

DoD Point of Need Manufacturing Challenge Project Call
Responses to MII Member Questions: 1/16/2023

Process Questions for OSD on Point of Need Manufacturing Challenge

1. Will awarded proposals go on MII core contracts (e.g., for MxD, the TIA)?

Response: Yes, concepts that are selected from the pitch will undergo the contracting process through the MII assistance agreements (e.g., TIAs, Cooperative Agreements, or Grants).

2. On page 2 of the PoN Challenge Project Call, it states, “A lead proposer who is an active member of an MII (participating with their MII) in good standing according to the eligibility requirements of their institute can provide direct submissions to this Project Call.”
 - a. Direct submissions to whom? OSD or the MII?

Response: Concept papers will be submitted to the MII. Proposers should follow instructions from their MII.

3. On page 4 of the PoN Challenge Project Call document, it states, “Technologies will be demonstrated at a location chosen by DoD within the continental United States that represents one of the two operational environments listed in 2.2.1.”
 - a. Will additional funding be provided for the demonstration, or should that cost be included in the initial proposal cost?

Response: The cost for the demonstration – including transportation – should be included in the initial proposal cost.

- b. When will project teams be informed of the site selection?

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.

- c. When will the demonstration be performed? (within PoP? At/After project conclusion)?

Response: The demonstration will be performed within the period of performance (i.e. prior to project conclusion).

- d. Will demonstration be required at both operational environments? (Page 5 says only one).

Response: No. The demonstration will occur in only one operational environment. However, the project team must design for both environments.

4. Is the funding targeting the demonstration/location validation exclusively? Doesn't seem to be enough funding for development.

Response: There is limited funding available, so it is expected that any development would be limited. Funds can be used to prepare the technology for expeditionary operations in the relevant operation whether that be development, engineering, fabrication, or integration. Funds should be used for transportation to the demonstration location and for operations during the demonstration.

5. Must the MII perform project management on every proposal? Or must of the MII perform a role on the project team on every proposal of which project management is one role?

Response: Contracting will occur through the MII if the project is selection; therefore, the MII does play a project management role and that should be accounted for in the budget. Some MIIs have additional capabilities (i.e. engineering services, equipment) that could be leveraged by the project team. However, the use of those capabilities is not required.

6. What is OSD expectation or request of MII's role to review concept papers before they are submitted to OSD? Will we need to evaluate and/or rank submissions?

Response: Review of the concept paper is DoD's responsibility. Prior to sending concept papers to the OSD, the MIIs must make sure proposers meet the eligibility requirements for MII membership and any other eligibility requirements that would affect contracting through the MII's core assistance agreement with DoD (i.e. TIA, cooperative agreement, or grant). The MII may choose to screen concept papers for egregious noncompliance, but speed is of the essence.

7. Should the MII submit all concept papers it receives? Does OSD or the MII evaluate the eligibility of the submissions and proposed project teams?

Response: See response to question 6.

8. What are the restrictions on the use of funds FTE? Does it have to be staff or can it fund students, within that, can it fund tuition or just stipends?

Response: The use of funds should be compliant with the MII's core assistance agreement with DoD. (No fee as per the Cooperative Agreement; No foreign nationals).

Technical Questions for OSD on Point of Need Manufacturing Challenge

9. If the concept does not necessitate a physical environment (e.g. digital twin), how does the need for location testing extend to digital environments and validation? Does the funding extend to digital environments/validation?

Response: The funding can be used to include digital environments and validation. However, the capabilities must be able to be demonstrated to DoD personnel at the demonstration location.

10. Is there any government-furnished equipment being provided?

Response: Proposers should identify any additional GFE required to support the demonstration. The Government will address the availability of such equipment prior to full proposal development.

11. On what networks will the projects be tested on/at? Commercial, CFSc, SIPR JWICS? Applicable impact levels?

Response: Due to the limited timeframe, DoD networks will not be used. So, proposers should use commercial networks. Proposers should also bring remote network access with them (for example: SATCOM).

12. Can DoD provide access to the repair items from a list provided by the DoD (Class IX)?

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 the contract award.

13. TRL level 4 seems low for lack of focus on R&D phase vs. the demo phase. Is it appropriate to recommend higher TRL levels to potential responders?

Response: TRL 4 would be low for this project call. It is expected that higher TRLs/MRLs will be able to successfully meet the rapid schedule of this particular project call.