

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WHITE PAPERS ONLY for innovative technologies that accelerate attainment of critical technologies. In this context, innovative means any new technology, process, or business practice, or any new application of an existing technology, process, or business practice that contributes to enhancing the Intelligence and Security Command's (INSCOM) military effectiveness and sustaining global peace and U.S. national security. This solicitation may result in the award of prototype projects, which include not only commercially available technologies fueled by commercial or strategic investment, but also concept demonstrations and pilots that can incrementally improve commercial technologies, existing government owned capabilities, or concepts for defense applications. This request is not to be construed as a commitment on the part of the Government to award a contract, nor does the Government intend to pay for any information submitted as a result of this request. The Government will not reimburse respondents for any cost associated with submission of the information being requested or reimburse expenses incurred to interested parties for responses to this notice or any follow-up information requests. No telephone calls will be accepted requesting a bid package or solicitation. There is no bid package or solicitation. All interested sources must respond to any future solicitation announcements separately from responses to this request for the submission of White Papers.

### **Mission Overview**

The United States Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) executes mission command of operational intelligence and security forces; conducts and synchronizes worldwide multi-discipline and all-source intelligence and security operations; delivers linguist support and intelligence-related advanced skills training, acquisition support, logistics, communications, and other specialized capabilities in support of Army, Joint, and Coalition Commands and the U.S. Intelligence Community. To meet these challenges, INSCOM utilizes Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to partner with nontraditional and traditional defense contractors and non-profit research institutions to carry out prototype projects that are directly relevant to enhancing mission effectiveness of military personnel and the supporting platforms, systems, components, or materials used by INSCOM. To the maximum extent practicable, competitive procedures are used when entering into agreements to carry out these prototype projects.

### **1. Focus Area and Requirement:**

INSCOM has identified the following technology requirement for which we are requesting White Papers from Industry on Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) solutions relevant to the below Focus Areas and requirements. Focus area details are below; please submit responses to the Request for Information (RFI) in Vulcan. Vulcan account registration details are in paragraph 2.

0001: Artificial Intelligence (AI) based interactive avatar training

The following requested solutions must be deployable to, or connected to, existing unclassified and secret Military Intelligence (MI) networks to support direct data access to current Army MI data resources residing on those networks. Solutions must meet Department of Defense (DoD)

and Intelligence Community (IC) information assurance (IA) requirements (e.g., HIPPA, PHI, PII, RMF, DoDI 8510.01, NIST 800-37, and CNSSI 1253).

Each solution must include vendor support for maintenance and sustainment of all components and include personnel to enable and assist INSCOM personnel with maximizing the use of the solution. This includes mentoring/consulting support to address best practices/lessons learned for operation and use of the solution, adapting and enhancing the initial offering to support new data feeds/source/types, transition and deployment of science products/models to Army MI enterprise systems, and technical support to address questions/issues presented by INSCOM Office of the Command Surgeon's (OTCS) Highly Qualified Experts (HQE) and OTCS Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).

**Goal:**

To enhance the skills of junior level leaders for recognizing signs of stress, depression, and suicide risk in soldiers and civilians within their scope of leadership.

**Desired Capability:**

INSCOM desires to implement an interactive avatar-based training to teach junior leaders to recognize indications that an individual may be in distress and/or feeling isolated, and to engage that individual in a constructive fashion to help address issues related to that individual's well-being, and to guide that individual toward the help they may require.

- a. The system shall provide for interactive training.
- b. The training shall include recognition of verbal and non-verbal expressions and cues that an individual may be experiencing distress.
- c. The training experience shall foster communication skills for junior leaders to facilitate their interacting with, and providing guidance to, individuals in their commands requiring personal assistance.
- d. The avatar-based training shall be constructed to permit an interaction between the junior leader and the avatar modeling the distressed individual in a way that permits feedback to the junior leader and that allows the junior leader to develop communication skills.
- e. The system shall provide the capability to add in modular fashion functions to include other content areas (e.g., sexual harassment/assault, cultural bias, etc.).

## **2. Use of Vulcan for INSCOM White Paper Submissions**

Vulcan is a web interface and automated tech scouting tool to streamline efforts across the enterprise to discover and enable the sharing of vendor technologies within the Special Operations Forces (SOF)/DoD enterprise. INSCOM will use Vulcan for this RFI.

Please ensure that you are using the Vulcan interface for your submittal. To do so, sign up and/or log into Vulcan at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/auth/login?requestedUrl=%2Fhome>. You must use your official organizational email when registering. It is recommended that you watch the "Creating a Scout Card in Vulcan" video in the Vulcan TV area of the site for useful tips on submitting a strong technology profile. Follow the below instructions for submitting a response.

**Please ensure that all responses are at the "Unclassified" level.**

- a. Once logged in to Vulcan, navigate to “Calls” in the top menu.
- b. Vendors desiring to submit White Papers in response to the INSCOM Capability Needs listed in Paragraph 1 above MUST click on the call titled: **“2021 INSCOM AI AVATAR TRAINING RFI for White Papers”**.
- c. The submission page for the RFI will allow you to either submit a technology that your organization has already uploaded to Vulcan, or a new product/technology that you can upload as a Vulcan “Scout Card”. However, note that you MUST upload your associated White Paper to any scout card that you submit. If you are submitting a new scout card, you will be asked to:
  - 1) Enter the title of the solution described in your White Paper.
  - 2) Provide the contact information of the person(s) who represent your solution.
  - 3) Tag your scout card with one or more areas of interest (type into the Vulcan Tags field to select from a list).
  - 4) Be direct and concise in describing your technology and what sets it apart (differentiators).
  - 5) Indicate your TRL (and other readiness levels if applicable).
  - 6) Provide optional Specifications and User information.
  - 7) Upload pictures (JPEG, PNG, GIF) (file size not to exceed 5MB) and [if available] a public video link (YouTube or Vimeo).
  - 8) Upload your White Paper (no more than 10 pages in length; file size not to exceed 5MB) and follow the requirement instructions in the document section of the form. You may upload additional supporting documents if available.
- d. Note that the link may be used to upload multiple submissions (different technology products) if you elect to submit more than one White Paper (i.e., you will create a Vulcan Scout Card for each and attach a different White Paper to each Vulcan Scout Card that you submit). You should NOT create duplicates of the technology scout cards that may already have been created in the system by your organization. In this case, just update the existing scout card and attach the requisite White Paper as you submit to the RFI.
- e. If you experience any problems with the Vulcan-SOF site or have any issues uploading your inputs as prescribed above, contact the Vulcan Help desk at [contact@vulcan-sof.com](mailto:contact@vulcan-sof.com).
- f. Note that you can continuously edit your technology scout cards at any point up until the RFI deadline. **Do NOT wait until the deadline to sign-up for a Vulcan account and manage your input.** It is highly recommended you register and become familiar with Vulcan well in advance of the RFI close date.

### 3. White Paper Submission Guidelines

- a. Submitted White Papers are discouraged from being marketing in nature or previously submitted ideas. INSCOM is looking for true innovative, out-of-the-box thinking, conceptual approaches, and ideas with respect to the focus areas listed. White Papers must be in the following format:
  - 1) All White Paper submissions must be UNCLASSIFIED.
  - 2) No more than 10 pages in length, single spaced in Microsoft Word or .pdf compatible format including graphs, pictures, and analyses. Documents longer than 10 pages will not

be considered in their entirety. White Paper Data Sheet, Cover page and table of contents, if included, will not be included in the page count.

3) Page size shall be 8.5x 11 inches; Margins one inch, font size shall be 12 point, legible for tables and figures.

4) The White Paper Data Sheet (Appendix A) must be filled out. This ensures adequate and timely consideration.

b. Include the following information at minimum:

1) Clearly identify the functional and/or cost reduction benefits of your product or concept.

2) Identify the technical and programmatic risks you foresee in completing (or adapting) your design and include your program plan, timeline, testing, and current design level effort.

3) We are looking for mature technologies that would be available for operational environment testing or qualification (i.e., TRL 7-9). Empirical, laboratory, or field test data to support the maturity of the proposed technology should be included.

4) If available, please include a schedule and cost estimate in your white paper.

NOTE: 1) Do not send .ZIP files; 2) Do not send password protected files.

#### **4. White Paper Due Date, Information and POCs:**

All White Papers must be submitted through Vulcan no later than the RFI close date. **Exceptions for missing the submission date due to issues with Vulcan will not be granted.**

The initial response will undergo a technical assessment that may be followed by requests for clarifications or an invitation for oral presentations/demonstration, with a potential end state of vendor participation in Government conducted technology assessments. This is in no manner an opportunity to submit a proposal for research and development funding.

Responses will be reviewed by both Government and Contractor personnel. Contractor personnel provide Engineering Technical Assistance (ETA) support, and are under a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

All submissions will be acknowledged as received by INSCOM, and then staffed to requiring activities with corresponding capability gaps.

**Submissions are due on 19 April 2021 by 11:59 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).** Early submissions are highly encouraged.

#### **Point of Contact:**

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