

NATO IMPROVED LINK ELEVEN IN-SERVICE SUPPORT (5) CONTRACT – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Section 1: Background

1. The Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR), in support of Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (PEO C4I), Navy Command and Control Program Office (PMW 150), on behalf of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Improved Link Eleven (NILE) Nations is conducting a market survey to determine the interest and capability of Industry to provide in-service support (ISS) to the NILE products.
2. This RFI intends to accomplish two objectives: 1) to gain an understanding of which interested parties exist in the current marketplace, and 2) to gain an understanding of how those interested parties could meet the technical objectives, performance requirements, and COMSEC requirements for NILE. PMW 150 is interested in responses that can employ a modular approach to meeting the requirements of the NILE technical documents.
3. During the late 1980s, NATO, agreeing on the need to improve the performance of Link 11, produced a Mission Need Statement (MNS) and later the Elementary Requirements Document that became the basis for the establishment of the NILE Project.
4. The Link 22 goals are to replace Link 11, thereby removing its inherent limitations; to improve allied interoperability; to complement Link 16; and to enhance the commanders' war fighting capability.
5. The design of Link 22 uses a layered communications stack approach to produce a modular, open system architecture, with well-defined interfaces between the components, This approach allows for substitution of components on either side of the interface, and it maximizes extensions and enables contributions from multiple providers during the sustainment of Link 22.
6. The inner grey box in Figure 1 below indicates the NILE Communications Equipment (NCE) system components that consist of the following:
 - a) System Network Controller (SNC);
 - b) Modernized Link 22 Link Level COMSEC (LLC 7M);
 - c) Signal Processing Controllers (SPCs); and
 - d) Radios
7. The Link 22 system, shown by the outer green box in Figure 1, consists of the NILE Communication Equipment (NCE) and the Link 22 portion of the Data Link Processor (DLP). Within the DLP, the Link 22 system consists of the interface to the SNC and the handling of the tactical messages that the system transmits and receives on the data link. The formats for the tactical messages are defined in ATDLP-5.22 (Allied Tactical Data Link Publication). The DLP is connected to, or is part of, the Tactical Data System (TDS), also known as the host system of the NILE Unit (NU), which processes the received tactical messages and generates tactical messages for transmission in accordance with the unit's national requirements. Additionally, a Time of Day (TOD) source that meets Link 22 requirements is required.

All NILE interface specifications (the orange and yellow arrows in Fig. 1) and the SNC have been jointly defined, designed and developed by the NILE Nations.

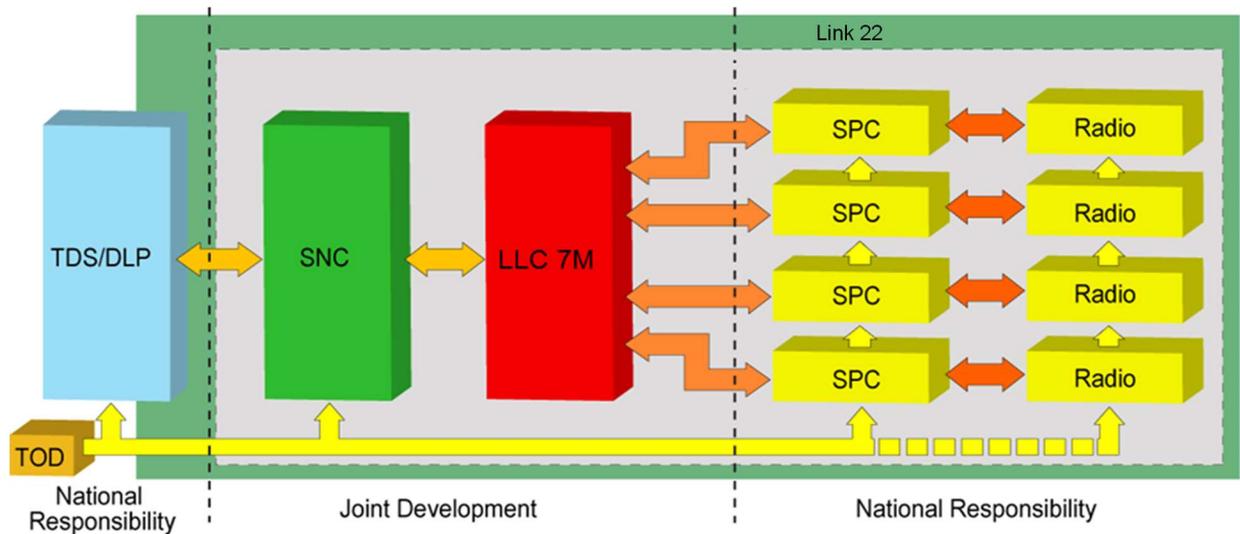


Figure 1- Link 22 System with NILE Communication Equipment

In addition to the NCE shown in Figure 1, the NCE also includes the NILES Reference Systems (NRS). The NRS is a tool that simulates the DLP, LLCs and the media segment (modems and radios) and also several other SNCs for testing of the NCE in a laboratory setting.

Section 2: Requirement

2. 1 Engineering Services

1. System engineering support to produce, support, sustain, maintain configuration control on, and deliver the Block Cycle Release (BCR). BCRs should be delivered in DVD format for distribution to NILE and Link 22 Partner Nations. The BCR includes System Network Controller (SNC) and NILE Reference System (NRS) software, Technical Data Package, Test Documentation, Software Version Description for the SNC and NRS and Configuration Management Information System (CMIS) in the form of a Microsoft Access database. Experience in Ada 95 and C++ programming is required, in compliance with the standard ISO/IEC 12207:2017.
2. Analyze, design and assess the impact of potential software enhancements on the Link 22 system (including the SNC, NRS, LLC 7M, and all interfaces) and implement enhancements in Block Cycle Releases, if approved.
3. Maintain and improve NILE documentation.
4. Provide engineering services to NILE Nations (CAN, DEU, ESP, FRA, ITA, UK and USA) and Link 22 Partner Nations including but not limited to implementation/installation, training, system engineering, investigative/trouble shooting services and technical and maintenance services. The engineering services will be conducted primarily remotely (by phone and/or email) but there may be instances where the vendor has to travel to perform engineering services at a location in a NILE Nation or Link 22 Partner Nation country.

5. Maintain software and document repository in accordance with a configuration management system compliant with the standard ISO 10007:2017 and the NILE Configuration Management Plan (NILE CMP). Vendors can request a copy of the NILE CMP by emailing Kate McCoy and Mary Kopa. Vendors will be required to sign an NDA before receiving a copy of the NILE CMP.
6. Compliance with Allied Quality Assurance Publications 2110 and 2210 is preferred.

2.2 COMSEC

1. Providing Link 22 system expertise to support the integration of Modernized LLC 7M device COMSEC into the Link 22 architecture. This may include: changes to the SNC/NRS; changes to the LLC 7M interfaces documentation; close collaboration with the LLC 7M manufacturer and US Government entities (e.g. Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC PAC)); provision of independent verification and validation (IV&V); and advice to the NILE Project Management Office (PMO) to ensure that design and implementation conforms to applicable standards and technical requirements (excluding requirements relating to the encryption/decryption algorithm).
2. The Government encourages and will consider responses from vendors that do not yet have a Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMoA) in place, but do have the expertise to meet the requirements of this RFI. Vendors lacking a CISMoA at any future contract award will be provided with LLC Simulator for use in NILE testing on a temporary basis while the requirements articulated in section 3 of this document are met. It should be appreciated, however, that a successful vendor will ultimately have to execute the CISMoA.

2.3 Project Management

1. Provide professional project management services to the NILE PMO including establishing an effective project management structure, designating a single Project Manager with responsibility for work performed under the contract and all planning, monitoring, control and scheduling of the project. Project management processes and services shall be set out in a Project Management Plan to be produced by the vendor.
2. Provide professional meeting services, to include providing suitable meeting facilities (remote or in-person), ensuring security requirements are adhered to, and taking minutes for meetings. Meetings include quarterly Project Reviews, technical reviews, configuration management meetings and technical meetings as necessary.
3. The vendor may be required to present NILE information to international audiences. Meetings include:
 - a) Communications Interoperability Working Groups (CIWGs), Technical and Operational Working Groups (TOWGs) and Configuration Control Board (CCB) as required;
 - b) NILE Steering Committee as required;
 - c) Other meetings or workshops on Link 22 or Tactical Data Link related matters.

2.4 Development & Testing

1. Provide and maintain a laboratory development and test environment for full end-to-end Link 22 system, and perform compatibility and interoperability testing between respective systems in Link 22 architecture. Selected hardware and software shown in figure 1 will be provided as Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) to the vendor for use in vendor facilities for the

purposes of establishing its laboratory for the testing. The laboratory shall be established and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the relevant CISMoa (see section 3).

2. Maintenance activities may include procurement of hardware, software, licenses etc. as directed by the NILE PMO and authorized by the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), for use in the NILE laboratory for the purposes of the ISS contract.

Section 3: Restrictions

1. Any non-US vendor awarded a contract as part of this requirement must be specifically listed on a CISMoa between the government of the nation in which the vendor is located and the United States (US) National Security Agency (NSA). Any non-US vendor awarded a contract as part of this requirement will also be mandated to request a National Interest Determination (NID). The vendor shall be responsible for performing all requirements under this contract.
2. In accordance with the NILE ISS Phase Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated 02 July 2002 and FAR 6.302-4 (International Agreement), award is limited to vendors of the seven NILE ISS Phase Participating Nations (CAN, DEU, ESP, FRA, ITA, UK and USA).
3. Vendors will be contractually required to comply with the provisions of Section 6 of the NILE ISS MoU (see Annex A). Vendors will also be required to mark all NILE documents with the applicable disclosure and distribution statements as directed by the Government.

Section 4: Government Furnished Equipment (GFE)

1. The Government will provide the GFE (both hardware and software) for the purposes of performing the NILE In-Service Support contract, and specifically to equip the NILE laboratory.

Section 5: Contracting and Industry Exchanges

1. At present, the Government is considering procuring these services via a Single Award Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract with both cost type and firm fixed price (FFP) CLINS. Please note, FAR 16.301-3 requires that a vendor's accounting system be adequate for determining costs applicable to the contract prior to the award of a cost-reimbursement contract. The planned contract is anticipated to have a one year base and four one-year option years. The Government seeks additional input from interested vendors regarding the Government's planned contracting strategy. Responses should be provided no later than 4 December 2020 to Ms Kate McCoy (Contracting Officer) at kate.mccoy@navy.mil.
2. The Government intends to conduct two virtual Industry Days to align with PST and CET time zones. The Industry Days will take place after publication of this RFI and before the deadline for submissions. The Industry Days will take place on 20 October 2020 at 13:00 PST, and on 21 October 2020 at 14:00 CET. The purpose of the Industry Day is to provide information relating to the requirement and vendors will have the opportunity to ask clarification questions to the US Government and NILE PMO. The NILE PMO requests interested parties respond via email to Kate McCoy at kate.mccoy@navy.mil if planning to attend an Industry Day. Please include the name of the company, MS Teams email address for each attendee, and date of Industry Day that you wish to attend. Depending on interest in the event, NAVWAR and the NILE PMO reserve the right to conduct one-to-one meetings (in-person or virtually) in addition to or in lieu of an Industry Day. Additionally, NAVWAR representatives and the NILE PMO may or may not choose to interact with respondents in order to perform market research; such exchanges, should they

occur, would be solely for the purpose of obtaining further clarification of industry's potential capabilities.

3. The content of the Industry Days will be identical and all questions and answers will be transcribed and released in writing to all participants. Attendance at the Industry Days is not a prerequisite for participation in any future contracting activity related to this requirement.

Section 6: Capability Questions

1. Vendors are invited to inform the Government which of the requirements they are able to perform in Section 2 of this RFI. Subcontracting/teaming arrangements between vendors from any combination of NILE Nations are actively encouraged. If vendors "team up", please provide details of any proposed teaming/subcontracting arrangements as part of the RFI response.
2. In responses to this RFI, vendors are required to respond to the following capability questions:
 - a) Please briefly describe what previous experience in providing support to military C4I projects, specifically relating to Tactical Data Links and preferably Link 22. Performance should focus on developing, updating, testing and enhancing software source code, in Ada 95 and C++ and configuration management efforts. Please provide contract numbers, Government point of contact, and a brief description of relevant work performed. The vendor should state whether they are AQAP 2110 and 2210 compliant.
 - b) Please briefly describe what previous experience you have in establishing and running a software test laboratory (using GFE) for the purposes of functional, compatibility and interoperability testing. If available, please provide details of experience in laboratory design, hardware installation, testing and operation.
 - c) Vendors must be authorized to handle, store and use the LLC 7M COMSEC unit for the purposes of Link 22 system integration testing, or able to in accordance with Section 3 of this document. The LLC 7M is a Controlled Cryptographic Item (CCI) and is therefore subject to the regulations set out in Section 3 of this document. Please describe what, if any, experience you have in obtaining and operating COMSEC and key material in accordance with the regulations stated in Section 3 of this document.
 - d) Please briefly outline project management expertise in software-related projects, including schedule development, risk management, work package and resource management, and project monitoring, management and control. If applicable, please provide high-level details of project management frameworks you use and qualifications/certifications your staff have.

Section 7: Submission Instructions

WHITE PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Responses shall be limited to ten (10) single-sided A4 pages, in 12-point Times New Roman font, standard 1" margins, including appendices, enclosures, pictures, diagrams, and footnotes. Each response shall include the following information:

- a) Primary Point of Contact (name, address, phone number, email address, CAGE code, DUNS number);
 - b) A statement that the respondent will allow the Government to release the respondent’s proprietary data to the Government support vendor. In the absence of this statement, the response will only be reviewed by Government personnel;
2. Interested parties are requested to respond to this RFI with a white paper following the instructions listed below. Submissions must be received no later than 1200 PST, 4 December 2020. All responses must be submitted in Microsoft Word for Office 2010-compatible format, Responses shall be submitted to the NAVWAR e-Commerce Central website at <https://e-commerce.sscno.nmci.navy.mil/>, or by email directly to kate.mccoy@navy.mil and mary.kopa@navy.mil. See the NAVWAR e-Commerce website for instructions on how to submit responses. For information regarding this RFI, contact Kate McCoy, Procurement Contracting Officer (PCO), at kate.mccoy@navy.mil and Mary Kopa at mary.kopa@navy.mil. Acknowledgement of receipt will not be made. Availability of any formal solicitation will be announced separately.
3. If any respondent does not currently have a Proprietary Data Protection Agreement (PDPA) that would permit the NAVWAR support vendors listed below to review and evaluate submissions in response to this RFI, the respondent is requested to sign a PDPA with this NAVWAR support vendor for this purpose. **Additionally, respondents shall include a statement in their response that explicitly states that the support vendor listed below is permitted to review the response.** If a PDPA is not executed, or a respondent does not indicate that the support vendor listed below is permitted to review the response, the response will only be reviewed by Government personnel.

Company	Name	Email
Booz Allen Hamilton (Booz Allen)	Marissa Aguilar	Aguilar_Marissa@bah.com
Booz Allen Hamilton (Booz Allen)	Greg Neusch	Neusch_Michael@bah.com
Sentek Consulting	Kevin Buck	kbuck@sentekconsulting.com

- a) Distribution of chapter one of the Link 22 Guidebook is managed by the NILE Project Management Office. In order to receive the document, vendors are required to download and sign the NILE ISS 5 Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) posted on the NAVWAR E-commerce website; and,
- b) Return the signed NDA to Kate McCoy, Procurement Contracting Officer (PCO), at kate.mccoy@navy.mil and Mary Kopa at mary.kopa@navy.mil

If the interested vendor is unable to download the NDA from the NAVWAR E-commerce website, a copy of the NDA can also be obtained upon request by email by contacting Kate McCoy and Mary Kopa at the email addresses stated above.

Once the NDA information is validated by the Government, the technical documents will be distributed to the POC listed in the submitted NDA via a secure document delivery website.

Section 8: Questions

1. Questions regarding this RFI shall be submitted in writing by e-mail to the NAVWAR PCO, Kate McCoy at kate.mccoy@navy.mil and Mary Kopa at mary.kopa@navy.mil. Verbal questions will NOT be accepted. Questions will be answered by posting answers to the NAVWAR E-Commerce Central website, and www.link22.org; accordingly, questions shall NOT contain proprietary or classified information. The deadline for questions is 1200 PST, 6 November 2020. The Government does not guarantee that questions will be answered. Interested parties are invited to subscribe to the NAVWAR E-commerce website, and to regularly access www.link22.org, to ensure they receive any updates connected with this RFI.
2. NOTE: THIS RFI IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SOLICITATION AND SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUCTED AS A COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT. RESPONSES IN ANY FORM ARE NOT AN OFFER AND THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO AWARD A CONTRACT AS A RESULT OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. NO FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAY FOR PREPARATION OF RESPONSES TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

Annex A – NILE ISS Memorandum of Understanding

6.4. Each Participant will legally bind its Contractors to a requirement that the Contractor will not retransfer or otherwise use export-controlled information furnished by another Participant for any purpose other than the purposes authorized under this MOU. The Contractor will also be legally bound not to retransfer the export-controlled information to another Contractor or subcontractor unless that Contractor or subcontractor has been legally bound to limit use of the information to the purposes authorized under this MOU. Export-controlled information furnished by one Participant under this MOU may only be retransferred by another Participant to its Contractors if the legal arrangements required by this paragraph have been established.

6.5. Each Participant will legally bind its Prospective Contractors to a requirement that the Prospective Contractor will not retransfer or otherwise use export-controlled information furnished by another Participant for any purpose other than responding to a solicitation issued in furtherance of the purposes authorized under this MOU. Prospective Contractors will not be authorized use for any other purpose if they are not awarded a Contract. The Prospective Contractors will also be legally bound not to retransfer the export-controlled information to a prospective subcontractor unless that prospective subcontractor has been legally bound to limit use of the export-controlled information for the purpose of responding to the solicitation. Export-controlled information furnished by one Participant under this MOU may only be retransferred by another Participant to its Prospective Contractors if the legal arrangements required by this paragraph have been established. Upon request by the furnishing Participant, the receiving Participant will identify its Prospective Contractors and prospective subcontractors receiving such export-controlled information.