FAQ section:

1) What does winning look like?
    a) A total prize budget of $20M will be awarded across the three Design Reference Missions (DRM's) outlined below.
2) Where can I submit additional questions not answered in this FAQ?
    a) Questions can be submitted to project-gi@diu.mil. If relevant, answers will be posted to this FAQ.
3) I see that DRM 3 isn't defined yet? What does that mean?
    a) In an effort to be maximally responsible for emerging problem sets and capability gaps, we have built in the planned date of an event while providing flexibility to partner units to update their most pressing capability gaps over the next several months.
4) I have additional questions and want to talk to someone.
    a) While Project G.I. remains open, no meetings with individuals or specific companies will be held on this topic in order to maintain a fair and competitive process.
5) Who will operate capabilities selected for Phases 2 and 3?
    a) There will be a training period by companies for DoD operators beginning several days prior to the week of the demonstration events. To the maximum extent possible, military members will operate platforms.
6) Will there be follow on contracts?
    a) Being designated as a winner of a prize challenge under US Code 4025 makes your solution eligible for follow-on Prototype OTs.
    b) There is no guarantee that any follow-on awards or contracts will be awarded.
7) What happens at the end of Phase 2?
    a) Companies may be selected to continue to Phase 3 where they will provide capabilities and support to the partner unit over a period of 6-9 months for feedback and iterative product development. Additional prize funding will be awarded if selected for Phase 3.
8) If I'm already on the Blue UAS List, do I need to compete?
    a) Yes.
9) Can I team up with a partner?
    a) The DoD understands vendors may not address all attributes in this solicitation fully; teaming proposals are welcome. Due to the preference to demonstrate within three months of this solicitation, preference will be given to individual or team solutions with demonstrated performance to date.
10) Will proprietary solutions be accepted?
    a) While a modicum of integration is always required, solutions that are walled off or require extensive time, labor, and expense to integrate additional third party options will not be considered.
11) What should I put in my proposal?
    a) The criteria outlined in the AOI should be addressed. Key details should include size, weight, power, cost (SWaP-C), performance, ruggedness (e.g.,

IP rating), and ease of setup. Vendors should also outline delivery timelines, training plans, and their ability to scale production.

12) If I submit during the first DRM period, will I be considered for all 3 DRM's if I note that on my submission?
    a) Yes.
13) If I submit during the second DRM period, will I be considered for DRM's 2 and 3 if I note that on my submission?
    a) Yes.
14) I have a great idea but it's not called out as needed in this solicitation. Should I submit it?
    a) No.
15) Will I get feedback on my submission?
    a) Individual feedback will be provided for submissions selected for Phases 2 and 3.
    b) Industry wide feedback will be provided for common trends for success and failure of submissions selected / non-selected during Phase 1.
16) When do I need to submit to be considered for each DRM?
    a) DRM 1: Submissions must be received by 10 July to be evaluated. Notifications received NLT 10 Aug 25.
    b) DRM 2: Submissions must be received by 15 AUG 25. Notifications received NLT 15 SEP 25.
    c) DRM 3: Submissions must be received by 15 NOV 25. Notifications received NLT 20 DEC 25.

Design Reference Mission #1 - Contested Spectrum Kinetic Employment

Problem

Operations against a near-peer must expect a fully-contested electromagnetic spectrum. Targeting, ISR, BDA, and kinetic capabilities must be able to be employed at the tactical level. Options available to DoD today are susceptible to existing countermeasures and defenses in the electromagnetic spectrum.

Desired Solution Attributes

Examples of desired solutions include those able to guarantee two-way communication between the platform and operator under Denied, Disrupted, Intermittent, and Low-bandwidth (DDIL) environments to enable the delivery of kinetic effects on a variety of targets.

Recent examples, provided as illustrative examples only, of capabilities with operational success in combat include but are not limited to, directional antennas, mesh networks, and fiber optics.

Solutions should be able to operate at ranges up to and ideally beyond 20 kilometers. Proposals should offer technically sound, mission-relevant and proven solutions at a price range that is effective on a cost per effect basis.

Design Reference Mission #2 - Expeditious Targeting Operations

Problem

The Department of Defense (DoD) relies on small “target-strike” teams to identify, engage, and defeat adversaries using kinetic and non-kinetic systems. In a conflict with any near-peer adversary, these small teams will need to rapidly emplace, engage effectively, and displace while challenged with denied, degraded, intermittent, or limited (DDIL) connectivity with higher headquarters and adjacent units. Current systems are slow to deploy, bandwidth-dependent, and often come with high electromagnetic signatures.

Desired Solution Attributes

The DoD seeks commercial solutions to enhance the *targeting-cycle speed* for small, dispersed target-strike teams operating under DDIL conditions. Solutions should enable these units to independently detect, identify, and engage high-value targets with minimal reliance on external data links.

Proposed solutions may include—but are not limited to—technologies or approaches that:

- Extend the effective range, accuracy, precision, or overall efficacy of low-cost kinetic and non-kinetic defeat effectors employable by 1-2 soldiers.
- Reduce the time from initial target identification to effective target defeat or neutralization.
- Expedite the intelligence collection, fusion, and processing of data and information to enable rapid decision-making and targeting at the tactical edge without reliable connectivity to higher headquarters.

Proposals should offer technically sound, mission-relevant and proven solutions that can integrate easily with a range of DoD systems and adhere to Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA) principles and policies.

The DoD will value solutions that are proven, modular, and adaptable for use by light infantry, special operations forces, and other small units.