

RFI – NTCDL

8 January 2013

The purpose of the Network Tactical Common Data Link (NTCDL) System Performance Specification (SPS) is to provide a draft document for review in advance of the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a NTCDL System.

- The contents of this draft SPS are preliminary and subject to change.
- The release of the draft SPS does not commit the Government to contract for any supply or service.
- Respondents are advised that the Government will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in reviewing or commenting on this document.

The reviewer of this document should note that the SPS uses terms that are intended to provide an independent architectural framework, wherein the Government will entertain any implementation of architecture which meets the NTCDL functional requirements. The selected solution (and its associated architecture) will need to meet the naming requirements of the Navy logistics systems (i.e., NTCDL is not a name which can be used).

The following information is intended to assist the reviewer in understanding the items which will be procured under the contract associated with this SPS.

- The initial procurement for this contract will be for a design of a NTCDL SPS compliant system, and a single Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) system which will be subjected to testing.
- There will be options for procurement of production units of the system. At the present time, production sufficient to outfit the current U.S Navy CVN inventory is expected (i.e., 12 carriers)
(http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=200&ct=4).

The Information Assurance (IA) posture of the resulting system will be affected by the connection of the NTCDL system control interface to multiple end user's Local Area Networks (LANs) (e.g., Combat System LAN) that operate at the Secret level. The Government is interested in industry feedback on the IA implications of this connection. Comments are specifically requested relative to the connection of the Link Control Subsystem to the NTCDL equipment located in unclassified spaces (e.g., Antenna Subsystem). The Government specifically requests inputs on the subjects listed below. Reviewers should not feel constrained by the list, and are encouraged to address the entire specification and its appendices. Reviewers

should provide the Government with any unique notional architecture components, including but not limited to antenna system features, to meet functional requirements.

Architecture:

- a. Please provide a notional design to meet the current draft specification function and features. (Refer to Section 3.1 and 3.2 system capabilities, system performance, and Figure 3-2).
- b. Given the proposed notional architecture provided for question (a), please provide estimated Size, Weight, and Power (SWAP) for the major subsystem components including max power consumption for the antennas. (Refer to Section 3.4, and Tables 3-18 to 3-23 for notional SWAP estimates).
- c. Given the proposed notional architecture provided, please identify which component(s) are dependent for the system to be operational, vice being potentially identifiable as an option by the Government as an item not to be implemented yet still permitting the system to meet functional requirements.
- d. Per the notional design at item (a), all data rights should be identified, noting that the Government considers any codes put into firmware as being software.

Performance:

- e. Based on potential offerors' notional design, how would the system be cooled?
- f. Provided the preliminary values in Table 3-12, and Table 3-13 (Ku and X-band performance parameters), please provide any suggestions for alternate measurement, or values.

Cost:

- g. Of the proposed architecture in response to question (a), please list the potential cost drivers, and describe how they might be optioned or the costs mitigated.
 1. Of these potential cost drivers, if an item is optioned or a cost mitigated solution is chosen, what are the impacts to functional capability?
- h. Given your notional cost proposal:
 1. What is the estimated cost of a Development Unit for each Type A Subtier configuration (CVN, CRU/DES, and Small Deck)?
 2. What is the estimated cost for a Production Unit for each Type A Subtier configuration (CVN, CRU/DES, and Small Deck)?
 3. Identify cost savings and approaches as they relate to scalable variants (e.g., CVN, CRU/DES & Small Decks).
 4. Identify cost drivers related to data rights (i.e., Government Purpose Rights and unlimited rights).
- i. Are there other solutions which could provide cost savings?

An excel spreadsheet comment form has been provided with the draft specification to support the collection of comments and suggestions (see NTCDL_Comment_Form.xls).