

DARPA-EA-23-02 10-Year Lunar Architecture (LunA-10) Capability Study
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
As of 08/17/23

5Q: If our solution requires human operation or human maintenance, does that count against the proposed solution?

5A: Per the solicitation (EA Section 6.1, page 11), this falls within the purview of NASA and outside the scope of this DARPA program. Specifically, “The envisioned lunar architecture is not intended to support human exploration or scientific experimentation that does not have commercial value. As the U.S. agency responsible for these areas, NASA has published clear roadmaps to achieve key goals by 2035.”

4Q: What is meant by “multi-service” or “integrated” concepts?

4A: There are several sectors that fall under the umbrella of “infrastructure” and may be monetizable as commercial services on the Moon. Some examples are presented in Sections 1.1 and 6.2. “Multi-service” and “integrated” nodes refer to payloads or systems that are designed to provide more than one of these services. Per the solicitation at page 12,

“Proposers should specify what other sectors they believe are required to create monetizable commercial services [...]. Due to mass constraints associated with lunar launch and landing, mass efficiency should be a primary factor considered in proposed designs and as a measurable metric. Proposers are not expected to outline all multi-service systems required to achieve the overall lunar vision. However, proposers should outline at least one, which DARPA will use to determine their suitability to be one of the LunA-10 companies designing integrated lunar frameworks.”

3Q: What is the deadline? The solicitation states that the closing date is August 14, 2024.

3A: The August 14, 2024 date is the closing date for the Master Exploration Announcement that may have multiple TAs issued against it within the year it is open. At this time, only one Technical Area (TA-1) is open. To be considered for participation in TA-1, DARPA must receive abstracts by September 6, 2023.

2Q: If our solution is more massive, but the “added” mass come from using lunar materials, does that count against the proposed solution.

2A: Per the solicitation, such a solution should quantify key unknowns and appropriate metrics for mass from lunar materials. Specifically (EA Section 1.1, page 5): “Where a technical solution has been posed, the logistical tail and associated funding that would enable its widespread fielding, beginning with mass/cost to launch from Earth” and “The magnitude, quality, and configuration required to create a critical mass, such that the

service becomes self-sustaining and commercially viable”. All Abstracts, and subsequent White Papers and Technical Presentations are evaluated in accordance with sections 7.5 and 7.6, respectively.

1Q: You emphasized a need for mass efficiency. If our solution is heavier, but less expensive (including transportation), will it be down-rated or discarded?

1A: Per the solicitation, such a solution should quantify key unknowns and appropriate metrics. Specifically (EA Section 1.1, page 5): “Where a technical solution has been posed, the logistical tail and associated funding that would enable its widespread fielding, beginning with mass/cost to launch from Earth.” All Abstracts and subsequent White Papers and Technical Presentations are evaluated in accordance with sections 7.5 and 7.6, respectively.