

INTRODUCTION

The JAIC is seeking solutions for commercial technologies to foster technological innovation relevant to the capability gap identified in this Call to Industry. 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 that enhances mission effectiveness for the JAIC.

This Call to Industry identifies the competitive process and includes multiple phases for selection, which may result in the award of several prototype projects as a result of this multi-phased competitive process. This is an open and rolling Call to Industry for 90 days from publication of this Call, meaning the Government may return to submissions under any Phase and continue to consider proof-of-concepts for possible prototype project award(s) after the initial Phase 1 submission review deadline (see below “Process/Timeline” Section).

CAPABILITY GAP

The DoD’s JAIC was established in 2018 to be the focal point of the DoD’s AI Strategy and accelerate scaling AI and its impact across the Department. Working closely with the Services, Combatant Commands, and other Components, JAIC identifies appropriate use cases for AI across DoD, rapidly accelerates and pilots solutions, and scales impact across the enterprise.

The JAIC will have acquisition authority in FY22 to execute procurement actions in support of various mission requirements. The JAIC is seeking an AI-powered and automated contract management solution that will perform end-to-end contracting functions, to include activities prior to and after executing contracts with commercial and/or non-commercial entities, and includes AI abilities in order to transform and accelerate contracting and associated acquisition business processes.

DoD business operations often rely on outdated technology or manually intensive, error prone, costly, and slow processes, resulting in a wealth of unexploited data resources, wasted labor hours, and gross inefficiencies. The goal of embedding AI technology into the solution is to reduce inefficiencies from manual, laborious, data-centric tasks, simplifying workflows, and improving the accuracy of repetitive tasks throughout the contract life cycle. If successful, the solution will result in efficiencies in contract award lead times, regulatory processes, data analytics, performance management, and audit compliance.

There is no Joint DoD common infrastructure and platform that would enable collaboration and execution of contracts with partners across the DoD. Our users have to build infrastructure platforms from scratch when a need arises, which leads to limited economies of scale, constant integration problems, and higher cybersecurity risk. The end state solution must consider possible scalability across the DoD given this constraint.

The end state solution must ensure that procurement products generated from itself be compliant with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), DoD Regulations, and other policy when applicable.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Automate procurement and contracting process steps where possible.
- Leverage AI technology to streamline procurement and contracting processes

AI-Powered Contract Writing System

- Discover new models and solutions that may have DoD application

USER STORIES

The following user stories demonstrate scenarios that the solution must support. This list is not all inclusive but is meant to demonstrate the foundational functionality the solution must provide. User stories may be removed and added during prototyping as necessary to provide an operational solution.

Pre-award

- As a Contract Officer and Contract Specialist, I will have access to automatically generated FAR based contracts and agreements award documents and associated obligation of funds.
- As a Contract Officer and Contract Specialist, I will have access to automatically generated non-FAR based contracts and agreements award documents and associated obligation of funds.
- As a Contract Officer and Contract Specialist, I will have access to automatically generated solicitation/request for information (RFI) documents with automated posting capability to third party platforms, such as betaSAM, GSA E-Buy, TradeWind portal, etc.
- As a Contract Officer and Contract Specialist, I will have access automatically generated CARs/FPDS upon award with minimal input.
- As a Contract Officer, Contract Specialist, and Procurement Analyst, I will manage and track award lead times/milestones.
- As a Contract Officer and Contract Specialist, I will receive and align funding packages (i.e. MIPRs, Purchase Requests) to contract actions.

Post-award

- As a Contract Officer and Contract Specialist, I will have access to automatically generated FAR based contracts and agreements modification documents.
- As a Contract Officer and Contract Specialist, I will have access to automatically generated non-FAR based contracts and agreements documents
- As a Contract Officer, Contract Specialist, Procurement Analyst, and Contracting Officer's Representative, I will track and manage contract and agreement financials (i.e. invoice pay outs against award obligations).
- As a Contract Officer, Contract Specialist, Procurement Analyst, and Contracting Officer's Representative,, I will manage contract performance, to include documentation of performance in accordance with contract requirements.
- As a Contract Officer, Contract Specialist, Procurement Analyst, and Contracting Officer's Representative, I will have access to automatically initiated contractor performance documents required for completion of CPAR in CPARS.

Close-out

- As a Contract Officer, Contract Specialist, Procurement Analyst, and Contracting Officer's Representative, I will have access to automatically generated closeout documents and checklists after contract completion.
- As a Contract Officer and Contract Specialist, I will have access to automatically generated closeout contract and agreement modifications upon validation of closeout activity completion.

PROCESS/TIMELINE

1. **Phase 1 – Discovery.** The primary objectives of the final solution is to automate procurement and contracting processes and embed AI capabilities where possible. Tell us what you know about automated contracting and your recommendations to enabling AI into the solution. What challenges or barriers should the Government consider? What is the best way to build upon incremental success to bridge the capability gap during prototyping? How much of the process do you think can be automated in the solution (50%? 80?) and why? Discovery submissions are limited to 2 pages (not including cover page) and video/audio submissions are limited to 5 minutes. The first submission review deadline is 4 October 2021 at 1200 Eastern Time. Subsequent discovery reviews may be established at the Government’s discretion.

Note 1: The purpose of Phase 1 is to explore expertise available (who understands the problem set the best?) and find innovative ideas (who has a creative way of potentially solving the problem?) in order invite a manageable number of participants to Phase 2 for *Get to the Point Pitches*. Review under Phase 1 is highly subjective and Government reviewers will possibly be assessing 50+ discovery submissions. The challenge for interested participants in Phase 1 is to keep the Government reviewer interested in the content of the discovery submission enough to for the reviewer to want to learn more via a Phase 2 invite.

Note 2: The file size limit for uploads on the Vulcan platform is 10MB, and accepted file types for upload are: .pdf, .doc, .docx, .ppt, .pptx, .xls, .xlsx, .glb. All Discovery submissions uploaded to Vulcan must adhere to the following naming convention: `CompanyName_Discovery`.

Note 3: For those planning to provide audio/video Discovery submissions, Vulcan users can submit videos as part of their scout cards, but only in the form of YouTube or Vimeo links. Users often mark their videos on YouTube as 'unlisted' which means they cannot be found on YouTube but can still be played within Vulcan if added to a scout card. You may also provide a link to where the Government can access your media (i.e. private YouTube link, etc.) in one of the above listed accepted document file types if you do not want to add your video to your scout card.

2. **Phase 2 - *Get to the Point Pitch*.** This is your chance to pitch your best proof of concept to the a Government panel. Participants will have 15 minutes to present and 30 minutes for questions from the panel. Questions will be relevant to the information provided in the pitch and may differ among presenters. There is no formal agenda or schedule to the pitch outside of the time constraint. The Presenter has complete control over the structure and format of the 15-minute pitch and is encouraged to focus on the value proposition the proof of concept will provide to the Government. Pitches should be able to be understood by a technical and non-technical panel audience. Any organizational descriptions and introductory company remarks should be kept to a bare minimum or not at all. It is highly critical that the presenter demonstrate it understands the capability gap, how the proof of concept will solve the problem, and how it can be deployed to DoD networks in a secure fashion. If invited to this phase, additional logistical information (i.e. time and date) will be provided separate from this Call to Industry.

Some questions for consideration when preparing for your Get to the Point Pitch:

- a. What is your proposed methodology to delivering an automated and AI-enabled contract writing system?
 - b. Identify and explain how the solution is AI-enabled or how it could be AI-enabled. Where do you propose AI is used in the possible workflows and how is AI making decisions?
 - c. What kind of taxonomy and ontology do you propose within the AI to ensure AI decisions are ethical and using defined terms?
 - d. What data is used for training models? What additional data will be needed to refine the model and the solution candidate?
 - e. What do you propose are the major milestone outcomes for your proof of concept?
 - f. What proprietary restrictions does your solution have? Please explain your solutions licensing model (if applicable).
3. **Phase 3 – Payment Awards.** The Government intends to award multiple prototype projects based on the results from Phase 2. The Government plans to provide payment awards for the first prototype phase in the amount of \$50,000 to demonstrate the first major prototype milestone outcome. Subsequent prototype phases with associated payment awards will may be added to the prototype project upon successful completion of the first milestone outcome. Initial milestone outcome payment awards may be awarded at different times and do not have to be awarded concurrently. The Government intends to follow this methodology throughout the prototype project with the desire to implement a beta ready solution with basic functionality by 15 March 2022. Larger payment awards may be considered and negotiated for milestone outcomes that exceed the Government’s timeline or expectations. Some examples of possible milestone outcomes are:
- Build an automated Market Research Report.
 - Build an automated RFI.
 - Write a FAR compliant RFI using AI.
 - Build an automated FAR compliant RFP.

PHASE 2 EVALUATION RUBRIC

The following criteria will be used by select panel members during Phase 2. All criteria will be using a 1 to 5 scale and presenters will receive panel ratings at the conclusion of Phase 2 reviews.

No criteria are more important than the other – instead the Government intends to use the identified criteria to determine which solutions are viable investments to gain the highest return in any given category. As the Government is looking to explore and test different methods, participants offered prize awards may very well likely have different ratings in various criteria categories. The key to a project award is whether the proposed proof of concept has the potential for offering value-add in any given criteria identified and the Government finds it is in the best interest to invest in the value proposition presented.

AI-Powered Contract Writing System

- Innovation/Technical Merit (1- no innovative or sound solution, ideas, or methodologies proposed; 5- uses highly innovative, sound, and comprehensive solutions, ideas, and methodologies.)
- Problem Solving (1- proof of concept cannot likely handle conflict resolution or risk mitigation; 5 - proof of concept is highly likely to handle conflict resolution or risk mitigation)
- Project Agility (1- proof of concept is not conducive to changing conditions; 5- proof of concept is highly conducive to changing conditions)
- User Friendly (1- proof of concept does not have an end user focus; 5 – proof of concept is highly end user focused)
- AI Ethics (1 - AI Ethics are not addressed or absent in the solution; 5 – proof of concept has a sound approach for addressing AI ethics in the solution).
- Non-Proprietary/Vendor Agnostic (1- solution is completely proprietary; 5 – solution is completely non-proprietary or vendor agnostic).
- Cybersecurity (1 - no cybersecurity considerations; 3 solution has some cybersecurity features and can likely be modified to be cyber security compliant; 5 - solution adheres to DoD Cybersecurity practices and controls, leverages DevSecOps)

DISCLAIMERS

Follow-On Production

The potential for follow-on production for projects awarded from this announcement will be in accordance with 10.U.S.C. 2371b (f). Upon a determination that the competitively awarded prototype project(s) has been successfully completed, and subject to the availability of funds, the prototype project(s) may result in the award of a follow-on production contract or transaction without the use of competitive procedures. Follow-on production may include supplies and services to support deployment of the successful prototype solution throughout the solution lifecycle, such as training, sustainment, minor engineering for small enhancements or troubleshooting, and logistics management (as appropriate).

Please note determination of a successful prototype solution and entering into a follow-on production activity does not prohibit the Government from adding additional phases to the prototype agreement for the purpose of incrementally scaling or incrementally developing the prototype solution further. The Government reserves the right to enter into a follow-on production agreement upon successful completion of any prototype phase identified and continue prototyping concurrently.

Use of Contractor Support

Non-Government advisors may be used in the evaluation of White Papers and proposals and will have signed Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) with the Government. The Government understands that information provided in this Announcement is presented in confidence and may contain trade secret or commercial or financial information and agrees to protect such information from unauthorized disclosure to the maximum extent permitted and as required by law. A respondent's participation in any part of the selection process under this announcement indicates concurrence with the aforementioned use of contractor support personnel.