Request for Quotation (RFQ) - Installation Operations Tool (IOT) NEPA Portal Integration Support
RFQ #001A
Release Date: May 21, 2024

1) Executive Summary

Army installations need a networking and data brokering system capable of rapidly integrating diverse data sources and systems into a unified data mesh and Common Operating Picture (COP) dashboard. To meet this need, US Ignite is managing an 'Installation Operations Tool' (IOT) project for the requirements development and live demonstration of a potential solution at Fort Moore, GA (formerly known as Fort Benning). This project supports the US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center (USACE-ERDC) and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment (ASA IE&E).

In support of this project, US Ignite released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the demonstration of an Installation Operations Tool.. This RFQ #001A "IOT - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Portal Integration Support" is a separate procurement. This RFQ is intended to secure modernization and integration support services for a "NEPA Portal" system to integrate with the Installation Operations Tool.

US Ignite is requesting an aggressive schedule for completion. The objective of this RFQ is to procure the services of an "IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor" that will ensure there are:

a. Well-documented, modern network and API interfaces available from a system for the IOT capability to interface with

b. Personnel available to support the integration between the IOT capability and, among other systems, the NEPA Portal deployed at Fort Moore, GA.

The selected Proposer ("IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support Vendor") will be responsible for completing the Scope of Services (Section 3), in compliance with the Schedule (Section 4). The Period of Performance is expected from June 19, 2024, through August 31, 2025. **A Time and Material (T&M) contract will be provided** to the IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support Vendor. **The maximum value of this award will be $40,000**.

2) About the NEPA Portal

Background

The NEPA Portal deployed at Fort Moore supports the installation's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA requires environmental analysis of all Army actions which may impact the environment, natural resources, and cultural resources. The commonly used documentation at the installation level used to initiate this analysis is Form 144R. The NEPA Program Manager and other Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Management Division (EMD) staff are responsible for screening all activities to ensure compliance with NEPA. If approved, the output of this analysis is a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC). If an action cannot be authorized through the 144R process, then further evaluation of the action may be required in the form of an Environmental Assessment of Environmental Impact Statement

which require 12-24 months to complete.

The purpose of the NEPA Portal is to provide proponents of activities on Fort Moore requiring REC's with a digitized, streamlined process for requesting them. Typically the 144R process on installations is managed with physical forms handled in person between proponents and NEPA program managers, which can often take months to process. However, as a major training installation with a large volume of activities taking place regularly that require REC's, Fort Moore requires a digitized system to make this process more efficient for activity proponents. This capability is provided by the NEPA portal, whereby activity proponents can submit form 144Rs digitally, and the DPW EMD can then manage the process and ultimately make a decision on each request digitally rather than taking the time to mail and otherwise handle physical forms.

Objective of Integrating the NEPA Portal with the Installation Operations Tool

Given the intent of the IOT to provide a.) a Garrison Common Operating Picture (COP) and b.) a system- and network integration capability, there are several objectives for integrating the NEPA Portal with the IOT. Rather than creating bespoke capability for each of the potential requirements below, the intent of this RFQ is to create one integration between the NEPA portal and the IOT, that can then be repeatedly used in the future to support new and evolving use cases that would otherwise require integration between the NEPA Portal and several other systems.

Below is a sample of system integration use cases enabled through this integration effort:

1. Support the automated generation of form 144R's within the NEPA portal when activities are created in other systems, to reduce the need for duplicate data entry from those other systems into the NEPA portal. This includes but is not limited to:
    a. The Army Maintenance Application (ArMA)
    b. Range Facility Management Support System (RFMSS)
    c. Planning actions created within PLANNER or other master planning information systems.
    d. GFEBS Performance Work Orders (PWO's)
2. Have GIS information available from other systems when proponents are filling out NEPA portal form 144R's and when EMD staff are processing them, so that NEPA users can more quickly identify relevant ranges, protected lands, and cultural resources that inform the environmental considerations of the activity.
3. Auto-notify proponents and reviewers when actions are taken on a form 144R, to reduce review time and increase proponent visibility of the status of a request.

Further, below is a sample of Garrison COP business intelligence use cases enabled through this integration effort:

4. Number of records of environmental considerations processed average processing time.
5. Number of records of environmental considerations rejected, with reference to those requests to reduce time to review.
6. Expedited compliance with Army Regulation 200-1 "Environmental Protection and Enhancement", requiring quarterly generation and review of 144R data.

7. Expedited generation of data supporting annual Army environmental reporting

Technical Details on the NEPA Portal

The NEPA portal is deployed on-premises on servers located within the Fort Moore data center. It's a custom web application written using off-the-shelf technologies, primarily including Microsoft .NET and SQL Server. It employs role-based access control (RBAC), with two primary classes of users including a.) proponents and b.) reviewers. Proponents are able to access a GUI through a web portal, where they're able to submit requests as guests by entering their contact information. Reviewers are authenticated using their DoDID associated with their CAC card, after which their reviewer sub-role is identified based on their information. The application is only available through a web client accessible via the installation network, and is not accessible off the installation network. The system has an EMASS record that articulates its change management plan, but does not have Authority to Operate (ATO). Further documentation or clarifications on the technical details of the system will not be available for respondents to this RFQ in advance of an award, but will be provided to the selected IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor.

3) Scope of Services

The IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor will be responsible for providing the services listed below.

1. Interface design support for IOT Implementation Vendor
    a. The IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor will be required to participate in regular programmatic and technical meetings with the IOT Implementation Vendor and other project team members to co-develop the technical interface between the NEPA Portal and IOT capability.
    b. This will require the provision of the API documentation described in tasks 2 and 3 below once developed, along with network architecture information, identity/access management information, and other interface design specifications.
2. GET API creation/documentation
    a. Create and expose a RESTful GET ("read") API in JSON format to the 144R data within the Microsoft SQL Server of the NEPA portal architecture.
    b. Machine certificates must be provisioned to authenticate access to this API from the Installation Operations Tool. Alternate methods for authenticating with the IOT capability may be defined post-award.
    c. Use of this API must be authorized against the 'reviewer' role within the NEPA portal. This must be validated by assessing the role for the logged in user making the request through the IOT capability.
    d. The exact request and response parameters required by this API will be confirmed post-award, and will be based on the existing reporting capabilities provided within the NEPA portal.
    e. The request parameters anticipated to be required include the following:
        i. Start and end date-time.

ii. A list of one, several, or all geographic locations on Fort Moore

iii. Outcome type (unspecified, in-progress, approved, approved with comment, or rejected)

iv. Identity of the logged in user, to support RBAC.

f. The response anticipated to be required will be the number of records that fall within the parameters described in point d above.

g. Documentation for this API must be provided using OpenAPI, RAML, or similar standard specification.

h. This API must be exposed over a web service to the IOT capability, likely through port 443.

3. POST API creation/documentation

a. Create and expose a RESTful POST ("write") API in JSON format to the 144R database within the Microsoft SQL Server of the NEPA Portal architecture.

b. Machine certificates must be provisioned to authenticate access to this API from the Installation Operations Tool.

c. The exact request parameters required by this API will be confirmed post-award and will be based on the existing inputs required for a 144R form submission.

d. The response parameters required by this API will be confirmed post-award, but are anticipated to minimally include:

i. Success: boolean

ii. Payload: json results of the request

iii. Message: plain-text description of the result

iv. Error: json element with any error messages or warnings

v. Id: ID of newly created 144R object

e. Documentation for this API must be provided using OpenAPI, RAML, or similar standard specification.

f. This API must be exposed over a web service to the IOT capability, likely through port 443.

4. Integration/Deployment support

a. The IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor will be required to travel to Fort Moore, GA to deploy the two API's described above within the production NEPA portal server.

b. Following this, the IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor will be required to integrate the NEPA Portal with the Installation Operations Tool.

c. The IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor will be responsible for creating and receiving approval for a back-out plan for these activities prior to deploying to production.

d. This will require working with the FMGA EMD and Network Enterprise Center (NEC) to manage and execute a change control board process for the NEPA portal.

e. In advance of this deployment the IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor will be required to demonstrate the successful functionality of the above API's in a development environment emulating the production environment. This development environment will need to be created or managed by the IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor and will not be provided by US Ignite or Fort Moore.

5. Demonstration

   a. The IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor may be required to travel to FMGA to support the live demonstration of the IOT capability, integrated with the NEPA portal.

6. Additional Support

   a. The IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support vendor may be required to perform additional activities following the IOT capability demonstration. This may include but is not limited to:

      i. development/provision of additional documentation

      ii. NEPA Portal version rollback

      iii. Development of additional API functionality or integration with the IOT capability.

      iv. Demonstration of the secure cloud-basing of the NEPA portal within a pre-accredited (ATO'ed) cloud environment, as described in section 8.1.1.h.i of the IOT Implementation RFP.

4) Schedule

Table 1 reflects the required schedule. The schedule assumes contract execution no later than June 19, 2024. If the IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support contract is executed later than this date, then the below schedule may be shifted accordingly.

Table 1. IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support Schedule

Task	Start Date	Target Completion Date
Contract Award	NA	6/19/24
Task 1 (Interface Design Support)	6/19/24	8/1/24
Tasks 2, 3 (GET, POST API)	6/19/24	8/16/24
Task 4 (Deployment/Integration)	8/16/24	8/30/24

Table 1. IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support Schedule		
Task 5 (Demonstration)	8/30/24	9/14/24
Task 6 (Additional Support)	9/14/24	8/31/25

The anticipated acquisition schedule for this RFQ is in Table 2:

Table 2. IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support RFQ Acquisition Schedule	
Activity	**Deadline**
IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support RFQ Release	5/21/24
Questions Due	5/27/24
US Ignite Responses to Questions Due	5/29/24
Quotations Due	6/3/24
Vendor Selection Complete	6/7/24
MSA, Task Order Execution	6/19/24

5) Solicitation Responses

All quotations must be submitted **by June 3, 2024 no later than 8:00 PM EDT.**

All questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted **by May 27, 2024, no later than 8:00 PM EDT. US Ignite will endeavor to respond to these questions by May 29, 2024 no later than 8:00 PM EDT.**

Quotations (and questions) should be submitted via email to the RFQ coordinator at sayed.elhamz@us-ignite.org . All communications related to this quotation should be directed to the RFQ coordinator. Any other communications will not be considered and may disqualify proposers from responding to this RFQ.

Quotations must be submitted in either Word or PDF format and may include attachments in Microsoft Excel or PowerPoint format. Excluding any attachments, quotations must be no longer than 5 pages.

Quotations must include the following sections and associated details:

1. **Proposed information**: Provide primary contact information, including name, title, phone number, email, and organization name, address, and DUNS number.
2. **Company overview**: Provide an overview of the company, and any relevant experience working on similar DoD, installations, and/or environmental management projects.

3. **Proposed schedule**: The format for this may follow the format of Table 1 above or may be provided in an alternative format including but not limited to MS Project file, Excel workbook, Gantt chart, or similar. Proposers may include brief summaries of the activities to be performed under each task.
4. **Proposed approach**: A narrative description shall be provided summarizing the proposed approach to performing tasks 1-5 of the Scope of Services. This may include any tools or technologies intended for use, as well as any requirements and necessary design or deployment considerations that will need to be addressed post-award.
5. **Cost proposal**
    a. Provide the necessary labor categories to perform each task, the number of hours from each labor category estimated to be required to complete each task, along with the labor rate for each labor category.
    b. Cost Proposal Terms
        i. These proposed labor rates will be considered valid until the end of calendar year 2025.
        ii. Under this Time and Material (T&M) contract, the IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support Vendor will invoice and be compensated for the actual number of hours of work performed by personnel of each labor category.
        iii. The total number of hours proposed for each labor category shall become the maximum number of hours that may be invoiced for each category. If the actual number of hours performed by personnel of each labor category exceeds the number proposed, US Ignite will not be liable for the excess hours.
        iv. This cost proposal may follow the example format provided in table 2 below or may be provided in an alternative format as beneficial to Proposers.

Table 3. Cost Proposal Table

Labor Category	**# Hrs. Required Estimate**	**Labor Category Rate ($USD)**	**Cost Estimate (in $USD)**
Example LCat: Project Manager:			= hours/LCat x rate/LCat
Example LCAT: Software Engineer			(same as above)
Labor Category 3: to be populated by Proposers as needed			

Table 3. Cost Proposal Table			
Labor Category	**# Hrs. Required Estimate**	**Labor Category Rate ($USD)**	**Cost Estimate (in $USD)**
Total	Sum of above hours		Sum of above costs

6) Evaluation

US Ignite will review all quotes submitted by the deadline and will evaluate responses according to the scoring criteria described in Table 3 below. US Ignite will select the vendor that can meet the requirements of the scope and schedule described in sections 3 and 4 and may request additional meetings with proposers in order to seek clarification on their quotation.

Table 4. IOT NEPA Portal Integration Support Quotation Evaluation Criteria		
Criteria	**Definition**	**Criteria weight**
Schedule	Ability to perform the first 3 tasks in the scope of services by 8/16/24	40%
Experience	Relevant experience working with similar technologies, and on similar DoD, installation management, and environmental management projects	30%
Cost	Estimated number of hours required to complete each task (per LCat) x labor rate per LCat	30%

7) Disclaimers

a) All information received in response to this RFQ will be considered confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than USACE-ERDC or Fort Moore, GA without prior consent from the respondent.

b) Respondents wishing to submit responses containing controlled unclassified information (CUI) may indicate as such to the RFQ coordinator listed above and will be provided instructions for doing so.

c) Information classified as Secret or Top Secret is not to be submitted in response to this RFQ.

d) Submission of information in response to this RFQ is purely voluntary; US Ignite assumes no financial responsibility for any costs incurred.

e) US Ignite reserves the right to request follow-on discussions with respondents to

understand the details of responses received.

f) The execution of the scope of work described in this RFQ is contingent upon the confidence of the IOT Implementation Vendor (described in the RFP referenced in section 1 'Executive Summary') that they'll propose to implement a use case that requires integration with the NEPA Portal. Should the selected IOT Implementation Vendor elect not to integrate with the NEPA Portal as part of their Scope of Work, the effort described under this RFQ will not be required.