

Research Announcement 20-01

Version: 1.0 dated March 25, 2019

MISSION

- ❖ Manage and focus national shipbuilding and ship repair research and development funding on technologies that will reduce the cost of ships to the U.S. Navy, other national security customers and the commercial sector, and develop and leverage best commercial and naval practices to improve the efficiency of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industry.
- ❖ Provide a collaborative framework to improve shipbuilding-related technical and business processes.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION..... 3

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST 3

 2.1 Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).....4

 2.2 Technology Investment Plan (TIP)4

3. IMPORTANT DATES..... 4

4. RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS..... 5

5. SUMMARY PROPOSAL PREPARATION INFORMATION..... 5

 5.1 Summary Proposal..... 5

 5.1.1 Evaluation Criteria 6

 5.1.2 Formatting 6

 5.1.3 Executive Control Board Authorization 7

 5.2 Cost Proposal..... 7

 5.3 Cost Share 7

 5.4 Summary Proposal Preparation Cost 7

6. PROPOSER QUESTIONS..... 7

7. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS..... 7

 7.1 Submission Method..... 8

 7.1.1 Secure File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Site..... 8

 7.2 Task Order Agreement – Required Certification..... 8

8. AWARD INFORMATION..... 8

 8.1 Funding Estimate 8

 8.2 Expected Award Date..... 8

8.3 Award Terms 8

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION..... 9

9.1 Security Requirements 9

9.2 Other Special Requirements 9

9.3 Teaming 9

9.4 Notice to Foreign-Owned Firms..... 9

9.5 Anticipated Period of Performance..... 10

9.6 Minimizing Administration and Support Costs 10

10. POINT OF CONTACT 10

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Shipbuilding Research Program Advanced Shipbuilding Enterprise (NSRP ASE) is interested in receiving summary proposals for the research effort described below. 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 – these solutions include leveraging of best commercial practices, use of new technologies and creation of industry-specific initiatives. Successful projects are generally those that incorporate plans for aggressive technology transfer and implementation by multiple U.S. shipyards. Projects should demonstrate value through articulation of anticipated return-on-investment and clearly reduce total ownership costs with benefits that can be delivered by varied combinations of reductions in acquisition and fleet life-cycle costs.

The Research Announcement (RA) is posted on the [NSRP](#) and [Federal Business Opportunities \(FedBizOpps\)](#) websites. 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, particularly the need for a strong business case that can and will be supported by project metrics. Readers are strongly urged to review further details provided in this announcement and the NSRP Proposal Preparation Kit ([PPK](#)).

This is an unrestricted solicitation.

2. 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 ship repair enterprise that will achieve one or more of the following Strategic Objectives:

- 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

2.1 STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN (SIP)

Section 6 of the current NSRP [Strategic Investment Plan](#) focuses on the Strategic Objectives listed above. Additionally, the SIP includes a complete list of focus areas and their definitions. These focus areas are the avenues through which research and development of improved technology and processes will advance the industry and positively impact the Strategic Objectives.

2.2 TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLAN (TIP)

In February 2019, the NSRP ASE held the [TIP](#) Workshop to identify high priority issues and current industry challenges where research proposals to address them would be of particular interest to the program.

The workshop was composed of a cross section of highly experienced shipbuilders from the member shipyards, along with senior government representatives from the Navy's Program Executive Offices and NAVSEA headquarters staff. The result of this effort was to identify specific topics by NSRP Major Initiative area where the group consensus was that proposals submitted to address them should receive the highest possible consideration by the Executive Control Board (ECB). However, while the TIP addresses preferred topics of interest, the ECB will also consider proposals focused on any other topic that meets the intent of the SIP. The ECB will continue to look to encourage and fund those proposals which it feels best further the mission of the collaboration, whether or not they are included in the TIP. The complete list of topics are provided in the [TIP](#).

3. IMPORTANT DATES

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

Event	Date
Proposers Conference	April 11, 2019
Summary Proposals Due	July 9, 2019 (12:00 NOON ET)
Technical Evaluation	July/August 2019
Oral Reviews (Blue Ribbon Panel)	August 2019
ECB Selection	September 2019

4. RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS

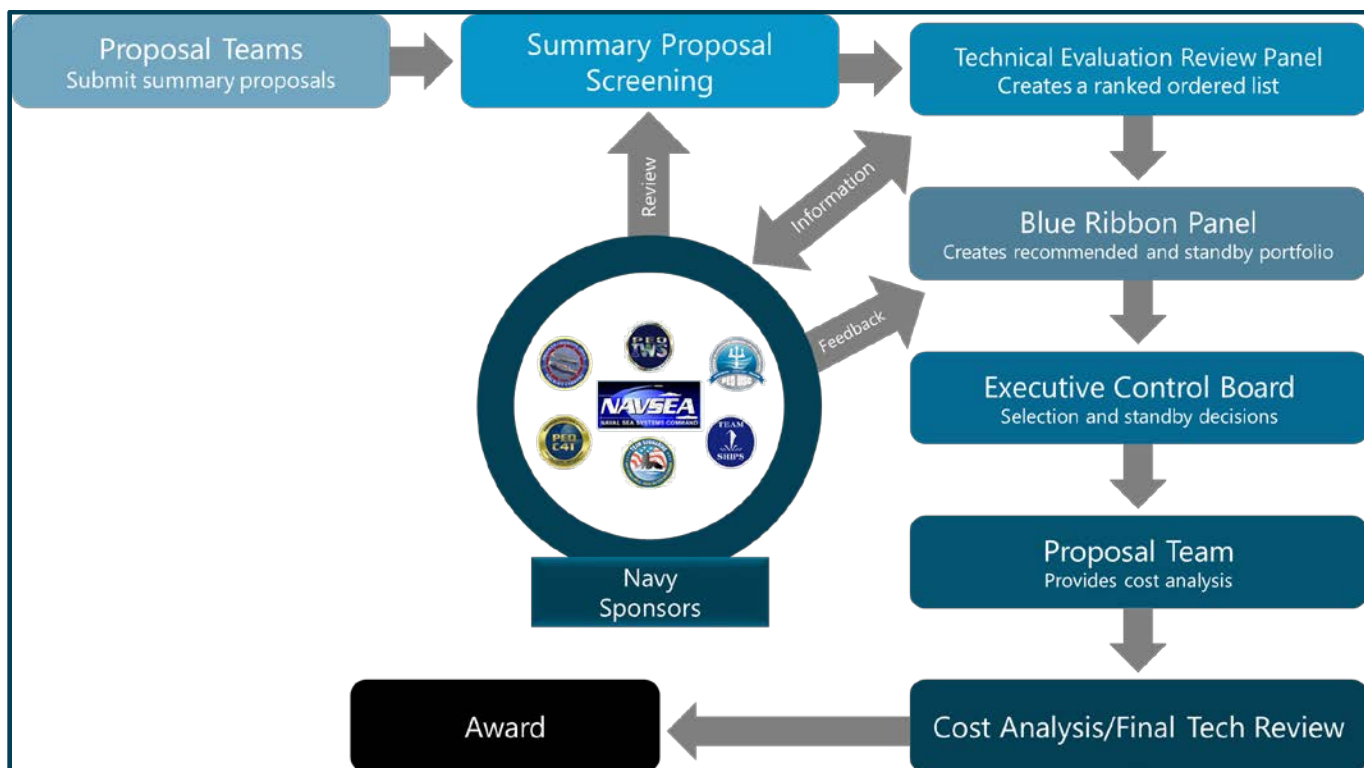


Figure 1 - NSRP RA Project Submission and Selection Process

5. SUMMARY PROPOSAL PREPARATION INFORMATION

Summary Proposals shall reference the RA number (NSRP ASE RA 20-01).

Submission requirements can be found in [Section 7.0](#) of this announcement.

All responsible sources may submit summary proposals for evaluation according to the criteria set forth herein. Proposers are advised that only Advanced Technology International (ATI) contracting officials are legally authorized to contractually bind or otherwise commit the program.

The [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 Summary Proposals for this RA, and required forms and instructions. Proposers should apply the restrictive notice prescribed in the PPK to trade secrets or privileged commercial and financial information contained in their proposals.

5.1 SUMMARY PROPOSAL

The Summary 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 [PPK](#) are mandatory.**

5.1.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Technical Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria, defined in more detail in the PPK:

- **Strategic Fit and Leverage.** Strategic economic impact of the project, the degree to which it addresses industry consensus priorities, and potential for leveraging project results across the shipbuilding and ship repair industry and beyond.
- **Business Case.** Inclusion of a convincing, credible, well-articulated business case with meaningful project metrics that demonstrate value to the industry, Navy, other national security customers, and commercial sector and support implementation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This solicitation contains requirements to provide information necessary for the calculation of the project's expected return on investment (ROI). This requirement includes detailed quantified data on current costs that are relevant to the proposed project and expected cost reductions, cost savings, or cost avoidance resulting from successful project implementation. Refer to the PPK for details.

- **Innovation and Technical Merit.** Degree of innovation and technical merit in addressing an important problem or exploiting a promising opportunity.
- **Technology Transfer and Industry Implementation.** Plans for rigorous technology transfer activities and likelihood of widespread implementation across the industry. Refer to the [Technology Transfer and Implementation Guide](#) for further details.

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
- Implementation Risk

5.1.2 FORMATTING

- **Page limit** – The Summary Proposal shall be no more than 10 single-spaced, single-sided pages measuring 8.5 by 11 inches. The page limitation is exclusive of the cover page and attachments.
- **Font** – The Summary Proposal shall be in a font that is 10 point size or larger. Smaller type may be used in figures and tables, but not less than 8 point size, and must be clearly legible.
- **Margins** – The Summary Proposal shall have margins at least 1 inch on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right).

5.1.3 EXECUTIVE CONTROL BOARD AUTHORIZATION

- Summary Proposals with an NSRP member shipyard as Project Lead/Prime must include, on the cover sheet, the signature of an official authorized to obligate the business contractually AND a signature of the submitting shipyard's ECB member (if different from authorized official).
- Summary Proposals with NSRP member shipyard(s) as a project participant in a non-Lead/Prime role, proposers **must** notify the ECB Member(s) of participating shipyard(s) and include the notification documentation as an attachment to the Summary Proposal.

5.2 COST PROPOSAL

In lieu of a full Cost Proposal at this point in the process, the Summary Proposal shall include a much shorter, less detailed Cost Summary that reflects preliminary estimates. Full Cost Proposals will be required only after evaluation and selection by the NSRP ECB. Those full Cost Proposals will be due 30 days after notification of selection and their total value should not exceed the original Cost Summary by more than 10% (*see Section 3.5.8 of the PPK for additional details*).

5.3 COST SHARE

A program goal is for industry to share 50% of the cost of NSRP technology development and technology transfer activities with the Government. As such, it is the goal for industry project teams to provide, as cost share, 50% of the total cost of projects conducted in response to this RA.

5.4 SUMMARY PROPOSAL PREPARATION COST

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

6. PROPOSER QUESTIONS

Any questions concerning preparation of the Summary Proposal should be directed to the Point of Contact in [Section 10](#) of this announcement.

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

7. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Summary Proposals in response to this RA **must be** received by **12:00 noon Eastern Time on July 9, 2019**.

Summary 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, via email, of proposal receipt.

NOTE: For planning purposes, mandatory oral reviews for Summary Proposals down-selected for Blue Ribbon Panel consideration are anticipated to be conducted in August 2019 in Summerville, SC.

7.1 SUBMISSION METHOD

For this solicitation, proposal submission will be via ATI's Secure File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site.

7.1.1 SECURE FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL (FTP) SITE

1. Proposers must register on the ATI FTP site prior to uploading proposals.
2. Once registration is complete, proposers will then be able to upload **one (1) copy** of their Summary Proposal in Microsoft Word (version 2010 or later) or **searchable** PDF (**not a scanned copy**).
3. The ATI point of contact, as cited in [Section 10](#), will be alerted via FTP site email message that the proposal has been uploaded. After the ATI point of contact has downloaded the Summary Proposal, the proposer will receive an email confirmation that the proposal has been downloaded. Complete instructions are included in Appendix G of the [PPK](#).

7.2 TASK ORDER AGREEMENT – REQUIRED CERTIFICATION

The contractual vehicle used to fund the awards will be a [Task Order Agreement](#) (TOA).

A **requirement** of this RA is the submittal of a signed cover page for the Summary Proposal, which **certifies agreement** to the terms and conditions of the most recent Base TOA. Summary Proposals submitted without a fully executed cover page will be **subject to elimination** during screening. Proposers are advised to contact ATI 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 Base TOA terms and conditions.

8. AWARD INFORMATION

8.1 FUNDING ESTIMATE

It is anticipated that approximately \$6 million to \$8 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.

8.2 EXPECTED AWARD DATE

November 2019 for most, if not all, selected proposals.

8.3 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.

Awards will be made by issuing a TOA under the [NSRP Base TOA](#). The Base TOA contains the terms and conditions applicable to all research conducted under NSRP.

For each Summary Proposal that is approved for award by the ECB, a Request for Proposal will be issued to the proposer for a full Cost Proposal, detailed Statement of Work, and Technology Transfer and Implementation Plan.

Upon receipt of a draft agreement following satisfactory review of the Cost Proposal, Statement of Work, and Technology Transfer and Implementation Plan, awardees will have 10 business days to sign and return the agreement to ATI. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the project.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

9.1 SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Classified material is not to be used in this effort.

9.2 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).

9.3 TEAMING

Teaming arrangements are strongly encouraged on NSRP R&D projects, and at least one shipyard should be a primary participant. 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, other government, and/or other commercial stakeholder support for a proposal idea will be viewed as meaningful evidence of value and thus a favorable evaluation factor.

The NSRP website includes a [Teaming Section](#) to facilitate teaming opportunities on NSRP R&D projects and includes a teaming bulletin board, which is composed of project ideas from potential proposers, as well as other relevant information.

If the project is selected for award, the lead proposer shall conduct a pre-award Business Evaluation of all project team members, subcontractors and consultants, as described in the [PPK](#).

9.4 NOTICE TO FOREIGN-OWNED FIRMS

Such firms are asked to immediately notify the NSRP ASE Program Office point of contact cited in [Section 10](#) 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.

9.5 ANTICIPATED PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

For this RA, proposers may submit proposals for projects lasting up to twenty-four (24) months. Proposers should specify key tasks (activities) and deliverables (results) as described in the [PPK](#). All technical work must be completed within the twenty-four (24) month period of performance. The proposer may take up to an additional sixty (60) calendar days to complete the final report.

9.6 MINIMIZING ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT COSTS

As all government programs strive to become more efficient, **the ECB expects proposers to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, project administration and support costs within their proposals, without sacrificing technical quality.** A good example of this is the use of virtual meeting software in lieu of a face-to-face meeting, to reduce team travel costs. While it is recognized that the nature of collaboration will require some direct contact to be effective, during the course of a multi-year project there will clearly be opportunities to have dialogue that will be productive without requiring that it be done in a face-to-face setting.

10. POINT OF CONTACT

Questions related to this RA should be directed in writing to:

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