

RFP-ACT-SACT-23-30 Energy and Propulsion Horizon Scan Study

Q&A 1



Date: 31-Mar-23

Question

Response

<p>1</p>	<p>In the Annex B Compliance matrix, the maximum score listed in the criteria section is below the maximum score possible for the relevant section. See “Data sourcing &amp; gathering” where the maximum score is listed as 25 but the top criteria is only goes up to 20 points and “Facilitation and consultancy” where the maximum score is again 25, but the top criteria is 12-18 points. Is this accurate? If so, how does a bidder achieve the maximum points?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>This is an error; please refer to Amendment 1</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>In the “Teaming, flexibility, and reach back” section of the Compliance Matrix you mention the “NATO cost grades.” Please provide an explanation of what are the NATO cost grades.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Please refer to Amendment 1</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>In the security and access scoring matrix, NATO calls out the requirement for having a current NATO or National UNCLASSIFIED clearance. Please provide clarification on what you mean by a NATO or National UNCLASSIFIED clearance. What are the criteria or requirements for getting and maintaining a NATO UNCLASSIFIED clearance?</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Please refer to Amendment 1</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Regarding Past Performance, Eligibility under Section 4(c), what does “Has performed the desired past performance...as described in this RFP” mean? Can you please elaborate on this?</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Interested bidders should be able to demonstrate successful completion of work similar to that within the RFP. This is typically demonstrated by outlining work completed on previous contracts, however a Letter of Reference may be submitted in lieu of prior contract experience.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Regarding clarification of scope and definitions, Under the Statement of Work (SOW) Sections 1,2: The “energy” in the terms “energy and propulsion” is not completely clear to us in the RFP. Because it is linked to “propulsion” in the RFP, we are assuming energy in terms of nuclear, fossil fuels and renewable energy sources <i>for propulsion and kinetic effect in the battlefield</i>, not other energy sources or solutions, such as energy in the sense of Information Technologies. Is this correct?</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>This is correct. The Study should focus on sources of energy for propulsion and kinetic effects on the battlefield.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>SOW Section 3(a), section 3.a.2 is confusing because “cyber” is included, hence the question in the previous paragraph. Is looking at energy in the sense of cyber operations included?</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Cyber is mentioned as one of the domains. Therefore energy should be regarded as an enabler for cyber operations.</p>

<p>7</p>	<p>With respect to Joint Functions: SOW line 3.a.2 states the <i>“The report will address the impact of new technologies from a joint functions perspective. The joint functions are multi-domain operations (land, air, sea, space, cyber) and civilian-military areas.”</i></p> <p>b. For clarity, multi-domain operations are not joint functions, rather NATO accepts Intelligence, movement and manoeuvre, fires, information, protection, sustainment, C2 and civil-military cooperation (AJP 3, Allied Joint Doctrine for Operations, Section, AJP-3_EDC_V1_E_2490.pdf (coemed.org)) as the joint function framework to describe capabilities of the force. Land, air, maritime, space and cyber are the operational domains for NATO. Is it correct to assume the report is to consider the impact of power and energy S&amp;T developments on multi-domain operations (as defined in Multi-Domain Operations: Enabling NATO to Out-pace and Out-think its Adversaries :: NATO's ACT) from a joint function framework?</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>This is correct. The joint functions perspective was related to the new technologies and not to the multi domain operations. The report should consider the use of new technologies in multi domain operations.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>On Risks and Opportunities: SOW Section 2 notes that the study is to conduct a <i>“horizon scan of available energy and propulsion technologies and associated risks and opportunities for warfare and warfare development.”</i></p> <p>b. What is the timeframe to be considered – 5 years, 5-10, 10-20 or 20+ ?</p> <p>c. Is the intention to consider a narrow or broad perspective? For example, should the report consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whole of Alliance or a tactical, operational and strategic military perspective?</li> <li>- Energy: Generation, storage and transmission?</li> <li>- The impact of associated technologies such as AI or novel materials on energy use or propulsion technologies?</li> </ul>	<p>8</p>	<p>Because it is a horizon scan we should consider a timeframe of 10-20 years. Furthermore the study should focus on a broad perspective regarding the whole alliance and the possible impact of associated technologies on a general level.</p>

9	Annex B Compliance Matrix includes a table with evaluation criteria with maximum number of points and scored criteria with points brackets to be allocated based on merit/quality of bidder responses as described in the table. However, in some cases max points do not match with to-be-allocated points (for example see Data Sourcing & Gathering - max 25 vs. 12-20 points; Facilitation and Consultancy - max 25 vs. 12-18 points). Can you please clarify how this will work?	9	Please refer to Amendment 1
10	What is the estimated budget and level of effort required to fulfill the requirements outlined in the RFP?	10	This is internal ACT information. Companies are encouraged to propose their best pricing.
11	The length of the monthly progress reports will be two pages (ok, understood). However, I would like to know if you want a particular volume of pages for the 4 deliverables of each batch.	11	There is no special requirement of a particular volume of pages. However the content of the deliverables should be match to the respective tasks and cover all important information.
12	Regarding the Compliance Matrix (Annex B), we would like to know if we should fill in any information.	12	Yes, Please reference where within your proposal (page/para/CV the invormation can be found to support the required experience
13	In the same way, of the bidding instruction nº11 (Content of the proposal), in relation to points a, b, c, d, e, we would like to know which ones we should send to the technical proposal email address and which ones should be sended to the Price proposal email address.	13	Enclosure 4 Price Proposal should be sent to the price proposal email address and all other information should be sent to the technical proposal email address.
14	Likewise, we would greatly appreciate knowing (taking into account that it is an open offer) in order to measure the means and the technical an human team to be used to carry out the contract. If you could please indicate an estimated price range for each of the contracts.	14	This is internal ACT information. Companies are encouraged to propose their best pricing.
15	Please provide a definition for the term “propulsion” within the context of this study. Is NATO seeking to study the technology that propels objects, the energy used power these systems, the engines that convert energy resources to power, or all the above? This will help us scope the work.	15	The meaning of propulsion in this context to enable the movement of objects using any source of available energies.