



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - ERDC Prototype Opportunities

1. Is there a cost to join the ERDCWERX Ecosystem?

There is NO COST to sign up/join the ERDCWERX ecosystem. Those signed up will directly receive announcements regarding new project opportunities. The ecosystem sign-up form can be accessed at <https://www.erdcterx.org/join-our-ecosystem.html>

2. Who are current participants of the ERDCWERX ecosystem?

The ERDCWERX ecosystem represents individuals who have requested to be added to a mailing list. Additionally, the list is supplemented with the names of individuals whose skills or organization capabilities could be a fit for upcoming projects.

3. Once I join the ERDCWERX ecosystem, what are the next steps?

Please watch for project announcements via email. Some projects will have open submission schedules while others will have specific deadlines. We encourage recipients to share project announcements with others in your network that you believe may have a potential interest or fit.

4. What is an OT and how do government entities use them?

Other Transactions (OTs) are a special class of assistance instrument used to increase involvement of commercial firms in defense research and development programs and for other purposes related to integrating the commercial and defense sectors of the nation's technology and Industrial Base. It is the intent to provide an effective means for the Government to engage with non-traditional, traditional and non-profit research institutions and entities to streamline access and investments for mission critical capabilities.

5. Is ERDCWERX a consortium?

No. ERDCWERX provides ERDC (US Army Engineer Research and Development Center) the capability to advertise and solicit prototype opportunities. Any resulting agreement is made directly with the offeror and the government.

6. Who can join the ERDCWERX ecosystem?

Any individual, company, federal/non-federal agency, consortium, etc. Joining the ecosystem links you to ERDCWERX by adding you to the email distribution list which supports instant notification regarding all ERDCWERX opportunities.

7. What are the current project opportunities/requirements?

Prototype opportunities will be announced through the ERDCWERX platform and/or through beta.sam.gov. New tech challenges are also announced through this platform as well.

8. How are notifications issued regarding new business opportunities?

Prototype opportunities will be posted via ERDCWERX platform. Email, social media, and/or through beta.sam.gov may be used to issue announcements.

9. Can my organization pursue multiple prototype focus areas listed in the BOTAA?

Yes. Organizations can indicate which focus area their white paper applies to. They can also indicate which of the prototype focus areas may be a fit with their organization's capabilities.

10. What is the definition of a prototype project?

The definition of a "prototype project" in the context of an OT is as follows: a prototype project addresses a proof of concept, model, reverse engineering to address obsolescence, pilot, novel application of commercial technologies for defense purposes, agile development activity, creation, design, development, demonstration of technical or operational utility, or combinations of the foregoing. A process, including a business process, may be the subject of a prototype project.

11. How do I get a DUNS number and CAGE code?

Registration with Dun and Bradstreet is required to receive a DUNS number. A DUNS number may be obtained at <https://www.dnb.com/duns-number/get-a-duns.html>. To receive a CAGE code, register to do business with government at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>.

12. Are a DUNS and CAGE code required to join the ERDCWERX ecosystem?

DUNS number and CAGE code are NOT a requirement for joining the ERDCWERX ecosystem. They are, however, required in order to perform work with the U.S. government. Registration at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> will be required prior to award of any OT agreement.

13. How is an OT agreement different from a FAR contract?

Other Transactional Agreements are flexible contracting mechanisms outside of the purview of the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Please visit the ERDCWERX website to access the OT Guide (2018) for additional detail.

14. What is a Prototype Other Transaction (OT)?

Prototype OTs are authorized by 10 U.S.C. 2371b. Transactions pursuant to this authority can take many forms and generally are not required to comply with Federal laws and regulations that apply to procurement contracts, grants and/or cooperative agreements. To the extent that a particular law or regulation is not tied to the type of instrument used (e.g., fiscal and property laws), it would generally apply to an OT.

15. Will all ERDC OT (Other Transactions) opportunities be competed?

Yes.

16. What is the difference between a Broad OTA Announcement (BOTAA) and a Project Specific Prototype Request?

The BOTAA allows white paper submissions in response to the stated focus areas at any time. Project Specific Prototype Requests allow white paper submissions in response to a specific need or capability gap for a limited time.