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<b>Title - Sujet</b> Future Naval Training System	
<b>Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation</b> W8482-218578/B	<b>Date</b> 2021-04-01
<b>Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client</b> W8482-218578	<b>GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG</b> PW-\$NGT-003-39341
<b>File No. - N° de dossier</b> 003ngt.W8482-218578	<b>CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME</b>
<b>Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin</b> <b>at - à 02:00 PM</b> Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT <b>on - le 2021-05-18</b> Heure Avancée de l'Est HAE	
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<b>Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à:</b> McKenny, Harold	<b>Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur</b> 003ngt
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<b>Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm</b> <b>(type or print)</b> <b>Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/</b> <b>de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)</b>   <b>Signature</b>   <b>Date</b>	

## Request for Information (RFI)

### Future Naval Training System (FNTS) Concept of Operations (CONOPS)

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# 1. Purpose and Nature of the Request for Information (RFI)

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This is the Request for Information (RFI) pertaining to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) Future Naval Training System (FNTS) for the Department of National Defence (DND).

## 1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The Department of National Defence needs to evolve the RCN's Naval Training System (NTS) to:
- better meet current training requirements;
  - prepare for the future fleet of Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships (AOPS), Joint Support Ships (JSS), and Canadian Surface Combatants (CSC); and
  - support other initiatives such as the RCN's Digital Navy.
- 1.2.2 The RCN's Naval Training System Transition (NTST) Program was initiated to correct capability deficiencies in the existing Naval Training System (NTS) and to transition the NTS to meet these future fleet demands. The NTST Program is responsible to develop and deliver an FNTS that provides world class training to RCN and associated Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and DND personnel.
- 1.2.3 The NTST Program is not a Major Project but rather it is an internal RCN Program that has taken an integrated Systems of Systems approach to manage and ensure the requirements of the FNTS will be achieved. The first stage has been to develop the FNTS Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and will be the basis for developing an FNTS Statement of Requirements (SOR). The SOR will guide DND Projects and initiatives on FNTS requirements for delivering training solutions to the RCN.
- 1.2.4 Key NTST Program objectives are:
- To establish and deliver the full spectrum of required naval training capability;
  - To develop, implement, and sustain a modernized, agile, and flexible FNTS that produces qualified officers, sailors, teams, and supporting personnel, to meet current and future Defence Policy tasks, and enable operational excellence;
  - To establish a balanced and sustainable FNTS organization with a professional training cadre;
  - To exploit technical advances in training methodologies, technologies, and digital solutions, and foster a culture of continuous improvement;
  - To leverage and integrate deliverables and/or resources from complementary, but separate, acquisition and in-service support projects, initiatives and contracts that are providing training elements and support;

- f. To reduce overall training costs through economies of scale, rationalize training demand and requirements, reduce the infrastructure footprint, improve staffing efficiencies, and provide adaptive and responsive training;
- g. To continue complete functioning of the current NTS concurrent with developing the FNTS. This will ensure effective delivery of the day-to-day NTS output, including required training for legacy and modernized platforms, throughout the NTST Program; and
- h. To ensure integral readiness for RCN contingency and strategic tasks.

#### 1.2.5 FNTS CONOPS Overview

- a. The FNTS CONOPS describes how the FNTS would be operated and used. The FNTS CONOPS also communicates the overall Systems of Systems vision for the FNTS and articulates the high-level intent and guidance for use by the organizations and stakeholders that have a role in its development, delivery and sustainment.
- b. The FNTS CONOPS starts with a top-level description of the FNTS, including the vision, goals, and considerations that provide the basis for the FNTS high level design concept. This includes those factors of technology, physical environment and location, human resources, safety, security, and privacy that exert influence on the operation or operational environment of the FNTS. These factors are reflected in the FNTS High Level Mandatory Requirements (HLMRs).
- c. This is followed by a brief introduction to the six major systems that comprise the FNTS. Though brief, this provides an initial perspective on the breadth and depth of the FNTS as a complex, System of Systems:
  - i. Governance System;
  - ii. Training Management (TM) System;
  - iii. Training Technologies (TT) System;
  - iv. Digital Framework (DF) System;
  - v. Training Facilities (TF) System; and
  - vi. Sustainment System.
- d. The CONOPS then addresses each of the six major systems individually, in dedicated sections of the document. Each are described from the user's perspective, in a manner that can be understood by the user, without requiring technical knowledge beyond that required to perform normal job functions.
- e. For each of these system sections, the situation in the existing Naval Training System (NTS) is described, including the existing NTS capability deficiencies. The FNTS considerations are then discussed, followed by a listing of the preliminary System High Level Requirements (HLRs). These System HLRs are derived from, and expand on the FNTS HLMRs, to address NTS deficiencies and to assist defining FNTS requirements. System concept solutions that would meet the HLRs are then presented.

#### 1.2.6 The Six FNTS Systems

- a. The six major systems are the basis for the CONOPS. A description follows to assist in understanding the full scope of the FNTS:
  - i. Governance System: the means by which authority is exercised and direction provided to undertake, coordinate and regulate the activities of the FNTS to achieve its desired outcomes. It includes how management expectations and accountabilities are defined, how authorities and responsibilities are granted and how the hierarchy and leadership of the FNTS are organized and identified. It also includes the top-level application of disciplined Program Management, Systems Engineering and Quality Management processes.
  - ii. Training Management System: this comprises the personnel, processes, tools, and resources needed to design, develop, implement, evaluate, and conduct modern, adaptive and performance-based training. It also includes the establishment and maintenance of a highly qualified professional training cadre. All of these elements are tracked, analyzed and managed to enhance the learner experience and support training decisions.
  - iii. Training Technologies System: this includes all hardware, software, and digital content needed to develop, conduct, support and verify the complete spectrum of RCN Training. This includes overarching management, integration, and acceptance of the Training Technologies needed to conduct, verify or support the training. TT encompass a wide array of devices, systems, methods, and media. TT can be as simple as using a mock-up of a piece of equipment to explain operating principles, or as detailed as a constructive simulation that replicates a complex joint or combined engagement.
  - iv. Digital Framework (DF) System: this includes data and data models, networks, integrated software applications, digital technologies and tools, interoperability standards, and common Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs). The DF leverages data models and international industry and defence standards to enable a Single Trusted Data Source. It provides secure integration, sharing, analytic reporting and exchange, through the entire life cycle from analysis, design, development, management, procurement, delivery, and sustainment of products and services. The DF also includes all the networks, connectivity, servers, backup power and storage, distribution, etc. required to deliver the full digital capability, and overall FNTS functionality to and within the Training Facilities, remotely to ships, while alongside, and to places of residence.
  - v. Training Facilities System: this includes all the facilities and building services in which the FNTS will operate. Most of these will be DND facilities built in compliance with the CAF Campus Operational Framework. However, some facilities may be provided by industry or in collaboration with other government departments, or civilian colleges and universities.
  - vi. Sustainment System: this includes all the in-service support functions required to maintain, and configuration and material manage all products and services in the FNTS throughout its life cycle.
- b. The FNTS will include the Training requirements for the future RCN fleet. These training requirements are under development and will require further discussion as they mature.
- c. Further background and details on these systems, together with their capability deficiencies, preliminary high-level requirements, and possible solution concepts are provided in the enclosed FNTS CONOPS.

- d. Any solutions that result from the NTST Program and the FNTS will also account for existing contracted solutions related to training and ensure consistency and alignment with those existing contracted solutions.
- e. This RFI is an opportunity for PSPC and DND to increase industry familiarity with the FNTS CONOPS and requirements that are currently under development, and to solicit industry feedback to identify any relevant industry recommendations moving forward.

## 1.3 Nature of this Request for Information

- 1.3.1 This RFI is neither a call for tender nor an RFP. No agreement or contract will be entered into based on this RFI. The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way a commitment by the Government of Canada, nor as authority to potential respondents to undertake any work that could be charged to the Government of Canada. This RFI is not to be considered as a commitment to issue a subsequent solicitation or award a contract(s) for the work described herein. As a result, potential suppliers of any goods or services described in this RFI should not reserve stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI. This RFI is simply intended to solicit feedback from industry with respect to the matters described in this RFI.
- 1.3.2 Although the information collected may be provided as commercial-in-confidence (and, if identified as such, will be treated accordingly by the Government of Canada), the Government of Canada may use the information to assist in drafting performance specifications (which are subject to change). Information provided may also be used to refine the procurement strategy, define other aspects of the requirement, and for budgetary purposes.
- 1.3.3 Participation in this RFI is encouraged, but is not mandatory. There will be no short-listing of potential suppliers for the purposes of undertaking any future work as a result of this RFI. Similarly, participation in this RFI is not a condition or prerequisite for the participation in any potential subsequent solicitation.

## 2. Nature and Format of Response Requested

### 2.1 Guidance

- 2.1.1 Respondents are requested to provide their comments, concerns and, where applicable, alternative recommendations regarding how the requirements or objectives described in this RFI could be satisfied or improved. RFI responses should clearly identify any additional information and/or clarifications that respondents suggest to be incorporated into any future solicitation documents. Respondents are also invited to provide comments regarding the content, format and organization of any documents included in this RFI. Respondents should explain any assumptions made in their responses.

- 2.1.2 Responses will not be used for competitive or comparative evaluation purposes, and thus the response format is not as rigorously defined as would normally be for an RFP. However, for ease of use and in order for the greatest value to be gained from responses, the Government of Canada requests that respondents follow the structure outlined in sections 2.2 and 2.3.

## 2.2 Instruction to Respondents

- 2.2.1 Respondents are requested to submit via email one soft copy of their response in MS Word format in accordance with Annex B and one soft copy in Portable Document Format.
- 2.2.2 The first page of each volume of the response, after the cover page should be the title page, which should contain the following:
- a) title of the respondent's response and the volume number;
  - b) name and address of the respondent;
  - c) name, address and telephone number of the respondent's contact;
  - d) date; and
  - e) RFI number.
- 2.2.3 It is requested that the response be divided into 2 parts as follows:
- i) Part A should include feedback to the Requirements depicted in Annex A. Respondents should demonstrate their understanding of the requirement.
  - ii) Part B should include answers and feedback to the questions listed in Annex B – Questions to Industry.
- 2.2.4 Responses to this RFI #1 may be in either of Canada's official languages, English or French.

## 2.3 Numbering System

- 2.3.1 Each question has its own unique number. Respondents are requested to prepare their response using the numbering system corresponding to the one in this RFI, and to repeat the question prior to their response for ease of reviewer reference. All references to descriptive material, technical manuals and any brochures included as part of the response should be clear both in the citation and on the referenced document.

## 2.4 Response Costs

- 2.4.1 The Government of Canada will not reimburse any respondent expenses incurred by participating in this RFI.

## 2.5 Contents of the RFI



- 2.5.1 The information contained in this document remains a work in progress and respondents should not assume that new requirements will not be added to any bid solicitation that is ultimately published by the Government of Canada. Nor should respondents assume that none of the requirements will be deleted or revised. Comments regarding any aspect of the documents are welcome.

### 3. Background Information

- 3.1 All background information needed to answer the questions to industry in Annex B is organized into the following Annexes:
- i. Annex A: Future Naval Training System (FNTS) Concept of Operations (CONOPS);
  - ii. Annex B: Questions to Industry;
  - iii. Annex C: Glossary;
  - iv. Annex D: Acronyms;
  - v. Annex E: Rules of Engagement;
  - vi. Annex F: Registration Form for Industry Engagement Information Session #1 and One-on-One Sessions #1; and
  - vii. Annex G: Industry Engagement Information Session #1 Draft Schedule and Agenda.

### 4. Engagement Approach

#### 4.1 Engagement Overview

- 4.1.1 For the procurement of any possible Future Naval Training System components, it is anticipated that elements of the Agile Procurement Process (APP) will be used, meaning that engagement with industry will be more agile rather than waiting to amass documents before sharing them on the Government Electronic Tendering System (GETS).
- 4.1.2 It is anticipated that at least one Industry Engagement Information Session will be held. Industry will be asked for feedback, including answers to specific questions in the RFI.
- 4.1.3 One-on-One sessions may be held with respondents where additional information or clarification may be sought. Given there are different stakeholders in industry (e.g. technology vs. academia vs. infrastructure providers), the Government of Canada may not hold one-on-one sessions with all respondents. All feedback will be summarized and published on GETS prior to moving on to the next stage.
- 4.1.4 Given the iterative nature of the APP, multiple RFIs may be issued before moving on to subsequent stages. However, as the process evolves, additional activities could be incorporated into the engagement schedule or engagement phases may be combined, modified, or eliminated depending on timelines and feedback from industry.
- 4.1.5 Please note that participation in any of the Engagement activities is not a mandatory requirement for any possible bid submission; industry representatives that do not participate in the Engagement process will remain eligible to submit a bid in response to any future Request for Proposal (RFP) relating to the procurement.

## **4.2 Engagement Phase 1: Request for Information (RFI)**

### **4.2.1 The objectives of this Engagement Phase are:**

- i. inform industry on the RCN FNTS CONOPS and provide industry a copy for information;
- ii. provide high-level information related to the FNTS CONOPS;
- iii. provide a notional high-level RFI and Project schedule;
- iv. seek information on new technologies, business contract delivery models and practices that would improve the training experience, the quality & timeliness of data, and an overall enhanced service; and
- v. to seek input from industry on the procurement strategy.

### **4.2.2 Information gathered will serve as a baseline to start drafting the solicitation documents (e.g. ITQ and RFP).**

### **4.2.3 The activities currently planned for this Engagement Phase are:**

- i. Request for Information #1 – this document and subsequent Industry responses;
- ii. Industry Engagement Information Session #1 – The purpose is to provide RFI respondents (“participants”) and stakeholders with general information on the FNTS needs and requirements, the consultative process, and to obtain industry comments on the process in general; and
- iii. One-on-One Sessions #1 – Following the Industry Engagement Information Session #1, one-on-one meetings may be held with respondents where additional information or clarification may be sought by the Government of Canada. Given there are different stakeholders in industry (e.g. technology vs. academia vs. infrastructure providers), the Government of Canada may not hold one-on-one meetings with all respondents. All feedback will be summarized and published on GETS prior to moving on to the next stage.

## **4.3 Rules of Engagement**

### **4.3.1 All participants must sign and submit the Rules of Engagement form (Annex E) to the Contracting Authority prior to their participation in any of the Industry Engagement Information Sessions, or One-on-One Sessions.**

## **4.4 Engagement Phase 1 Activities Subsequent to RFI #1**

### **4.4.1 Following the closure of this RFI, copies of the responses to this Request for Information #1 will be distributed to representatives of PWGSC – Procurement Branch and representatives from the Department of National Defence for review and consideration, as well as representatives of other government department stakeholders. Copies of the responses may be made available to the Fairness Monitor (FM) for review, once a Fairness Monitor has been engaged.**

### **4.4.2 Respondents to this RFI who wish to participate in any of the follow-up activities (Industry Engagement Information Session #1 and/or One-on-One Sessions #1) must complete, sign, and submit to the Contracting Authority the Rules of Engagement form (Annex E herein) prior to their participation. Participants must complete and submit the Registration Form for Industry**

Engagement Information Session #1 and One-on-One Sessions #1 (Annex F herein) to indicate their intention to participate in the subsequent Engagement activities. Participants are encouraged to submit these forms to the Contracting Authority as soon as possible.

4.4.3 Registration for the Industry Engagement Information Session #1 must be submitted at least 2 business days prior to the session. At the time of registration, suppliers may submit their preferred dates for the One-on-One Session. The Government of Canada will do its best to accommodate the requests if they are selected for a one-on-one session. Requests for one-on-one meetings outside of the scheduled One-on-One Sessions #1 dates will be accommodated at the Government of Canada's discretion.

4.4.4 The ability for Participants to attend these sessions via WebEx and/or teleconference is provided due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Canada is not responsible for technical or connectivity issues outside of the Government of Canada's control.

#### **4.5 Industry Engagement Information Session #1**

4.5.1 An Industry Engagement Information Session is scheduled for April 21, 2021, in the National Capital Region (NCR). Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, respondents will be required to participate remotely. The technology that will be used is still to be determined; however, it will likely be either through WebEx or Microsoft Teams.

4.5.2 During this session, Department of National Defence, PWGSC – Procurement Branch, and other Government of Canada representatives will present the proposed procurement strategy, the business needs of FNTS. The Industry Engagement Information Session #1 is intended to be an open forum allowing the Government of Canada to communicate its requirements at a high level, and for industry to ask questions and seek information in order to gain a sound understanding of the business needs of NTST Program.

#### **4.6 One-on-One Sessions #1**

4.6.1 One-on-One Session(s) with individual participants may be held to discuss the feedback received from the Questions to Industry.

4.6.2 If One-on-One Sessions are held, they will be held from June 02, 2021 in the NCR (additional days for One-on-One Sessions may be added as required). Each participant will be allotted a maximum of two hours.

4.6.3 Participants will have the option to participate through a teleconference or other web conferencing capabilities. Given the current COVID-19 situation, participants may not be given the opportunity to participate in-person.

#### **4.7 Schedule**

4.7.1 The schedule is subject to change as the Government of Canada advances through the Agile Procurement Process (APP). Additional RFIs or ITQ's may be added to the process.

- 4.7.2 The Government of Canada reserves the sole option to delete or change each of the individual named activity and their associated dates as the Government of Canada sees fit. The following schedule of tentative dates and activities is provided to assist in developing responses to the Annex B - Questions to Industry.

Activity	Date
<b>Engagement Phase 1</b>	
RFI Publication	April 6, 2021
Industry Day	See Article 4.5.1
Industry One-on-One Sessions	See Article 4.6.2
<b>Engagement Phase 2</b>	
Publication of RFI #2	Spring 2022
<b>Interim Sustainment Contract</b>	
Publication of RFP	Winter 2023
Contract Award	Summer 2023
<b>Long Term Sustainment Contract</b>	
Publication of Invitation to Qualify (ITQ)	2024
Publication of RFP	2025
Contract Award	2026

- 4.7.3 Given the critical importance of this initiative, the Government of Canada plans to follow an aggressive schedule to advance any ensuing procurement activities. The Government of Canada does want industry feedback on the feasibility of this schedule.
- 4.7.4 This is a draft timeframe for consultation purposes only and to help industry provide input in context of the questions that are asked as part of this RFI. Upon receipt of industry feedback, Canada will be reviewing the procurement approach on this initiative and this includes timeframes.

## 5. Procurement Strategy

### 5.1 Agile Procurement Process (APP)

- 5.1.1 The aim of the APP is to more effectively provide industry with time to review and provide feedback on draft documents. The Government of Canada will qualify suppliers through an ITQ in order to participate in the APP. In lieu of the traditional process, whereby the Government of Canada would wait to amass documents prior to sharing them with industry via Buyandsell.gc.ca the APP will facilitate the releasing of various draft FNTS solicitation documents on an iterative basis. That is, various draft documents will be shared with industry as and when they become available. Suppliers qualified through the ITQ process will be e-mailed the documents directly.

## **5.2 Accessible Procurement**

- 5.2.1 Accessible Canada Act - The Accessible Canada Act was enacted into law in order to enhance the full and equal participation of all persons, especially persons with disabilities, in society. This is to be achieved through the realization, within the purview of matters coming within the legislative authority of Parliament, of a Canada without barriers, particularly by the identification, removal and prevention of barriers. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-0.6/>
- 5.2.2 Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC)'s goal is to ensure that the goods and services the Government of Canada (GC) buys are inclusive by design and accessible by default. Considering accessibility in public procurements is now an obligation in the Treasury Board Contracting Policy and, accessibility criteria must be included in the requirements for goods and services, where appropriate.

## **5.3 Fairness Monitor**

- 5.3.1 The Government of Canada is currently determining the need for a Fairness Monitor (FM) for this procurement.
- 5.3.2 The Fairness Monitor will, for example, observe any procurement processes to ensure that PWGSC has acted in a fair and consistent manner during the entire process. The Fairness Monitor is under obligations pursuant to its contract with the Government of Canada to maintain the confidentiality of all information received as a result of its participation in this procurement process.

## **5.4 Number of Contracts**

- 5.4.1 The Government of Canada is looking for industry feedback on the most appropriate contract delivery model.
- 5.4.2 The number of contracts to be awarded will be determined as part of the APP.

## **5.5 Contract Period(s)**

- 5.5.1 The contract period(s) will be determined following further internal and industry consultations.

## **5.6 Security**

- 5.6.1 Although it is still to be confirmed, it is expected that there will be security requirements associated with the requirements. The required security screening level will likely be Secret.

## **5.7 Legislation, Trade Agreements, and Government Policies**

- 5.7.1 The following is indicative of some of the legislation, trade agreements and government policies that could impact any follow-on solicitation:
- i. the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA),
  - ii. the World Trade Organization Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP),
  - iii. the Canadian European Trade Agreement (CETA),

- iv. the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP),
- v. the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA),
- vi. the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (CColFTA),
- vii. the Canada – Honduras Free Trade Agreement,
- viii. the Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement,
- ix. the Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement (CPanFTA),
- x. the Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA),
- xi. the Canada – Ukraine Free Trade Agreement,
- xii. Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements (CLCA), and
- xiii. Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

#### 5.7.2 **Defence Production Act**

The Defence Production Act (DPA) gives the Minister of PWGSC the responsibility to administer the DPA and the exclusive authority to buy or otherwise acquire defence supplies and construct defence projects required by the Department of National Defence, subject to exceptions listed at subsection 10(2) of the DPA. All PWGSC contracts for defence supplies or projects are governed by the provisions of the DPA. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/D-1/>

#### 5.7.3 **Indigenous Benefits Plan**

The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Businesses Peoples.

Meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples across Canada is a priority of the Federal government and our Departments. Public Service and Procurement Canada has worked successfully in the past to leverage training opportunities, employment, sub-contracting and capacity building for Indigenous Businesses and Peoples and is pleased to continue working collaboratively with Indigenous communities and stakeholders on Federal projects.

#### 5.7.4 **Industrial and Technological Benefits Policy**

The Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy, including Value Proposition, may apply to FNTS, requiring the winning bidder to undertake business activities in Canada equal to the value of the contract.

5.7.5 It is anticipated that the Socio-Economics program will apply to the requirement.

### 5.8 **Anticipated Data Sovereignty**

5.8.1 The protection of information, from a privacy and security perspective, is core to the integrity of government programs, which underpins confidence in the Government of Canada. All information managed by the Government of Canada requires protection, including information published publicly in order to appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the information. The Future Naval Training System will process information up to and including Secret and it is incumbent that the work incorporates the appropriate controls in order to safeguard the interests of the Government of Canada and those of its partners to this level of security.

- 5.8.2 Furthermore, security controls, which ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the work, are imperative requirements for FNTS, as Canadians expect the Government of Canada to take all appropriate measures to protect personal and sensitive information.
- 5.8.3 Therefore, FNTS services and infrastructure are anticipated to be established within the geographic boundaries of the Government of Canada. Stringent contractual and technical measures must be put in place to ensure that government information is secured at all times, at rest and in motion, through encryption protection and is only accessed by those authorized to access the infrastructure for those purposes approved by FNTS.

## 5.9 National Security Exception

- 5.9.1 In order to protect the sovereignty of its data, and to protect the national interest, the Government of Canada may invoke its right under national and international trade agreements to use a National Security Exception (NSE) for this procurement.
- 5.9.2 An NSE allows the Government of Canada to remove a procurement from some or all of the obligations of the relevant trade agreement where the Government of Canada considers it necessary to do so in order to protect its national security or other related interests specified in the text of the national security exceptions.

## 5.10 Enquiries & Submission of Responses

- 5.10.1 **All enquiries and other communications regarding this RFI and associated industry engagement activities must be submitted exclusively to the Contracting Authority.**

**Interested suppliers must refrain from communicating directly with RCN stakeholders or with other Government of Canada representatives, regarding any aspect of this procurement process, including the subject matter described herein.**

Contracting Authority

Harold McKenny

Public Services and Procurement Canada

Procurement Branch

Major Projects Procurement Directorate

E-mail Address: [TPSGC.PAFSIN-APFNTS.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:TPSGC.PAFSIN-APFNTS.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)

The use of e-mail to communicate is preferred.

- 5.10.2 Because this is not a bid solicitation, the Government of Canada will not necessarily respond to enquiries in writing or circulate answers to all potential respondents. However, respondents with questions regarding this RFI may direct their enquiries to the Contracting Authority identified herein.

- 5.10.3 Changes to this RFI may occur and will be advertised on the Government Electronic Tendering Service. The Government of Canada asks respondents to visit [buyandsell.gc.ca](http://buyandsell.gc.ca) regularly to check for changes, if any.
- 5.10.4 Interested respondents may submit their responses to the PWGSC Contracting Authority, by using the epost Connect service provided by Canada Post Corporation.  
<https://www.canadapost.ca/cpc/en/business/postal-services/digital-mail/epost-connect.page>
- i) The only acceptable email address to use with epost Connect for responses to bid solicitations issued by PWGSC headquarters is:  
[tpsgc.dgareceptiondessoumissions-abbidReceiving.pwgsc@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:tpsgc.dgareceptiondessoumissions-abbidReceiving.pwgsc@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)
  - ii) To submit a response using epost Connect service, the respondent must either:
    - a. send directly its response only to the specified PWGSC Bid Receiving Unit, using its own licensing agreement for epost Connect provided by Canada Post Corporation; or
    - b. send as early as possible, and in any case, at least six business days prior to the solicitation closing date and time, (in order to ensure a response), an email that includes the RFI solicitation number to the specified PWGSC Bid Receiving Unit requesting to open an epost Connect conversation. Requests to open an epost Connect conversation received after that time may not be answered.

For more information regarding to the submission of responses via ePost, please refer to <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/steps-to-follow-for-the-bid-submission-to-bid-receiving-unit-bru-using-epost-connect>

- 5.10.5 Responses to this RFI will not be returned.

## 5.11 Closing Date

- 5.11.1 Responses to this RFI are to be submitted to the PWGSC Contracting Authority identified above, on or before the date stipulated on the cover page.
- 5.11.2 RFI closing date published herein is not the deadline for comments or input. Comments and input will be accepted any time up to the time when/if a follow-on solicitation is published.

## 6. Treatment of Responses

### 6.1 Early Responses

- 6.1.1 Early responses will be considered and are encouraged. The RFI closing date published herein is not the deadline for comments or input.

### 6.2 Use of Responses

- 6.2.1 Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, the responses received may be used by the Government of Canada to develop or modify the procurement approach, as well as any documentation contained in this RFI. The Government of Canada will review all responses received



by the RFI closing date. The Government of Canada may, at its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

### **6.3 Review Team**

- 6.3.1 A review team composed of representatives of the Government of Canada will review the responses. The Government of Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant or to use any Government of Canada resources that it considers necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

### **6.4 Confidentiality**

- 6.4.1 Respondents should mark any portions of their response that they consider proprietary or confidential. The Government of Canada will handle the responses in accordance with the Access to Information Act. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/>

### **6.5 Follow-up Activity**

- 6.5.1 The Government of Canada may, in its discretion, contact any respondent to follow up with additional questions or for clarification of any aspect of a response.

## Annex A: The Future Naval Training System (FNTS) Concept of Operations (CONOPS)

## Annex B: Questions to Industry

The Government of Canada encourages the respondents to provide detailed feedback on the Future Naval Training System Concept of Operations and possible solutions available. Detailed written responses will enable the Government of Canada to consider industry perspectives in the development of the Future Naval Training System Concept of Operations and potential Future Naval Training System requirements.

**Responses to this RFI should include, but not be limited to, responses to the following questions.**

For answered questions, please provide the rationale for any suggested changes using MS Word and in accordance with the following format:

### 1.0 Experience

- 1.1 What experience does your organization have with developing, delivering, and sustaining a training system solution as envisioned by the FNTS?
- 1.2 Is your company participating in delivering any system functions in the manner described in the CONOPS? Can you provide examples?
- 1.3 Does your company currently have best-in-class training services/software/technology that you feel would benefit the FNTS? If the answer is yes, please list and describe capabilities.
- 1.4 Based on your experience of providing similar services/products, can any of the requirements be altered to allow more flexibility and innovation? If so, please elaborate.
- 1.5 What is your company's policies on environmental awareness, and producing clean, green products? How would you address this in the FNTS context?
- 1.6 Gender Based Analysis Plus <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/gba-acs/index-fr.html>
  - 1.6.1 What experience does your company have working within (GBA+) parameters?
  - 1.6.2 How would you address this in the FNTS context?
- 1.7 Accessible Canada Act <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/fra/lois/A-0.6/>
  - 1.7.1 What are your current capabilities to meet the Accessible Canada Act? Do you foresee any challenges?
  - 1.7.2 How can you demonstrate compliance with the accessibility standard(s)?
  - 1.7.3 What are the designs or functionalities that should be considered to meet the accessibility standard(s)? Please provide your rationale.

## 2.0 Procurement Strategy

- 2.1 Do you see elements of the FNTS systems described in the CONOPS where your company could contribute? What are the challenges, if any, that you foresee for implementing your contributing elements?
- 2.2 A possible procurement scenario is a contract with one supplier who then plausibly contracts out the work to other suppliers:
  - 2.2.1 Do you have any thoughts or concerns with this approach? Any considerations for us to bear in mind if we explore this approach further?
  - 2.2.2 Would you recommend that the Government of Canada consider an alternative approach? Please specify the alternative approach(es) you would recommend. If so, what are the advantages and disadvantages of these approaches in terms of implementation, quality of service, cost, integration and innovation? Please provide rationale supporting the recommendation, including how they meet the Government of Canada objectives.
- 2.3 Several aspects of the CONOPS will involve a division of responsibility between Canada and industry. Can you suggest how responsibility could be distributed, or recommend constructs that could lead to an effective division of responsibility? Can you suggest divisions of responsibility which you have found effective in your domain or contracts?
- 2.4 Consortium type arrangements and prime/subcontractor type arrangements are mentioned above as possible procurement strategies. Can you suggest other acquisition approaches that could be appropriate? Do you have any concerns with such approaches? Any considerations for us to bear in mind if we explore such approaches further?
- 2.5 If you are an Indigenous business that you think could be a key contributor to the FNTS please describe the services/products that could be provided.
- 2.6 Does a requirement for an Indigenous Benefits Plan (IBP) impact your decision to participate in this procurement?
- 2.7 Have you encountered incentive strategies in previous contracts to encourage First Nations engagement (i.e. skills development, industrial capacity and economic benefit to First Nations) can you share lessons learned? Do you have any recommended approaches for incorporating indigenous social procurement measures in the tender process?

### **3.0 Contracting**

- 3.1 What do you propose as the ideal initial contract period(s)? What option period structure(s) would best incentivize strong performance and continued investment?
- 3.2 Are there any requirements or other portion of the CONOPS that would preclude you from bidding? If yes, can you identify these items and explain why and, if possible, provide an alternative solution?
- 3.3 In the CONOPS are proposed recommendations to address current training deficiencies. Would you suggest other approaches?

### **4.0 Innovation**

- 4.1 What training services/software/technology described in the CONOPS do you consider your company a leader in for innovation? Please list them and explain why?
- 4.2 In the context of the current and emerging state of technology, what would be your recommendation for a solution that can provide dependable outcomes today and that can be adaptable in the future with the advancement of innovative solutions and new technologies?
- 4.3 Fleet recapitalization will significantly increase the number of sea-going billets that need to be filled with RCN personnel. It is expected that industry will play a greater role in the FNTS. How might a partnership strategy to achieve a greater industry involvement be formulated?
- 4.4 What advantages and challenges do you foresee if the FNTS were to require the use of the S-Series of ILS Specifications (S1000D, S3000L, etc.) both in acquisition and in-service support?

### **5.0 Governance System**

- 5.1 A new training system must leverage savings available through new training concepts. How would you suggest maximizing the opportunities and efficiencies available in modern training systems while still producing the highest quality sailors?

### **6.0 Training Management System**

- 6.1 The FNTS will have Operational and Management functions. Focusing in the area of training operations and resources management of a training system, including production as well as quality management, what kind of technology and solutions would you suggest?

- 6.2 What solutions would you propose for the use of occupational and technical data to drive curricular trajectories, content development and assessment?

## 7.0 Training Technology System

- 7.1 FNTS training sessions may involve a mix of human instructors, virtual instruction and data analytics for training data analysis. Training will also be enabled by various technologies such as simulators and networked trainers. Focusing in the areas of Training Development (including training design, development, content creation), Training Delivery (including control, review, and effective presentation) of the result, what kind of technology and solutions would you suggest?

## 8.0 Training Facilities System

- 8.1 The FNTS is expected to include new infrastructure (buildings). Considerations include but are not limited to multi-use spaces to reduce footprint needs, reconfigurable trainers, areas for self-paced learning and virtual classrooms. Can you suggest any infrastructure related considerations that could lead to a FNTS that is modern, engaging, user-oriented, and practical to operate and manage?

## 9.0 Digital Framework

- 9.1 What solutions would you propose for the provision of a link between RCN enterprise data systems and FNTS data systems such as Learning Management System (LMS), Learning Records Store (LRS) that record learning experiences and results, Digital Asset Management (DAM) to manage digital assets for training development, Learning Object Repository (LOR) that stores content/metadata, and various business and administrative applications?

## 10.0 Sustainment System

- 10.1 The Sustainment System in Section 9 of the CONOPS describes the support functions for the FNTS. Are there any Sustainment System management or support functions that are missing or should be expanded upon? Are there any functions that should be modified or removed?
- 10.2 The FNTS Sustainment System must provide operations, maintenance, and ILS support to a wide range of systems, such as equipment workshops, learning applications, training content, complex simulators, Information Technology (IT) equipment, business tools and building systems. How do you see your company participating this wide range of services?

## 11.0 Economic Benefits

The Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy, including Value Proposition, may apply to FNTS, requiring the winning bidder to undertake business activities in Canada equal to the value of the contract. For more information on the ITB Policy, please visit the following webpage: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/086.nsf/eng/home>

- 11.1 What type of industrial opportunities currently exist to provide direct work in Canada as part of a FNTS requirement?
- 11.2 Are there other potential industrial activities/efforts that you could recommend be undertaken to provide direct work in Canada for this requirement?
- 11.3 Can you offer any recommendations on how to promote the participation of small, medium, and large businesses in the FNTS?
- 11.4 What export opportunities could be available to your company as a result of this FNTS strategy? How would, or could, the described FNTS approach better assist your company to further develop capabilities and access new markets in Canada and abroad?
- 11.5 A FNTS requirement touches on a number of Canadian Key Industrial Capabilities, for example: Training and Simulation, In-Service Support, Artificial Intelligence, and Cyber Resilience. Are there other KICs that you foresee aligning with this requirement?
- 11.6 A FNTS solution will require the advancement of Skills Development and Training systems as outlined in the CONOPS. What business activities in the areas of skills development and training does your company currently provide?

## 12.0 Recommendations

- 12.1 Are there any additional recommendations to improve the FNTS training system solution?
- 12.2 Are there any significant barriers you see to the ideas laid out in the CONOPS?
- 12.3 Given the information shared in this RFI, can you provide other observations and key success factors that Canada can use as guidance for the next Request for Information (RFI)?

## Annex C: Glossary

Term	Definition
Agile Procurement	<p>Agile procurement is a new collaborative approach that focuses on outcomes. It brings together government and industry to design procurements in an iterative manner to achieve results. This includes multi-phased procurement processes that enable Canada to award multiple contracts to invite industry to build, customize and configure their solutions to meet the short-term and long-term requirements. This process enables Canada to test and course correct through shorter project delivery timeframes and to identify quickly the challenges and successes in order to achieve best value for Canadians.</p>
Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements (CLCA's)	<p>The federal government, represented by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), has negotiated a number of Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements (CLCAs) with Aboriginal peoples. CLCAs are modern treaties that are based on the concept of continued Aboriginal rights and title to lands traditionally used and occupied by an Aboriginal group, which have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means.</p> <p>The CLCA obligations are legally binding because they are contained in agreements signed by Canada and backed by legislation.</p>
Fairness Monitor	<p>PWGSC's fairness monitoring process provides independent assurance that specific PWGSC procurements are conducted in a fair, open and transparent manner.</p> <p>A fairness monitor is an independent third party whose role is to observe all or part of a procurement process, to provide related feedback on fairness issues to the project team and to PWGSC's Departmental Oversight Branch, and to provide an unbiased and impartial opinion on the fairness of the observed procurement process.</p> <p>The involvement of a fairness monitor in a procurement process in no way diminishes or absolves any PWGSC official of their accountabilities or responsibilities</p>
Invitation to Qualify (ITQ)	<p>The purpose of an ITQ is for the Government of Canada to select a limited number of Suppliers, who would be eligible to participate in the next stages of the procurement process.</p> <p>An ITQ is neither a Request for Proposal (RFP) nor a solicitation of bids or tenders. The Government of Canada does not intend to create a contractual relationship, either expressed or implied, through an ITQ. Any contractual relationship(s) will be created following future stages of the procurement process, if any.</p> <p>It is anticipated that only suppliers who qualify as a result of an ITQ will be invited to participate in the next stages of the Procurement Process. The Government of Canada reserves the right to create additional streams during later stages of the Procurement Process.</p> <p>The Government of Canada reserves the right to cancel, at its sole discretion, any of the requirements covered by an ITQ.</p>



Industrial and Technological Benefits Policy	<p>Canada's Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy, including the Value Proposition, leverages defence and Canadian Coast Guard procurements to contribute to jobs, innovation and economic growth across the country. The ITB Policy contractually requires companies awarded defence procurement contracts to undertake business activity in Canada equal to the value of the contracts they have won.</p> <p>The ITB Policy applies on all defence and Canadian Coast Guard procurements over \$100 million that are not subject to trade agreements or for which the national security exception is invoked. Defence procurements valued between \$20-100 million are reviewed for the possible application of the Policy.</p> <p>In close coordination with our partner departments under the Defence Procurement Strategy (DPS), Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) is responsible for administering the ITB Policy at every step of the procurement process. The ITB Model Terms and Conditions provide more insight on what is required of contractors under the ITB Policy.</p>
Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA)	<p>The obligations of the Nunavut Agreement and the Directive apply in the NSA which falls both north and south of the 60th parallel and includes districts of: Franklin (central Nunavut), Keewatin (south-central Nunavut, northwest coast of Hudson's Bay area), Baffin Island (southeast portion of Nunavut) and Ellesmere Island (northern portion of Nunavut). Includes (but is not limited to) Arctic Bay, Arviat, Baker Lake, Bathurst Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert, Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Eureka, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Nanisivik, Pangnirtung, Pelly Bay, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay, Resolute, Sanikiluaq, Taloyoak, Umingmaktok and Whale Cove.</p>
PWGSC vs. PSPC	<p>The Department of Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) became Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) in 2015. However, as the title of the department has not been legally modified, the title of Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) and its acronym are still in use. Therefore, both PWGSC and PSPC were used in this document.</p>
Request for Information (RFI)	<p>A Request for Information (RFI) is used when detailed information and feedback are required from suppliers. Such requests might outline a potential requirement and request suppliers to describe their ability to satisfy the requirement and to provide ideas and suggestions on how the eventual solicitation might be structured. Responses are used to assist PWGSC in finalizing their plans for the requirement and in developing achievable objectives and deliverables</p>

## Annex D: Acronyms

The following acronyms have been used in this document:

Acronym	Definition
AOPS	Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships
APP	Agile Procurement Process
ASL	American Sign Language
CAF	Canadian Armed Forces
CLCA	Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements
CONOP	Concept of Operations
CSC	Canadian Surface Combatants
DF	Digital Framework
DND	Department of National Defence
DPA	Defence Production Act
FNTS	Future Naval Training System
GoC	Government of Canada
GETS	Government Electronic Tendering Service
IT&E	Individual Training and Education
ITB	Industrial and Technological Benefits
ITQ	Invitation to Qualify
JSS	Joint Support Ships
MS	Microsoft
NCR	National Capitol Region
NSE	National Security Exception
NTS	Naval Training System
NTST	Naval Training System Transformation
PDF	Portable Document Format
PSPC	Public Services and Procurement Canada
RCN	Royal Canadian Navy
RFI	Request For Information
RFP	Request For Proposal
SOR	Statement of Requirement
TF	Training Facilities
TM	Training Management
TT	Training Technologies

## **Annex E: Rules of Engagement**

### **(Mandatory Form for Participant)**

An overriding principle of the Industry Engagement is that it be conducted with the utmost fairness and equity between all parties. No one person or organization shall receive nor be perceived to have received any unusual or unfair advantage over the others.

All GC documentation provided throughout the Industry Engagement Process, which begins with the RFI #1 and concludes when either an official ITQ or RFP is published on the Government Electronic Tendering Service (GETS) or when the GC advises Participants that the Industry Engagement Process (Process) has concluded, will be provided publicly.

The GC will not disclose proprietary or commercially sensitive information concerning a Participant to other Participants or third parties, except and only to the extent required by law.

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The following terms and conditions apply to the Process. In order to encourage open dialogue, Participants agree:

- To discuss their views concerning the requirement and to provide positive resolutions to the issues in question. Everyone shall have equal opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions;
- To allow the GC to record and/or make notes during the Industry Engagement Information Session, One-on-One Sessions and/or Working Group sessions should clarification of information be required;
- To direct all enquiries with regard to the procurement to the Contracting Authority. Any communication to unauthorized representatives of the Government of Canada may be subject to full disclosure by the Government of Canada on the GETS;
- That the GC is not obligated to issue any Invitation to Qualify (ITQ), Request for Proposal (RFP), or to award any Contract for the requirement;
- That if the GC does release an ITQ and/or RFP, the GC retains absolute discretion over the terms and conditions of the ITQ and/or RFP;
- That the GC will not reimburse any person or entity for any cost incurred in participating in this Process;
- To direct all enquiries with regard to the procurement to the Contracting Authority;
- That participation is not a mandatory requirement. Not participating in this Process will not preclude a supplier from submitting a response to the ITQ Gate #1;
- That a Draft ITQ or RFP may be posted on GETS for industry comment;
- That failure to agree to and to sign the Terms and Conditions will result in the exclusion from the Process;
- That any information submitted to the GC as part of this Process may be used by the GC in the development of a subsequent competitive ITQ or RFP. However, the Government is not bound to

accept any expression of interest or to consider it further in any associated documents such as an RFP;

- That the GC may disclose the names of Participating Suppliers that choose to participate in the Process;
- That other Participants may join the Engagement Process at any time in the process; and,
- That a dispute resolution process to manage impasses throughout this Process shall be adhered to as follows:

#### **Dispute Resolution Process**

1. By informal discussion and good faith negotiation, each of the parties shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in any way connected to this industry engagement.
2. Any dispute between parties of any nature arising out of or in connection with this industry engagement shall be resolved by the following process:
  - a. Any such dispute shall first be referred to the Participating Supplier's Representative and the PWGSC Procurement Manager managing the industry engagement. The parties will have three business days in which to attempt to resolve the dispute;
  - b. In the event the representatives of the parties specified in Article 2.a. above are unable to resolve the dispute, it shall be referred to the Participating Supplier's Project Director and the PWGSC Senior Director of the Directorate responsible for managing the industry engagement. The parties will have three business days to attempt to resolve the dispute;
  - c. In the event the representatives of the parties specified in Article 2.b. above are unable to resolve the dispute, it shall be referred to the Participating Supplier's Vice President and the PWGSC Director General of the Sector responsible for managing the industry engagement. The parties will have three business days to attempt to resolve the dispute;
  - d. In the event the representatives of the Parties specified in Article 2.c. above are unable to resolve the dispute, it shall be referred to the Participating Supplier's President and the PWGSC Assistant Deputy Minister of the Branch responsible for managing the industry engagement, who will have five business days to attempt to resolve the dispute; and,
  - e. In the event the representatives of the Parties specified in Article 2.d. above are unable to resolve the dispute, the Contracting Authority shall within five business days render a written decision which shall include a detailed description of the dispute and the reasons supporting the Contracting Authority's decision. The Contracting Authority shall deliver a signed copy thereof to the Participating Supplier.

By signing this document, the individual represents that they have full authority to bind the Participating Supplier listed below and that the individual and the company agrees to be bound by all the terms and conditions contained herein.

<b>Company Name of Participating Supplier:</b>	
<b>Name of Individual:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	

**IMPORTANT:** Suppliers interested in participating in the Industry Engagement Process must agree to and sign this mandatory form.

Participants are requested to return this completed form via e-mail to:

[TPSGC.PAFSIN-APFNTS.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:TPSGC.PAFSIN-APFNTS.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)

Annex F: Registration Form for Industry Engagement Information Session  
#1 and One-on-One Sessions #1

**Registration Form for  
Industry Engagement Information Session #1 and One-on-One Sessions #1**

<b>Company Name of Participating Supplier:</b>		
<b>Contact Name:</b>		
<b>Title:</b>		
<b>Telephone:</b>		
<b>E-mail:</b>		
<b>Signature:</b>		
<b>Mailing Address:</b>		
<b>Preferred Language:</b>	English <input type="checkbox"/>	French <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Do you need ASL services?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify :	No <input type="checkbox"/>

**Industry Engagement Information Session #1**

Attendance:    Yes   ☐                    No   ☐

**Attendees:**

	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

**One-on-One Session #1**

Interested:    Yes   ☐                    No   ☐

**Attendees:**

	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		



## Annex G: Industry Engagement Information Session #1 Draft Schedule and Agenda

Time	Event
13:00 – 13:15	Welcome and Round Table
13:15 – 13:45	Overview of PSPC Proposed Engagement and Procurement Approach
13:45 – 14:05	The Future Naval Training System (FNTS) and the Naval Training System Transformation (NTST) Program Overview
14:05 – 14:20	Break
14:25 – 14:45	Procurement considerations overview
14:45 – 15:05	Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB)
15:05 – 16:00	Questions and Answers