Secure Compute Environment Testbed for a National Secure Data Service

Request for Solutions

Dr. Heather Madray
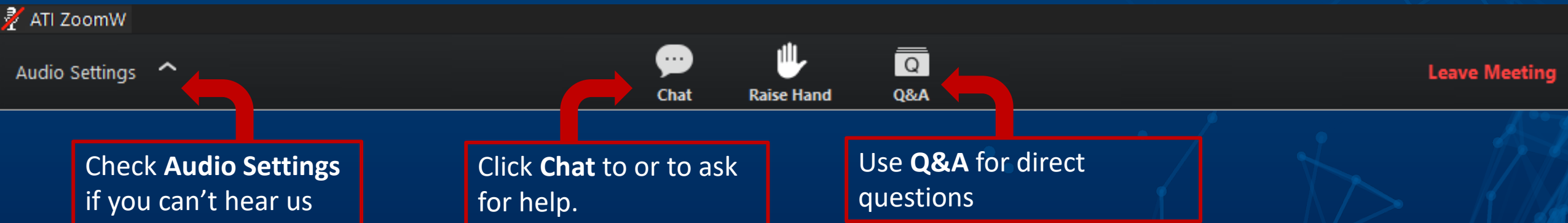NCSES, Program Director for Data Access, Confidentiality, and Quality Assessment (DACQA)

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NSF | NCSES

Housekeeping Items:

- All attendees are on mute and will not be able to unmute themselves.

- Please use the "chat" function for technical difficulties only.

- Place all questions in the Q&A Box.

- Please check your audio settings if you are having difficulties hearing us.

ATI ZoomW

Audio Settings | Chat | Raise Hand | Q&A | Leave Meeting

Check **Audio Settings** if you can't hear us

Click **Chat** to or to ask for help.

Use **Q&A** for direct questions

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NSF | NCSES

Background

Placed within NSF's SBE Directorate, NCSES is one of 13 principal federal statistical agencies

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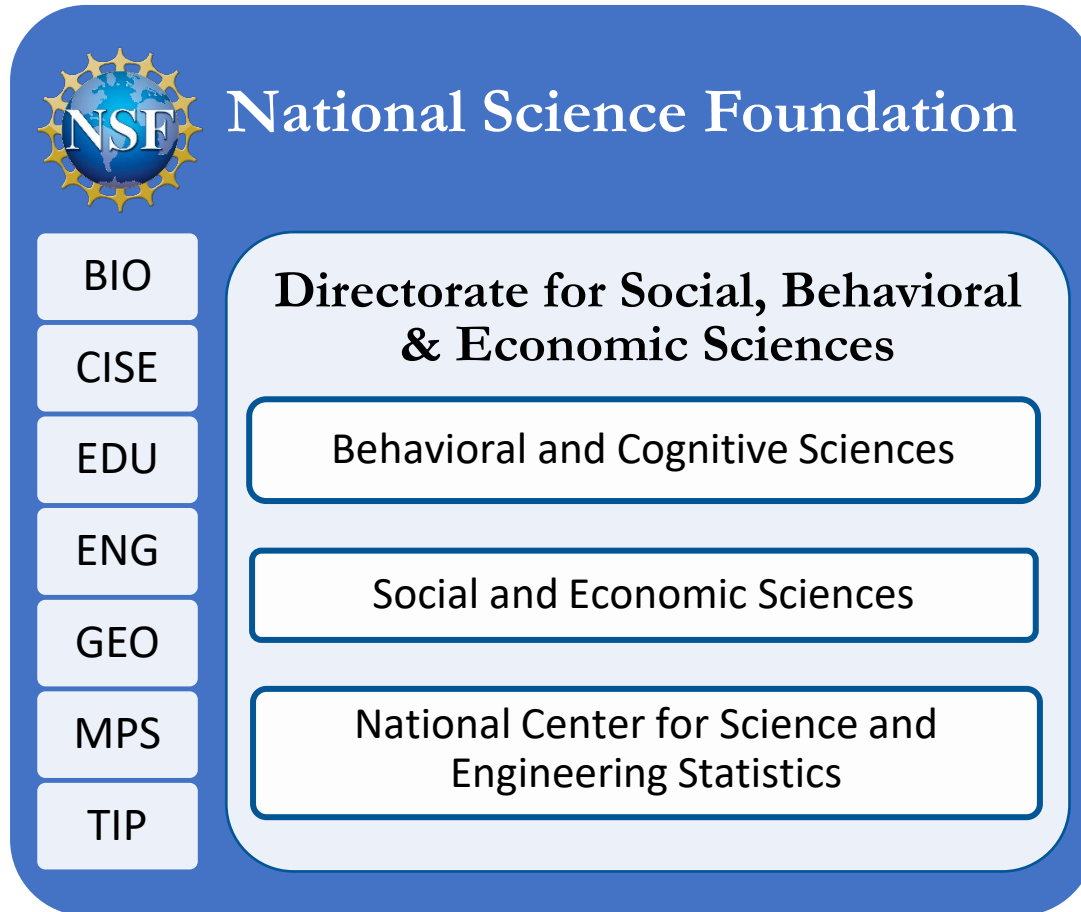
NCSES's mission is to serve as a federal clearinghouse for objective data that provide key insights into the S&E enterprise

Science & Engineering Workforce
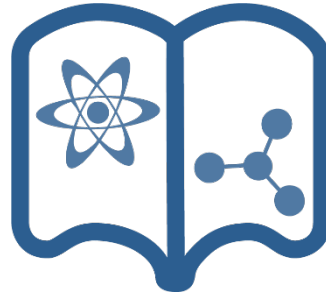
STEM Education

Innovation & Global Competitiveness
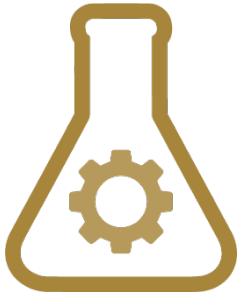
Research & Development

Government Funding for S&E

Higher Ed R&D

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The idea of a transformational NSDS to coordinate data linking, secure access, and support innovation everywhere has a distinguished lineage

The pathway to the
NATIONAL SECURE DATA SERVICE

2016   **2018**   **2020**   **2021**   **2022**

Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018

ACDEB
Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building

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The CHIPS and Science Act

National Secure Data Service Demonstration Project

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America's DataHub provides experiences to inform the development of the NSDS Demonstration (NSDS-D) Project
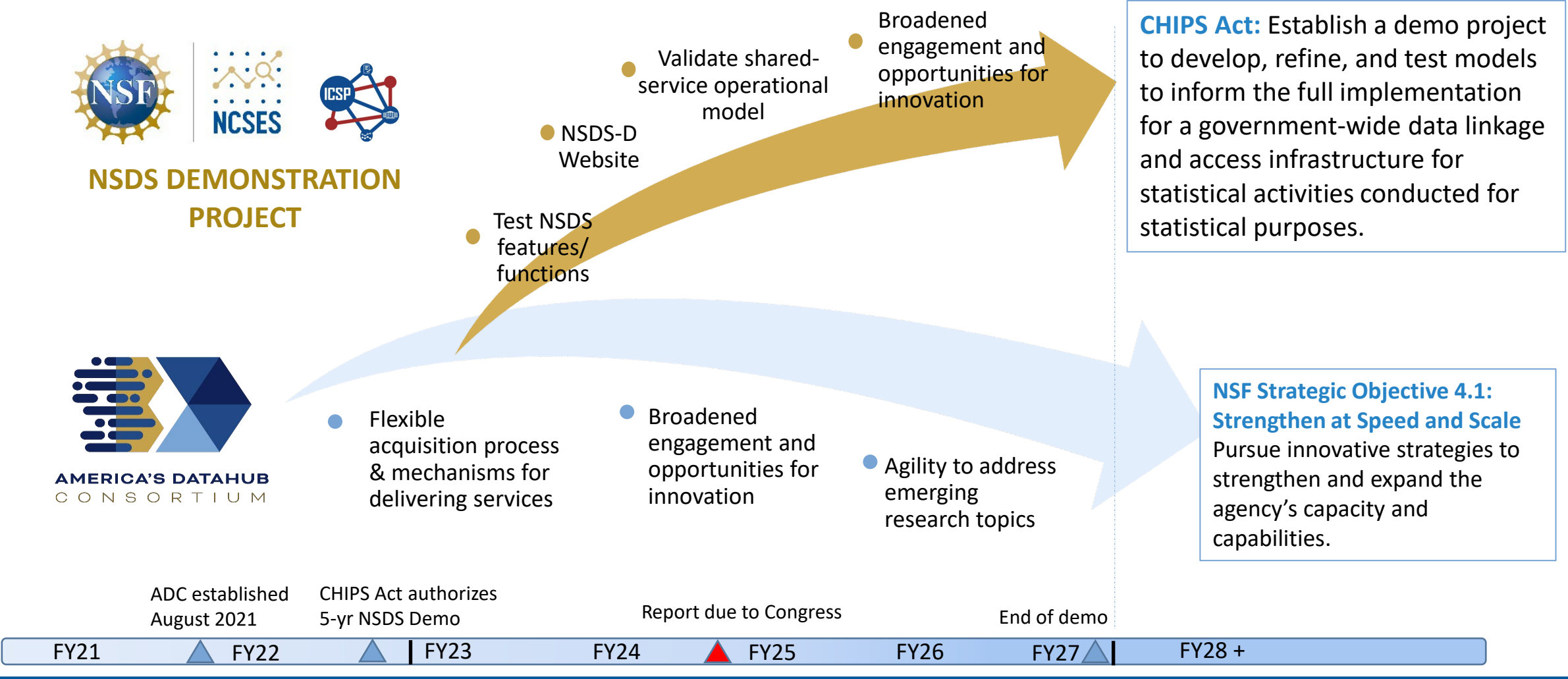
Scope of the NSDS-D

To pilot potential shared services, technologies, and techniques that might be utilized within a potential NSDS.

Focus is on novel research collaborations, data linkage methodologies, and privacy preserving technologies and techniques.

Exploring innovation is key to the NSDS-D.

The NSDS-D is **NOT** a data warehouse.

Data will not be collected and housed under the demonstration project.

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Secure Compute Environment Testbed Purpose

- **Design and build a secure compute environment testbed** that will be leveraged as part of an overall effort to build a linkage and access infrastructure to support the NSDS-D.

- Increase NSDS-D abilities to process and **analyze data, maintain data security, and expand research access** as well as serve as a **testbed** for an infrastructure for a potential NSDS.

- Allow us to **implement testing of privacy-preserving technologies** as required under Section 10375 of the CHIPS and Science Act. This project will test the required infrastructure for the activities under an NSDS-D.

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Background

The CHIPS and Science Act establishes a National Secure Data Service Demonstration Project (NSDS-D) to "develop, refine, and test models to inform the full implementation of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking recommendation for a government-wide data linkage and access infrastructure for statistical activities conducted for statistical purposes."

A key element in the legislation is data security using privacy-preserving technologies. The ability to establish a shared IT environment that can be leveraged for use by multiple government entities is critical as is the use of the environment for the testing of novel privacy-preserving technologies and data linkage techniques.

Data used within this environment would be subject to confidentiality restrictions within multiple statutes that provide for the security and privacy of individually identifiable statistical data maintained by NCSES as well as other statistical agencies within the Federal Government.

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Timeline

- **Phase 1** - Build the Secure Compute Environment Testbed (~3 months or less)

- **Phase 2** – Operational Testing of the Secure Compute Environment Testbed (~2 months or less) – estimate 100 users for the duration of Phase 2 (government and non-government)

- **Phase 3** – Demonstrate/Enhance the Secure Compute Environment Testbed (through August 9, 2026) – estimate 500 users for the duration of Phase 3 (government and non-government)

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Deliverables

At a minimum, offerors will provide the following if selected for award. Additional deliverables may be required.

- **Bi-weekly meetings** with NCSES program staff. This will include establishing meetings, agendas, and taking meeting minutes.
- **Monthly reports**, following the template provided by ATI, including quarterly lessons learned highlighting key lessons learned for the quarter. As this is a testbed for potential development of infrastructure for an NSDS, understanding successes, challenges, and opportunities will be critical to inform future development.
- A **final report** that includes work completed and a compilation of lessons learned from the full performance period.
- All **security and FedRAMP documentation** listed in section 1.3.2 of the SOW.

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Statement of Work

- Project Management

- Secure Compute Environment Testbed

- Secure Compute Environment Testbed support

- Section 508 of Rehabilitation Act and general accessibility

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Statement of Work (continued)

- Places of Performance

- Work conditions/hours

- Key Personnel

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Additional Information

- Support through August 9, 2026

- Security clearances will be required by team members

- System must be FedRAMP certified at the moderate level

- COTS or open-source tools need to be made available

- Security requirements and documentation required per NSF

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Questions?

Request for Solutions (RFS) Requirements

Ms. Mandi Ballou
Senior Contracts Manager
Advanced Technology International (ATI), ADC Consortium Management Firm (CMF)

americasdatahub.org/opportunities

The official source of information regarding the solicitations is included in the Request for Solutions posted on the ADC website. If you act on information from other sources, it is at your own risk.

RFS Summary

Project Topic

- Proposals must address the specific topic area.
- See Attachment 1 of the RFS for full topic description

Anticipated Funding

- One or more awards estimated at $8,600,000

Period of Performance

- Through August 9, 2026

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One Step Process

- Offerors will submit a detailed technical and cost proposal for award evaluation.

- You do not need to be an ADC member to respond. However, if you're selected for award, you must join ADC (if not already a member).

Full Proposal Submission

- RFS Attachment 2 includes format

  - Volume 1: Technical Proposal

    - Limited to **20 pages plus cover page.**

  - Volume 2: Cost Proposal

    - No page limit.

  - Submit in Word format.

  - Submission form: https://atisc.formstack.com/forms/adc_scet_rfs

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Full Proposal Cover Page

- Working title of the proposed project.

- Names, phone numbers, mailing, and e-mail addresses for the principal technical and contractual points of contact (person or persons authorized to negotiate on the behalf of the offeror and who can contractually obligate the offeror organization).

- Unique Entity ID (formerly DUNS number) of the submitting organization (if available).

- Project partners, if any.

- Date of submission.

- Proprietary data restrictions, if any.

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Volume 1: Technical Proposal Content

- **Executive Summary**
  - **Summary Statement:** Provide a succinct statement of the aim of the project and proposed approach. In most cases, the summary statement will be no longer than a paragraph.
  - **Context:** Briefly describe the current state of information and/or research in the area.
  - **Proposed Approach:** Describe the proposed approach. Offerors shall explain how the proposed approach will meet the objectives outlined in Attachment 1; result in or lead to a replicable framework that can be used to address similar issues; and inform other strategic priorities like the National Secure Data Service.

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Volume 1: Technical Proposal Content *(Continued)*

- ## Statement of Work

  - **Work Scope:** Describe the work to be accomplished as part of the project, organized as it is expected to be performed. Separate the work effort into major tasks and subtasks as numbered paragraphs or in a table. <u>See Attachment 1 for a draft Statement of Work.</u>

  - **Deliverables:** All project deliverables should be clearly listed and described.

  - **Future Phases:** Proposals may include a discussion of optional, future phases of work. The original phase or work shall in no way depend on work described under future phases to meet the program criteria.

  - ***There shall be no company-sensitive or proprietary data included in the Statement of Work.***

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Volume 1: Technical Proposal Content *(Continued)*

- **Capabilities and Experience**
  - List all team members proposed for the project and indicate if they are a non-traditional entity as defined in the RFS.
  - List all key personnel, including those from outside the offeror's organization. Organize the team by organization name and briefly describe each person's roles and responsibilities on the project.
  - Identify and describe the capabilities and experience of key personnel and organizations as these elements relate to the proposed project.
  - Descriptions of experience should serve to demonstrate the key personnel's ability to successfully conduct the proposed research or project, including access to critical resources for the project.
  - Designate any supervisory relationships and who will be the main point of contact for regular check-ins with the NCSES methodological team during the project.
  - Provide condensed resumes (2-page maximum) for all key personnel on the project.

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Volume 1: Technical Proposal Content *(Continued)*

- ## Capabilities and Experience

  - In additional to key personnel, designate any graduate students or postdoctoral fellows funded by the proposed research. If named, provide no more than a half-page biographical sketch of their background and research interests. The biographical sketch should be included as part of the resume appendix and does not count against the page limit.

  - Describe any unique capabilities that the offeror team possesses that may reduce project risk, reduce project duration, and/or improve project financial performance.

  - Address any potential conflicts of interest and any proposed mitigation. In addition, complete and submit Exhibit 1 – Organizational Conflicts of Interest Certificate.

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Volume 1: Technical Proposal Content *(Continued)*

- **Intellectual Property Rights**

  - Describe any limitations on any intellectual property (patents, inventions, trade secrets, copyrights, or trademarks) that will impact the Offeror's performance of the contract or impact the Government's subsequent use of any deliverable under the contract.

  - The Offeror must describe the intellectual property in sufficient detail to describe the limitations (data assertions of the Offeror or any subcontractor, potential patent licenses required by the Government, etc.), and to describe why or how the Government can accomplish the stated objectives of this RFS with the limitations described or proposed by the Offeror.

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Volume 2: Cost Proposal Content

- **The Cost Proposal shall contain the following information:**

  - **Agreement Type**: Offerors should identify the proposed agreement type (e.g. firm-fixed-price or expenditure based) by Contract Line Item (CLIN). Final agreement type will be subject to agreement between selected offeror and the Government.

  - **Cost Estimate:** The cost estimate shall be broken down for each year of the proposed work. The elements of cost and suggested level of detail are listed in the RFS. Contractor format for the cost estimate is acceptable. The total cost by CLIN and by Phase as described in Attachment 1 must be provided using the level of detail shown in the RFS. The costs by CLIN and by Phase can be provided separately.

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Volume 2: Cost Proposal Content *(Continued)*

- ## Program Funds
  - **Labor – Offeror only:** Provide a description of each labor category or person with associated labor rate and hours.
  - **Travel – Offeror only**: Provide a list of the number of trips, number of days and travelers per trip, cost per trip, and the purpose of each trip.
  - **Team Members/Subcontractors/Consultants:** Provide a list of each team member/subcontractor/consultant and their associated subcontract funding.
  - **Material/Equipment – Offeror only:** Provide a list all items and provide justification and basis of cost for each (i.e., catalog pricing, vendor quote, previous purchase, etc.).
  - **Other Direct Costs – Offeror Only:** Provide a list all items and provide justification and basis of cost for each (i.e., catalog pricing, vendor quote, previous purchase, etc.).
  - **Indirect Costs – Offeror Only:** Provide a breakout of all indirect costs and indicate whether rates are Government approved, citing approval date and federal agency providing approval. If rates are not approved, provide an explanation on how your organization's proposed rates are appropriate for pricing.
  - **Profit/Fee:** Indicate any profit/fee.

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Vol 2: Cost Proposal Content *(Continued)*

- **Cost Share (not required)**
  - **Cash (labor, travel, etc.)**: As applicable, provide a description of each labor category, details on travel, list of materials, etc.
  - **In Kind (use of equipment, space/ buildings, intellectual property)**: Must provide basis of cost.

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Full Proposal Submission Form

Offeror Information

Offeror Organization *

Offeror Address

Offeror City

Offeror State

Offeror Zip Code

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Full Proposal Submission Form *(Continued)*

Are you currently a "Non-traditional Entity"? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

"Non-traditional entity" means an entity (construed in its broadest sense to include qualified large and small businesses, universities, non-profits, philanthropic organizations, partnerships, joint ventures, and other entity forms) that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the three-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by NSF for the procurement or arrangement, under any NSF procurement contract or NSF instrument of financial assistance.

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Full Proposal Submission Form *(Continued)*

POC Information

Technical POC Name *

First Name	Last Name

Job Title *

Technical POC Email *

Technical POC Phone *

Is the Contracts POC the same as the Technical POC?

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Full Proposal Submission Form *(Continued)*

Submission

Proposal Title *

Proposal Submittal

⚪ I prefer to upload the proposal to this form (attachments will be unencrypted)

⚪ I prefer to send the proposal via encrypted email to adc-contracts@ati.org (may be done before or after submitting this form)

Volume I: Technical Proposal Upload

[Choose File][Remove File] No File Chosen
File names must not contain spaces or special characters

Volume II: Cost Proposal Upload

[Choose File][Remove File] No File Chosen
File names must not contain spaces or special characters

Additional Comments

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Full Proposal Evaluation Criteria

- **Technical**
  - Approach – the degree to which the proposed project:
    - (i) meets the objectives outlined in (RFS) Attachment 1;
    - (ii) will result in or lead to a replicable framework that can be used to address similar issues;
    - (iii) demonstrates innovativeness;
    - (iv) informs other strategic priorities like the National Secure Data Service; and
    - (v) demonstrates ability to access, manage, and respond to risk areas
  - Teaming – The degree to which the proposed project includes a diverse team of qualified performers to include use of non-traditional entities. (See RFS for non-traditional definition)
- **Cost**
  - The CMF will perform an analysis and will provide the results to the Government. This effort may entail the CMF requesting additional information from the Offeror.
  - The Government will determine whether the Offeror's total evaluated cost/price is fair and reasonable.

The criteria are listed in order of relative importance.

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Timeline

	Date (Estimate)
Request for Solutions Release	February 7
Webinar	February 12
Teaming Speed Networking Event *(next slide)*	February 13
Full Proposal Deadline	February 28, 3PM ET
Offeror Notifications	March
Award Projects	April

Any deadline updates will be communicated via email.

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Teaming Resources

- **Teaming Speed Networking Event** on **February 13 at 1:30 PM ET**

- The event aims to help organizations find potential partners for this RFS. Each presenting organization will have a maximum of three minutes to highlight its capabilities and specify if they are looking to serve as a prime contractor, subcontractor, or either.

- Visit the "Events" page to learn more and to register for the event!

https://www.americasdatahub.org/events/

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Teaming Resources (continued)

- ADC Member Profile Database*

  - Searchable by member demographics and capabilities, includes POC info for each member.

- Member Forum*

  - Post under the "Secure Computing Environment" Forum if you are interested in teaming or starting a discussion with other members.

- Need a teaming partner outside of ADC or other resources?

  - Email ati@govmates.com with who you are looking for.

  - More information is available at govmates.com/ati.

  *Requires access to Members Only website. Request access here.

Not a member, but want to access these resources? Join today — it's free!

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Stay Engaged

✉ Solicitation and Contract Related Questions: ADC-Contracts@ati.org

✉ General/Membership Questions: adc@ati.org

✉ Join the ADC Mailing List: https://www.americasdatahub.org/adc-mailing-request-form/

Visit the ADC Website

Stay in the loop with ADC events, solicitations, project awards, news, members, and more!

www.americasdatahub.org

Questions?