

Research Announcement 25

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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](#)). 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. Potential Offerors are strongly urged to review further details provided in this announcement and the NSRP Proposal Preparation Kit ([PPK](#)).

This is an unrestricted solicitation. However, a Government/Federal entity cannot be the Offeror.

2. IMPORTANT DATES

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

Event	Date
Summary Proposals Due	July 19, 2024 (12:00 NOON ET)
Technical Evaluation	July/August 2024
Mandatory Oral Presentations & ECB Selection	August/September 2024

3. RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS

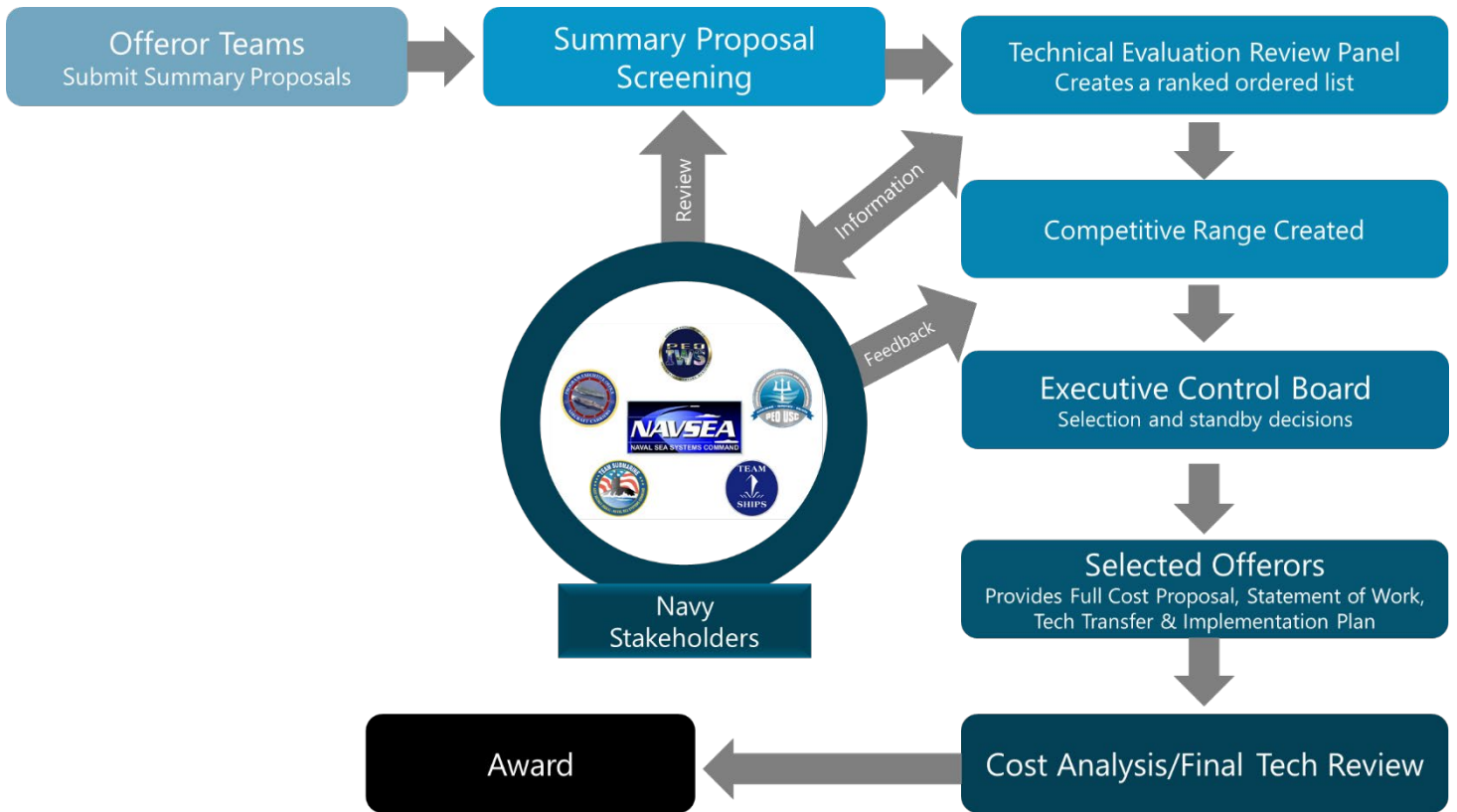


Figure 1 - NSRP RA Project Submission and Selection Process

4. SUMMARY PROPOSAL PREPARATION INFORMATION

Summary Proposals shall reference the RA number (NSRP RA 25). Submission requirements can be found in [Section 6.0](#).

Offerors shall 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 proposals. The PPK includes background material on the NSRP project selection process, guidance for the preparation of Summary Proposals, 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.

4.1 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.**

4.1.1 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

4.1.2 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 does not include 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).
- **Page Numbers** – The Summary Proposal shall have page numbers on each page after the cover and Offeror information sheets.

4.1.3 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 Executive Control Board (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 confirmation from the participant's documentation as an attachment to the Summary Proposal.

4.1.4 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.

4.1.4.1 STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN (SIP)

Section 7 of the current NSRP [Strategic Investment Plan \(SIP\)](#) discusses the program's Major Initiative (MI) areas of interest. The SIP defines the program's three Major Initiatives and lists each Major Initiative's sub-initiatives. These sub-initiatives are broad topics through which research and development (R&D) of improved technology and processes will advance the industry and positively impact the strategic objectives.

4.1.4.2 TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLAN (TIP)

The annual [Technology Investment Plan \(TIP\)](#) details the sub-initiatives of the SIP into more specific topics. These specific project interest areas are directly aligned to a particular sub-initiative of a particular Major Initiative and 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 and those which best further the mission of the collaboration.

4.2 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 proposal evaluation and selection by the NSRP ECB. 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 4.6.10 of the PPK for additional details*).

4.3 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 4.6.10.2 for additional information.

In order to increase the innovation and participation of RA25's portfolio of proposals, the 50% cost share goal will be relaxed for certain participants. The cost share expectation for matching Program-funded participation of the following three organization types is waived for RA25:

- Small Businesses [as defined under North American Industrial Classification System code 541715]
- Non-Profits
- Academia

Cost share contributions from these organizations will still be accepted. Proposals properly utilizing this waiver would not be penalized during the initial evaluation for having less than 50% cost share but would be evaluated equally under all other selection criteria. However, in the final selection of projects by the NSRP Executive Control Board (ECB), the ECB will take Cost Share into consideration in determining the projects overall value compared to other projects when choosing projects for 2025. Accordingly, companies taking advantage of the waiver to submit offers without meeting the full 50% goal should consider the value of the project to their business and consider providing at least some Cost Share as part of their project to make it more attractive to the ECB during final selections. The 50% cost share goal remains unchanged for participation of companies not listed above.

4.4 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.

5. OFFEROR QUESTIONS

Any questions concerning preparation of the Summary Proposal or proposal process should be directed to the Point of Contact in [Section 9](#) of this announcement.

All questions received and corresponding answers (minus any proprietary information) will be posted to this site, which is publicly accessible.

6. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Summary Proposals in response to this RA **must be** received by **12:00 noon Eastern Time on July 19, 2024 via the BAA Information Delivery System (BIDS) site.**

Summary Proposals received after the time and date specified above **will not** be evaluated. **No extensions will be granted.** BIDS will provide acknowledgement, via email, of proposal receipt.

NOTE: For planning purposes, mandatory oral presentations before the Executive Control Board for competitive range Summary Proposals are anticipated to be conducted in August/September 2024. All presentations will be either virtual or in-person in Summerville, South Carolina. Offerors will receive information regarding the oral presentations prior to the meeting.

6.1 SUBMISSION METHOD

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

6.1.1 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. ATI 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](#).

6.2 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, in advance of proposal development and submission, 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.

7. AWARD INFORMATION

7.1 FUNDING ESTIMATE

It is estimated that approximately \$2-3 million for first year funding and \$4-7 million total is anticipated to complete multi-year projects 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.

7.2 EXPECTED AWARD DATE

Second quarter of Government Fiscal Year 2025 (January 2025 – March 2025) is the expected award period. Any award date is subject to availability of funding.

7.3 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.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

NSRP does not conduct classified research. Do not include any classified material in either proposals or deliverables.

8.2 OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Offerors are advised that research findings and technology developments arising under their 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.

RA proposals shall not contain Classified information nor Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

8.3 PROJECT TEAM COMPOSITION

Teaming arrangements are strongly encouraged on NSRP R&D projects, and at least two shipyards should be team members, 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. Derek Opel, at derek.w.opel@civ@us.navy.mil 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 \(See Appendix C\)](#).

8.4 NOTICE TO FOREIGN-OWNED FIRMS

Project leads are asked to immediately notify the NSRP Program Administrator point of contact cited in [Section 10](#) 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.

8.5 ANTICIPATED PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

For this RA, Offerors may submit proposals for projects lasting up to twenty-four (24) months. All technical work (including the final report) shall be completed within the twenty-four (24) month period of performance.

8.6 MINIMIZING ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT COSTS

As all 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 and awarded projects, 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.

9. POINT OF CONTACT

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

Elizabeth Frankart, Contracts Manager
NSRP Program Administrator
Advanced Technology International
NSRP-contracts@ati.org