ARMY APPLICATIONS LABORATORY

C-SUAS LAYERED PROTECTION SYSTEM (CLPS)

THE PROBLEM

Recent conflicts have demonstrated the effectiveness of self-detonating small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) against armored vehicles. These sUAS can also carry munitions, grenades, and chemical materials. As a result of these attacks, armored vehicles are destroyed or damaged/disabled, inhibiting their maneuverability and operational effectiveness. The proliferation and effectiveness of these sUAS pose a significant threat across multiple US Combatant Commands.

THE OPPORTUNITY

AAL is interested in technologies to protect armored vehicles (e.g. M1 Abrams and Bradley fighting vehicles) from sUAS threats. This capability should be cost effective and easily deployable without opening armored vehicle hatches.

The Army anticipates awarding one or more contracts for a 6 to 18-month period of performance. Funding will be commensurate with the agreed upon scope of work, not to exceed $1 million.

THE SOLUTIONS

This effort seeks a range of solutions that may include active, passive, kinetic, and/or non-kinetic strategies to protect armored vehicles from sUAS (Group 1).

Performance objectives will include:

- High probability of Neutralization/Defeat (Pkd/Pn), if applicable
- Does not interfere with the vehicle's organic systems (e.g. movement, weapons, turret, antennas, etc.)
- Does not prevent standard vehicle operations to include crew egress from the vehicle hatch
- Minimizes impact on platform weight, power, and workload of the crew
- Achieves full interoperability with existing command and control systems

IMPORTANT DATES

White Paper Submission Opens: June 4

Submission Deadline: July 6 at 11:59AM CT

PROTECTION FOR ARMORED VEHICLES FROM SUAS THREATS

THE SPARTN PROGRAM

Special Program Awards for Required Technology Needs (SPARTN) blends government and industry best practices to introduce a new whole-of-Army, collaborative approach to solution innovation. The result is a way to solve Army problems faster and to accelerate the process by which successful technology is purchased by the Army.

All topics released through SPARTN feature challenging and important problem statements from problem owners across the Army. These represent some of our biggest challenges and the ones we want to work closely with industry to solve.

WHAT MAKES SPARTN DIFFERENT?

- Problems released through SPARTN are tied to the Army's critical needs and other focused modernization efforts
- Faster contracting speed, with businesses typically notified of award 4x faster than the conventional SBIR process
- Potential for millions in total value of follow-on contracts to build a concept or prototype related to the specific problems
- Acquisition teams included early on, with the goal of easing transition and building new tech into recurring Army budgets
- Potential for future high-value contracts by combining SBIR or other government funds, and private investment you secure

To learn more about SPARTN or how to apply for SPARTN topics, visit aal.mil/SPARTN

SPARTN Phases Explained

The objective of Phase I is to establish the technical merit, feasibility, and commercial potential of the proposed effort, and to determine the quality of performance of the awarded companies prior to providing further support in Phase II. Final deliverables will be a concept design presentation, optional proof of technology demonstration, and plans for follow-on Phase II work.

In Phase II, companies are selected for a period of performance to advance their technology into a working prototype with higher federal funding and, on certain projects, matched funds from private investment. Companies receive technical and programmatic feedback from Soldiers, DOD scientists, and engineers. Senior leadership provides guidance on how to move forward.

To make it to Phase III, companies must receive Program Executive Office (PEO) endorsement. Selected companies are then given more funding and the opportunity to continue developing their technology with the goal of transitioning it to an Army program of record.

AAL COHORT MODEL

Our cohort program brings together companies that may not typically work with the DOD and focuses them on solving a specific Army problem. They work side by side with Soldiers, a community of Army experts, and other stakeholders on a shared learning journey. While joining a cohort isn't required, it can provide a deeper level of insight to help refine your solution.

A Different Kind of Cohort

+ Hybrid program with virtual and in-person activities
+ Each cohort focuses on solving a specific SPARTN problem
+ Increased contact with Army stakeholders and Soldiers
+ Visits to military installations where you can see the problem firsthand

Visit aal.mil/cohort-program to learn more about the AAL cohort program and the benefits of participating.