Program Office contracting officers are legally authorized to contractually bind or otherwise commit the program.

Full proposals (technical and cost) in response to this RA must be received by **12:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, 9 September 2011**, and must be submitted in the following format:

- **Technical Proposal:**
 - **One (1) electronic copy** (in Microsoft Word 97 or later compatible or .PDF format on digital media*)
- **Cost Proposal:**
 - **One (1) original, unbound hard copy**
 - **Two (2) bound hard copies**
 - **One (1) electronic copy** (in Microsoft Word or Excel 97 or later compatible or .PDF format on digital media*)

*Digital media is defined in this research announcement as a CD or equivalent but NOT as an email attachment.

Electronic and hard copies of technical and cost proposals are to be submitted to the following address:

**NSRP ASE Program Administrator
Advanced Technology International
5300 International Blvd
North Charleston, SC 29418
Attn: Ms. Lisa Fisher, ATI Contracting**

Proposals received after the time and date specified above will be returned to the proposer and will **not** be evaluated. **No extensions will be granted**. ATI will provide acknowledgement of receipt of proposals via email after the due date. For planning

purposes, mandatory oral reviews for proposals evaluated to be in the competitive range are anticipated to be conducted in early-to-mid November 2011 in Charleston, SC.

4.4.1 Technology Investment Agreement - Required Certification

The contractual vehicle used to fund the awards will be a [Technology Investment Agreement](#) (in the format dated 25 May 2011).

A requirement of proposal submission for this research announcement is the submittal of a signed cover page of the TIA, which certifies agreement to the most recent terms and conditions of the TIA. Proposals submitted without a fully executed cover page will be **subject to elimination** during screening. Proposers are advised to contact the NSRP Program Office if they have any questions on this requirement. Proposers are also advised to check the [NSRP website](#) periodically during the proposal preparation period for any new changes to the TIA terms and conditions.

NOTE: Not providing all proposal elements as listed above may result in the proposal not being evaluated.

5.0 AWARD INFORMATION

5.1 Funding Estimate

It is anticipated that approximately \$10 - 12 million (final figure to be determined) will be available for new NSRP ASE Program awards for this solicitation cycle based on expected budget actions; however, there is no guarantee of this funding level. Multiple awards may be made depending, in part, on the cost of individual proposals and available funding.

5.2 Expected Award Date

15 December 2011 for most, if not all, selected proposals.

5.3 Award Terms

Due to limited funding, the NSRP ASE Program reserves the right to limit awards under any topic, and only proposals considered to be of superior quality will be funded. The NSRP ASE Program reserves the right to select for award any, all, part, or none of the proposals received. The amount of funding available will be dependent upon receipt of Government Fiscal Year 2011 funds.

Awards will be made using a [Technology Investment Agreement \(TIA\)](#), which is not subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

For those proposals that are approved for award by the Executive Control Board (ECB), a letter contract will be executed immediately after the selection meeting. This letter contract is expected to be for a period of 45 days with sufficient funding to conduct project kickoff activities. All proposers, unless exceptions are authorized by the ECB for unusual circumstances (e.g., significant changes to the Statement of Work directed by NSRP), will be expected to sign the final agreement within 45 days of selection. The NSRP ASE Program reserves the right to terminate awards if the offeror is not able to conclude a formal, signed TIA within 45 calendar days of selection notification.

5.4 Basis for Award

The selection of one or more sources for award will be based on an evaluation of an offeror's response (both technical and cost aspects) to this announcement to determine the overall merit of the proposal. Details of the evaluation criteria are provided in [Section 4.3](#) of this announcement.

6.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1 Security Requirements

Classified material is not to be used in this effort.

6.2 Other Special Requirements

Proposers are advised that research findings and technology developments arising under this Agreement may constitute a significant enhancement to the national defense, and to the economic vitality of the United States. As such, in the conduct of all work under this agreement, the Recipient will comply strictly with the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (22 CFR 120-130), the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (DoD 5220.22-M) and the Department of Commerce Export Regulation (15 CFR 730-774).

6.3 Teaming

Teaming arrangements are encouraged. *At least one* U.S. shipyard should be substantially involved in each project, normally in a leadership role. Exceptions to this may be considered on a case-by-case basis where there is compelling justification that the program mission is best served by the proposed deviation. Evidence of Navy customer support for a proposal idea (such as letters of support) will be viewed as meaningful evidence of value to the Navy and thus a favorable evaluation factor.

6.4 Notice to Foreign-Owned Firms

Such firms are asked to immediately notify the NSRP ASE Program Office [Point of Contact](#) cited in Section 7.0 after deciding to respond to this announcement. Foreign contractors should be aware that prior Government approval may be required before their proposals can be considered.

6.5 Anticipated Period of Performance

For this research announcement, offerors may submit multi-year proposals up to thirty-six (36) months, provided they specify clearly defined, one-year (or less), sequential (non-overlapping) project phases to allow for go/no-go decisions on future year efforts/funding. Each phase should specify key tasks (activities) and deliverables (results) as described in the [Proposal Preparation Kit](#). The total duration of the technical effort may vary based on project complexity. The offeror may also provide for an additional four (4) months for processing/completion of the final report.

7.0 POINT OF CONTACT

Questions related to this Research Announcement should be directed to:

**Ms. Lisa Fisher, ATI Contracting
NSRP ASE Program Administrator
Advanced Technology International
5300 International Blvd
North Charleston, SC 29418
phone: 843-760-3366
email: lisa.fisher@ati.org**
