

FAQs – Installations of the Future CSO

Last updated June 30, 2023

In the Installation of the Future solicitation, it states, “It is recommended (but not required) that more detailed information is included in the solution brief and higher information is included in the pitch deck.” Could you please expand on what you mean by “higher information” in this context?

Slides (pitch decks) are meant to be more concise and get across the main idea, but the “brief” is essentially the more detailed proposal that drills down into the specifics of the solution being submitted.

In the description of the Installation Digital Twin data modeling areas of interest, ERDC seeks proposals to apply this capability to all or portions of at least two Army installations (i.e. the ERDC campuses, and other Army installations such as Fort Carson, Fort Benning, or others). If, for example, it is Fort Carson, which areas of the installation will require the application of the digital twin capability (entire installation, cantonment area, training areas [i.e. Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site], airfields, and/or annexes [to include its infrastructures/facilities for each area])?

Currently, the coverage areas for digital twin capability applications are not constrained to a particular installation area, but a strong proposal would defend and describe the benefits of application to the proposed area(s). The government has a preference for proposals that provide flexible options for the potential application of technologies (e.g., per square foot cost, per facility cost, etc.), which may select the specific area(s) for preliminary application or indicate the constraints to which pricing applies (e.g., specific data or network availability, etc.).

Regarding the Installation Data Management, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Advanced Analytics area of interest, is it possible to get asset types (HVACs, boilers, water heaters, etc.) and a rough estimate of quantities per installation? Also, is 320 total installations an accurate number for all the installations across the enterprise?

We estimate the Army at 254 installations; some installations may include multiple physical sites. Our estimate is that the Army has approximately 161 thousand buildings, 1.1 million HVAC components, and 73 thousand water heater components. This is a rough estimate based on known proportions from some BUILDER-assessed installations, extended to all installations. Notably, not all installations, systems, and components need to be addressed for a solution to be considered.

Are the CSO Areas of Interest for AOI–Installation Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Workflows, and AOI–Master Planning Modernization open to Traditional contractors or only non-traditional contractors. If selected, are matching funds from the contractor expected or will funds only come from ERDCWERX?

This depends on the type of award that is executed. The vast majority of awards are anticipated to be FAR-based contracts, which would result in the Government obligating all funding. The CSO authority does allow for Assistance (i.e. Cooperative Agreements and Grants), as well as Other Transactions to be executed. Cost-sharing and “traditional” vs. “non-traditional” contractors are considerations under non-FAR-based vehicles.

Does ERDC have an already existing and managed Cloud Based Data Platform it would expect all tools and solutions to be deployed in to? (RE: “Solutions should be compatible with or function as an IL-5 government cloud-hosted service”)

Yes. Though subject to change, ERDC has a cloud-based platform in the Government IL-4 Azure environment. Currently, that is the target environment.

What type of sensors are in scope and where can I get information on their APIs?

We are interested in any sensors used on installations; there are a large variety across numerous systems. For example, systems on an installation can include Electronic Security and Surveillance (ESS), Utility Monitoring and Control Systems (UMCS), Airfield Lighting Systems, Emergency Response and Notification, etc. Most systems are Commercial Off the Shelf and may or may not have existing APIs. If your solution works with certain APIs (e.g. REST), please note that in your proposal. If applicable, please list the types of systems your solution can be integrated with.

How large (number of seats) are in the initial rollout and the expanded rollout?

The number of seats are currently not defined, and is flexible. If you solution is licensed per seat, please include any cost structures, and volume discounts in your proposal (if applicable).

Does the data generated in the data source systems need to stay in place or can it be copied to a data lake type structure?

A data lake structure is acceptable.

Are these components to be FedRamp compliant and if so, will it be high, med or low compliance?

Existing installation systems may or may not have an Authority to Operate (ATO). In your proposal, only consider integrating/interfaces with systems that have an ATO or are FedRAMP low/medium compliant. Please note/identify any cost difference, if applicable.