

Responses to MII Member Questions

1. Where will the March 8-9 Pitch Presentation event be held? Will it be in the continental United States?

Response: The Pitch Presentation Event will be invitation-only for those Concept Papers selected to proceed. It will be held at the ARM Institute headquarters, Mill 19, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Further details will be provided upon notification of selection.

2. Is there an expectation to demonstrate the technology at the pitch event?

Response: No. The Pitch Presentation Event only involves concept presentations plus the submission of supporting material. Technologies will be demonstrated during the approximately six month period of performance at the location determined by DoD.

3. Is a Company owned by US Non-Citizens eligible?

Response: First, please discuss with your MII. Each assistance agreement between DoD and the MII can be different with respect to membership requirements and foreign ownership of a company.

Second, if a proposed concept project for this challenge will manage **export-controlled information or restricted material**, then **Foreign Nationals** will not be permitted to perform work under this project at lead proposer or any subrecipient facilities, remotely, or otherwise. As used in this provision, the term "Foreign National" means any natural person who is not a lawful permanent resident as defined by 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20) or who is not a protected individual as defined by 8 U.S.C. 1324b(a)(3). It also means any foreign corporation, business association, partnership, trust, society or any other entity or group that is not incorporated or organized to do business in the United States.

4. Any thoughts on how robotics / automation fits into these challenges categories?

Response: Technologies such as robotics or automation can fit within or across the seven challenge areas. That is also true of other advanced manufacturing technologies. Find a challenge that best matches your concept or your vision of employing the concept.

5. As a project partner on this call, will some of the project budget be allocated to MII directly?

Response: Yes, it will. The Concept Paper should include the costs for the MII as well as the member participants. Please contact the MII and discuss the budget with the MII. % allocation of funding to the MII varies by MII and if you plan to add tasks to the MII beyond project management.

6. Where will the demonstrations be performed?

Response: The location of the demonstration will be provided prior to the contracting process. OSD is actively working with the military services to determine a demonstration site with the relevant environment. The demonstration will be held within the continental US (CONUS). That excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

7. The call mentions total awards of \$1.5M across \$500K projects. Does this mean there will be a total of three projects selected across the entire MII ecosystem, or is that three projects per MII?

Response: The total pool of government funds for all of the MIIs is \$1.5M. The maximum government funds that can be requested per project is \$500K, but it can be less. The number of awards will depend on the budgets of the selected projects.

8. I'm a bit concerned about Li-ion batteries; any piece of equipment may be impacted by a hot or cold environment, solving that problem is beyond the scope of this project.

Response: The scope of the innovation should consider the limited amount of funds and time available. The operational environment can affect the selection of technologies within your concept and also how to manage or shelter those technologies. It also inspires innovative approaches to deal with the operational environment. It is an opportunity to be creative.

9. Can we propose concepts that would include more than one MII?

Response: Yes, but the proposer should address details and risks of the subcontracting efforts required to execute the work between MIIs. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded through an existing single MII assistance agreement (such as a Cooperative Agreement or a Technology Investment Agreement). Each MII has its own terms and conditions and its own provisions for Consortium Developed Intellectual Property (CDIP) and membership. Therefore, it is best to have one MII per concept. If you are a member of multiple institutes, pick the best MII for the concept. Additionally, if you are a member of multiple institutes, proposer are free to submit concept papers to more than one institute, but they must be different topics -- topics relevant to that institute.

10. Is there guidance on if there are specific technologies that are interest to OSD beyond these broad categories?

Response: This call seeks a certain capability: point of need manufacturing. The call is agnostic to specific technologies except for the broad technical areas associated with the DoD MIIs.

11. For the demonstrations, are we looking for complete assembly processes, or is a partial demonstration sufficient?

Response: A partial demonstration of a critical aspect of the challenge is sufficient.

12. How many Concept Papers will be selected to move forward to the Pitch Presentation stage?

Response: Approximately ten.

13. Can you confirm that concepts involving FOB structures that do not explicitly use local materials would still be considered? In other words, if the concept involves engineered materials that cannot realistically be produced locally, but still satisfy other needs such as mobility and speed, then such concepts will not be automatically rejected?

Response: Concept Papers for the Build the FOB challenge that do not explicitly use local materials are still welcomed and encouraged. Please submit those.

14. How is data transmitted to the FOB ?

Response: Due to the limited timeframe, DoD networks will not be used. Proposers should plan to use commercial networks. Given the likelihood of remote location for demonstration, proposers should budget to bring remote commercial network access with them (for example: SATCOM).

15. What are the specific operation conditions at the FOB sites?

Response: Please see the Operational Environment Consideration document and the resources linked in the document. Request the document from your MII

16. Who has engineering release authority ? (local or decentralized)

Response: Since engineering release authority varies by service, it is best to assume the type of authority that best fits your innovation. In other words, do not let engineering release authority approach be a constraint on your concept for this demonstration.

17. The "Build the FOB" challenge calls for the use of locally available materials. Should we include logistical costs to transport our own materials (not the equipment) to the demo site, or will the DoD provide logistical help?

Response: To be clear, Concept Papers for the Build the FOB challenge that do not explicitly use local materials are still welcomed and encouraged. If your technology can use locally available materials, it is best to budget for the logistical costs to transport your own materials to the demo site. This is because we may not have authority to excavate materials from the demonstration site. Lastly, do include the cost to transport your equipment to the demonstration site.

18. Is there the list of repair parts available for the Class IX stay in the fight?

Response: DoD is collecting the parts list currently. We will provide general information on the part description, the boundary box and material type. It might not be possible to share the drawings themselves until contract award. It is also recommended that a proposer describe the capabilities and build volume of their system so that DoD can match parts to the technology.

19. Who will be running the demonstration equipment?

Response: It is expected that the proposer will run the demonstration equipment. It is important that the equipment is designed for ease of use. However, the role of DoD personnel at the demonstration is to observe and evaluate the demonstration – not to operate the equipment.

20. What is the level of energy (electricity or other fuel) availability at a FOB?

Response: The current state-of-the-art for the FOB is to use portable generators for electricity. These generators use fossil fuels that must be transported and stored at the location.

21. For budget reasons do we have to consider Alaska as a potential demonstration site? We assume funding for moving the equipment is a part of our budget estimate.

Response: The location of the demonstration will be provided prior to the contracting process. OSD is actively working with the military services to determine a demonstration site with the relevant environment. The demonstration will be held within the continental US (CONUS). That excludes Alaska and Hawaii. Yes, you should include transportation costs for equipment and personnel in your budget.

22. Is the expectation that in 6 months and for \$500K that you deliver the final desired outcome of this challenge, or that you deliver proof of concept that the ultimate idea appears feasible? Assuming the latter, if successfully demonstrated would this potentially lead to additional development work?

Response: The expectation is something akin to a proof-of-concept or prototype and not a final article immediately ready for acquisition and deployment.

23. Is there a specific part or part family that needed to be made by AM technology or just a concept and tool?

Response: DoD is collecting the parts list currently for the Stay in the Fight Challenge. We will provide general information on the part description, the boundary box and material type. It might not be possible to share the drawings themselves until contract award. It is also recommended that a proposer describe the capabilities and build volume of their system so that DoD can match parts to the technology.