

USMC Seeks Industry Input for New Tactical Radios

Marine Corps Systems Command (Quantico, VA) has issued three related Requests for Information (RFIs) regarding small-form-factor modular radios for its Modular Advanced Radio Architecture (MARA) effort. The MARA system will be used by infantry, communications and fires units to provide “tactical edge communications as the Radio Frequency transport on tactical voice radio networks and tactical data networks up to, and including, the Top-Secret level,” according to a description in one of the RFIs.

With a target weight of 10 lb and utilizing an 8-hr BA/BB X90 style lithium battery, the new radio is envisioned to be similar in size to current Marine tactical radios. However, the aim is to procure a “C5ISR/EW Modular Open Suite of Standards (CMOSS) based radio system that uses Sensor Open Systems Architecture (SOSA) standards to fill in system level specifications that are not covered by CMOSS and the other standards.” According to a description in the RFIs, “The proposed solution could include the implementation of the standard 3U VPX or a VNX+, or similar chassis and card, that is suitable for carry as a man portable and on-the-move capability.”

One of the RFIs focuses on the MARA program’s Digital Radio Head Interface (DRHI). The threshold requirement calls for a unit that covers 30 MHz to 2 GHz and provides user selectable power up to 50W. A separate RFI requests information about CMOSS Cryptographic Cards, specifically algorithms that can be supported, including NSA High Assurance and Commercial National Security Algorithms; API support, such as the Joint Tactical Networking Center (JTNC) Radio Security Service (RSS) API; and SOSA alignment.

The Notice IDs for the three RFIs are M67854-25-I-2030, -2031 and -2032. The Technical Point of Contact is Eddie Young, email eddie.young@usmc.mil. RFI responses are due by Feb. 14.

– *JED Staff*