

**Defense Industrial Base Consortium (DIBC)**

**Unsolicited Project Pathways Guidance**

Table of Contents

<b>1.0 BACKGROUND</b> .....	3
1.1 Purpose .....	3
1.2 General Information.....	3
1.3 Project Alignment.....	4
<b>2.0 SUBMISSION FORMAT</b> .....	4
2.1 BIDS Submission.....	5
2.2 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).....	5
2.3 Submission Format .....	5
<b>3.0 SUBMISSION CONTENT</b> .....	6
3.1 White Paper .....	6
3.2 Quad Chart.....	6
<b>4.0 EVALUATION PROCESS</b> .....	6
4.1 Evaluation.....	6
4.2 Rating.....	7
<b>5.0 SELECTION PROCESS</b> .....	7

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Manufacturing, Capability Expansion, and Investment Prioritization Directorate (MCEIP) is an organization within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)) which incentivizes the creation, expansion, and/or preservation of domestic industrial manufacturing capabilities and materials needed to meet national and homeland security requirements. The MCEIP office oversees the execution of two portfolios: Innovation Capability and Modernization (ICAM) and Defense Production Act Purchases (DPAP). Together these portfolios provide complementary flexible authorities to incentivize and strengthen the Defense Industrial Base (DIB).

- The ICAM portfolio oversees the execution of the IBAS authorities. IBAS authorities are leveraged to improve the readiness and competitiveness of the domestic industrial base by establishing high-priority domestic capabilities for new supply chains needed for national security and mitigating exposure to global supply chain risks.
- The DPAP portfolio oversees the execution of DPA Title III authorities. DPA Title III is an investment authority committed to ensuring resilient, robust domestic supply chains to reduce reliance on foreign manufacturing and correct domestic shortfalls in the defense industrial base.

### **1.1 Purpose**

This document provides guidance for submissions in response to the Unsolicited Project Pathways (UPP) opportunity under the Defense Industrial Base Consortium (DIBC) managed by the Consortium Management Organization (CMO) Advanced Technology International (ATI) and in partnership with the MCEIP.

### **1.2 General Information**

This is being considered as a competitive opportunity for industry to submit UPP submissions that align with the MCEIP current critical sector(s) and focus areas of interest (AOI) detailed on the website.

The Government will not reimburse for costs associated with the development of any UPP submissions, additional steps such as a pitch presentation, or Project Execution Plan (PEP) and cost proposals, if selected.

The Government may close the UPP at any time. After the UPP is closed, submissions will not be accepted and will not be considered.

The Government reserves the right to contact all, some, or none of the members who provide UPP submissions. Any UPP submissions should not expect to receive formal evaluation feedback. If feedback is provided, it will be in accordance with Section 4 of this document.

The Government reserves the right to make single or multiple awards from the UPP opportunity. The Government may consider UPP submissions for up to 36 months after submission. Submissions under the UPP opportunity, even receiving a rating as Met and placed in the basket, does not guarantee award of an agreement.

Any UPP submissions that are anticipated to include controlled unclassified information (CUI) are subject to security requirements in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-171r2, “Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Systems and Organizations.”

All UPP submissions will be treated as “source selection information” as defined by 41 U.S.C. § 2101(7), and contents will be disclosed only in accordance with 41 U.S.C. § 2102. During the evaluation process UPP submissions may be handled by the Government, Government support contractors, and ATI personnel for both administrative purposes and to support technical evaluations. All persons performing these roles are bound by appropriate nondisclosure agreements (NDAs).

### 1.3 Project Alignment

UPP submissions must clearly demonstrate alignment with Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) (10 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 4817) and/or Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III (10 U.S.C. § 4533) authorities. Agreements may be awarded under either Research or Prototype authority 10 U.S.C. §§ 4021 & 4022 respectively, with the possibility for production Other Transactions (OTs) under 10 U.S.C. § 4022(f).

UPP submissions must demonstrate all of the following to be considered for DPA Title III funding (50 U.S.C. § 4533):

- The industrial resource or technology item must be essential for national defense.
- Industry cannot or will not provide needed capacity in a reasonable time without Defense Production Act Title III assistance.
- Defense Production Act Title III incentives must be the most cost-effective, expedient, and practical alternative for the need.

UPP submissions must demonstrate one or more of the following priorities to be considered for IBAS funding (10 U.S.C. § 4817):

- Prepare the defense industrial workforce: promote, elevate, and accelerate industrial talent pipelines.
- Ready the modern DIB: advance and sustain traditional defense manufacturing sectors.
- Prepare for the future: identify, attract, and cultivate emerging defense sectors.
- Assess and shape the risk: mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities within the global DIB.
- Build and strengthen partnerships: across the global DIB.

## 2.0 SUBMISSION FORMAT

## 2.1 BIDS Submission

All UPP submissions shall be submitted using BIDS in accordance with Section 3.0 at <https://submissions2.ati.org/ATI2/Portal.nsf/Start?ReadForm>. An automated BIDS confirmation receipt will be provided by email. UPP Submissions cannot be updated (or files replaced) once submitted.

UPP submissions will not be accepted via email.

**Note:** BIDS registration and Quick Card information is available on the DIBC website under the frequently asked solicitation questions at: <https://www.dibconsortium.org/solicitations/>

## 2.2 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

10 U.S.C. §4021(i), as amended, provides that disclosure of the information listed below is not required, and may not be compelled, under FOIA for a period of five years if a party submits the information in a competitive or noncompetitive process having the potential for an award of an Other Transaction Agreement:

- i. a proposal, proposal abstract, and supporting documents;
- ii. a business plan submitted on a confidential basis; or
- iii. technical information submitted on a confidential basis.

To request protection from FOIA disclosure as allowed by statute, Proposer shall mark business plans and technical information with a legend identifying the documents as being submitted on a confidential basis.

***Unsolicited submissions and supporting documents shall not include classified material.***

## 2.3 Submission Format

UPP Submissions shall use the required templates with the applied formatting as provided.

In addition:

- Content written in English.
- Hyperlinks are prohibited.
- Files shall not be larger than 5MB each.
- All files shall be print-capable and without a password to open.
- Files shall be in Microsoft Word or PowerPoint, or Adobe PDF with appropriate extensions. Apple users must convert files accordingly.
- Appropriate files extensions are:

<u>Application / File</u>	<u>Valid Extensions</u>
Portable Document Files (Adobe Acrobat)	.PDF
Microsoft Word (MS Word)	.doc / .docx
Microsoft PowerPoint	.ppt / .pptx

Submissions should be submitted as separate files as indicated in the below chart:

File	Max. Pages	File Type
White Paper (Required) ( <i>page limit excludes cover page, data rights appendix, and letters of support</i> )	7	MS Word or PDF
Quad Chart (Required)	3	MS PPT or PDF

### 3.0 SUBMISSION CONTENT

#### 3.1 White Paper

Proposers shall utilize the white paper template as instructed in Attachment 1.

#### 3.2 Quad Chart

Proposers shall complete the Quad Chart as instructed in Attachment 2. If the Government places a UPP submission in the basket, it will be made available to the Government for review and consideration for a future award. The Quad Chart will be available on a separate website with access restricted to Government Only.

### 4.0 EVALUATION PROCESS

This is a two-step process:

- Step One – Unsolicited white papers and quad charts, UPP Submission, may be reviewed and evaluated by the Government
- Step Two – If the Government deems the white paper and quad chart of interest and selects it for award, the CMO at the request of the Government will request a Project Execution Plan and price proposal for evaluation.

The Government reserves the right to seek additional information by requesting updated or more detailed information, including a pitch presentation from selected UPP submissions.

#### 4.1 Evaluation

Every effort will be made by the Government to review all submissions within the current focus AOIs, but the Government reserves the right not to review or evaluate all UPP submissions. If a submission is evaluated, it will be evaluated by a team of Government and/or Contractor evaluators using the following criteria:

1. Does the UPP submission present a prototype or research solution (i.e., plans) that meets the current focus AOI(s)?
2. Does the proposed prototype or research solution present a capability and/or capacity advancement?
3. Does the proposed prototype or research solution present a technology and/or technological process approach that is feasible, economically viable, and competitive?

4. Does the proposed prototype or research solution provide a ROM and schedule/timeframe that is realistic and feasible?

#### 4.2 Rating

If a UPP submission is evaluated, it will be assigned one of the following ratings in BIDS, and the below will be the only feedback that will be provided to the Proposer:

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Description</b>
Met	The proposed solution is responsive to the current focus AOIs, and meets all of the evaluation criteria. The project is eligible to progress to the next step if the Government has a need for the solution and funding becomes available.
Not Met	The proposed solution is not responsive to the current focus AOIs, and does not meet one or more of the evaluation criteria. The project is not eligible to progress to the next step.

UPP Submissions shall be considered valid for 36 months unless explicitly stated otherwise by the Proposer.

#### **5.0 SELECTION PROCESS**

The CMO will contact a consortium member if the Government selects a UPP submission to proceed to the next step. A UPP submission selected to proceed to the next step does not guarantee an award. Formatting guidance for subsequent steps will be provided at the time of request.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

*(Attachments 1 and 2 to be completed by Consortium Member)*

Attachment 1 – White Paper Template

Attachment 2 – Quad Chart Template