

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)
IMPROVED LINK ELEVEN (NILE) PROJECT MANAGEMENT
OFFICE (PMO)**

**COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS (PMW 150)
IN SERVICE SUPPORT (ISS) 6 ENGINEERING SERVICES**



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) / SOURCES SOUGHT

28 January 2026

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1. BACKGROUND

- a. The Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (PEO C4I), Navy Command and Control Program Office (PMW 150), in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Improved Link Eleven Project Management Office (NILE PMO) are conducting a Market Survey to determine the interest and capability of Industry to provide continuous delivery, improvement, deployment and monitoring of the Link 22 Software System.
- b. During the late 1980s, NATO, agreeing on the need to improve the performance of legacy Tactical Data Link (TDL) Systems, produced a Mission Need Statement (MNS) and later the Requirements Document that became the basis for the establishment of Link 22 Project. The goal of Link 22 is to improve allied interoperability, replace Link 11 limitations, complement other TDL capabilities such as Link 16 and to enhance warfighting capability. Link 11 sunset date was 31 December 2024, and the upcoming Block Cycle Release (BCR) is expected to be delivered in late 2026.
- c. Link 22 was jointly defined, designed and developed by the NILE Nations. It is a modular, open system architecture, with well-defined interfaces between the components. The system consists of the interface to the System Network Controller (SNC) and the technical and tactical messages that the system transmits and receives on the data link. The formats for the tactical messages are defined in Allied Tactical Data Link Publication(ATDLP).
- d. The NILE Communications Equipment (NCE) system components consist of the following: System Network Controller (SNC); Modernized Link 22 Link Level COMSEC (LLC 7M); Signal Processing Controllers (SPCs); and Radios.
- e. This Request for Information (RFI) / Sources Sought invites Industry to help the NILE PMO accomplish three objectives:
 - a. To identify offerors within the current marketplace capable of delivering the requirements outlined in this RFI, and
 - b. To assess whether, and in what manner, interested offerors can meet the stated technical and operational requirements, and
 - c. To gain insight into the approaches, methodologies, and pathways used by industry to achieve automation of development phases through a Development, Security and Operations (DevSecOps) framework.

2. REQUIREMENT

The Government is conducting market research to determine available vendors to perform NILE In Service Support (ISS) 6 Engineering Services. This requirement is only available to vendors from the NILE Nations. The period of performance will be for five-year base ordering period, and place of performance is San Diego USA. The RFI invites industry to assist the Government in establishing key phases of activity to sustain, maintain and develop estimates in the following areas:

- a. Provide Software Engineering Services and have experience in C++ programming and DevSecOps.
- b. Provide System engineering to design, build, support, sustain, maintain configuration control on, Minimum Viable Capability Release to NILE and Link 22 Partner Nations.

- c. Analyze, design and assess the impact of potential system enhancements on the Link 22 system and implement enhancements in Block Cycle Releases (BCRs), if approved.
- d. Provide Engineering and Program Management services to NILE Nations and Link 22 Partner Nations including but not limited to implementation/installation, system engineering, investigative/trouble shooting services and technical and maintenance services.
- e. Maintain software and document repository in accordance with a configuration management system compliant with the standard ISO 10007:2017.
- f. Compliance with Allied Quality Assurance Publications 2110 and 2210 is preferred.
- g. Providing Subject Matter expertise to support the integration of Modernized LLC 7M device COMSEC into the Link 22 architecture. This may include: changes to the SNC/NRS; changes to the LLC 7M interfaces documentation; close collaboration with the LLC 7M manufacturer and US Government entities (e.g. Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC PAC)); provision of independent verification and validation (IV&V); and advice to the NILE PMO to ensure that design and implementation conforms to applicable standards and technical requirements (excluding requirements relating to the encryption/decryption algorithm).
- h. The Government encourages and will consider responses from vendors that do not yet have a Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMoA) in place but do have the expertise to meet the requirements of this RFI. Vendors lacking a CISMoA at any future contract award will be provided with LLC Simulator for use in NILE testing on a temporary basis while the requirements articulated in section 3 of this document are met. It should be noted that a successful vendor will ultimately have to execute the CISMoA.
- i. Provide Professional Project Management Services to the NILE PMO including establishing an effective project management structure, designating a single Project Manager with responsibility for work performed under the contract and all planning, monitoring, control and scheduling of the project. Project management processes and services shall be set out in a Project Management Plan to be produced by the vendor.
- j. Provide and maintain a laboratory development and test environment for a full end-to-end Link 22 system and perform compatibility and interoperability testing between respective systems in Link 22 architecture. Selected hardware and software will be provided as Government Furnished Property, Information and/or Equipment (GFP/GFI/GFE) to the vendor for use in vendor facilities for the purposes of establishing its laboratory for the testing.
- k. Maintenance activities may include procurement of hardware, software, licenses, warranties as directed by the NILE PMO and authorized by the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), for use in the NILE laboratory for the purposes of the ISS contract.
- l. Availability of subject matter experts within the core hours of 8am-5pm Pacific Daylight Time (PDT).
- m. Support providing information to international audiences at NILE Meetings and events.
- n. Support in producing a modernized version of the Link 22 Guidebook including but not limited to updating content, layout and graphics.
- o. Any relevant past performance, certifications, tools, technologies, or unique capabilities that support your response.

3. RESTRICTIONS

- a. Any non-US vendor awarded a contract as part of this requirement will be mandated to request a National Interest Determination (NID). The vendor shall be responsible for performing all requirements under this contract.
- b. Any non-US vendor awarded a contract as part of this requirement will be mandated to have Facility Clearance in place and the government requires the Facility Clearance in place prior to award subject to government approved exceptions.
- c. Any non-US vendor awarded a contract as part of this requirement must be specifically listed on a CISMoa between the Government of the nation in which the vendor is located and the United States (US) National Security Agency (NSA).
- d. In accordance with the NILE ISS Phase Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Amendment 5 dated 1 January 2020 and FAR 6.103-4 (International Agreement), award is limited to vendors of the seven NILE ISS Phase Participating Nations (CAN, DEU, ESP, FRA, GBR, ITA and USA). In addition, only vendors of the Participating NILE Nations will be eligible for award of first tier-level subcontracts.
- e. Provide professional meeting services, to include providing suitable in-person or remote facilities, ensuring security requirements are adhered to and the recording of meeting minutes. These services are required for Project Reviews, technical reviews, configuration management meetings and other technical meetings as required.

4. GOVERNMENT FURNISHED PROPERTY

The Government will provide the GFI/GFE (both hardware and software) at contract award, for the purpose of completing the NILE In-Service Support contract and specifically equipping the NILE laboratory.

5. CONTRACTING AND INDUSTRY EXCHANGES

- a. At present, the Government is considering procuring these services via a Single Award, Indefinite-Delivery, Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) contract with Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP), Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee (CPFF), and Cost CLINs. Please note, FAR 16.301-3 requires that a vendor's accounting system be adequate for determining costs applicable to the contract prior to the award of a cost-reimbursement contract. The Government anticipates this contract to have a five-year base ordering period with yearly Task Orders. The Government seeks additional input from interested vendors regarding the Government's planned contracting strategy.
- b. NAVWAR representatives and the NILE PMO may or may not choose to interact with respondents to conduct market research; such exchanges, should they occur, would be solely for the purpose of obtaining further clarification of industry's potential capabilities.
- c. The North American Industry Classification System Code (NAICS) is 541512- Computer Systems Design Services and the Product Service Code (PSC) is DA01- IT and Telecom—Business Application/Application Development Support Services (Labor).
- d. Government representatives may or may not choose to meet with potential responders in order to perform additional Market Research. Such exchanges, should they occur, would

be solely for the purpose of obtaining further clarification of industry's potential capabilities and lessons learned.

6. CAPABILITY QUESTIONS

- a. If unable to meet all RFI / Sources Sought requirements, vendors are invited to inform the Government which of the requirements they can meet in Sections 2 and 3 of this RFI. Subcontracting/teaming arrangements between vendors from any combination of NILE Nations are actively encouraged. If vendors "team up", please provide details of any proposed teaming/subcontracting arrangements as part of the RFI response.
- b. In response to this RFI, vendors are invited to provide a white paper detailing responses to capabilities as described below:
 - i. Provide a brief overview of your organization, core competencies, and relevance to the capability areas outlined in this RFI and draft PWS.
 - ii. Describe your organization's experience in C++ development, software design, build processes, integration testing, and evaluating engineering changes.
 - iii. Please describe your organization's experience operating and testing Tactical Data Link systems within a laboratory environment.
 - iv. Describe your experience implementing and managing DevSecOps pipelines, including Continuous Integration (CI)/ Continuous Delivery, Continuous Deployment (CD) pipelines towards software automation maintaining test environments, and deploying updates into production systems.
 - v. Describe your understanding of Radio Frequency (RF) spectrum governing bodies and your experience with HF and UHF communications systems.
 - vi. Please demonstrate your experience working with 1st level tier sub-contractors in automated phases of testing and development. Provide your teaming term arrangements.
 - vii. Describe your experience providing engineering services, project management, and scheduling in collaborative or international environments.
 - viii. Explain your experience with RF encryption, anti-interference, anti-jamming, or related signal-protection techniques.
 - ix. Describe the qualifications and experience of your Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in: Software development; HF/UHF communications; Cyber-software best practices; Software Testing.
 - x. Describe your organization's familiarity with relevant international agreements, treaties, and coordination frameworks governing tactical data links, as well as your knowledge of key technical standards, specifications, and compliance requirements associated with Link 22 systems.

7. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Responses shall be limited to ten (10) single-sided A4 pages, in 12-point Times New Roman font, standard 1" margins, including appendices, enclosures, pictures, diagrams, and footnotes. Each response shall include the following information:

- i. Primary Point of Contact (name, address, phone number, email address, CAGE¹ code, Unique Entity ID² number).
 - ii. Business size (large, small or other than small) and, if small, status (e.g., 8(a), HUBZone, service-disabled veteran-owned, or women-owned), if any.
 - iii. A statement that the respondent will allow the Government to release the respondent's proprietary data to the Government support vendor. In the absence of this statement, the response will only be reviewed by Government personnel.
 - iv. A summary of the work of the company, employees or partnership performed relevant to this planned requirement by demonstrating experience and capabilities described in the attached draft PWS.
 - v. Please state if there are any parts of this document with which you cannot comply, and if you propose a teaming arrangement (as stated above, please include the teaming arrangement terms).
- b. Distribution of chapter one of the Link 22 Guidebook is managed by the NILE Project Management Office. To receive the document, vendors are required to download and sign the NILE ISS6 Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) posted on <https://sam.gov/> website; and,
 - c. Return the signed NDA to Ms. Buhe Ncube, Assistant Contracting Officer Representative (ACOR) and Ms. Phoebe Pickard, Assistant Program Manager (APM), at PMW_150_NILE_PMO.fct@us.navy.mil. If the interested vendor is unable to download the NDA from the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE) (<https://piee.eb.mil>) Solicitation Module website or <https://sam.gov/> website, a copy of the NDA can also be obtained upon request by email by contacting Buhe Ncube and Phoebe Pickard at the email addresses stated above.
 - d. Once the NDA information is validated by the Government, the technical documents will be distributed to the POC listed in the submitted NDA via a secure document delivery website.
 - e. Interested parties are requested to respond to this RFI / Sources Sought with a white paper following the instructions identified herein. Submissions must be received no later than **1000 PST, 04 March 2026**. All responses must be submitted in Microsoft Word for Office and pdf compatible format. Responses shall be submitted to Ms. Sarah Murr, Procurement Contracting Officer (PCO), at sarah.m.murr.civ@us.navy.mil and Ms. Abigail Smith, (Contract Specialist) at abigail.l.smith65.civ@us.navy.mil. File names should only contain letters and numbers without special characters. Please be advised that no submissions will be returned.

8. QUESTIONS

- a. Questions regarding this RFI/Sources Sought shall be submitted in writing by email only to Ms. Sarah Murr, Procurement Contracting Officer (PCO), at sarah.m.murr.civ@us.navy.mil and Ms. Abigail Smith, (Contract Specialist) at abigail.l.smith65.civ@us.navy.mil. All

¹ Applicable to US and CAN vendors only

² Applicable to US and CAN vendors only

questions shall be submitted no later than two (2) weeks prior to the submission deadline. Verbal questions will NOT be accepted. Questions will be answered by posting answers to the PIEE Solicitation Module Website (<https://piee.eb.mil>). Accordingly, questions should NOT contain proprietary or classified information. The Government does not guarantee that questions will be answered. Interested parties are invited to subscribe to the <https://sam.gov/>, and to regularly access www.link22.org, to ensure they receive any updates connected with this RFI.

9. RFI/SOURCES SOUGHT LIMITATIONS

THIS IS AN RFI/SOURCES SOUGHT ONLY. THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION ISSUANCE. This RFI/Sources Sought is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. This RFI/Sources Sought is also being issued for the purpose of determining Large and Small Business capabilities. Both Large and Small Business firms having the capabilities to perform the tasking described in this RFI/Sources Sought are encouraged to respond. This RFI/Sources Sought does not commit the Government to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. If a solicitation is released, it will be synopsisized on the System for Award Management (SAM) website via the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE) Solicitation Module via the PIEE Vendor Portal (<https://piee.eb.mil>). It is the responsibility of the potential respondents to monitor these sites for additional information pertaining to this potential requirement. The information provided in this RFI/Sources Sought is subject to change and is not binding on the Government. Further, the release of the RFI/Sources sought should not be considered as a commitment or as authorization to incur cost for which reimbursement would be required or sought. Respondents are advised that the U.S. Government will not pay for any information or administrative cost incurred in response to this RFI/Sources Sought. All costs associated with responding to this RFI/Sources Sought will be solely at the respondent's expense. Failure to respond to this RFI/Sources Sought will not preclude participation in any future RFP, if issued.

10. ACRONYMS

ATDLP	Allied Tactical Data Link Publication
BCR	Block Cycle Release
BLOS	Beyond Line of Sight
BoE	Basis of Estimate
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CP	Change Proposal
CUI	Controlled Unclassified Information
DCMA	Defense Contract Management Agency
DEVSECOPS	Development, Security and Operations
DLP	Data Link Processing
DTDMA	Dynamic Time Division Multiple Access
GFE/GFI/GFP	Government Furnished Equipment, Information or Property
HF	High Frequency
ISS	In-Service Support
LLC 7M	Link 22 Modernized Link Level COMSEC
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAVWAR	Naval Information Warfare Systems Command
NCIS	Naval Criminal Investigative Service
NILE	NATO Improved Link Eleven
NITT	NILE Interoperability Test Tool
NRS	NILE Reference System
NSA	National Security Agency
PCO	Procuring Contracting Officer
PWS	Performance Work Statement
RF	Radio Frequency
STANAG	Standardization Agreement
TDL	Tactical Data Link
UHF	Ultra-High Frequency