

NSRP ASE Pre-Solicitation Notice for Research Announcement 20-01

INTRODUCTION

This is a **Pre-Solicitation Notice** for the [National Shipbuilding Research Program](#) Advanced Shipbuilding Enterprise (NSRP ASE). The NSRP ASE Executive Control Board plans to issue a Research Announcement (RA) in March 2019 to solicit summary proposals that respond to objectives in the program's [Strategic Investment Plan \(SIP\)](#), project topics identified in the program's [Technology Investment Plan \(TIP\)](#), and areas identified in the Research Announcement.

Research Announcements are general in nature, identifying areas of research interest, disclosing criteria for selecting proposals, and soliciting the participation of all offerors capable of meeting the NSRP ASE objectives. The flexibility of RAs allows objectives to be stated in general terms of need or interest, as opposed to other solicitations (e.g., Requests for Proposals) which require specific solutions or outcomes.

The NSRP ASE program goal is to reduce the cost of building and maintaining ships for the U.S. Navy, other national security customers, and the commercial sector. To accomplish this, NSRP ASE is focused on industry-wide implementation of solutions to common cost drivers and consensus priority issues that exhibit a compelling business case to improve the efficiency of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair Industry. Proposals that incorporate aggressive technology transfer to, and buy-in by, multiple U.S. shipyards are strongly preferred.

AREAS OF INTEREST

The complete RA will be posted on FedBizOpps and the NSRP website upon release. The RA will solicit summary proposals for research, development, and implementation of best practices in the U.S. shipbuilding and repair enterprise that will accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduced Total Ownership Cost of ships
- Improved quality in ship design, construction and repair through continuous improvement of advanced technologies, processes and data management applications
- Enhanced workforce excellence
 - Improved safety, wellness and environmental stewardship for shipyards and shipboard personnel
 - Recruitment, training, engagement and retention of shipbuilders through collaboration, knowledge sharing and attitude management during change



- Reduced cost associated with ship systems integration during ship design, construction, modernization and maintenance
- Increased materials and process commonality across the shipbuilding and ship repair enterprise to reduce cost
- Identification of best practices from all sources regarding cybersecurity technologies and their appropriate application to shipbuilding and repair systems and equipment

The RA will be modified as necessary to reflect changes in industry or government priorities.

TEAMING

Teaming arrangements are encouraged, and a principal purpose of the pre-solicitation period is to afford potential proposers the opportunity to reach out and form teams. 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 will be viewed as meaningful evidence of value to the Navy and thus a favorable evaluation factor.

To facilitate teaming, a [Teaming Board](#) is available on the NSRP website. The [Teaming Board](#) is composed of posts from potential proposers seeking technology providers, shipyards, academic institutions, or other categories of project team members. Instructions for viewing and/or posting to the Teaming Bulletin Board can be found on the main Teaming webpage. The Bulletin Board will be regularly monitored by NSRP program representatives with a view towards facilitating contact between potential teaming members. This should in no way be construed as NSRP's or Advanced Technology International's commitment to award the projects whose teams utilize the [Teaming Board](#).

SUMMARY PROPOSALS

The RA will solicit **Summary Proposals** that contain a discussion of the nature and scope of the proposed research, the technical approach, the business case and appropriate metrics to gauge progress toward implementation. Summary Proposals require technical content of 10 pages or less, and only high-level summary cost estimates. Only those projects ultimately selected for execution by the NSRP Executive Control Board, after two levels of prior evaluation, will be required to submit fully-developed Statements of Work and Cost Proposals.

PROPOSERS' CONFERENCE

A Proposers' Conference will be held via webinar; details and registration information will be available on the [NSRP website](#). The purpose of this conference is to provide information on NSRP goals and procedures and provide a venue for those present to explore teaming opportunities.

AWARDS

It is anticipated that approximately \$6-8 million will be available for the first year of new NSRP ASE Program awards for this solicitation cycle; however, there is no guarantee of this funding level.

Awards will be made using a Base Task Order Agreement, which is **not** subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulations. A sample Base Task Order Agreement can be found on the [NSRP website](#). Project selection will be in September 2019 with an expected award date in the November 2019 timeframe for most, if not all, selected proposals.

PROPOSAL DUE DATE

The due date for Summary Proposals will be stated in the RA when released.

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 determine the overall merit of the proposal in response to the announcement. Details of the evaluation criteria are provided in the Proposal Preparation Kit, and are summarized below. Each Summary Proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Strategic fit and leverage
- Business case, including ROI
- Innovation and technical merit
- Technology transfer and industry implementation
- Team strength and management plan

Other factors that will be considered include:

- Workforce impacts
- Level of effort realism
- Shipyard specificity
- Project execution
- Metrics
- Implementation Risk
- Beginning and projected TRL

POINT OF CONTACT

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