

**Request for Information (RFI)
Special Notice (SN) Amendment**

- Announcement Type: Amendment 01
- Special Notice Number: DARPA-SN-26-53: Affordable, Scalable Air-to-Air Weapon Avionics and Sensor Technologies
- **Changes Made: All changes highlighted in yellow throughout Special Notice (SN)**
 - **SUBMISSION FORMAT (Page 3)**
 - **PREVIOUS:** White papers shall not exceed six (6) single-sided written pages
 - **UPDATE:** White papers shall not exceed **seven (7)** single-sided written pages

**Request for Information
DARPA-SN-26-53**

**Affordable, Scalable Air-to-Air Weapon Avionics and Sensor Technologies
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
Tactical Technology Office**

Responses due 22 April 2026, by 4:00 PM Eastern Time (ET).

This Request for Information (RFI) from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)'s Tactical Technology Office (TTO) seeks to better understand the U.S. industry and supplier base for air-to-air weapons' avionics and sensor technologies that could unlock the rapid development of affordable capabilities at scale.

DARPA will use these RFI responses to identify emerging technologies and suppliers for developing low-cost weapons at scale.

Intellectual or other privileged or proprietary information contained in responses to this RFI will not be distributed outside of the U.S. Government. If a new DARPA program is developed in response to this RFI and a solicitation is issued, no intellectual or other proprietary information received in response to this RFI will be divulged to agencies outside the U.S. Government.

BACKGROUND:

DARPA recognizes the challenges posed by the current lead times required to develop and produce existing weapons in the U.S. inventory. To address these challenges, DARPA is interested in new approaches that focus on manufacturability, followed by assessing the resulting capability rather than developing high-end, exquisite weapon options. One of the key drivers of existing air-to-air weapons development and production lead times has been the integration of avionics and sensor subsystems. DARPA would like to understand emerging technologies that can radically shorten this integration period.

DESCRIPTION:

This RFI seeks information on state-of-the-art development and manufacturing processes for weapons avionics and sensor technologies, leveraging readily available components. This RFI will also be used to identify industry partners capable of supporting rapid prototyping, particularly regarding avionics and sensor development.

REQUESTED INFORMATION:

DARPA is interested in responses that must address all of the following technical areas:

1. Application of readily available, commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) components for avionics, sensor, and guidance, navigation and control subsystems.
2. Emerging technologies to rapidly integrate and test integrated avionics, sensor, and guidance navigation and control subsystems.
3. Anticipated avionics system performance as it applies to counter-air engagements, to include reliability of COTS components.

SUBMISSION FORMAT:

Attachment 2 contains a format template for responses to this RFI.

General Guidelines:

- Respondents to this special notice are encouraged to be as succinct as possible, while also providing actionable insight.
- All submissions must be written in English.
- White papers shall not exceed **seven (7)** single-sided written pages using 11-point font with 1" margins all around. Font no smaller than 10-point may be used for figures, tables, and charts.
- Electronic submittal shall be in Microsoft Word or PDF format.
- All documents submitted must be clearly labeled with the DARPA special notice number (DARPA-SN-26-53), respondent organization, and white paper title.
- To the maximum extent possible, respondents are encouraged to send non-proprietary information.
 - Respondents are responsible for clearly identifying proprietary information. Submissions containing proprietary information must have the cover page and each page containing such information clearly marked with a label such as "Proprietary" or "Company Proprietary." *NOTE: "Confidential" is a classification marking used to control the dissemination of U.S. Government National Security Information as dictated in Executive Order 13526 and should not be used to identify proprietary business information.*
- Do not include elaborate brochures or marketing materials; only include information relevant to the areas identified above.
- Use of a diagram(s) or figure(s) to depict the essence of the response is permitted and counted towards the overall page count.
- Send unclassified submissions to DARPA-SN-26-53@darpa.mil. **DO NOT SUBMIT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO THIS ADDRESS.** Please see *Attachment 1 - Security* to this notice for instructions on submitting classified information.

- Submissions must be received no later than 4:00 PM ET, 22 April, 2026. Submissions sent through other mediums, channels, or after the prescribed deadline will not be considered. Early responses are encouraged.

All white papers shall contain the following sections which are included in the page count:

- A. Cover Sheet. Provide the following information:
 - a. Response Title
 - b. Technical point of contact name, organization, telephone number and email address (The contact information should include the respondent's technical and/or administrative points of contact (names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, and e-mail addresses) to enable potential clarification discussions. Identify your primary work location as appropriate.
 - c. Indicate classification level of response (e.g., Unclassified, Unclassified/Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), Secret Collateral).
 - d. Submissions must include company Commercial and Government entity (CAGE) Code, Facility Clearance status/level, and document safeguarding level.
- B. Technical Description. Address one or more of the technical areas listed earlier in this document. Graphics within the technical descriptions are encouraged to the extent that they aid in succinctly describing the concepts.
- C. Graphic Overview Slide. If desired, include a single PowerPoint slide that graphically depicts the main ideas of the response.
- D. Bibliography/References

All technical and administrative correspondence and questions regarding this announcement and how to respond to this RFI should be sent to DARPA-SN-26-53@darpa.mil. E-mails pertaining to this RFI that are sent directly to individual DARPA Program Managers will not receive a response. No telephone inquiries will be accepted.

NOTE: DARPA may conduct individual discussions with respondents as necessary to gain a full understanding of the technical and partnership models submitted. DARPA will contact respondents individually via e-mail.

ELIGIBILITY

DARPA invites white paper submissions from all those engaged in related research activities and appreciates responses from all capable and qualified sources, including, but not limited to, universities, University-Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs) and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), private or public companies, and Government research laboratories.

DISCLAIMERS AND IMPORTANT NOTES:

- This is an RFI issued solely for information and new program planning purposes; it does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals. In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation 15.201(e), responses to this RFI are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government as such.
- Responses do not bind DARPA to any further actions related to this topic, including requesting follow-on proposals from respondents to this RFI.
- Submission is voluntary and is not required to propose to a subsequent solicitation (if any) on this topic.
- DARPA will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI.
- Respondents are advised that DARPA is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI.
- DARPA will disclose submission contents only for the purpose of review. Submissions may be reviewed by the Government (DARPA and other Government partners), FFRDCs, and Scientific, Engineering and Technical Assistance (SETA) support contractors bound by appropriate non-disclosure agreements.

Point of Contact:

DARPA/TTO

DARPA-SN-26-53@darpa.mil