General Information

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Contracting Office Address

Description
This is a combination pre-solicitation notice/request for information issued solely for information and is not a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract.

DARPA intends to release a BAA entitled “Vulture II” for Phase II of the Vulture program in October 2009. An electronic copy of the Vulture II BAA, when released, will be available at: http://www.fedbizopps.gov.

An Industry Day will not be held for this BAA; however, prior to any BAA release, DARPA is seeking industry comments on the program’s overall approach. Interested parties should submit questions/comments via the e-mail address below by COB, 02 October, 2009.

The objective of the program is to develop the capability to deliver and maintain airborne payload(s) on station for an uninterrupted period of at least 5 years using a heavier-than-air platform. It is envisioned that this program will, at a minimum, develop and demonstrate advanced reliability technologies for air vehicle systems. Other advanced technologies may also be developed and demonstrated depending upon the nature of the architectures proposed by industry. The Vulture II program seeks to: 1) develop a robust system design that maximizes military utility; 2) mature critical enabling technologies; and 3) validate through simulation, ground test and flight demonstration that a 5 year aircraft is achievable, practical and has significant military utility. Key technical challenges include system reliability and mission assurance, environmental energy collection, high specific energy storage and recovery over significant number of cycles, extremely efficient propulsion systems, extremely efficient vehicle structural design, mitigation of environmentally-induced loads, and non-linear aeroelastic behavior of lightly loaded structures and coupling of flight dynamics and control. The Vulture II BAA will have objectives and criteria that reflect lessons learned through Phase I of the original Vulture program.

The Vulture II program is budgeted at $155M total. This budget must support all performer costs including test range and government test facility costs. Performer tasks are envisioned to include risk reduction of key components, subsystems and systems; material identification and characterization; detail design, manufacturing and flight test of a full scale platform to demonstrate structural integrity, thorough understanding of aeroelastic and flight controls attributes and other critical function and capability of all elements of the Vulture II program. Additional program background information, including program goals, objectives and exit criteria can be reviewed on DARPA TTO Program Information site: http://www.darpa.mil/tto/solicit/index.htm.

Once the BAA is posted, all responsible sources may submit a proposal which will be considered. No paper copies of the BAA will be issued. All amendments to the BAA will be posted to the FedBizOpps website. Proposers are cautioned to check the website for amendments. Proposers will be responsible for all costs of producing their proposals.

Point of Contact
The DARPA Program Manager is Dan Newman.

ANY AND ALL INQUIRIES, COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK ON THIS SPECIAL NOTICE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO DARPA-SN-09-41@darpa.mil.