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DESCRIPTION:

THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT. THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF MARKET RESEARCH ONLY.

DISCLAIMER: This is a Request for Information (RFI) from industry in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 15.201(e). This is NOT request for a proposal (RFP); therefore, responses to the RFI are not considered offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract.

Additionally, this is NOT a request for quote (RFQ) and not a Government contract.

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation. Any/ all information received in response to this RFI that is marked as proprietary will be handled accordingly. Responders are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI.

NO CLASSIFIED information shall be included in the RFI response.

Responders should contact the publishing contracting office with any questions or concerns pursuant to this RFI.

INFORMATION REQUESTED:

The USSOCOM is seeking industry input to identify potential solutions for a Small VTOL Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS), capable of providing Reconnaissance and Surveillance during day and night operations in all weather and atmospheric conditions. The system should be rugged, lightweight, and ready to operate through user friendly flight controls and interfaces. The system should provide real-time full motion video (FMV) via electro-optical and infrared sensors at high definition resolutions. The air vehicle should be capable of autonomous, or manual launch with minimal support equipment from a small confined area. The sUAS should be capable of manual and/or autonomous recovery within the same area as launch. The recovery method should be adequate to prevent system damage and allow for short turn-around times between missions.

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REQUIREMENTS:

USSOCOM is specifically interested in systems with the following requirements.

KPP	Description	Thresholds	Objectives
Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL)	Manual or autonomous recovery within the same area as launch	Within 5 Meters	Within 1 Meters
Six Axis Object avoidance	T=O		
Endurance in hours	The amount of time the aircraft can fly without a payload	20min	1hrs
MP4 video format	T=O		
Still photography	T=O		
Video resolution	The quality of the streaming video Should support precise operations in day/night conditions	720p	4k
Gimbaled Day/Night Imagery sensor with mechanical or digital stabilization	T=O		
Payload capability	The amount of additional weight the aircraft can carry	0.5lbs	3lbs

T = threshold, O = Objective

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REQUESTED INFORMATION:

The responder is requested to provide detailed information in response to the following:

Overview

- Provide a description of your system. Include detailed descriptions of the air vehicle, ISR sensor(s), Ground Control Station (GCS), controller software, and required ancillary equipment.
- System Specs and Capabilities to include flight characteristics, vehicle size/weight, payload compatibilities etc.

Provide individual responses to the questions and requests listed below:

1. What other unique capabilities are available with the system that may enhance ISR mission performance, tetherable, cargo payload capacities etc.?
2. What are the remote control specifications, is the remote control ATAK enabled smart phone compatible?
3. Explain your processing capabilities.
4. How much time is required to return to full charge following a maximum endurance flight?
5. Is your system battery hot swappable capable; if so, does this capability include battery charging banks?
6. What type of batteries are used, are they certified, if they are certified provide a Materials Safety Data Sheet.
7. Describe the cargo delivery and retrieval capability if compatible.
8. Describe your system's latency from payload to controller (FMV and C2 link).
9. Describe the data link used including waveform, operational frequency band, analog or digital, and encryption capabilities, as well as download speeds.
10. How and where is generated data stored, does this storage include the use of SD cards?
11. Provide logistical support plans for repairing common issues associated operational mishaps
12. Are spare parts available via catalog? If so please provide a catalog.
13. Please provide all associated manuals.
14. What is the estimated itemized cost for a full system?
15. What is the production lead-time, based on single order quantities ranging from 1-20 systems?
16. Please provide your cage code and NAICS Code. If you are a small business per the parameters of NAICS Code, do you also qualify under any of the sub-categories?
17. Are you a foreign-owned, foreign-controlled, or a foreign-influenced company?

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INSTRUCTIONS:

All interested parties shall submit responses electronically in a Microsoft Word (.doc) or PDF (.pdf) compatible format.

All responses are limited to 10 pages.

Please be advised that all correspondence transmitted via e-mail shall contain a subject line that reads "RFI – Small VTOL Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS). Attachments with files ending in .zip or .exe are not allowable and such files will be stripped and deleted from any emails received by the Government. Please ensure only .pdf, .doc(x), or .xls(x) documents are attached to any reply email.

RESPONSES AND SUBMISSIONS:

All responses must be received no later than (NLT) 5:00 PM EST, MONDAY, 10 APRIL 2020.

Please direct all questions concerning this RFI to ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

MAJ William Taylor, USSOCOM, APM
William.L.Taylor118.mil@mail.mil

Jay Hauser ACC-APG-NCD, Contracting Officer
John.P.Hauser.civ@mail.mil

Ana Hafers ACC-APG-NCD, Acquisition Specialist (CTR)
Ana.M.Hafers.ctr@mail.mil

Do **NOT** contact any of the aforementioned parties for information regarding acquisition strategy or information regarding a potential solicitation and request for proposal (RFP) posting date.

NO Phone Calls.

A solicitation is currently **NOT** available at this time. Should any solicitation result from this RFI, a request for proposal (RFP) will be announced, synopsis, and posted separately at a future date and time. Do **NOT** inquire about additional information.

A response to this RFI is **NOT** a request to be added to a prospective bidders list or to receive a copy of a solicitation

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