

Engineer Research and Development Center  
Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory  
Commercial Solutions Openings (CSO) Solicitation  
Number: W913E526SC001

01 Jan 2026 to 31 Dec 2026

The 2026 CSO Solicitation W913E526SC001 is being renewed from 01 Jan 2026 through 31 December 2026.

## **SECTION A: Introduction**

The Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) is issuing a Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) authorized by the Department of Defense (DoD) Class Deviation 2022-O0007. Under a CSO, the ERDC-CRREL may competitively award proposals received in response to a general solicitation, similar to a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA), to acquire innovative commercial items, technologies, and services based on a review of proposals by scientific, technological, or other subject matter expert peers within the ERDC. Under this CSO, all items, technologies, and services shall be treated as commercial items.

There is no advantage to delay submission of a proposal until the closing month posted for this solicitation. This is a standing solicitation where proposals are reviewed as they arrive, and decisions issued shortly thereafter.

The ERDC-CRREL executes projects on behalf of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology) (ASA(ALT)), Army Futures Command, US Army Corps of Engineers, and various other government organizations. These projects are focused in the following research and development thrust areas:

- (1) *Building Cold Region Domain Awareness*
- (2) *Enhancing Mobility and Maneuver in Cold Region Environments*
- (3) *Integrated Ice Operations*
- (4) *Advanced Materials Development and Applications in Extreme Cold Environments*
- (5) *Resilient Cold Region Energy Systems*
- (6) *Advancements in Cryospheric Biochemical Applications*

The ERDC-CRREL intends to obtain innovative solutions that respond to research and development requirements or advance cold regions science and engineering capabilities. Solutions may include existing technologies or procedures that are not currently in use that would enhance or streamline mission capabilities.

“Innovative” is defined as any technology, process, or method, including research and development, that is new as of the date of submission of a proposal, or any application that is new as of the date of submission of a proposal of a technology, process, or method existing as of such date.

This CSO may contain both broadly defined areas of interest (AOIs), and more specific individual program requirement. The AOIs are intentionally broad in nature, generally have no known funding specifically available, and will be posted under this CSO on an open-continuous basis for one (1) year from the date of original posting. Whereas any specific individual program requirements that are posted under the authority of this CSO, will describe the desired end result, offer additional context for the needs that seek solutions, provide a funding profile, and will stipulate a specific due date for solutions.

ERDC-CRREL will typically use a one-step evaluation process but does reserve the right to request a live demonstration (See Section C) that would add a second step to the evaluation process if necessary and when appropriate. Under the one-step evaluation process, offerors whose proposed solutions meet the need of the government and include enough detail to complete a full technical evaluation may or may not be asked to provide a demonstration of their solution.

## **SECTION B: Instructions for Preparation and Submission of Solutions**

The following section outlines the solution submission requirements and timelines.

All resultant contracts will be firm-fixed price. All items, technologies, and services (including research and

development) procured via this CSO are treated as commercial. The Contracting Officer must determine the price fair and reasonable prior to award. ERDC-CRREL is conducting this CSO on a full and open basis and intends to award contracts in accordance with FAR part 12 and the FAR part that is deemed most appropriate for the solution proposed (i.e., FAR part 13, 15, and/or 35); the government reserves the right to award prototype agreements (e.g. Other Transaction Agreements), in accordance with 10 U.S.C. §4022, if deemed appropriate and in the government's best interest.

Solution contents (**Note: The Government reserves the right to not select a solution for award if it omits any of the required information below.**)

Solution Volume/Section	Requirements/Limitations
<b>COVER LETTER</b> Must Include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title of Solution Being Offered</li> <li>Area of Interest for which solution is submitted</li> <li>Solution Team Member Names and email addresses</li> <li>Solution "Validity" Date</li> <li>Authorized Offeror Representative or Point of Contact(s) with email address and phone number</li> <li>An overview of the company, as it relates to the Area of Interest under which the proposed solution is submitted</li> <li>CAGE Code, Unique Entity ID</li> <li>Relevant NAICS code and description</li> <li>Executive Summary: summary of what is being offered and why it is innovative in 5 sentences or less.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum of 2 pages when printed.</li> <li>Provide as a PDF</li> </ul>
<b>VOLUME 1 – TECHNICAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solution brief shall not exceed 5 pages when printed</li> <li>Pitch/Slide deck shall not exceed 15 slides</li> <li>OPTIONAL: Provide links for video clip to narrate or demonstrate the proposed solution (5 minutes maximum)</li> <li>Provide as a PDF</li> </ul>
<b>VOLUME II – PRICE</b> Must Include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed price(s)</li> <li>Delivery Date or Period of Performance</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No page limit</li> <li>Flexible quantities or pricing options should be provided to maximize the ERDC- CRREL's ability to award with available funding</li> <li>Awards for supplies will be delivered Freight on Board (FOB) Destination</li> <li>Provide as a PDF</li> </ul>

**\*\*Note 1:** Submitted documents shall not contain any classified data or sensitive information, and proprietary information shall be clearly marked.\*\*

**\*\*Note 2:** The maximum size of all combined documents submitted for a solution package shall not exceed 15 MB, and all documents submitted should be converted to PDF. Consider using image resolution reduction tools in Microsoft to reduce images to reasonable resolutions.

**\*\*Note 3:** If your solution would benefit from sharing videos, please only include links following the Video Submission Instructions below (do not embed videos).

**\*\*Note 4:** The Executive Summary is a critical component and will be the first element of your proposal read by leads of potential programs or opportunities within the laboratory that may align with your offering. Think of this as an elevator pitch: you have 30 seconds with a potential sponsor to clearly and compellingly articulate what you are offering and why it is innovative.

**\*\*Note:** All prices shall be valid for a minimum of 90 days after response date.

To limit confusion, all proposal volumes must use the following naming convention:

- *Solution-CoverLetter-<CompanyName>.pdf*
- *Solution-Brief-<CompanyName>.pdf*
- *Solution-PitchDeck-<CompanyName>.pdf*
- *Solution-Price-<CompanyName>.pdf*

## **Technical Volume**

The technical volume shall include a solution brief, a pitch/slide deck, and an OPTIONAL link to a video clip to narrate or demonstrate the proposed solution that is no longer than 5 minutes in length. The technical volume will be reviewed holistically and there are no set format requirements for these documents. It is recommended (but not required) that more detailed information is included in the solution brief and higher-level information is included in the pitch deck.

The technical volume should address the technical importance to agency program factors: how the proposed solution is innovative and the feasibility of the solution solving the agency's challenge(s), including examples demonstrating possible application of the proposed innovation or existing use of the solution in the commercial marketplace.

The quality of the video submissions will not factor into the government's feedback. The government encourages low-cost video production, such as cell phone videos.

**Video Submission Instructions** - If you choose to submit a video as part of the technical volume, video submissions must be posted to a video hosting website that is accessible for the government. Videos may be marked public or private. The vendor must provide a link and password (if marked private) for the government to access the video submission. The government will not provide access to the vendor's video outside of the government evaluation team without the permission of the vendor. Do not provide a shortened URL, such as YouTube.

## **Technology Concept and Company Capability**

Offerors shall provide the following information in sufficient detail to allow the Government to assess their capability to support the proposed solution.

- Offerors shall describe the unique aspects of their proposed solution as it "relates" to the Area of Interest.
- The proposed solution shall not repeat the Areas of Interest/Topics or contain the contents of the solution brief pasted into slides but rather provide convincing evidence that the proposed solution will meet the Government's need.

The following examples of convincing evidence are strongly encouraged –

- a. Authentic company URL or web address.  
**Note:** The Government may elect to use the information provided as part of its continuous market research. However, the government is not obligated to use the URL or web address as part of its evaluation process to determine the Selectee or Awardee.
- b. Summary of product commercialization currently used in the open market.
- c. Pictures, diagrams, models, or figures to depict the essence of the proposed solution.

## **SAM Registration**

It is critical that offerors are registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), <https://sam.gov/>; you will not be eligible for an award if not registered in SAM. Additionally, entities are required to be registered to receive contracts (not just grants) and that your address from the solution matches your registration in SAM.

- When registering in SAM.gov, be sure to select 'YES' to the question 'Do you wish to bid on contracts?' to be able to compete for this CSO. If you are only registered to compete for grants, you will be ineligible for award.

- The ERDC-CRREL is working to move fast, please double check your CAGE code and Unique Entity ID numbers to be sure they line up, if they are not correct at the time of submission, you may be considered ineligible for award.

### **Ask Me Anything (AMA)**

Due to the large amount of expected interest in this CSO, and to maintain a written record of questions, the ERDC-CRREL will be accepting individual questions through the ERDCWERX portal by using their [Question Submission Form](#). The questions and answers will be published and regularly updated on the ERDCWERX Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page.

### **Solution Submission**

For your solution to be evaluated for a possible contract award, it must be submitted via the electronic form; submissions will be accepted through **5PM EST, the date of closing posted at the start of this solicitation**. There is no advantage to waiting until the solicitation closing to submit a proposal. Proposals are reviewed as received and funding decisions are made on a rolling basis. A hardcopy will not be accepted. Offerors may submit solution amendments any time prior to the deadline. Evaluation is generally completed within 10 days of the submission but may take longer for more complex offerings or if large volumes of offerings are received.

Amended proposals will be considered a complete replacement of any previously submitted content. Please ensure that the email address listed in your proposal is current and accurate. Please contact us by emailing [info@erdowerx.org](mailto:info@erdowerx.org) to share details of changed email address and/or company points of contact after proposal submission.

When a submission is made, a confirmation email will be sent by the ERDCWERX portal to the email address supplied in the submission form.

**\*\*Notes:** Offerors are responsible for ensuring that ALL Amendments to this solicitation are reviewed carefully prior to submitting a proposal.

### **SECTION C: Procedures and Criteria for Selecting Solutions**

ERDC-CRREL will generally utilize a one-step evaluation process, and in some rare cases may request a second step that would require a virtual or in-person demonstration. In some cases, an elaborated or expanded proposal may be requested as a result of scope collaboration for offerings of interest to the government.

#### **ONE-STEP CSO Evaluation Process – Direct Award (No Live Demo)**

**Evaluation of offeror's proposed solution:** The ERDC-CRREL will conduct its evaluation based on three factors: technical, importance to agency programs, and funds availability.

- The **technical factor** will assess how innovative the solution is (as defined in this announcement) and the feasibility of the solution solving the agency's challenges.
- The **importance to agency programs factor** will assess the solution's potential to enhance the mission effectiveness of the agency.
- The **funds availability factor** will assess the availability of funding to procure the solution.

**The government may not have funds available for every proposal that is deemed 'selectable' as it relates to the 'technical' and 'importance to agency program' factors. In the event there are insufficient funds to fund all 'selectable' proposals, the government has broad discretion in selecting the proposals it chooses to fund. In some cases, the government may place proposals on "hold" in a library to revisit with the offeror in the future if funds are not currently available, but the proposal is of technical interest to the government.**

**Price Reasonableness Determination:** Price shall be considered to the extent appropriate, but at a minimum, the Contracting Officer will use market research as the primary method to determine that the price is fair and reasonable. The Government may elect to use external market research in the evaluation of the proposal. The ERDC-CRREL must determine the price fair and reasonable prior to award using the procedures at DFARS subpart 212.209. In some circumstances, the Contracting Officer may request information from the offeror regarding recent purchase prices paid by the Government and/or commercial customers for the same or similar commercial items.

Based on the results of the evaluations, the ERDC-CRREL may select offerors for direct award. An award notification will be sent out, which shall include a request for further details or documents prior to award (i.e., contractor self-developed Performance Work Statement (PWS), delivery details... etc.). A PWS is similar to a Service Level Agreement (SLA) used in the commercial marketplace. The PWS shall detail the proposed work to be completed during the period of performance, deliverables, etc. As many solutions will likely be performed/provided at military installations, the Government will provide the applicable security requirements to be included in any award. As appropriate, the Government may engage in a collaborative process of “scope collaboration” with the offeror to develop the PWS, deliverables, data rights, and necessary terms and conditions for the award.

**NOTE:** PWS shall not contain classified data or sensitive information. Proprietary information shall be clearly marked.

**TWO-STEP CSO Evaluation Process (If applicable)** – ERDC-CRREL reserves the right to request a virtual or in-person demonstration.

**Step One: Evaluation of offerors’ proposed solutions:** The evaluation criteria for a two-step process is the same as the one-step process: technical, importance to agency programs, and funds availability. Price reasonableness determination is also the same.

**Step Two: Virtual or In-Person Demonstration:** Offerors invited to participate in a two-step CSO Evaluation Process (Demo Day) will receive an invitation that will provide all the details for the demonstration session, request for additional information, as well as the time and date that the demo will be conducted. Offerors selected for Demo Day will have an opportunity to demonstrate (Virtually or In- Person) their solution to evaluators. The demonstrations will be evaluated using the same factors as the initial evaluation: technical, importance to agency programs, and funds availability.

After offerors demonstrate their solution to evaluators, to the greatest extent practicable, offerors will be notified if they were selected for an award immediately following their demo. Same as in the one-step process, offerors proposing service-based solutions will be required to provide a contractor self-developed PWS prior to award.

**Note:** The ERDC-CRREL reserves the right to award to an offeror even if they are unable to demonstrate due to unexpected circumstances or circumstances beyond its control.

#### ***Site Visits/Product Demonstration***

Site visits may be conducted at the discretion of the contracting officer throughout the solicitation and solution submittal/evaluation process. The purpose of the site visit is to:

- i. Allow contractors and government to discuss their concerns while observing the product demonstration.
- ii. Allow the government to determine whether the products can satisfy its needs as identified in the Area of Interest/Solicitation.

The site visit shall not be construed as a guarantee for award, and the government shall not bear any of the contractor’s costs for the site visit.

**Note:** During any step of the CSO, the ERDC-CRREL may send questions or comments for the offerors to address via email or during Demo Day.

#### **SECTION D: Areas of Interest and Individual Program Requirements**

***See Areas of Interest and specific Individual Program Requirements for this CSO by visiting***

<https://www.erdcerx.org/cold-regions-research-and-engineering-laboratory-cso/>

AOI – Building Cold Region Domain Awareness

AOI – Enhancing Mobility and Maneuver in Cold Region Environments  
AOI – Integrated Ice Operations

AOI – Advanced Materials Development and Applications in Extreme Cold Environments  
AOI – Resilient Cold Region Energy Systems

AOI - Advancements in Cryospheric Biochemical Applications

**Note:** The Areas of Interest and Specific Individual Program Requirements are subject to change at any time during the open continuous period. Revisions or additions of Areas of Interest may be made on a monthly, quarterly, or as needed basis.

## **SECTION E: Potential Terms and Conditions for Resultant Awards**

**\*\*NOTE** – This list is not intended to limit the terms and conditions that may need to be in an award that results from a proposed solution to this CSO. This is simply the most common terms and conditions anticipated by the Government for those awards.

### Typical Clauses and Provisions for Commercial Items over the Simplified Acquisition Threshold

52.204-7 System for Award Management NOV 2024  
52.204-9 Personal Identity Verification of Contractor Personnel JAN 2011  
52.204-13 System for Award Management Maintenance OCT 2018  
52.204-16 Commercial and Government Entity Code Reporting AUG 2020 52.204-18 Commercial and Government Entity Code Maintenance AUG 2020  
52.204-19 Incorporation by Reference of Representations and Certifications DEC 2014 52.204-22 Alternative Line-Item Proposal JAN 2017  
52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors--Commercial Items SEP 2023  
52.212-3 Offeror Representations and Certifications—Commercial Products and Commercial Services MAY 2024  
ALTERNATE I FEB 2024  
52.212-4 Contract Terms and Conditions--Commercial Products and Services NOV 2023 52.212-5 Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders— Commercial Products and Services OCT 2025  
Marked in 52.212-5:  
52.203-6, Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government (JUN 2020), with Alternate I (Nov 2021) (41 U.S.C. 4704 and 10 U.S.C. 4655)  
52.204-10, Reporting Executive Compensation and First-Tier Subcontract Awards (JUN 2020) (Pub. L. 109-282) (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).  
52.209-6, Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting with Contractors Debarred, Suspended, or Proposed for Debarment, or Voluntarily Excluded. (JAN 2025) (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).  
52.219-4, Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns (OCT 2022) (if the offeror elects to waive the preference, it shall so indicate in its offer) (15 U.S.C. 657a).  
52.219-8, Utilization of Small Business Concerns (JAN 2025) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(2) and (3)).  
52.219-28 Post Award Small Business Program Rerepresentation (JAN 2025) (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)).  
52.222-3, Convict Labor (JUN 2003) (E.O. 11755).  
52.222-19, Child Labor--Cooperation with Authorities and Remedies (JAN 2025) (E.O. 13126).  
52.222-35, Equal Opportunity for Veterans (JUN 2020) (38 U.S.C. 4212).  
52.222-36, Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities (JUN 2020) (29 U.S.C. 793).  
52.222-37, Employment Reports on Veterans (JUN 2020) (38 U.S.C. 4212).  
52.222-40, Notification of Employee Rights Under the National Labor Relations Act (DEC 2010) (E.O. 13496).  
52.222-50, Combating Trafficking in Persons (OCT 2025) (22 U.S.C. chapter 78 and E.O. 13627).  
52.222-54, Employment Eligibility Verification (JAN 2025). (E. O. 12989). (Not applicable to the acquisition of commercially available off-the-shelf items or certain other types of commercial items as prescribed in 22.1803.)  
52.225-13, Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases (FEB 2021) (E.O.'s, proclamations, and statutes administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury).  
52.232-33, Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer—System for Award Management (OCT 2018) (31 U.S.C. 3332).  
52.239-1, Privacy or Security Safeguards (AUG 1996) (5 U.S.C. 552a).

--Clauses that may be marked for commercial services will depend on the services. End of 52.212-5 marked clauses

52.215-8 Order of Precedence--Uniform Contract Format OCT 1997 52.223-5 Pollution Prevention and Right-to-Know Information MAY 2024  
52.225-25 Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Engaging in Certain Activities or Transactions Relating to Iran— Representation and Certifications. JUN 2020  
52.232-40 Providing Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors MAR 2023  
52.237-2 Protection of Government Buildings, Equipment, And Vegetation APR 1984 52.242-17

Government Delay Of Work APR 1984  
 52.246-2 Inspection of Supplies--Fixed Price AUG 1996  
 52.246-16 Responsibility For Supplies APR 1984  
 52.247-34 F.O.B. Destination NOV 1991  
 52.252-1 SOLICITATION PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEB 1998)  
 52.252-2 CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEB 1998)  
 52.252-6 AUTHORIZED DEVIATIONS IN CLAUSES (Nov 2020)  
 52.253-1 Computer Generated Forms JAN 1991  
 252.203-7000 Requirements Relating to Compensation of Former DoD Officials SEP 2011 252.203-7002 Requirement to Inform Employees of Whistleblower Rights DEC 2022 252.203-7005 Representation Relating to Compensation of Former DoD Officials SEP 2022 252.204-7003 Control of Government Personnel Work Product APR 1992  
 252.204-7008 Compliance with Safeguarding Covered Defense Information Controls OCT 2016 252.204-7012 Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting MAY 2024 252.204-7015 Notice of Authorized Disclosure of Information for Litigation Support JAN 2023  
 252.204-7016 Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services – Representation DEC 2019 252.204-7017 Prohibition on the Acquisition of Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services – Representation MAY 2021  
 252.204-7018 Prohibition on the Acquisition of Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services JAN 2023  
 252.204-7019 Notice of NIST SP 800-171 DoD Assessment Requirements NOV 2023 252.204-7020 NIST SP 800-171 DoD Assessment Requirements NOV 2023  
 252.209-7004 Subcontracting with Firms That Are Owned or Controlled By The Government of a Country that is a State Sponsor of Terrorism MAY 2019  
 252.211-7003 ITEM UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION AND VALUATION JAN 2023  
 252.211-7008 Use of Government-Assigned Serial Numbers SEP 2010  
 252.215-7013 Supplies and Services Provided by Nontraditional Defense Contractors. JAN 2023 252.223-7006 Prohibition on Storage, Treatment, and Disposal of Toxic or Hazardous Materials SEP 2014  
 252.223-7008 Prohibition of Hexavalent Chromium JAN 2023  
 252.225-7001 Buy American and Balance of Payments Program-- Basic FEB 2024 252.225-7002 Qualifying Country Sources as Subcontractors MAR 2022  
 252.225-7012 Preference for Certain Domestic Commodities APR 2022  
 252.225-7031 Secondary Arab Boycott of Israel JUN 2005  
 252.225-7048 Export-Controlled Items JUN 2013  
 252.225-7972 (Dev) Prohibition on the Procurement of Foreign-Made Unmanned Aircraft Systems (DEVIATION 2024-O0014) AUG 2024  
 252.232-7003 Electronic Submission of Payment Requests and Receiving Reports (DEC 2018) 252.232-7006 WIDE AREA WORKFLOW PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS (JAN 2023)  
 252.232-7010 Levies on Contract Payments DEC 2006  
 252.243-7001 Pricing of Contract Modifications DEC 1991  
 252.243-7002 Requests for Equitable Adjustment DEC 2022  
 252.244-7000 Subcontracts for Commercial Items NOV 2023  
 252.246-7007 Contractor Counterfeit Electronic Part Detection and Avoidance System JAN 2023 252.246-7008 Sources of Electronic Parts JAN 2023  
 252.247-7023 Transportation of Supplies by Sea OCT 2024

**Additional terms and conditions may be required as circumstances necessitate; examples of such would be data rights, security, R&D, educational institutions, etc.**

**Other Transactions are non-FAR based vehicles for which terms and conditions would be established on an individual proposal basis.**

**The government does not plan to engage in the debrief process outlined in FAR part 15 but will provide feedback to unsuccessful offerors as appropriate and at its discretion.**

**The government reserves the right to select none of the submissions.**