

Part I: Overview	
Project Title	Lane Proofing Assets for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle
Project Number	ERDCWERX23_OT01
Announcement Type	Request for White Paper (RFPW)
Release Date	14 April 23
Closing Date/Time	1700 CST 27 April 23
Individual Awards	Multiple awards may be issued
Agreement Type	Firm Fixed Price Cost Share
Anticipated Value	Total Estimated Project Value - \$408,500 Government Cost Share - \$273,500 Contractor Cost Share - \$135,000
Period of Performance	~4 months – (June 2023 thru September 2023)
Questions and Submissions	Whitepaper submissions must be made to the ERDCWERX website All questions must be directed to the following POCs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Bounds, Alicia.K.Bounds@usace.army.mil • Janice Karcher, jkarcher@erdcwerx.org • Jason Courtney, jcourtney@erdcwerx.org

Introduction

It is important to note that this solicitation is not a Request for Prototype Proposal (RFPP). This notice shall not be construed as a commitment by the Government to issue a RFPP or ultimately award a project, nor does it restrict the Government to a particular acquisition approach. No entitlement or payment of direct or indirect costs or charges by the Government shall arise because of offeror submission of responses or the Government's use of such information.

This RFPW is a two-step project announcement.

Step 1: This announcement is being issued to solicit **white papers ONLY** at this time. The purpose of white paper submissions is to identify potential partners that may have promising technologies relative to the project objectives herein. An offeror that describes a promising prototype solution may be asked to virtually attend a solution pitch with the Government project team. The Government reserves the right to move straight to RFPP based on whitepaper submission only. Further, an offeror's inability to accept an invitation to provide a solution pitch does not preclude them from receiving an RFPP.

Step 2: The Government will issue a RFPP to the offeror(s) with the most promising technology relative to the project objectives described herein. The Government may provide feedback to each vendor on their proposed solution. The Government reserves the right to make changes to the final project announcement before issuing RFPP(s). Upon receipt, the Government will evaluate those proposals through a scientific review process in accordance with the evaluation criteria to determine which proposal(s) represent the best value to the Government and should be awarded.

Part II: ANNOUNCEMENT

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) is soliciting whitepapers under this project announcement for Lane Proofing Assets for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV).

The U.S. Army utilizes tracked combat vehicles with front blade attachments for clearing safe pathways through minefields for troops and other military vehicles. The Assault Breacher Vehicle (ABV), a 70-ton tracked vehicle based on the M1 Abrams chassis, has been used extensively by the U.S. military for clearing minefields in recent operations. The Army is interested in expanding lane proofing capabilities to other vehicles like the BFV, a much smaller and lighter weight vehicle than the ABV. Expanding these capabilities to other vehicles like the BFV will help reduce time on clearing lanes and provide redundancy to the Army's fleet of lane proofing vehicles.

B. BACKGROUND

Army engineer units provide lane proofing equipment to verify obstacle breach lanes are free of mines or other obstacles. Different types of equipment, such as mine rollers or mine clearing blades, are used to clear obstacle breach lanes to an adequate width and trafficability suitable for assault forces. Some mines are resistant to certain breaching techniques which makes the proofing of a cleared lane essential prior to full scale use. Lane proofing can be time consuming with the limited assets currently available to engineer units. Future combat operations will require rapid clearance and proofing of lanes for successful breaching operations. Expanding mine clearing blades to other vehicles within the fleet is one way to rapidly increase capability for lane proofing operations.

C. OBJECTIVES/TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

This objective requires a mine clearing blade that can be attached to the front of a BFV.

The proposed solution must meet the following requirements:

1. Designed to attach to the front of a BFV.
2. Designed to plow soil lanes the width of the vehicle.
3. Designed to plow soils at different depths down to 10 inches below ground surface.

D. ESTIMATED PROTOTYPE PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance anticipated is 4 months from project award with prototype demonstration at Fort Hood, TX anticipated late July/early August. However, streamlined schedules that reduce the performance period are encouraged.

E. DATA RIGHTS

None

G. ESTIMATED TRAVEL and PURPOSE

Travel to Fort Hood, TX is required for demonstration of prototype.

H. PROTOTYPE DELIVERABLES

In addition to the prototype, offerors will need to provide manpower to install the prototype to the BFV and a Field Service Representative (FSR) to perform any maintenance/repairs necessary during the demonstration.

Part III. AWARD INFORMATION:

1. FUNDING: This project will be awarded through government and contractor cost share. The government's cost share includes the following:

Government Cost Share	
<u>Cash Contributions</u>	
Engineering Labor/Tech Support	\$ 200,000.00
Machine Shop Fabrication of Materials	\$ 10,000.00
Total Labor	<u>\$ 210,000.00</u>
Materials (Soils Equipment)	\$ 15,000.00
Travel (to Fort Hood for sampling/prep/demo)	\$ 25,000.00
Total Cash Contribution	<u>\$ 250,000.00</u>
<u>In-Kind Contributions</u>	
Instrumentation Use (10% of value)	\$ 3,500.00
Bradley Fighting Vehicle Use	\$ 20,000.00
Total Cash Contribution	<u>\$ 23,500.00</u>
Total Government Cost Share	<u>\$ 273,500.00</u>

2. FOLLOW ON ACTIVITIES/ PRODUCTION: The USACE, ERDC is using competitive procedures to select participants in a prototype transaction under 10 U.S.C 4022. If the prototype is determined successful, agencies may exercise authority under 10 USC 4022(f) to provide for, and award, a follow- on production transaction or FAR based contract without additional competitive procedures.

Part IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:

To qualify for award, an offeror must satisfy at least one of the following:

- 1) There is at least one non-traditional defense contractor (NDC) or non-profit research institution participation to a significant extent in the prototype project
- 2) All significant participants in the transaction are small businesses in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs or NDC
- 3) At least one-third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by parties other than the Federal Government

Additionally, prior to award, an offeror must be registered at www.sam.gov. Please note, project timelines may not allow for registration after whitepaper selection, therefore, offerors are highly encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Part VI. WHITE PAPER REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

DO NOT INCLUDE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

1. **GENERAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:** White papers shall be submitted electronically. All submissions must be clear, legible, and conform to the following general formatting guidelines:

- Paper: Pages shall be 8.5 x 11 inches, single sided, with each page numbered “X of Y pages.”
- Margins: Minimum of 1 inch on all sides.
- Type Font: 12 point Times New Roman, single spaced.
- Acronyms: Spell out all acronyms the first time they are used. One page of the proposal body is allocated to spell out acronyms, abbreviations and symbols.
- Language: English.
- Electronic file format: PDF, compatible with current Adobe Acrobat Reader. File size less than 20 MB.

2. CONTENT: White papers consist of a detailed solution brief that is up to three pages and a pitch deck up to five pages. The complete white paper shall be no longer than eight pages. The solution brief and pitch deck will be reviewed holistically. It is recommended (but not required) that more detailed information be included in the solution brief and higher-level information be included in the pitch deck.

a. Technical Requirements

- General technical approach
- Delivery schedule
- Anticipated Data Rights Assertions, if applicable.

b. Estimated cost share (Rough Order Magnitude (ROM) ONLY – Further details will be requested for full proposal if selected)

“Cost Share” means resources expended on the proposed project scope of work (SOW). There are two kinds of cost share: cash contribution and in-kind contribution.

“Cash Contribution” can be derived from funds, outside sources, non-Federal contract or grant revenues, or from profit or fee on a Federal procurement contract. The source of funds may include corporate retained earnings, current or prospective Independent Research and Development (IR&D) funds or any other indirect cost pool allocation. New or concurrent IR&D funds can be utilized as a cash contribution provided those funds identified by the are to be spent on the conduct of the Statement of Work. Neither prior IR&D nor fee paid under this Agreement will be considered as part of cash contribution. Cash contributions include funds spent for labor (including benefits and direct overhead), materials, new equipment (prorated if appropriate), subcontractor efforts, and restocking the parts and material consumed under the Agreement.

“In-Kind Contribution” means non-financial resources expended to perform under the Agreement, such as wear and tear on in-place capital assets like machinery, the prorated value of space used for the execution of the Agreement, or the reasonable fair market value (appropriately prorated) of equipment, materials, and other property used in the performance of the Agreement.

**White papers shall be submitted through ERDCWERX no later than
1700 CST 27 April 23.**

3. EVALUATIONS: White papers will be evaluated based on an integrated assessment of the following:

- The degree to which the solution meets the requirements of the desired objectives and/or technical requirements of the prototype request.
- The evaluation of delivery of the prototype to ensure equipment is ready for the

demonstration event on or about July/August 2023.

- The evaluation of potential impacts of the data rights assertions.
- The evaluation of whether the white paper sufficiently demonstrates 1) significant participation by NTDCs or significant participation by non-profit research institutions, 2) all significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses in the SBIR or STTR programs or NTDCs, or 3) at least one-third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by parties other than the Federal Government.
- The evaluation of estimated cost share and whether it is commensurate with the identified solution.
- Government cost share availability.

- 4. REQUEST FOR PROTOTYPE PROPOSAL:** The government reserves the right to request a prototype proposal based upon white paper submission only or, if further information is necessary, request a solution pitch. Offerors invited for a solution pitch will have 10 minutes to give a verbal depiction of their solution and 20 minutes to discuss with the Government project team. Offerors will not be scored or ranked. The solution pitch is an extension of the white paper submission, therefore will be evaluated within the same criteria listed above. Offerors determined to be the most advantageous to the government will receive an RFPP.

Part VII. PROTOTYPE PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Once a solution is selected by the government, an RFPP will be issued to the offeror(s), including submission requirements. Once the RFPP is issued, the offeror and the Government may collaborate to develop the scope of work to be submitted as part of the offeror's proposal.

1. CONTENT

a. Cover Page

- Prototype Project Title
- Name of Primary Business submitting proposal. Including Commercial and Government Entity code (CAGE) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- Date proposal was submitted

- b. Statement of Work Requirements:** The Offeror shall submit a statement of work that formally captures and defines the work activities, deliverables, and timeline, for the prime contractor and any subcontractors, necessary to execute development of the prototype. Include the following:

- Detailed Technical Requirements
- Define successful completion of the prototype
- Reporting and Delivery Requirements

- Period and Place of Performance
 - Government Furnished Property/Equipment/Materials/Data
 - Access to any Government Systems, if necessary
- c. Cost Share:** The Offeror shall provide sufficient detail to substantiate that the overall proposed cost share is realistic, reasonable, and complete for the work proposed. The Offeror shall also include a narrative explanation of the proposed cost share. The Agreement Officer may request additional information to determine pricing is fair and reasonable.
- d. Security Requirements.** Although not to be evaluated, the Offeror shall identify existing or describe capability of obtaining personnel/facilities security clearances if necessary. DoD security management and handling requirements outlined in regulations such as DoD 5200.1-R and DoD 5400.07 apply to prototype other transactions.
- e. Data Rights -** All agreements that require data to be produced, furnished, acquired, or used in meeting performance requirements, must contain terms that delineate the respective rights and obligations of the Government and the contractor regarding the use, reproduction and disclosure of that data. The offeror shall identify any data rights assertions.
- f. Key personnel qualifications.** The proposal shall include resumes of the Program Manager and other Key Personnel who will be assigned to and work on the proposed project. If the Offeror does not presently employ personnel in the positions identified as Key, the Offeror must present a description of the terms of the commitment(s). The Offeror shall describe the proposed labor hours and labor categories relating to the performance of the SOW of Key Personnel.
- 2. PROPOSAL EVALUATION:** ERDC will conduct an evaluation of the submitted proposal in response to the RFPP to determine if the SOW reflects the requirements developed during the collaboration period between the Government and offeror and the cost share is fair and reasonable. If both factors are met and the Government's cost share is available, an award of the proposal may be made. The Government reserves the right to select all, part, or none of the proposal(s) received.
- 3. AWARD:** The Government intends to award one or more other transaction(s) from this project announcement.