Strategic & Spectrum Missions Advanced Resilient Trusted Systems (S²MARTS)
Request for Solutions (RFS)

in support of

Drone Dominance Program – Phase II

Project No. 26-01

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A. OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

Project Title	Drone Dominance Program (DDP)
Project Sponsor	Office of the Secretary of War
Contracting Activity	Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division
Questions Deadline	May 4, 2026, 12:00 PM US Eastern Time
Response Deadline	May 8, 2026, 5:00 PM US Eastern Time
Anticipated Project Budget	Total Program (Phases I – IV): $1,100,000,000; Phase II: $300,000,000 (minimum)
Resultant Award Type	Prototype Other Transaction Agreements (10 U.S.C. § 4022)
NSTXL Membership	NSTXL membership is not required to submit a response to this RFS. Membership will be required prior to any award.

Responses to the RFS will be considered for Phase II participation only.

B. PROTOTYPE PROJECT DETAIL

1. Authority

10 U.S.C. § 4022, "Authority of the Department of Defense to Carry Out Certain Prototype Projects"

2. Problem Statement and Program Background Information

Drones are reshaping the character of war. To meet this challenge, the Department of War (DoW) must provide ground combat forces with the tools needed to locate, close with, and destroy the enemy in close combat. The DoW must provide one-way attack (OWA) small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) to warfighters at low cost, at scale, and from a supply chain that is resilient.

The Drone Dominance Program (DDP) is awarding $1.1 billion in prototype orders utilizing 10 U.S.C. 4022 over four independent phases. This multi-phase plan is an advanced market commitment: the Department is posting quantities and prices up front and will award fixed price prototype deliveries with vendors whose systems meet the Gauntlet performance and delivery requirements. Each phase includes a Gauntlet test event, run by the Test Resource Management Center (TRMC), and ends with delivery of sUAS via an Other Transaction – Prototype delivery order for the winners of the Gauntlet. Phase II is organized around four stages: an Application, a Qualifier Event to screen for viable systems, a Production & Delivery Test to prove manufacturing readiness, and Gauntlet II to identify the most capable systems for scaling and fielding. At the completion of the DDP, multiple U.S. vendors will have demonstrated the ability to produce capable, low-cost, secure supply-chain sUAS at scale, enabling Services to integrate these capabilities into future acquisition pathways. Drone Dominance is relying on industry to innovate to complete battlefield missions, reduce unit costs and scale production, with a preference for systems sourced and manufactured primarily in the United States.

3. Phase II Mission Areas & Operational Parameters

The DDP procures systems based on their proven ability to execute missions during Gauntlet events, instead of making acquisition decisions based entirely on paper requirements. Phase II will focus on two key mission sets for OWA:

Mission Area A: Long Range Strikes

Mission Area B: Tactical Assault in Close Quarters

Whereas Phase I focused on finding drones that performed best at both missions, Phase II opens the choice up to industry. Vendors may choose to submit to one or both mission areas. ***Table 3-1*** summarizes parameters of each mission area. Vendors should note that evaluations will consider the performance of the entire OWA system, including all durable system components like ground control equipment and any supporting assets, which will form the basis for later delivery requirements

Table 3-1 Mission Objectives for Phase II

	Mission Area A: Long Range Strike	**Mission Area B: Tactical Assault in Close Quarters**
Primary Mission	Find, Fix, & Finish at extended ranges (up to ~20KM)	Find, Fix, & Finish in close quarters environment, including building interiors, trenches, bunkers, and tunnels
Target Set	Anti-personnel, light armor, anti-material, and heavy armor	Primarily anti-personnel, some light vehicles
Mission Range	5-20KM	<2KM
Operational Environment	Strike targets located beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) including buildings, convoys, etc.	Indoor & Outdoor, including building clearance, trenches, convoys, troop movements, etc.
Packability	Platoon & Squad Level	Team & Squad Level
Warhead Size	≥ 2.0 KG	≥ 0.5 KG
	Common Mission Objectives	
Target Engagement	Capable of striking multiple moving and stationary targets in rapid succession	
Operating Conditions	All weather (rain, wind, heat) and all-lighting (day, low-light, night)	
Electromagnetic (EM) Environment	Operate in a "Dirty" Electro-Magnetic (EM) spectrum and be resilient to radio frequency (RF) jamming and comms/Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) denial	
Lethality	All systems must be capable of delivering a lethal payload. See Section 4 for full lethality requirements.	

4. Lethal Payload Integration

Lethality is central to the DDP's mission. To accelerate the development of a modular lethal payload ecosystem, the DDP has issued a separate Lethality Prize Challenge (https://dronedominance.mil). All sUAS vendors competing in Phase II are required to integrate a full fire set which includes a lethal payload and reusable training payload, either from the prize challenge's preferred munitions list or an independently qualified alternative that meets the prize challenge requirements.

For purposes of this RFS, the definition of lethal payloads, Electronic Safe and Arm Device (ESAD) or Electro-Mechanical Safe and Arm Device (EMSAD), communication/interfaces, and other components are defined in Section G. Further details and requirements are described in the Lethality Prize Challenge.

sUAS vendors are responsible for identifying and pairing with at least one munitions vendor. In addition, the Government would prefer that each system is paired with more than one munition vendor, and this will be incorporated into scoring criteria for Qualifiers and Gauntlet II. The Government will not pair vendors. A list of preferred munitions solutions from the Lethality Prize Challenges will be

published on DroneDominance.mil in late April 2026 (approx. April 21st). This leaves a short but sufficient window to establish a pairing. Lethality requirements for each Stage are summarized below in ***Table 4-1***.

Table 4-1. Lethal Payload Integration Summary

Phase	Lethality Requirement
Stage 0: Application	Attestation of a minimum of one reusable munitions trainer integrated with an ESAD/EMSAD. Integration with multiple warhead vendors is encouraged. Joint Services Weapon Systems Safety Review (JSWSR) approval not required.
Stage 1: Qualifier Event	Demonstration of a minimum of one integrated reusable munitions trainer integrated with an ESAD/EMSAD. Integration with multiple warhead vendors is encouraged. JSWSR approval is not required. Required quantities are identified in Table 5-2.
Stage 2: Production & Delivery Test	Delivery of all integrated trainer and lethal payloads identified in Table 5-3. Integration with multiple warhead vendors is encouraged. Lethal payload must be JSWSR approved or have an approved waiver prior to Gauntlet II
Stage 3: Gauntlet II	Demonstration of integrated trainer and lethal payloads. Integration with multiple warhead vendors is encouraged. Lethal payloads must be JSWSR approved or have an approved waiver prior to Gauntlet II
Post Gauntlet: Prototype Delivery Order	See Section 6.2 for full delivery requirements

5. Phase II Competition: Process & Evaluation

Participation in Gauntlet II is determined through a competitive, four-stage process designed to identify mature, mission capable systems that are ready for production. The process begins with a Stage 0 (Application) to attend the Stage 1 (Qualifier Event) at vendor expense. Top performing vendors from Stage 1 will then be invited to Stage 2 (Production & Delivery Test), where they must prove their manufacturing ability by fulfilling a paid order for 120 drones. Upon successful and timely delivery, those vendors will proceed to Stage 3 (Gauntlet II) which involves operational testing in mission-relevant scenarios. The top performing vendors at Gauntlet II will receive orders for no less than 4,000 drones.

Table 5-1 summarizes Phase II's four stage process. The government reserves the right to adjust the number of participants, awards, and allocations throughout the Phase II Competition.

Table 5-1. Stages of the Phase II Competition

	Stage 0: Application	Stage 1: Qualifier Event (at Vendor Expense)	Stage 2: Production & Delivery Test	Stage 3: Gauntlet II
Primary Goal	Screen minimum systems requirements	Screen for Viable Systems	Prove Production Readiness	Identify Most Capable System
Prerequisite	N/A	Submit a completed and approved application, meet minimum system requirements, and receive an invitation to the event.	Be selected as a top performer from the Qualifier event	Successfully deliver all 120 drones from Stage 2
Evaluation Method	Pass/Fail of minimum application requirements	Systems are down selected based on test challenges. Systems are piloted by vendor pilots.	Fulfill a firm fixed price order for 120 drones on schedule	Systems are evaluated in an operational scenario with warfighter pilots
Number of Advancing Vendors	All applicants with approved application	Approximately 10 vendors for each mission	All invited vendors that deliver 120 drones on schedule	Approximately 5 vendors selected for each mission
Advancement	Invitation to Stage 1.	Invitation to Stage 2	Invitation to Stage 3	Prototype Delivery order for a minimum of 4,000 drones

5.1 Stage 0 & 1: Application & Qualifier Event

Phase II requires that all interested vendors successfully pass a Stage 1 Qualifier Event, estimated to be held June 8-20, 2026, at Camp Grayling, MI. The application is not a subjective evaluation. It focuses on compliance gates and assertions to confirm eligibility and minimum readiness to compete. The Government reserves the right to conduct follow-up activities to verify the content of the application, including direct meetings with applicants and contacting suppliers or manufacturers. The government may also consider past performance information. Vendors with an approved application will be invited to the Qualifier event. For detailed instructions on the application process and a complete list of required documentation, please refer to ***Section 7*** of this document.

Key application and scheduling details are as follows:

- Vendors may apply for Mission Area A, Mission Area B, or both. A separate, complete application is required for each Mission Area.
- Vendors may submit up to two applications per mission area for separate sUAS systems.
- Vendors competing in both mission areas should be prepared to conduct testing for Mission Area A and Mission Area B concurrently, as events may overlap.

Table 5-2 below lists the pass / fail gateway requirements and minimum mission thresholds that all systems must meet to participate. In order to attend the Qualifier, Vendors must assert in the application that they believe their systems will meet the minimum gateway requirements described below. Vendors who arrive and are found not to meet these requirements may be immediately dismissed from the event. All sUAS systems at the Qualifier will be vendor operated. In addition to the pass/fail gates, each vendor's system will be evaluated through a series of test lanes that increase in difficulty, testing the drone's ability to accomplish the core objectives for the designated mission area. The participants will be scored and ranked to determine which vendors move on to Stage 2.

Table 5-2. Pass/Fail Gate Requirements for Qualifier

Category	Pass/Fail Gateway Requirement
Required Capabilities	
Airworthiness	System must demonstrate safe and stable flight.
Integrated Trainer Payload	System must be integrated with a reusable munitions trainer as defined in the Drone Dominance Lethality Prize Challenge, which includes an ESAD/EMSAD and displaying a safe/arm status.
Command Link	Systems must have a wireless command link solution. Acceptable solutions include but are not limited to RF, cellular (LTE), and satellite-based controls. Hybrid multi-link and mesh networking solutions are encouraged but not required. Systems utilizing a fiber-optic tether will be tested with and without fiber.
Supply Chain & Compliance	Drone and ground control equipment must conform to the Drone Dominance Supply Chain Migration Schedule which is more restrictive than the NDAA and will be verified by the Drone Dominance Program. This supply chain migration schedule will be published on April 27th at DroneDominance.mil.
Test Equipment – All test equipment is provided as vendor expense.	
OWA Air Vehicles	Minimum of 20 drones will be expended. Expended vehicles will not be returned.
Durable System Components	Reusable equipment to operate the air vehicles, including ground control system (GCS), comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, any supporting air assets (e.g., ISR/relay drones), etc.
Trainer payloads	Sufficient trainer munitions to complete 20 flights (10 minimum recommended)
Minimum Mission Threshold – Vendors that do not demonstrate minimum mission thresholds at the Qualifiers will be dismissed from the event.	
Mission Area A	• System must demonstrate ability to fly a minimum of 10KM • Operations require that the drones have and use an integrated Trainer Payload
Mission Area B	• System must demonstrate ability to approach a Military Operation or Urban Terrain (MOUT) facility, fly inside a building through a window and into an adjacent room • System must complete the above operation within an Electronic Warfare (EW) environment that mimics a city's auxiliary EW signatures • Operations require that the drones have and use an integrated Trainer Payload

5.2 Stage 2: Production & Delivery Test

Vendors that advance to Stage 2 will be awarded a firm fixed price order for the production and delivery of 120 drones, associated durable system components, and lethality payload as described below. This stage is designed to prove production readiness by testing a vendor's ability to manufacture at scale, manage their supply chain and capitalization risk, and adhere to a strict delivery schedule. These assets will support training and testing for Stage 3 (Gauntlet II). Vendors are allowed and encouraged to improve their systems between the Qualifier Event and Gauntlet II. Gauntlet II will be more challenging than the Qualifier Event. The required delivery quantities and ratios are detailed in ***Table 5-3***. Pricing is the same as prototype delivery orders defined in ***Section 6***, broken out by drone and munitions categories.

Table 5-3. Step 2 Production Test: Delivery Requirement

Component	Description	Required Quantity	Intended Use
OWA Air Vehicles	The expendable aircraft (i.e., the drone)	120 units	Training & Testing for Gauntlet II
Durable System Components	The reusable equipment to operate the air vehicles. This includes the ground control system (GCS), comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, and any supporting air assets (e.g., ISR/relay drones) used to pass Qualifiers.	6 complete sets (20:1 ratio)	Training & Testing for Gauntlet II
Night Vision System	Low-light imaging capability sufficient for target acquisition and engagement in darkness. May be integrated into the baseline sUAS configuration or provided as a modular add-on. Required for 20 out of 120 delivered systems.	20 units	Training & Testing for Gauntlet II
Lethality	sUAS must be equipped with interface, ESAD/EMSAD and integrated munition. If a sUAS system is integrated with more than one munition provider, each integrated munition provider must be at least 20% of the delivered quantity. Dummy payload must match the weight and center of gravity of the vendor's selected munition variants.	90 ESAD/EMSADs 60 Trainer Payloads 10 lethal payloads 30 dummy payloads	Training & Testing for Gauntlet II

The full order of 120 drone systems, associated equipment, and munitions packages must be delivered to the designated government location **no later than two weeks prior to the start of Gauntlet II**. The Government will provide delivery instructions at a future date to selected vendors. Vendors are responsible for all logistics and shipping costs associated with this delivery. Successful, on-time fulfillment of this order is a mandatory prerequisite to participate in Stage 3 (Gauntlet II). Failure to deliver the full order by the specified deadline will result in immediate disqualification from the remainder of the competition and forfeiture of payment for this order.

5.3 Stage 3: Gauntlet II Event

The Gauntlet II event is the final stage of the competition, designed to identify the most capable system for scaling and fielding. This event will be exclusively piloted by trained warfighters. **The evaluation will focus on a system's total performance and suitability in the hands of an operator**, not just its technical specifications. As such, the event will consist mostly of operationally relevant mission scenarios, rather than fully scripted technical tests.

To prepare for this, a mandatory training period will be held approximately 1 week prior to Gauntlet II, anticipated to be held in late August 2026. During this time, vendors will be responsible for training multiple warfighter teams over approximately three days, utilizing systems delivered as part of the 120 units in Stage 2. Remaining assets will be used in Gauntlet II.

Participation at the Gauntlet II event, including test activities and operating training, is at the expense of the competing vendors.

5.3.1 Gauntlet II Scenarios

The Gauntlet II event will not be a series of predictable, isolated technical tests. Instead, vendors' systems will be employed by warfighters in dynamic scenarios designed to simulate the stress and uncertainty of a real mission. Vendors will not know the full scope of the scenarios prior to Gauntlet II and should design their systems for the uncertainty of a combat environment. The vendors should not expect to be able to interact with warfighters during the scenarios.

These scenarios are directly derived by the mission sets described in ***Section 3*** and will be tailored to each mission area.

- For Mission Area A (Long Range Strike): Scenarios will require that warfighter operators use the systems to conduct reconnaissance, correctly identify and track enemy assets (e.g., vehicles, command posts, etc.) and prosecute targets from a stand-off position, all while operating in a contested electromagnetic environment, including degraded or denied communications and GNSS. Scenarios will be conducted at varying operational ranges from 5KM to 20KM. Systems that demonstrate superior performance at longer ranges will be scored accordingly.
- For Mission Area B (Tactical Assault in Close Quarters): Scenarios will focus on warfighter operations using systems for interior and exterior operations in a dense urban setting, challenging a system's ability to clear buildings, acquire targets for a maneuvering ground force, and engage those targets in relatively close quarters, all while operating in a contested EW environment. Mission Area B will evaluate a squad or team's ability to deploy with multiple sUAS in a combat environment.

5.3.2 Gauntlet II Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria will be based on a holistic assessment across three categories: Gauntlet Performance, Military Operator Evaluation, and Supply Chain/Production Capabilities. The results will be posted on a public leaderboard at **www.dronedominance.mil**. The underlying government scoring methodology and internal calculations will not be shared.

Gauntlet Performance: This category focuses on the system's ability to execute its core mission: to find, fix, and finish a target. Performance in degraded RF and/or GNSS environments is paramount. The evaluation will heavily weight mission-oriented attributes like deployment speed, mission tempo, strike accuracy, operator cognitive load, etc.

Military Operator Evaluation: Structured feedback will be collected directly from the military operators. This feedback will include ease of use, both for setup and flight, military utility, and other factors. There will also be a focus on integration into warfighter's combat load; therefore, not just evaluating system performance but also packing/transport in a combat environment.

Supply Chain Compliance: The Government is publishing a Drone Dominance Supply Chain Migration Schedule that specifies minimum and preferred composition for all sUAS that are competing. This standard will be more restrictive than required in the NDAA (and thus more restrictive than Phase I). It is consistent with the stated goal of DDP to scale the US sUAS supply chain over time, and it becomes more restrictive for each Phase. Compliance with the DDP Supply Chain Migration schedule must be maintained for all Phase II deliveries (120 drone order and Gauntlet II prototype delivery orders). The primary difference for Phase II, as compared to the NDAA, is the requirement that batteries and motors must be sourced from non-covered countries (e.g., allied countries). The Drone Dominance Supply Chain Migration Schedule will be published on April 27, 2026 (estimated) at DroneDominance.mil.

Production Capabilities: Vendors will be evaluated on their ability to produce drones at scale. The evaluation may include production and manufacturing surveys, interviews, and site visits to production facilities conducted by Government inspection teams.

5.3.3 Gauntlet II Areas of Particular Interest

This section highlights some attributes that the Government believes may be strong indicators of an effective system. **To be clear, these attributes are not mandatory requirements.** A vendor does not need to incorporate all, or even multiple, of these attributes. Rather, demonstrating a high degree of maturity and reliability in even a single one of these areas may potentially be a key differentiator. Systems with advanced features are expected to achieve better results than simple first person view (FPV) drones that are manual and rely on continuous operator input and manual piloting skill for all flight and mission tasks.

- **Advanced Target Engagement**: Features that speed up or improve the accuracy of the terminal engagement phase, such as robust pixel locking or effective automated target recognition (ATR). These features may improve a drone's ability to close kill chains at long distance.
- **Force Multiplication**: The ability for a single operator to control multiple drones simultaneously. This can range from binding multiple drones to one controller to more collaborative or swarm behaviors. Such features can increase mission tempo with simultaneous strikes and reduce warfighter cognitive load.

- **Autonomous Behaviors**: The ability for the system to perform complex tasks with minimal operator input, especially in comms or GNSS denied environments. This includes capabilities like autonomous navigation to a search area, dynamic path planning around obstacles, or onboard logic that enables the drone to continue its mission after the command link is severed. These features can reduce the training burden and allow operators to focus on mission tasks rather than piloting.
- **System Data Feeds & Interoperability:** Ground control equipment that supports real-time output of both mission video and system telemetry (e.g., TSPI) is preferred for test and evaluation purposes. More broadly, the Government values systems with open architecture and published Interface Control Documents (ICDs) that enable integration with other combat systems. Vendors that can demonstrate interoperability potential beyond their own ecosystem may be better positioned for future phases.

Demo Lane (Qualifier and/or Gauntlet II): The Government recognizes that standard test lanes may not fully capture all mission-relevant capabilities a vendor has to offer. Vendors who pass all required gates may request a dedicated demo lane time block to demonstrate capabilities not featured in the standard test lanes or that exist outside the price points in this RFS. Demo lane performance may be considered in the overall evaluation where it surfaces mission-relevant capabilities not otherwise captured. Further details and the request process will be provided with the Stage 1 (Qualifier Event) invitation. Vendors may provide an initial description of anticipated demo capabilities in Stage 0 (Application), though this is not required at the time of submission.

5.4 Future Phases

The DDP is designed to move fast. The Government is committed to building a lasting, capable domestic supply chain and sees industry as a partner in that effort. At the same time, DDP is driven by urgent operational needs. Each successive phase will increase in both order volume and mission requirements. The Government will monitor market conditions, engage with industry, and allow competitive forces to inform future pricing. The following information on upcoming phases is provided to help vendors plan. Because both the threat and the market move fast, details are subject to change.

- **Phase III** will shift from individual system performance to warfighter-led evaluation in unscripted, operationally realistic scenarios. The Government will provide a semi-persistent test environment which may include capabilities like GPS jamming and other counter UAS capabilities, focusing on capabilities that vendors cannot replicate independently. This environment is designed to help companies iterate and adapt their systems in weeks rather than months, accelerating the development cycle in direct response to an evolving threat. Phase III will require that all UAS vendors are integrated with two or more munitions providers. In this way, Phase III will narrow the field to the most adaptable vendors. Phase III may introduce the need to link systems in the battlefield through capabilities, such as Android Team Awareness Kit (ATAK), Nett Warrior, and Marine Air-Ground Task Force Common Handheld, and Marine Air-Ground Tablet.
- **Phase IV** will place a premium on a vendor's ability to sustain rapid, continuous improvement alongside high-volume production. Vendors will be expected to demonstrate that they can iterate their systems at a responsible pace, responding to warfighter feedback and an evolving threat environment, without sacrificing production output. Companies that treat their product roadmap as fixed will find it difficult to remain competitive in this phase.

6. Phase II Prototype Awards & Deliverables

6.1 Post Gauntlet Prototype Delivery Orders

Based on final standings on the DDP Leaderboard, approximately five vendors for each mission will receive a prototype delivery order. The cost per drone, munition pricing, and the ratio of durable system components to drones are fixed as defined in ***Table 6-1 and Table 6-2.*** The highest scoring vendors will receive the largest orders, as reflected in ***Table 6-2*** . The Government reserves the right to adjust quantities if fewer than five vendors for each mission are selected. Vendors may elect to receive a smaller order than their ranking entitles them to, but no order will be made for fewer than 4,000 units. Vendors should only accept quantities they are confident they can deliver on time.

Table 6-1. Fixed Prices (Drones & Munitions)

Item	Price
Mission Area A – Long Range Strike	$4,500 Per Drone
Mission Area B – Tactical Assault in Close Quarters	$3,500 Per Drone
Munitions (Applicable to Area A and Area B)	$3,250 Per Munition (Lethal Payload or Training Payload)

Table 6-2. Projected Order Quantities

Mission Area A - Long Range Strike		**Mission Area B - Tactical Assault in Close Quarters**	
System Ratio: 1:20 (Durable System Components to Drones)		System Ratio: 1:20 (Durable System Components to Drones)	
Vendor Ranking	**Prototype Quantities**	**Vendor Ranking**	**Prototype Quantities**
1st place	8,000	1st place	8,000
2nd place	7,000	2nd place	7,000
3rd place	6,000	3rd place	6,000
4th place	5,000	4th place	5,000
5th place	4,000	5th place	4,000
Total Prototype Orders for Phase II	**30,000**	**Total Prototype Orders for Phase II**	**30,000**

The projected order quantities are subject to change. The Government reserves the right to select fewer than 5 vendors in each Mission Area and adjust the rankings for higher quantity of orders.

6.2 Delivery Specifications

A complete prototype delivery consists of two components: the drone and supporting system hardware detailed in ***Section 6.2.1***, and the munitions package detailed in ***Section 6.2.2***. Both must be delivered in accordance with the specifications below.

6.2.1 Drone & System Components

- **OWA Air Vehicles**: The total quantity of expendable drones awarded to the vendor based on their final ranking in ***Table 6-2.***
- **Durable System Components**: The reusable equipment required to operate the air vehicles. This includes the Ground Control System (GCS), comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, and any supporting air assets (e.g., ISR or relay drones) that were required to pass the Gauntlet II event. These components must be delivered at a ratio of 1:20 (one complete set for every 20 OWA air vehicles awarded).
- **Spares**: Vendors must provide a 5% sparing of common failure components. At minimum this must include propellers, batteries, and chargers. Additional components should be self-identified by the vendor based on their system's known failure modes, subject to the Government review and approval.
- **Night Vision**: Night vision or low light capability is required for a minimum of 20% of sUAS systems**.** Modularity to enable field swapping is required.
- **Fiber (Optional):** Vendors with fiber integrated systems must deliver 10% of their awarded units with a fiber connection and spool with a minimum of 20km range.

- **Operator Training & Support:** Vendors must deliver comprehensive training materials including manuals, guides, and digital or video formats, that enable end users to safely and effectively operate and maintain the entire system, including the drone and training on warheads and lethality. Vendors are also required to provide Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for on-site technical support for six CONUS locations during unit fielding for approximately one week per location with approximately 20 students per training. The costs of these six sessions are included in the price of the drones and munitions. Additional training may be negotiated at time of prototype delivery order award. To ensure documentation remains current, vendors must deliver an updated training and maintenance package reflecting any design changes within a phase that impact system operation or field maintenance.

6.2.2 Munitions

Fire Sets: Vendors must deliver complete fire sets for a minimum of 60% of their total drone including ESAD/EMSAD with a communication interface for Gauntlet II orders. Of these systems delivered with an ESAD/EMSAD, 75% will be delivered with lethal payloads and 25% will be delivered with training payloads. The following requirements apply to all fire set deliveries:

- Vendors may negotiate to deliver a higher percentage of complete fire sets but must be established at the time of award.
- Vendors that deliver fire sets beyond the 60% minimum must maintain the same live-to-trainer ratio (75% lethal payloads, 25% training payloads). The split across providers is flexible for deliveries beyond the minimum. Integration with a third munition provider for these additional deliveries is also encouraged.
- Lethal payloads may be delivered pre-packed or field-packed, per the vendor's selected variant. There will not be additional funding provided for transportation costs. All payloads, warheads, ESADs/EMSADs, and components must be shipped and stored in accordance with Government, Department of Transportation, and Department of War requirements.
- All lethal payloads must be stored in accordance with the appropriate state and federal regulations, proof of certification may be required for any munition handling or storage.

Remaining Systems: The remaining 40% of drones (or fewer if negotiating a higher fire set percentage) will be delivered without a fire set. Of these, vendors must provide one dummy payload per complete set of durable system components (1:20 ratio). The dummy payload must match the weight and center of gravity of the vendor's selected munition variant. The purpose of the dummy payload is to allow operator training without expending lethal payloads or requiring trainer payloads.

Example lethality breakdown for 1000 OWA drones out of Gauntlet II:

- Of the order for 1000 OWA drones, 600 would be equipped with a complete fire set
- Of those 600 drones with a complete fire set, 450 (75%) will come with a Lethal Payload (pre-packed or field-packed)
- Of the 600 drones with a complete fire set, 150 (25%) will come with a Training Payload
- The remaining 400 drones will be delivered with 20 dummy payloads (1 per complete set of durable system components (1:20 ratio)).

6.3 Delivery Schedule & Payment Structure

OWA Drone deliveries are structured in two equal batches out of Gauntlet II. Early delivery is encouraged for both.

- Batch 1: First 50% of total OWA drone order due NLT 2.5 months after prototype delivery order. Must contain 50% of the agreed upon fire set.
- Batch 2: Second 50% of total OWA drone order due NLT 5 months after prototype delivery order. Must contain 50% of the agreed upon fire set.

6.4 Late Penalties

Delivery performance for both drones and munitions will be evaluated against the following schedule:

- On time (delivered within 5 months of prototype delivery order): Full payment
- Late (delivered between 5 months and 8 months of prototype delivery order): Payment for drone and munition reduced by 20%
- Beyond 8 months: The Government reserves the right to cancel any remaining deliveries

Late or cancelled deliveries may affect future Phase award decisions.

6.5 Compliance & Post-Award Opportunities

- **Supply Chain Compliance**: All items specified in ***Section 6.2*** are required to be compliant with the Drone Dominance Supply Chain Migration Schedule. Failure to meet these requirements may result in the rejection of the prototype delivery and forfeiture of payment. The Drone Dominance Supply Chain Migration Schedule will be released on DroneDominance.mil (estimated April 27, 2026).
- **Production Follow-On**: Successful completion of a prototype delivery order under this OTA may allow the DoW to issue a follow-on production contract or other transaction without further competition. This transition may occur for a specific capability before the conclusion of all DDP phases.

7. Submission Process

7.1 Overview

Vendors interested in participating in DDP Phase II must submit a completed application packet (Vendor Application Attachment) with the below Supporting Attachments via NSTXL. The application is designed to confirm that vendors have read and understand the requirements of this RFS, demonstrate minimum production readiness, and provide the Government with the information needed to assess eligibility prior to Stage 2 (Qualifier Event). Submission of an application does not guarantee participation in the Qualifier Event. Any information provided as part of the Application process necessary to execute the testing requirements herein will not be protected as source selection material and may be shared with the appropriate government agencies and their support contractors. This may include but not limited to TRMC, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), associated frequency managers, and test range personnel. Proprietary information will be protected in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Information determined to be source selection sensitive will be protected in accordance with the Procurement Integrity Act.

SUPPORTING ATTACHMENTS

A. Mandatory Section 889 Representation

B. DD Form 2345 Instructions

C. DDP Phase II Vendor Application

D. Required Application Attachments (Section 7.2)

7.2 Required Application Attachments

- The following attachments must be submitted with the completed application. For convenience, the application includes a checklist. Incomplete packets will not be reviewed. Additional information may be required to participate in the Qualifying stage or Gauntlet II. The Government will follow up with vendors as necessary. The check list requires the following attachments:

- Photo of the OWA air vehicle, ground control station, and other equipment
- Photo of the integrated Trainer Payload mounted on the offered drone
- Photo of the ESAD/EMSAD with safe/arm indicator visible
- Photo of Trainer Payload (standalone)
- Photo of mounting interface close-up showing physical and electrical/communication connection point
- Short video (max 2 minutes, MP4 format, 250MB max) showing Trainer Payload armed and safe cycle on an integrated drone system
- Trainer Payload and ESAD/EMSAD schematics, technical packages, and safety paperwork
- Work orders or purchase orders demonstrating production activity within the past 12 months
- Photographs of Production Facilities (6 minimum) covering: production order, assembly area, quality control / inspection area, component storage / inventory area, testing area, shipping & logistics area
- Bill of Materials (BOM) – DCMA BOM Template
- FOCI Data Sheet
- Spectrum Paperwork: DD1494 or Part 15 Spectrum Template, depending on spectrum requests
- Certificate of Insurance: Proof of liability insurance coverage for Qualifiers participation
- Covered Telecommunications Equipment Compliance Certification (signed)

7.3 Application Structure

The application (Phase II Vendor Application) consists of eight parts:

- **Part A – Company Identification:** Basic company information (Company Name, Address, Contact info, etc.) and eligibility basis under 10 U.S.C. § 4022.
- **Part B – Mission Area Selection:** Selection of Mission Area A (Long Range Strike) or Mission Area B (Tactical Assault in Close Quarters), and vendor acknowledgment of minimum performance requirements, pricing, and delivery structure.
- **Part C – System Description:** Informational overview of the offered OWA sUAS, Trainer Payload, and command link. This section will not be evaluated but will be used to familiarize the test team with vendor systems prior to the Qualifier event, enabling more efficient test planning and execution. This section also covers required paperwork to test.
- **Part D – Production Screener:** Assertions and production history demonstrating that the vendor has an active production facility, has fulfilled meaningful production orders, and can meet the delivery requirements of this program.
- **Part E – Supply Chain Compliance:** Assertions confirming supply chain compliance, covered telecommunications equipment, battery and motor sourcing, and accuracy of the submitted Bill of Materials. DCMA will host an online meeting within a few days of the RFS being posted to answer any technical questions around the Bill of Materials. The time, date and link to the virtual meeting will be advertised on https://www.dronedominance.mil within a few days of the RFS posting.
- **Part F – Required Attachments:** Checklist of all required documentation that must be submitted with the application. See ***Section 7.2.***
- **Part G – Application Signature:** Signed acknowledgement by a company representative that all information provided is accurate, complete, and submitted in good faith.

7.4 Submission Instructions

Vendors must submit their completed application packet through the NSTXL portal no later than the Response Deadline listed in the Opportunity Overview. Late submissions may not be reviewed.

- Direct Link: NSTXL.org/opportunity/drone-dominance
- Program Website: DroneDominance.mil

A separate, complete application packet must be submitted for each mission area a vendor wishes to compete in. Vendors applying to both Mission Area A and Mission Area B **must** submit two independent packets. Vendor may submit a maximum of two applications per mission area.

7.5 Review and Notification

All submitted applications will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. Vendors will be notified of their application status (accepted or rejected) within approximately three weeks of the submission deadline. An accepted application means the vendor is invited to participate in the Qualifier event. Acceptance is not a guarantee of advancement to Gauntlet II and does not constitute a guarantee of prototype delivery order. Rejected applications will receive a high-level explanation of why the application was not accepted. Debriefings will not be provided.

The Government reserves the right to conduct follow-up activities to verify the content of submitted applications, including direct meetings with vendors and contact with suppliers or manufacturers identified in the application.

7.6 Questions

Questions must be submitted no later than the Questions Deadline listed in the Opportunity Overview. Questions submitted after this deadline will not be answered.

Questions should be submitted at: NSTXL.org/opportunity/drone-dominance

Answers to submitted questions will be posted publicly on NSTXL. Vendors are encouraged to monitor both sites for updates. No answers will be provided via direct communication.

C. SECURITY INFORMATION & RESTRICTIONS

Eligibility and compliance requirements for participation are as follows:

- Open to companies based in the U.S. or U.S. Allied Nations. Preference goes to companies with the ability to manufacture in the U.S. using U.S. made components and materials.
- A DD Form 2345 is required prior to prototype award. Instructions related to the DD Form 2345 are included for information purposes. This form is not required for the Phase II Qualifier.
- By submitting a response, respondents shall certify whether covered telecommunications equipment or services will or will not be included as a part of its offered products or services to the Government in the performance of this effort.
- Covered Telecommunications Equipment Compliance Certification includes additional details regarding covered telecommunications equipment compliances, which must be signed and returned with any submissions. This form is one of the required forms in the Phase II Qualifier Application.

What is included under "covered telecommunications equipment or services"?

- ✓ Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ✓ For the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ✓ Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
- ✓ Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

All respondents/prospective performers must be compliant with the following:

(a) *DoDI 8582.01, "Security of Unclassified DoD Information on Non-DoD Information Systems" and DoDI 5200.48, "Controlled Unclassified Information."*

(b) *Research findings and technology developments arising from the resulting proposed solution 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 related to this effort, the selected performer must comply strictly with the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (22 C.F.R. §§ 120-130), the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (Part 117 of Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations) and the Export Administration Regulations (15 C.F.R. §§ 730-774).*

(c) *DFARS 252.204-7025 Notice of Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements (NOV 2025), DFARS 252.204-7021 Contractor Compliance with the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements, and FAR 52.204-21 Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems.*

DFARS 252.204-7025 - NOTICE OF CYBERSECURITY MATURITY MODEL CERTIFICATION LEVEL REQUIREMENTS (NOV 2025)

(a) Definitions. As used in this provision, "controlled unclassified information (CUI)," "current," "Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) status," "Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification unique identifier (CMMC UID)," "Federal contract information (FCI)", and "plan of action and milestones" have the meaning given in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement 252.204-7021, Contractor Compliance With the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements, clause of this solicitation.

(b)(1) Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) level. The CMMC level required by this solicitation is: CMMC Level 1 (Self). The CMMC level required for prototype delivery award is: CMMC Level 2 (Self). This CMMC level, or higher (see 32 CFR part 170), is required prior to award for each contractor information system that will process, store, or transmit Federal contract information (FCI) or controlled unclassified information (CUI) during performance of the contract.

(b)(2) The Offeror will not be eligible for award of a contract, task order, or delivery order resulting from this solicitation if the Offeror does not have, for each of the contractor information systems that will process, store, or transmit FCI or CUI and that will be used in performance of a contract resulting from this solicitation—

(i) The current CMMC status entered in the Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS) (https://piee.eb.mil) at the CMMC level required by paragraph (b)(1) of this provision; and

(ii) A current affirmation of continuous compliance with the security requirements identified at 32 CFR part 170 in SPRS.

(c) Plan of action and milestones. If the Offeror has a CMMC Status of Conditional, the Offeror shall successfully close out a valid plan of action and milestones (32 CFR 170.21) to achieve a CMMC Status of Final.

(d) CMMC unique identifiers. The Offeror shall provide, in the proposal, the CMMC unique identifier(s) (CMMC UIDs) issued by SPRS for each contractor information system that will process, store, or transmit FCI or CUI during performance of a contract, task order, or delivery order resulting from this solicitation. The Offeror also shall update the list when new CMMC UIDs are generated in SPRS. The CMMC UIDs are provided in SPRS after the Offeror enters the results of self-assessment(s) for each such information system.

By November 10, 2026 contractors handling Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) must meet CMMC Level 2 requirements and the start of mandatory third-party assessment (C3PAO). It is anticipated that Phase III and beyond Drone Dominance orders will require this certification. Vendors are encouraged to begin working to achieve this certification in anticipation of future Drone Dominance participation.

D. REQUIRED LEVEL OF DATA RIGHTS

The Government will maintain limited rights to all technical data generated under this effort, as defined below.

Limited Rights: The rights to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose technical data, in whole or in part, within the Government. The Government may not, without the written permission of the party asserting limited rights, release or disclose the technical data outside the Government, use the technical data for manufacture, or authorize the technical data to be used by another party, except under the following conditions:

(a) The reproduction, release, disclosure, or use is necessary for emergency repair and overhaul; or

(b) The release or disclosure is made to:

- *A covered Government support contractor in performance of its covered Government support contract; or*
- *A foreign government, or technical data other than detailed manufacturing or process data, when use is in the interest of the Government and required for evaluation or informational purposes*

(c) The recipient is subject to a prohibition on further reproduction, release, disclosure, or use of the technical data; and

(d) The contractor asserting the restriction is notified of such reproduction, release, disclosure, or use.

E. SOLUTION REVIEW & ASSESSMENT

This RFS does not include a white paper down select. Instead, advancement through each stage is determined by demonstrated performance against the gates and criteria defined in ***Section 5***. The Government will award prototype delivery orders, via NSTXL, to the respondents whose solutions are assessed to be most advantageous to the Government when all factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all objectives of the RFS and reserves the right to reject a submission deemed incomplete or that does not clearly provide the requested information.

F. ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

- Eligibility Requirement: In order to be eligible for award under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 4022, respondents must meet one of the following conditions:
    - There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor or nonprofit research institution participating to a significant extent in the prototype project.
    - All significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses (including small businesses participating in a program described under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)) or nontraditional defense contractors.

- At least one third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by sources other than the Federal Government.

- What is a nontraditional defense contractor?
    - An entity that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the one-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by the Department of Defense for the procurement or transaction, any contract or subcontract for the Department of Defense that is subject to full coverage under the cost accounting standards (CAS).

- The United States Navy, specifically Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, maintains release authority on any and all publications or press releases related to this prototype project.

- Unsuccessful respondents will be notified by NSTXL, however, debriefings for this project will not be provided.

- Certain types of information submitted during the RFS and award process of an OT are exempt from disclosure requirements of 5 U.S.C. §552 (the Freedom of Information Act or FOIA). It is recommended that respondents mark business plans and technical information that are to be protected from FOIA disclosure with a legend identifying the documents as being submitted on a business confidential basis.

- No classified data shall be submitted within the proposal. To the extent that the project involves DoD controlled unclassified information, respondents must comply with DoDI 8582.01 Security of Non-DoD Information Systems Processing Unclassified Nonpublic DoD Information and DoDI 5200.48 Controlled Unclassified Information. Respondents must report any cyber incidents that affect controlled unclassified information directly to DoD at https://dibnet.dod.mil.

- This is to advise that non-Government advisors will assist in the evaluation. The use of non-Government advisors will be strictly controlled. Non-Government advisors will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) prior to working on the effort. Agreements Officer will review NDAs for conflict prior to allowing access to source selection information. All non-Government advisors will only have access to the information corresponding to their area(s) of expertise. The companies identified herein have agreed to not engage in the manufacture or production of hardware/services/research and development that is related to this effort, and to refrain from disclosing proprietary information to unauthorized personnel.
    - The following companies will have non-Government personnel advising:

    KBR, Inc. CAGE: 7NUQ6
    601 Jefferson ST Ste 3400
    Houston, TX 77002

    Scientific Research Corporation CAGE: 0D5A6
    2300 Windy Ridge Pkwy STE 400S
    Atlanta, GA 30339

    - The following companies will be assisting with data collection at the Phase II Gauntlet:

    Covan Group, LLC CAGE: 7DPS4
    1127 International Parkway RM 281
    Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406

    - There may be non-Government Recognized Assessors throughout the Phase II Gauntlet for those selected for participation to assist in component source verification.

G. Definitions

- Dummy Payload: Weight commensurate to the total weight of the interface and the same center of gravity as the training payload/lethal payload and Safe and Arm/Fuzing Device.
- Field-Packable Payload: payload configuration in which the warhead housing and explosive material are separate. Warfighters or other SMEs are required to place explosives and blasting cap inside the housing before execution.
- Munition Interface: Standardized mechanical, electrical, and logical interface that enables integration and communication of payloads with compatible drones (Eg. sUPI or another variant)
- Lethal Payload: Housing and its subcomponents that produce the intended terminal effect.
- Pre-Packed Payload: Fully assembled, sealed and ready-to-employ, to include explosive material.
- Safe and Arm/Fuzing Device: Subsystem that prevents inadvertent initiation, controls the transition from a safe condition to an armed condition, and initiates the warhead only under defined conditions. This includes electronic, electro-mechanical, and integrated safe-and-arm fuze implementations.
- Training Payload: Safe and Arm/Fuzing Device (Eg. ESAD, ESAM, EMSAD etc.), training device (non-lethal) and interface. Training payload must match the total weight and center of gravity as the lethal payload. Training payload must simulate ESAD/EMSAD behavior without producing explosive effects.