

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Issued by: Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS)

Date Issued: 24 January 2025

Proposal Submission Deadline: 21 February 2025

Proposal Submission Address: cynnamon@deps.org

Title:

Warfighter Outreach Program for Directed Energy Technologies

1. Overview

The Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS) is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to design and implement a **Warfighter Outreach Program** focused on ensuring that directed energy (DE) technologies meet the practical needs of warfighters in operational environments. The purpose of this program is to bridge the gap between the technical development of DE systems and the real-world requirements of battlefield operations, ensuring that these technologies are deployed in ways that enhance mission success, reduce risks to soldiers, and counter evolving threats effectively.

2. Objective

The **Warfighter Outreach Program** aims to gather and integrate feedback from frontline military personnel regarding the practical use, deployment, and testing of Directed Energy (DE) systems. By understanding the challenges faced by soldiers, the program will guide the development of DE technologies to ensure they are not only technologically effective but also practically useful in real-world combat and defense scenarios.

The selected contractor(s) will be tasked with designing and executing outreach activities, including interviews, focus groups, field observations, and other engagement strategies, to collect insights and feedback from warfighters. These insights will then inform the ongoing development and refinement of DE technologies to better meet the needs of military personnel on the frontlines.

3. Scope of Work

The contractor(s) will be responsible for carrying out the following tasks:

1. Warfighter Engagement Strategy:

- Develop and implement a detailed outreach strategy to engage warfighters at various levels, including frontline soldiers, military leadership, and other key personnel.
- Identify appropriate methods of engagement (e.g., surveys, interviews, focus groups, field observations) to gather comprehensive feedback on DE systems.
- Ensure outreach efforts are representative of a wide range of military branches, platforms, and operational contexts (land, air, sea, and space).

2. **Conducting Outreach Activities:**
 - Organize and facilitate direct engagement with warfighters in both garrison and operational environments.
 - Coordinate with military units and leadership to schedule outreach sessions, ensuring that participation aligns with operational security requirements.
 - Collect qualitative and quantitative data through structured interviews, surveys, observation, and feedback sessions.
 - Analyze data to identify common themes, challenges, and opportunities for improving DE systems in the field.
3. **Integration of Warfighter Feedback:**
 - Compile and synthesize the feedback gathered from warfighters into actionable insights.
 - Provide recommendations for adjustments, enhancements, or modifications to existing DE technologies based on real-world needs.
 - Work closely with DE technology developers and military leadership to ensure that feedback is translated into relevant technical updates, modifications, or innovations.
4. **Reporting and Documentation:**
 - Provide detailed reports summarizing findings from the outreach activities, including qualitative and quantitative analysis.
 - Present actionable recommendations for future development, testing, and deployment of DE systems.
 - Ensure that all findings are clearly documented and communicated to stakeholders within the military and industry for further action.
5. **Ongoing Support and Follow-up:**
 - Maintain communication with military units and warfighters to provide continuous updates on how their feedback is being incorporated into DE systems.
 - Facilitate periodic follow-up outreach activities to assess how effectively DE technologies are being integrated into operational settings.

4. Expected Outcomes

The Warfighter Outreach Program is expected to produce the following outcomes:

- **Enhanced Understanding of Warfighter Needs:** Clear insights into the real-world challenges and requirements faced by military personnel in the field, specifically related to Directed Energy systems.
- **Improved DE Systems:** A set of actionable recommendations for enhancing the design, functionality, and deployment of DE technologies to meet the practical needs of warfighters.
- **Increased Operational Effectiveness:** Improved integration of DE technologies into military operations, leading to more effective countermeasures, reduced risks to personnel, and enhanced mission success.
- **Stronger Collaboration Between Technologists and Warfighters:** A stronger feedback loop between those developing DE systems and the military personnel using them in real-world operations.

5. Contractor Qualifications

To be considered for this contract, the contractor must meet the following qualifications:

- **Experience in Military Outreach:** Demonstrated experience in conducting military outreach programs, engaging with military personnel at various levels, and understanding the operational needs of warfighters.
- **Expertise in Directed Energy Technologies:** A strong understanding of Directed Energy technologies, including lasers, microwaves, and RF systems, and their potential applications in military operations.
- **Analytical Skills:** Ability to analyze and synthesize complex data from outreach activities, including qualitative feedback, and translate it into actionable recommendations.
- **Security and Clearance Requirements:** Ability to work within military environments and obtain necessary security clearances for access to sensitive military operations and personnel.
- **Proven Track Record:** Demonstrated ability to manage and execute large-scale outreach programs, particularly in high-stakes, operational settings.

6. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals must be submitted by [Insert Deadline Date] and should include the following components:

1. **Company Overview:** A brief history of the contractor, including relevant experience and qualifications.
2. **Approach to Warfighter Outreach:** A detailed description of the contractor's approach to conducting the Warfighter Outreach Program, including methods for engagement, data collection, and integration of feedback.
3. **Past Performance:** Documentation of similar programs the contractor has conducted, with references or testimonials from previous clients.
4. **Personnel Qualifications:** Resumes of key personnel involved in the program, highlighting their experience in military outreach and Directed Energy technologies.
5. **Cost Proposal:** A detailed budget for the project, including costs associated with outreach activities, data collection, travel, personnel, and any additional resources required.
6. **Timeline:** A proposed schedule for the Warfighter Outreach Program, including milestones for engagement, data collection, analysis, and reporting.

7. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance and Feasibility of Approach:** The clarity and thoroughness of the contractor's proposed approach to engaging warfighters and collecting actionable feedback.
- **Experience and Expertise:** The contractor's proven ability to conduct military outreach, particularly within the context of DE technologies and military operations.

- **Cost-Effectiveness:** The reasonableness and transparency of the proposed budget in relation to the expected outcomes.
- **Track Record of Success:** The contractor's history of successfully implementing similar outreach programs in military or defense settings.
- **Security and Compliance:** The contractor's ability to meet security requirements and effectively manage sensitive information.

8. Proposal Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted by 21 February 2025. Proposals may be submitted by email to cynnamon@deps.org or via postal mail to:

Directed Energy Professional Society
7770 Jefferson Street NE, Suite 440
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Attn: Warfighter Outreach Program Proposal

For any questions or clarification regarding this RFP, please contact Cynnamon Spain at cynnamon@deps.org or DEPS at 505 998-4910

9. Additional Information

- **Contract Duration:** The project is expected to last for six months, with a possible extension based on performance and need.
- **Collaboration with Military Stakeholders:** DEPS will facilitate initial introductions to relevant military leadership and units for outreach activities.
- **Confidentiality and Security:** All outreach activities must comply with operational security (OPSEC) and all relevant military regulations regarding security and confidentiality.

We look forward to receiving your proposal and partnering with you to ensure that Directed Energy technologies are developed and deployed in a way that best supports our warfighters in operational environments.

Sincerely,
Harry Sinsheimer
Executive Director
Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS)