

**National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC), Executive Airlift,
Airborne Command Post (ABNCP), Take Charge and Move Out
(TACAMO) (NEAT)**

Request for Information (RFI)

1. Introduction

1.1. The Department of Defense (DoD) is interested in the potential realignment and recapitalization of the capabilities provided by the current airframes missionized for the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC), Executive Airlift, Airborne Command Post (ABNCP), and Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) (NEAT) platforms. The DoD is conducting an Analysis of Alternatives that will examine potential synergies in acquiring common platforms that do not sacrifice operational effectiveness or increase the overall cost to the Department. The DoD is looking for innovative industry solutions to accomplish the missions performed by the E-4B, E-6B, and C-32A in a more effective and efficient fashion.

1.2. The DoD is conducting market research as part of its Planning for Development efforts to identify potential aircraft manufacturing sources that may possess the expertise, capabilities, and experience to produce a solution at the best mix of cost, schedule, and performance for these missions. Responses to this RFI may also be used to support analysis conducted during an Analysis of Alternatives study. As analysis continues and options are identified, more technical detail may be requested at a later date.

1.3. THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ONLY. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes. It does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. This RFI does not commit the U.S. Government to contract for any supply or service. Moreover, DoD is not seeking proposals at this time, and it will not accept unsolicited proposals. Responders are advised the U.S. Government will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the respondent party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, if issued. The U.S. Government has made no final solicitation decision regarding eventual procurement or by what means such a solicitation, if any, would be handled (FAR or other transactions). The information provided in this RFI is subject to change and is not binding upon the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government has not made a commitment to procure any of the items discussed, and release of this RFI should not be construed as such a commitment or as authorization to incur costs for which reimbursement would be required or sought. All submissions become U.S. Government property and will not be returned.

2. Responses

2.1. Interested parties are requested to respond to this RFI with a white paper not to exceed 50 pages using 12 point Times New Roman font. Any tech data you wish to provide does not count against this page limit. White papers are due no later than **30 August 2018, 1700 Eastern Time**. Unclassified responses shall be submitted via secure e-mail or secure website only to the Contracting Officer, Ashlee Green (937- 656-9539, ashlee.green.1@us.af.mil). Classified

responses shall be submitted via SIPRNET e-mail to Ashlee Green (ashlee.j.green2.civ@mail.smil.mil).

2.2. Interested parties shall follow the instructions below regarding how to deliver the white paper response package content. RFI responses shall be organized into two separate sections.

2.2.1. Section 1 of the white paper response shall provide administrative information, and shall include the following as a minimum:

2.2.1.1. Company name, mailing address, overnight delivery address (if different from mailing address), CAGE code, phone number, fax number, and both unclassified and SIPRNet e-mail of designated point of contact. Respondents are further requested to indicate their Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence (FOCI) status, if applicable.

2.2.1.2. A statement stipulating the submitter's desired distribution of the white paper.

2.2.2. Section 2 shall address the recommended solution of the problem identified in Section 1 of this RFI and provide the data requested in Section 3.

2.3. Proprietary information, if any, **MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED** on the outside container and on the materials inside. The Government shall not be liable for or suffer any consequential damages for any proprietary information not properly identified. Please be advised that all submissions become Government property and will not be returned. All information received in response to this RFI that is properly marked as "proprietary" will be handled accordingly.

2.4. Responses will be reviewed by a team comprised of Government as well as contractor personnel from Booz, Allen, Hamilton (BAH) and The MITRE Corporation hired to provide technical assistance for the Government's preparation of an Analysis of Alternatives. All members of the team will be reminded of their obligation to protect such information to the maximum extent permitted or required by the Economic Espionage Act, 18 U.S.C. 1831 *et seq.*, and other applicable statutes or regulations. In addition, Government members will be reminded of their obligations to afford protection under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905. All contractor members are required to protect the information by the terms of their contracts. These administrative support contracts include non-disclosure agreements (NDA) prohibiting contractor employees from disclosing any information submitted by other contractors or using such information for any purpose other than that for which it was furnished. The Government has made an initial determination that its support contractor personnel have no personal or organizational conflicts of interest that could adversely affect protection of the information.

3. Questions and Industry Discussion

3.1. Questions regarding this announcement shall be submitted in writing via e-mail to the NEAT Study Technology and Alternatives Working Group lead, Ron Chapman (ronald.chapman.6@us.af.mil). Verbal questions will NOT be accepted. Questions will be addressed by posting answers to the Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps.gov) website. Accordingly, questions shall NOT contain proprietary or classified information. The Government does not guarantee questions received after **06 September 2018, 1700 Eastern Time**, will be answered.

3.2. Government representatives may or may not choose to hold an Industry Day or meet with respondents after white papers are submitted. Such discussions, if desired, will be scheduled by Government invitation directly with individual respondents and based on compelling responses to this RFI. The intent of any such discussions would only be to obtain additional clarification of potential capabilities to meet Government requirements and further expose risks (especially development risks).

3.3. General Capabilities:

3.3.1. Describe briefly the capabilities of your facility and the nature of the goods and/or services you provide. Include a description of your staff composition and management structure.

3.3.2. Describe your company's past experience on previous projects similar in complexity to these requirements, especially with regard to the missions in Table 1. Include contract numbers, a brief description of the work performed, period of performance, agency/organization supported, and individual point of contact (Contracting Officer or Program Manager).

3.3.3. Describe your company's capabilities for generating, handling, processing and storing classified material and data.

3.3.4. Describe your company's capabilities and experience in generating technical data, engineering drawings and manuals. Identify what software programs are used to generate data products and what formats are available for delivered items.

3.3.5. Describe opportunities for prototyping and other tools/methods (3-D visualization) that could be employed that would enable accelerating the acquisition process.

3.4. Hardware Production

3.4.1. Describe your company's capability and experiences in the manufacturing, fabrication, and modification of commercial derivative aircraft and other relevant systems described in your recommended NEAT systems.

3.4.2. For all airframes in your proposed solution, describe the current lifecycle status, anticipated production capacity, and timelines.

3.4.3. We may be interested in visiting your company's facilities for fabrication and modification, as well as system integration labs. Please provide a point of contact to schedule potential site visits.

3.4.4. What quality assurance processes and test qualification practices does your company employ? Please provide a description of your quality program (ISO 9000, QS-9000, EIA-599, or otherwise).

3.4.5. Describe your company's capabilities and experience in managing hardware development projects, including subcontractor involvement. Include any experience in project planning, work breakdown structures, resource allocations, schedule tracking, risk analysis and cost management.

3.5. Systems Engineering and Integration: *(Note: for each of the following Systems Engineering Design and Integration questions, please provide specific example(s) of the product, service, and/or requested information.)*

3.5.1. What experience does your company have in forming partnerships (or being a part of) in meeting the needs of aircraft and mission systems? Do you expect to form or be a part of a partnership in meeting the need for these solutions?

3.5.2. What experience does your company have in the design and integration of new capabilities onto existing systems or commercial aircraft? Address this with regard to a Systems of Systems approach.

3.5.3. What experiences does your company have with the Risk Management Framework? Also describe your supply chain risk management where global suppliers are involved in many of the subcomponents.

3.5.4. What, if any, critical technologies do you envision within the potential NEAT systems?

3.5.5. Describe your company's approach to ensuring designed systems follow current Human Systems Integration/User-Centered Engineering best practices and guidelines.

3.5.6. What experience does your company have with obtaining military and civil airworthiness certification? What approaches would you recommend to pursue airworthiness certifications for NEAT systems?

3.5.7. With the schedule and tasks identified in your response, what would be the primary sources of risk? Please identify any risks considered high or medium.

3.6. Software Development:

3.6.1. Is your company's software development processes certified to the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) Capability Maturity Model? If so what level of certification have you achieved, who performed the certification, and what is the date of your certification? Do you use any other methods of software development that have resulted in quicker integration and capability delivery?

3.6.2. Describe your company's capabilities and experience in managing software development projects, including subcontractor involvement. Include any experience in project planning, work breakdown structures, resource allocations, schedule tracking, risk analysis and cost management.

3.7. Recommended Technical Solution

3.7.1. Describe your recommended solutions to provide the capabilities described in paragraph 1.1 of this RFI. Include, at a minimum, an architecture framework, a description of the systems and subsystems involved, and an evaluation of the feasibility of recommended modifications to existing systems or commercial aircraft.

3.7.2. Describe efficiencies gained by and risks to the utilization of common airframes, if applicable.

3.7.3. How mature are your potential NEAT systems? When would you be able to field each of your recommended solutions? What steps would you need to take to mature your design to a fieldable solution? What technology risks should the government be investing in to reduce or mitigate integration risks? List which systems and subsystems will require airworthiness recertification.

3.7.4. What would be your company's recommended supportability and sustainment concept for the replacement NEAT systems? (e.g., USAF organic, contractor logistics support, etc.)? In addition, describe how you would recommend operator and maintenance training be accomplished.

3.7.5. Provide relevant technical data to support initial analysis of these proposed solutions. This data does not count towards the page limit. If a commercial derivative aircraft is part of your potential NEAT system, include at a minimum:

3.7.5.1. Standard day performance data for commercial aircraft to support evaluation of range, endurance, take-off performance and buffet/stall speed as a function of flaps setting and bank angle. Include data for multiple aircraft weights and altitudes, as well as performance with one engine out.

3.7.5.2. Basic Empty Weight, Operating Weight, Maximum Zero Fuel Weight, Maximum Landing Weight, Maximum Takeoff Weight, Maximum Ramp Weight, Maximum Fuel Capacity, and Aircraft Classification Number.

3.7.5.3. An assessment of usable floor space in all cabins and lower lobe, with drawings (to scale, with dimensions).

3.7.5.4. An assessment of electrical power generated by the aircraft, as well as the power utilized by the commercial aircraft during taxi, take-off, cruise, and landing, assuming the aircraft is in a civil-certified configuration with no passenger accommodations installed. Identify potential power generation capacity upgrades.

3.7.5.5. An assessment of mission availability and engine reliability.

4. Summary

4.1. THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ONLY to understand innovative industry solutions to accomplish the NEAT mission. The U.S. Government has made no final solicitation decision regarding eventual procurement or by what means such a solicitation, if any, would be handled (FAR or other transactions). The information provided in this RFI is subject to change and is not binding upon the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government has not made a commitment to procure any of the items discussed, and release of this RFI should not be construed as such a commitment or as authorization to incur costs for which reimbursement would be required or sought. All submissions become U.S. Government property and will not be returned.