



Industry Information Exchange Opportunities

U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) employs a number of traditional and new avenues to both distribute and receive important information regarding new concepts and capabilities. The command has some unique-to-USJFCOM vehicles such as:

- Focused Forums provide the command an opportunity to disseminate conceptual information on a focused joint warfighting technological capability area. Focused Forums are half-day intensive briefings explaining specific transformational initiatives that are needed to develop enabling capabilities. Briefings are followed by a Q&A session.
- Capability Presentations are the vehicle used to present ideas and potential solutions to USJFCOM. They are unique in that they allow industry and academia to participate in focusing USJFCOM conceptual needs and solutions.
- Industry Symposium - The USJFCOM Industry Symposium is an annual two-day event, developed around a predetermined joint warfighting capability theme, to broadcast general USJFCOM long range research and development capability areas to industry. By comparison, Focused Forums are intended to publish short term USJFCOM conceptual needs.

These include traditional contract vehicles like:

- Requests For Information (RFI, FAR 15.201(b)): USJFCOM uses this tool to determine what technologies are available in the marketplace. RFIs are used to gather information from industry without any promise of a current or future requirement. Respondents to RFIs will not be reimbursed for the information they provide. This is not a request for offers and information provided cannot be used to create a binding contract.
- Requests for Proposals (RFP, FAR 15.203): RFPs are intended to solicit offers from industry regarding fixed government requirements, which may be accepted and result in a binding contract.
- Unsolicited Proposals (USP, FAR 15.600): The USP is a tool industry can use to present unique and innovative ideas to the government. They are prepared without government endorsement, direction or involvement. USPs must include sufficient detail for the government to make a determination that the product or service offered is worthwhile and supports the current needs of USJFCOM. The USP may not be an advance proposal for a known agency requirement that is planned for future acquisition.
- Broad Agency Announcements (BAA, FAR 35.016): The BAA is used to advertise the research and development requirements for a specific program and solicits proposals on how to meet those R&D requirements. Contracts may be awarded on the basis of the proposals received. BAAs may remain open for long periods of time with the ability of having multiple contracts awarded on the basis of responses received. The BAA process may only be used for the acquisition of basic and applied research. The focus is not specific hardware or system solutions.
- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs): An FFRDC is a university, consortium of universities, other not-for-profit or non profit organization, or an industrial firm as an autonomous organization or as an identifiable separate operating unit of a parent organization that performs for a sponsoring Federal agency a special long-term research or development need that cannot be satisfied as effectively by existing in-house or contractor resources. The sponsor agency may permit non-sponsor activities, such as USJFCOM, to place work with the FFRDC, if the proposed work is within the purpose, mission, general scope of effort or special competency of the FFRDC, which cannot be fulfilled by competitive contracting. You can find a master list of FFRDCs maintained by the National Science Foundation: www.nsf.gov/sbe.srs/ffrdc.
- Research With Educational Institutions and Nonprofit Organizations (FAR 35.015): When R&D work is not defined precisely, the contract states only a period during which work is conducted (i.e., results during a specified period are not required), and the contractor bears primary responsibility for the research. If the contract is based on the particular research effort and management efforts of a principal investigator or project leader, they must be identified in the contract.
- Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA 15 USC 3710(a)): A CRADA is a legal agreement between USJFCOM and one or more non-government parties, such as private industry and academia. CRADAs offer both parties an opportunity to leverage each other's resources when conducting mutually beneficial research and development (R&D). However, no government funds may be used to support a CRADA partnership. The objective of a USJFCOM CRADA is to establish a collaborative partnership that accelerates research and development to meet joint warfighting capability requirements.