

FAQs – Civil Works CSO

Last updated May 13, 2024

The Civil Works CSO seems to be part of the Civil Works R&D Collider and as a separate solicitation. Are there one or two opportunity sets?

There are three opportunities. The Collider houses basic and applied research opportunities as well as some specific CSO opportunities. The Collider opportunities close for submission on June 26, 2023. The Civil Works CSO is a continuous open announcement and supports broader topics to which industry and academia can submit through May 22, 2024. The CSO as part of the Collider is supported by the broader Civil Works CSO solicitation.

What is the Civil Works funding amount? How will the funding be allocated?

ERDC anticipates awarding up to \$20,000,000 in new partnerships during FY 2024 under this announcement. Proposals with a multi-year scope that address current and follow-on opportunities, up to five years in duration, are desired. Individual awards of up to \$500,000 per year are anticipated. To be allowable under federal awards, costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project, and they must also comply with the funding statute and agency requirements.

Can R&D proposals be submitted to the Civil Works CSO?

Under this CSO, all products, technologies, and services shall be treated as commercial items; products, technologies, and services do not have to be “commercially available” to be submitted in response to this solicitation. If the solution meets the requirements of the regulation, the solution is treated as commercial whereby the Contracting Officer will utilize commercial procedures to develop and execute the resultant award.

Under the Civil Works CSO, when can we expect to be able to submit a solution for the Ecosystems: Sustainable Species Management strategic focus area?

No timeframe has been established at this time. Please keep in mind this opportunity is open through May 22, 2024.

Can you please clarify what analytics you're looking to perform on the structured/unstructured data mentioned in the Civil Works CSO AI, Robotics and Data Area of Interest?

The idea is to collect, harvest and mine structured and unstructured data from everywhere using IoT (autonomous and real-time). Like from sensors, edge devices, big databases and – even observations. Then the data has to be curated, standardized to get it in a format for data analytics.

The analytics can be for trend analysis, predictive analysis, prescriptive analysis for any of the domains across all the SFAs.

Index Sediments and Material Characteristics: To optimize R&D and Prototype design, are there any specific details on the “index sediments” the Army Corps prioritizes for utilization, i.e. composition, sorting, and grain size distribution, geographic location of where these sediments are most readily available?

To achieve the USACE Goal of 70% Beneficial Use by 2030, the USACE is considering beneficial use alternatives for all dredged sediment from navigation projects.

Dredged Sediment Acquisition and Selectivity: Our solution leverages dredged sediments as a primary material. Given the potential for high demand for sand in various applications, can you elaborate on how the Army Corps prioritizes the separation of fine-grained sediments (silts and clays) for potential use in construction projects?

Alternatives for the beneficial use of dredged sediment from navigation projects vary based on the sediment characteristics including grain size (cobbles, gravel, sand, fines).

Would the Army Corps be responsible for delivering these fine-grained sediments to the processing location, or should we consider alternative acquisition methods in our solution design?

The type, quantity, and location of dredged sediment available for beneficial use is project specific.

Are there any ongoing or planned innovations in dredging technologies that improve the selectivity of dredged material, allowing for the separation of specific grain size fractions? Information on such advancements would be valuable for informing our prototype development process.

A recent study investigated the Sediment Distribution Pipe’s capability to efficiently place and potentially sort dredged sediment along a larger area than a single pipe discharge. Details about the Sediment Distribution Pipe can be found in recent ERDC technical reports.

Timeline for Full Proposal Request: Could you provide an estimated timeframe for when the Army Corps might issue a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) for this solution? While we understand the specific details will be included in the RFP, any general insights into the Army Corps' evaluation criteria for these proposals would be helpful for tailoring our approach.

There is no set-timeframe for when an RFP is issued. This is a continuous open opportunity, and as such solution submissions are chosen upon project need and funding. Once a solution is selected with funding, the RFP notification will come directly from the ERDC contracting team. The evaluation criteria is stated in the [Civil Works CSO Solicitation Document](#).

Is there an opportunity to establish a collaborative relationship with the Army Corps during the development phase to ensure our solution aligns with your specific needs and technical considerations?

There are several collaboration mechanisms for partnering with ERDC as described on this site: <https://www.erdcl.usace.army.mil/Business-With-Us/Old-Partnering-Mechanisms/>.

As a Lawful Permanent Resident of United States and a citizen of Iran, can I serve as the lead PI of the project?

The work to be performed in response to this announcement is fundamental research. Therefore, there are no restrictions on participation.

Is there a limit on the amount of IDC that can be charged?

There are no limits. Regulations require payment of federally negotiated rates.

Does the CV of the PI counts towards the five pages limit of the pre-proposal?

Yes.