

**Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III**  
**Request for Information (RFI) on Advanced Canopy Transparencies**

**CONTRACTING OFFICE ADDRESS**

Department of the Air Force, Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) – Wright Research Site, Manufacturing Technology Section, AFRL/RXKMT, Area B, Bldg. 45, 2130 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 45433-7541.

**SCOPE**

The intent of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather information on the capabilities and capacities of suppliers suitable for the technology development, design support, manufacturing development, and production of advanced canopy transparencies, herein referred to as “transparencies”, to enable expansion of the industrial supply base for these and related products on critical Department of Defense (DoD) weapon systems, including fighter, bomber, and rotorcraft.

DoD transparency systems for modern platforms tend to create low volume, high mix markets since each is specifically designed to meet the unique and complex balance of requirements for a weapon system, while initial manufacturing runs and subsequent sustainment demands typically drive low production rates across decades of fleet service life.

Transparencies are critical subsystems and must meet stringent structural, thermal, electrical, and aerodynamic requirements for airworthiness while simultaneously maintaining a high level of optical performance to provide a wide field-of-view with limited visual obstructions for target engagement and a variety of flight maneuvers (takeoff, landing, aerial refueling, etc.). Demanding performance and durability requirements drive additional complexity into the designs.

**REQUEST DETAILS**

The DPA Title III Program Office, part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD) for Industrial Base Policy (IBP), is seeking information related to the domestic production capability and capacity of advanced canopy transparencies and the resources to support the technology development, design support, and manufacturing development of such systems across multiple DoD platforms/programs. OASD(IBP) is interested in information regarding the increase/establishment of production and repair of a wide-variety of DoD-specific transparency designs; advancements in state-of-the-art manufacturing to improve throughput, yield, and provide a digital thread for continuous manufacturing improvements; establishment of dedicated Research and Development (R&D) capabilities; and vertical integration or other means to secure supply streams for critical feedstock materials.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** A supplemental data package with the Government’s RFI questions and targets for initial and end state production capabilities will be provided via email upon request (by email only) to interested parties that provide an active DD Form 2345. To request this data, please email the Contracting Office at **AFRL.RXKM.TitleIII@us.af.mil**.

## **GENERAL INTENT**

### **DESCRIPTION**

The Air Force, as the DoD Executive Agent for the DPA Title III Program, provides this RFI inviting Industry to provide information on the technology of interest. Industry responses to the RFI will be assessed and may assist in potential future Title III actions.

America's supply chains and the health of the defense industrial base are paramount to the DoD's ability to build and maintain weapon systems. Ensuring that suppliers, both new and current, can meet the requirements of the DoD, is a continuous process of reviewing and validating supplier capabilities and capacity.

Note: There is no guarantee that this topic area will result in a DPA Title III project, and responders to this RFI will have no competitive advantage in receiving awards related to the submitted topic area. The information submitted in all responses may be utilized to help the Government further define all the requirements, including but not limited to, business and technical. If the Government develops a DPA Title III project that addresses any submitted or similar topic, the resulting procurement will address technology and business specific requirements as defined by the Government to achieve DPA Title III program objectives.

### **DPA TITLE III BACKGROUND**

Title III of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. § 4501 et seq.) grants the President of the United States the authority to provide appropriate incentives to develop, maintain, modernize, restore, and expand the productive capacities of domestic sources for critical components, critical technology items, and industrial resources essential for the execution of the national security strategy of the United States and securing the defense industrial base.

These authorities enable DPA Title III in making purchases to create or expand (scale-up) production capacity; improving quality and yield; purchasing test quantities for process validation and qualification testing; developing and implementing business and marketing plans, purchasing, and installing production equipment, and providing purchase commitments to incentivize companies to establish production capability.

The DPA itself contains three criteria that every Title III project must meet before any funds may be obligated on a Title III activity. The DPA stipulates that the President must certify to the Congress that the activity satisfies the criteria. The statutory criteria state that: (1) The industrial resource, material, or critical technology item is essential to the national defense; (2) Without Presidential action under the DPA Title III, United States Industry cannot reasonably be expected to provide the capability for the needed industrial resource, material, or critical technology item in a timely manner; and (3) Actions under Title III are the most cost-effective, expedient, and practical alternative for meeting the need. The problem/issue should be amenable to Title III business solutions. DPA Title III authorities and funding are not intended to be used as supplemental to the normal DoD material acquisition or R&D programs.

Note that DPA Title III is concerned with only domestic sources. Foreign capabilities will not be considered. DPA Title III cannot be used to create or expand a foreign source, regardless of the essentiality of the technology to U.S. defense requirements. The DPA defines domestic source to be a business concern that

performs in the United States, Australia, United Kingdom or Canada substantially all of the research and development, engineering, manufacturing, and production activities required of such business concern under a contract with the United States relating to a critical component or a critical technology item and that procures from such concerns substantially all of any components and assemblies required under a contract with the United States relating to a critical component or critical technology item. Territories and possessions of the United States, and the District of Columbia are considered part of the domestic United States.

DPA Title III investments are most appropriate to address pervasive (benefiting more than just a single service, agency, or program office) industrial base manufacturing shortfalls that can be typically remedied within a 5-year timeframe. Government investments usually range from \$5-20M with matching cost share anticipated from the Responder/Recipient. DPA Title III investments are not intended for basic or applied research or for technologies with limited or no DoD advocacy. Typical DPA Title III tasks include the procurement, installation, and qualification of production equipment; modernization of manufacturing capabilities and capital upgrades to the plant; manufacturing line prove-out; production of samples for customer and/or Government evaluations; implementation of quality systems and practices; manufacturing cost reduction and yield improvement activities; and the implementation of business and marketing plans. DPA Title III investments typically have a broad, enterprise-wide impact on a sub-tier defense supplier. The overall goal is to secure and assure a viable, domestic supplier for the long-term.

#### **ADDITIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION**

This is a RFI only as defined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 15.201(e) to obtain information about U.S. national security industrial base shortcomings, risks, and opportunities which may be addressed by investments made under provisions in DPA Title III. Of particular interest are the technical, manufacturing and market barriers to establishing a viable business for the technology of interest. This RFI is not a request for competitive proposals; therefore, responses to this notice are not considered offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Companies that respond will not be paid for the information submitted except as an allowable cost under other contracts as provided in FAR 31.205-18, "Bid and Proposal Costs." The Government will be utilizing non-government personnel under this RFI. The role of these non-government personnel is to function as technical advisors to the Government reviewers. These non-government personnel will have access to the information submitted in response to the RFI and will provide technical expertise and/or advice as required. All non-government personnel have signed Non-Disclosure Agreements with the Government.

#### **SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTATION**

Responses to this RFI shall be delivered to the Contracting Office via e-mail to:

**AFRL.RXKM.TitleIII@us.af.mil**

E-mail responses are preferred but if you would like to send large files or information that is proprietary in nature, you may provide your submission using the DoD SAFE site (<https://safe.apps.mil/>). You must email the Contracting Office to request a submission email for the DoD SAFE site. You will then receive an email from DoD SAFE with a secure link and password to upload and submit your documents.

Responses shall include:

- Interested Party Name, address, and phone number;
- North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code under which the company traditionally does business and the Business type (e.g., large business, small business) based upon that NAICS code;
- A designated point of contact of the Interested Party, including that contact's name, title, direct phone number, and e-mail address.

Responses shall be submitted **not later than 19 June 2025, 12:00 PM (Eastern Time)**. If late information is received, it may be considered by the Government reviewers, depending on agency time constraints.

Please note: the Government is not required to provide feedback to RFI Responders.

## **FORMAT & PAGE LIMITATION**

RFI responses shall be limited to a maximum of **30 single-spaced pages**. The font for text should be Times New Roman 12-point or larger. Responses shall be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word (Office 365 compatible) or Adobe Acrobat format. Existing commercial documentation, technical specifications, and product literature can also be submitted and are not subject to the page limitation. **Note: Responses must be unclassified. Responses may contain proprietary information but must be appropriately marked.**

## **INFORMATION APPROACH**

The DPA Title III Program Office may or may not select any of the listed technology areas for use as a Title III project. Projects developed from these topics, as with all Title III projects, may be competed in a full and open competition. The Air Force, as the DoD Executive Agent for the DPA Title III Program, is not required to provide feedback to responders. The Air Force may respond directly to obtain additional or clarifying information.

## **DISCLAIMER**

This RFI is not a request for competitive proposals; therefore, responses to this notice are not considered offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract.

Companies that respond will not be paid for the information submitted except as an allowable cost under other contracts as provided in FAR 31.205-18, "Independent Research and Development and Bid and Proposal Costs."

No telephone calls will be accepted requesting a bid package or solicitation. There is no bid package or solicitation at this time.

All information received shall be safeguarded from unauthorized disclosure. Responses to this RFI may constitute proprietary information, Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), or export-controlled information. Respondents are directed to contact the Contracting Office for supplemental instructions related to the submission of proprietary information, CUI, or export-controlled data.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional DPA Title III information is available on the DPA Title III website:

<https://www.businessdefense.gov/ibr/mceip/dpai/dpat3/index.html>

Direct all inquiries to the Contracting Office listed in the Submission of Documentation paragraph above.