



NCI AGENCY NOT-FOR-PROFIT FRAMEWORK

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Not-For-Profit Framework (NFPF) is to expand the NCI Agency's cooperation ecosystem, diversify the NATO supply chain and enable wider engagement by nations in the Agency's work.

WHAT IS IT?

NFPF is a new cooperation model between NCI Agency and not-for-profit organizations - national defence labs, academic, scientific and research institutions from within the NATO nations, for acquiring pre-defined expertise and skillsets along the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA)¹, and aligned with the chartered mission of the NCI Agency – delivery of C3 capabilities, provision of secure CIS services and delivery of capabilities and provision of services other than C3/CIS to NATO and nations. The NFPF General Rules of Operation were approved by the Agency Supervisory Board on 28 July 2020.

WHERE DOES IT FIT?

The NFP Framework (NFPF):

- Complements the existing NCI Agency cooperation and contracting frameworks with industry;
- Is established along the NATO capability development process;
- Provides compliancy with NATO financial and procurement regulations;
- Employs the general procurement principles of eligibility and competition.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- For NATO:
 - Expand structural frameworks for cooperation;
 - Speed up project execution;
 - Gain access to specialized skills and expertise and introduce innovative solutions.
- For Nations:
 - Bring NATO perspective into the work of national NFP organizations;
 - Facilitate knowledge and information exchange;
 - Benefit from NATO funding through the NFPs' participation in NCI Agency projects.
- For NCI Agency:
 - Gain access to specialized skills and expertise;
 - Simplify sourcing and incentivize cost reduction;
 - Diversify the cooperation portfolio for capability development.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Eligible are organizations from within NATO nations whose expertise areas are aligned with the mission of the NCI Agency, and which are certified by the country of origin through a Declaration of Eligibility as not-

¹ <https://www.sfia-online.org/en/framework/sfia-7/skills-home>



profit making or having a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to their stakeholders or individual members.

- Excluded from NFPF participation are organizations that include industries in their memberships.
- Organizations participating in the NFPF are excluded from participation at any tier in any of the NCI Agency's procurements addressed to industry and vice-versa.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

CONTRACTING PROCEDURE

The NFPF cooperation model is a two-step contracting procedure:

- First, NFPF Agreements are signed between the NCI Agency and NFP Organizations for participation in the NFPF.
- Then, at the second step, competitions for NFPF Task Orders will be conducted amongst the NFPF Agreement holders in support of specific NCI Agency requirements.

NFPF AGREEMENTS

NFPF Agreements will have a validity period of five years and will be subject to a NFPF Declaration of Eligibility (NFPF DoE). The following process will be used for establishing NFPF Agreements:

1. The national NFP organization downloads the NFPF General Rules of Operation and requests the template for the NFPF Agreement via the functional mailbox NFPF@ncia.nato.int;
2. The national NFP organization submits the NFP application to the NCI Agency – (1) filled-in NFPF Agreement template and (2) NFP's expertise and skillset areas adopted from SFIA;
3. NCI Agency requests the NFPF Declaration of Eligibility (DoE) via the respective national delegation to NATO;
4. NCI Agency receives NFPF DoE via the respective national delegation to NATO;
5. NCI Agency establishes the NFPF Agreement with the national NFP organization.

NFPF DECLARATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

The NFPF Declarations of Eligibility have a validity period of five years and will contain the full statutory name and address of the NFP organization. The country of origin must declare that this NFP organization:

- Has expertise areas aligned with the mission of the NCI Agency – delivery of C3 capabilities, provision of secure CIS services and delivery of capabilities and provision of services "other than C3/CIS" to NATO and nations;
- Is not-profit making or having a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to their shareholders or individual members;
- Has the necessary financial, technical and professional competence to be admitted by the Government of the country of origin as bidders were it responsible for awarding contracts of this nature under the NFPF.



NFPF TASK ORDERS

Following process will be used for awarding Task Orders against the NFPF Agreements:

1. The Agency will publish opportunities on the Agency website.
2. The timeline for submission of proposals will be usually within four weeks, although it can be longer depending on the complexity of the requirements.
3. Only those NFP organizations having concluded a NFPF Agreement with NCI Agency will be eligible to submit proposals.
4. As a general rule, the Task Order will be awarded to the lowest compliant bidder.
5. The financial terms of the Task Orders will be defined according to the most appropriate compensation arrangement considering the circumstances of each case. Off-site and on-site execution will be possible, depending on the nature of work and with due consideration to the applicable security classification.