

Research Announcement 23

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MISSION

- ❖ Employ a unique collaborative framework to research, develop, mature, and implement industry-relevant shipbuilding and sustainment technologies and processes, improving efficiency across the U.S. shipyard industrial base and meeting future demand.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The National Shipbuilding Research Program Advanced Shipbuilding Enterprise (NSRP ASE, hereafter "NSRP") is interested in receiving Research Announcement (RA) project Summary Proposals for the research effort described below. The NSRP mission is to employ a unique collaborative framework to research, develop, mature, and implement industry-relevant shipbuilding and sustainment technologies and processes, improving efficiency across the U.S. shipyard industrial base and meeting future demand. The NSRP's Government impact is primarily on U. S. Navy ships, but the program is also intended to benefit other Government agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Maritime Administration (MARAD), Military Sealift Command (MSC), and Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE). The NSRP considers unmanned and optionally-manned vessels to be the types of ships fully within the mission scope.

The Research Announcement (RA) is posted on the [NSRP](#) website and an RA one-page notice is posted on the System for Acquisition Management website ([SAM.gov](#), formerly Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps)). The RA solicitation will be amended as necessary to reflect changes in Government and/or industry priorities. Potential Offerors 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 relevant technologies or improved processes for the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair enterprise that will accomplish the objectives of the NSRP mission.

Particular areas of interest for proposals are listed in the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Technology Investment Plan (TIP), described below.

2.1 STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN (SIP)

Section 7 of the current NSRP [Strategic Investment Plan \(SIP\)](#) provides focus for the program's Major Initiative (MI) areas of interest. The SIP defines the program's three Major Initiatives and lists each MI's sub-initiatives. These sub-initiatives are broad topics 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)

The Technology Investment Plan (TIP) defines the sub-initiatives of the SIP into more specific topics. The [Technology Investment Plan](#) provides these specific project interest areas, which are directly aligned to a particular sub-initiative of a particular Major Initiative that should receive the greatest emphasis in allocating R&D dollars in the year ahead. However, while the TIP addresses preferred

topics of interest, the NSRP Executive Control Board (ECB), in selecting proposals for award, will also consider proposals focused on any other topic that meets SIP objectives.

3. IMPORTANT DATES

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

Event	Date
Offerors Conference	April 27, 2022
Summary Proposals Due	July 18, 2022 (12:00 NOON ET)
Technical Evaluation	July/August 2022
Oral Reviews (Blue Ribbon Panel)	August 2022
ECB Selection	September 2022

4. RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS

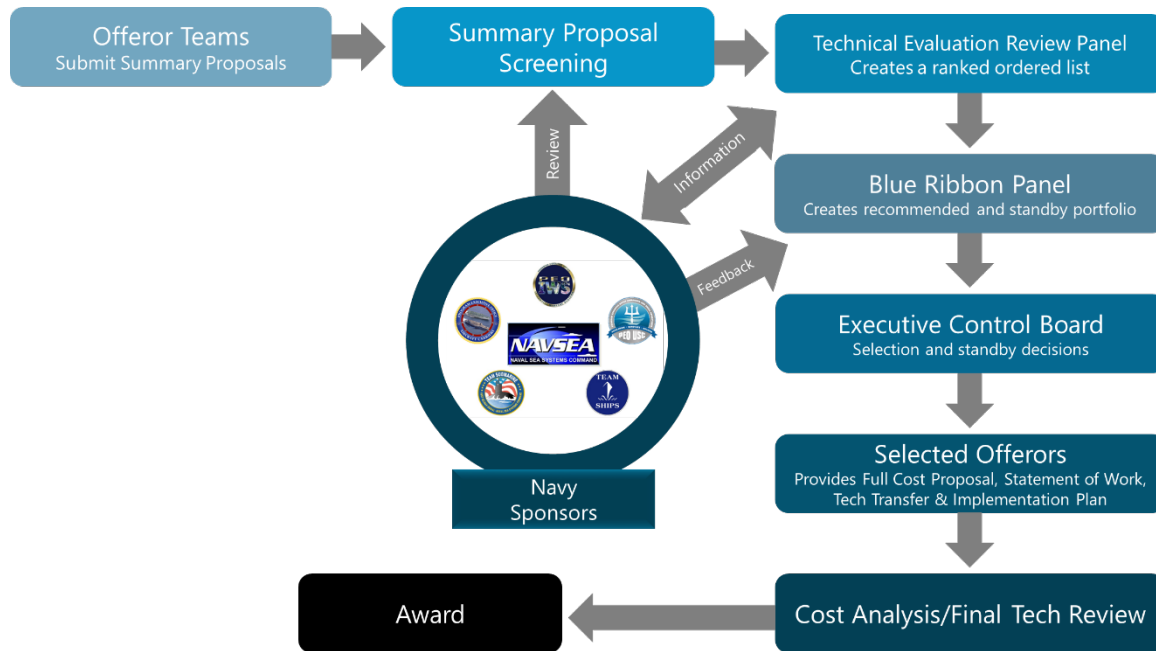


Figure 1 - NSRP RA Project Submission and Selection Process

5. SUMMARY PROPOSAL PREPARATION INFORMATION

Summary Proposals shall reference the RA number (NSRP RA 23).

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

Offerors may submit Summary Proposals for evaluation according to the criteria set forth herein. Offerors 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 Offerors in developing compliant and most competitive proposals. The PPK provides background material on the NSRP project selection process, guidance for the preparation of Summary Proposals for this RA, and required forms and instructions. Offerors should apply the restrictive notice prescribed in the PPK (See PPK Section 3.0) to indicate 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, business case and appropriate metrics to gauge progress toward implementation. **Proposal formats specified in the NSRP [PPK](#) are mandatory.**

5.1.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Summary 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 which demonstrate value to the industry, Navy, other Federal, State, and local Government agencies, and the commercial maritime sector and which support project 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, quantitative 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 Section 4.4 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 Appendix E to the PPK:

- Workforce Impacts
- Level of Effort Realism
- Shipyard Specificity
- Project Execution
- Metrics
- Implementation Risk (See also PPK, Appendix F)
- Cost Evaluation

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, Offeror information page, and required 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 (See PPK Section 2.0, Definitions) must include, on the cover sheet, the signature of an official authorized to obligate the business contractually AND the signature of the submitting shipyard's ECB member (if different from authorized official).
- For Summary Proposals with NSRP member shipyard(s) as a project participant in a non-Lead role (See PPK Section 2.0, Definitions), Offerors **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 program funding amount should not exceed that of the original Cost Summary by more than 10% (*see Section 4.6.9 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. See PPK Section 4.6.9.2 for additional information.

5.4 SUMMARY PROPOSAL PREPARATION COST

This announcement **does not** obligate the program to pay for any proposal or other response preparation cost. The costs of preparing Summary Proposals or other documentation in response to this announcement are not considered a direct charge to any resulting award or any other existing contract.

6. OFFEROR 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 18 2022**.

Summary Proposals received after the time and date specified above **will not** be evaluated. **No extensions will be granted**. The BAA Information Delivery System (BIDS) 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 2022, in Summerville, SC.

7.1 SUBMISSION METHOD

For this solicitation, proposal submission will be via the BIDS site.

7.1.1 BIDS SITE

1. Offerors must register on the [BIDS](#) site prior to uploading proposals.
2. Once registration is complete, Offerors 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, cited in [Section 10](#) will be alerted via BIDS site email message that the proposal has been uploaded. The Offeror 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 (TO) executed under a Base [Task Order Agreement](#) (TOA). A Base TOA must be executed prior to the award of any TOs.

A **requirement** of this RA is the submittal of a signed cover page for the Summary Proposal (see PPK Section 4.1), 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. Offerors are advised to contact ATI if they have any questions on this requirement.

Offerors 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 \$3 million will be available for new NSRP RA project awards for this solicitation cycle; however, there is no guarantee of this funding level.

The objective of this solicitation is to develop the best value portfolio of projects that accomplish the program mission with the limited available funds. Single proposals that would consume most of the available program funding are less likely to be selected as proposed. NSRP reserves the right to limit awards under any topic and only proposals considered to be of superior quality will be funded. NSRP may award only one or more parts of a proposal rather than acquiring the entire proposal.

8.2 EXPECTED AWARD DATE

Late first quarter of Government Fiscal Year 2023 to early second quarter (December 2022 – February 2023). This award date is subject to availability of funding.

8.3 AWARD TERMS

Due to limited funding, the NSRP program reserves the right to limit awards under any topic and to select for award any, all, part, or none of the proposals received.

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

For each Summary Proposal that is selected for award by the ECB, a Request for Proposal will be issued to the Offeror 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

NSRP is not authorized to store or handle classified information. Do not include any classified material in either proposals or deliverables.

9.2 OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Offerors are advised that research findings and technology developments arising under this project 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 project, the Offeror 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), to include marking, handling, and exchange of any project notes, documents, and deliverables.

Although RA projects do not typically contain Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), all Offerors should be aware of how Summary Proposals should be marked. In accordance with the security requirements specified by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-171 "Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Information Systems and Organizations" (see <http://dx.doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.800-171>), all Offerors that include marked CUI in their proposals also represent by submission of proposals that these security requirements have been implemented, if required.

9.3 TEAMING

Teaming arrangements are strongly encouraged on NSRP R&D projects, and at least one shipyard should be a team member, if not the project lead. 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. Of note, reconfiguration of an ongoing project's shipyard participation in the project team will require ECB evaluation and approval. Evidence of Navy, other government, and/or other commercial stakeholder support for a proposal idea is a technical evaluation criterion.

In addition to the industry teaming, if Navy participation is desired or required (e.g., technical authority approval), Offerors should contact the NAVSEA NSRP Program Engineer, Mr. Howard Franklin, at howard.l.franklin9.civ@us.navy.mil or (202) 781-2171 for early coordination.

If the project is selected for award, the Offeror shall conduct a pre-award Business Evaluation of all project team members, subcontractors, as described in the [PPK \(See Appendix C\)](#).

9.4 NOTICE TO FOREIGN-OWNED FIRMS

Project leads are asked to immediately notify the NSRP Program Administrator point of contact cited in [Section 10](#) after deciding to respond to this announcement if any intended project participant is a foreign-owned firm. These project participants 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, Offerors may submit proposals for projects lasting up to twenty-four (24) months. Offerors 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.

9.6 MINIMIZING ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT COSTS

As all Government programs strive to become more efficient, **the ECB expects Offerors to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, project administration and support costs within their proposals, without sacrificing technical quality and technology transfer.** A good example of this efficiency 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:

Mrs. Elizabeth Frankart, Contracts Manager
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