

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Digitization of Directed Energy Short Course: Introduction to High Energy Laser (HEL) Systems

Issued by: Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS)

Date: 24 January 2025

Proposal Submission Deadline: 21 February 2025

Contact Information: Cynnamon Spain at cynnamon@deps.org

1. Overview and Background:

DEPS is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to digitize an existing 145-page short course titled *Introduction to High Energy Laser (HEL) Systems*. This course is a technical primer intended for professionals and students interested in Directed Energy (DE) technologies, with a focus on High Energy Laser systems. Upon the successful completion of this first project, the vendor may be considered for future work to digitize another course on High Power Microwave (HPM) Systems.

The objective of this RFP is to select a vendor that can effectively convert the current printed materials into an engaging and interactive digital format that facilitates remote learning. This should include multimedia elements, assessments, and the ability to track learner progress in a flexible and user-friendly environment.

2. Course Description:

Course Title:

Introduction to High Energy Laser (HEL) Systems

Course Content Overview:

This course provides an in-depth introduction to High Energy Laser (HEL) systems and their applications in various sectors, particularly in defense and security. Topics covered include:

- Basic principles of high-energy lasers and laser physics.
- Key components of HEL systems (lasers, beam control, power systems, etc.).
- Applications of HEL systems in military, industrial, and research environments.
- Challenges in deployment and operational considerations.
- Future developments in HEL technology.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, learners should be able to:

- Understand the fundamental principles and physics behind High Energy Laser (HEL) systems.
 - Identify the key components and subsystems of HEL systems.
 - Recognize the various applications of HEL systems in both defense and civilian sectors.
 - Understand the operational challenges and potential solutions in the deployment of HEL systems.
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3. Scope of Work:

The selected vendor will be responsible for the following tasks to digitize the *Introduction to High Energy Laser (HEL) Systems* course:

1. Content Digitization:

- Convert the existing approximately 145 pages of the printed course material into a digital format (e.g., e-learning modules, PDFs, interactive web-based course).
- Organize the content into logical, digestible units, possibly divided into modules or chapters, with clear section breaks.
- Create visually engaging content, including diagrams, charts, and animations where appropriate, to explain complex technical concepts.
- Integrate multimedia elements (e.g., video clips, animations) to enhance understanding of key concepts.

2. Interactive Elements:

- Develop quizzes, knowledge checks, or interactive exercises at the end of each module or chapter to reinforce key learning points.
- Implement interactive case studies or scenarios where learners can apply their knowledge.
- Design the course to allow for learner progress tracking, including completion of modules, assessments, and overall course completion.

3. Accessibility:

- Ensure that the course is accessible to learners with disabilities, complying with WCAG 2.1 standards (e.g., closed captioning for videos, screen reader compatibility, and keyboard navigation).
- The course should be compatible with various devices (desktop, tablet, smartphone) and web browsers.

4. User Experience (UX):

- Develop an intuitive, user-friendly interface that allows learners to easily navigate through the course materials.
- Implement features such as bookmarking, progress tracking, and a table of contents for easy navigation.

5. **LMS Compatibility:**
 - The course must be compatible with common Learning Management Systems (LMS), such as Moodle, Blackboard, or SCORM-compliant systems.
 - Provide the option for learners to track their progress and receive completion certificates.
 6. **Testing and Quality Assurance:**
 - Test the digital course for functionality, compatibility across devices, and user experience prior to final delivery.
 - Ensure all interactive components (quizzes, videos, etc.) work seamlessly and enhance the overall learning experience.
 7. **Ongoing Support:**
 - Provide technical support and troubleshooting for a defined period (e.g., 3–6 months) after the course is live to address any issues related to content delivery or platform functionality.
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4. Deliverables:

- A fully digitized version of the *Introduction to High Energy Laser (HEL) Systems* course.
 - All source files, including multimedia assets (videos, animations, graphics) used in the course.
 - Documentation outlining the development process, including a user guide for navigating and using the course.
 - Access to the final course on a test platform or LMS, including functionality for learner progress tracking and assessments.
 - Final report on the development process, challenges encountered, and solutions implemented.
 - A post-launch support plan, including timelines and contact information for ongoing technical assistance.
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5. Proposal Requirements:

Proposals should include the following information:

1. **Company Overview:**
 - A brief description of your company, including history, relevant experience, and qualifications for digitizing technical courses.
2. **Relevant Experience:**
 - A portfolio or examples of previous projects related to digitizing technical or scientific courses, especially in areas such as directed energy, lasers, or other advanced technologies.
 - Case studies or client references highlighting your expertise in creating interactive and engaging e-learning content.

3. **Proposed Approach:**

- A detailed description of your approach to digitizing the HEL course, including the tools and platforms you will use.
- The instructional design methodology you will employ to ensure effective learning outcomes.
- A timeline with key milestones and estimated completion dates for the course development.

4. **Budget:**

- A detailed cost estimate for the digitization of the *Introduction to High Energy Laser (HEL) Systems* course, broken down by phases or milestones (e.g., content conversion, multimedia development, LMS integration).
- Any additional costs for ongoing support or maintenance.

5. **Team Composition:**

- Information about the team members who will be working on this project, including their qualifications and relevant experience (e.g., instructional designers, subject matter experts, multimedia developers).

6. **References:**

- At least two references from past clients for similar projects, particularly in the field of technical or defense-related course development.

6. Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Experience and Expertise:** Demonstrated experience in digitizing technical training content and creating interactive e-learning experiences, particularly in the field of directed energy or similar complex subjects.
- **Methodology and Approach:** The quality and clarity of the proposed approach, including instructional design, interactivity, and learner engagement strategies.
- **Timeline and Deliverability:** The feasibility of the proposed timeline and ability to meet deadlines and project milestones.
- **Cost:** Reasonableness of the budget in relation to the proposed scope of work and the vendor's experience.
- **References:** Quality of client references and feedback from similar projects.

7. Submission Instructions:

Please submit your proposal via email cynnamon@deps.org by 21February 2025 Late submissions will not be considered. Include *Proposal for Digitization of HEL Course* in the subject line.

8. Questions and Clarifications:

All questions related to this RFP must be submitted in writing to Cynnamon Spain no later than 7 February 2025. A final list of questions and answers will be shared with all prospective vendors by 14 February 2025.

We look forward to reviewing your proposal and working together on this important project.

Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS)
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