

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

The Defense Information Systems Agency / Defense Information Technology Contracting Organization – National Capital Region, on behalf of the Department of Defense, is seeking information from Industry regarding Dynamic Spectrum Sharing (DSS).

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) NOTICE ONLY. THIS DOES NOT COMMIT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONTRACT FOR ANY SUPPLY OR SERVICE WHATSOEVER. NO SOLICITATION IS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

**THE GOVERNMENT MAY, AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION, POST AND/OR DISSEMINATE INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THIS RFI IN A PUBLIC FORUM. THEREFORE, PROPRIETARY INFORMATION AND/OR TRADE SECRETS SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED IN RESPONSES.**

### **1. Overview/Purpose**

DoD seeks information on innovative solutions and alternative approaches to enable DSS within the Department's currently allocated spectrum with the goal of accelerating spectrum sharing decisions and 5G deployment. The intent is to ensure the greatest effective and efficient use of the Department of Defense's spectrum for training, readiness, and lethality. This RFI is seeking information regarding all methods and approaches, and feasibility, to best develop and deploy DSS across a broad range of capabilities and for future understanding of how spectrum may be utilized in both 5G and innovative technologies.

### **2. Scope of Effort**

The scope of this effort covers the broad range of spectrum DoD currently uses in order to understand both the art of the possible, as well as current industry trends in spectrum utilization. This scope includes all approaches to spectrum management, including the best methods for sharing spectrum with both military and civilian users.

### **3. Requested Information**

A. How could DoD own and operate 5G networks for its domestic operations? What are the potential issues with DoD owning and operating independent networks for its 5G operations?

B. While the Department has made available the 3450-3550MHz spectrum band for 5G, are there new technologies or innovative methods as to how additional mid-band spectrum currently allocated to DoD can be made available for 5G faster?

C. What are other innovative ideas as to how 5G can share spectrum with high-powered airborne, ground-based and ship-based radar operations in the 3100-3550MHz spectrum band?

D. Are there other spectrum bands that can be made available to share quickly in the low and high band spectrum ranges?

E. What types of technologies exist, or are anticipated, that will allow civilian users to share spectrum faster?

F. Do you foresee any national security concerns with DoD sharing with commercial 5G?

G. Is industry aware of any statutory, legal, regulatory or policy hurdles that need to be altered or reconsidered to allow DSS? If so, what are those?

H. What are other current and perceived barriers that industry is aware of to DSS?

I. How would DSS work with existing commercial spectrum bands?

J. Could multiple DSS technical solutions coexist and under what conditions?

K. How can spectrum modernization, including spectrum Information Technology (IT) modernization and automation, help facilitate faster spectrum sharing?

L. Are there standards, including data standards, which could accelerate spectrum repurposing decisions? If so, what are they?

M. Previously, when federal spectrum has been reallocated, federal operations have been required to share or relocate to other bands and commercial licensees have received exclusive licenses via auction. The following questions relate to the above statement:

Should DoD consider spectrum leasing as an alternative to reallocation? If so, how could it be implemented?

What, if any, legal, policy, statutory and regulatory changes would be required to implement the proposed leasing approach?

How could revenue be shared with DoD under a DSS leasing agreement or any type of leasing agreement?

## **RESPONSE GUIDELINES:**

Interested parties should respond to this RFI with a white paper. Submissions cannot exceed 40 pages, single-spaced, 12-point type with at least one-inch margins on 8 1/2" x 11" page size. If the respondent is unable to address all information requested by the Government in Section 3 within the prescribed page limitation, the respondent shall submit a request, in writing, to the Contracting Officer advising of such and recommending the specific number of additional pages that are required to provide a complete response.

The response should not exceed a 5 MB e-mail limit for all items associated with the RFI response. Responses must specifically address the requested information in Section 3. Oral communications are not permissible. Beta.sam.gov will be the sole repository for all information related to this RFI.

Due to the complexity of the subject matter herein, the comprehensive nature of the requested information, and end of fiscal year workload for Industry and Government alike, the Government is allocating 30 days for white papers to be submitted. Companies who wish to respond to this RFI should send responses via email no later than 19 October 2020 at 1200 EDT to Gloria Norwood at [gloria.r.norwood.civ@mail.mil](mailto:gloria.r.norwood.civ@mail.mil).

## **INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS:**

DISA and/or DoD representatives may choose to meet with Industry and hold one-on-one discussions to obtain further clarification regarding the information submitted in white papers.

## **QUESTIONS:**

Questions regarding this announcement shall be submitted in writing by e-mail to Gloria Norwood at [gloria.r.norwood.civ@mail.mil](mailto:gloria.r.norwood.civ@mail.mil). Verbal questions will NOT be accepted. Answers to questions will be posted to beta.sam.gov. The Government does not guarantee that questions received after 02 October 2020 at 1200 EDT will be answered. The Government will not reimburse companies for any costs associated with the submissions of their responses.

## **DISCLAIMER:**

This RFI is not a Request for Proposal (RFP) and is not to be construed as a commitment by the Government to issue a solicitation or ultimately award a contract. Responses will not be considered as proposals nor will any award be made as a result of this synopsis. The Government may, at its sole discretion, post and/or disseminate information submitted in response to this RFI in a public forum. Therefore, proprietary information and/or trade secrets shall not be included in responses.

All information contained in the RFI is preliminary as well as subject to modification and is in no way binding on the Government. FAR clause 52.215-3, "Request for Information or Solicitation for Planning Purposes", is incorporated by reference in this RFI. The Government does not intend to pay for information received in response to this RFI. Responders to this invitation are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI. This RFI will be the basis for collecting information on capabilities available. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes. Please be advised that all submissions become Government property and will not be returned nor will receipt be confirmed. In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this RFI are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract.