DRONE DOMINANCE

Gauntlet II Expectations

For questions, contact
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Disclaimer

- As discussed at Industry Day on 26 March 2026, the Drone Dominance Program wants feedback from industry before we publish the RFS (Estimated on April 13th).
- All information in this presentation is subject to change.
- Please submit your questions.

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Phase II – Two Mission Tracks

	Mission Area A: Long Range Strikes	Mission Area B: Tactical Assault in Close Quarters
Primary Mission	Find, Fix, Finish at extended ranges in a comms/GNSS degraded or denied environment	Find, Fix, Finish in close quarters urban environment and confined environments, including building interiors, trench, bunker, subterranean, heavy vegetation areas
Operational Range	~20KM	<2KM (estimated)
Packability	Not required to be man packable, but desired	Man-packable, preferably multiple per person
Common Mission Objectives		
Target Engagement	Capable of striking multiple moving and stationary targets in rapid succession	
Operating Conditions	All weather (rain, wind, heat) and all lighting (day, low light, night)	
Electromagnetic Environment	Operate in "Dirty" EM spectrum with other Blue systems and be resilient to RF jamming and GNSS denial	

Vendors can choose to compete in **one or both mission areas.**

Phase II – Three Stages

Stage 1: **Qualifiers (June)**

Identify Top Performers

Stage 2: **Production & Delivery Test**

Confirm Production & Supply Chain

Stage 3: **Gauntlet II (Aug)**

Select for Production at Scale

Stage 1 – Qualifiers Event

Goal: Identify ~18 top performing systems for Stage 2.

Stage 1 Entry

- Completed and approved application to compete
- Prerequisites
  - NDAA Compliant Drones
  - Integrated Trainer Munition
- Application will also include Production Capabilities screening
- Stage 1 is at vendor expense. Requires approx. 20 drones.

Evaluation Focus

- Vendor pilots will be used
- Performance is scored & ranked: Rank determines advancement
- Mission critical tasks
  - Systems will be scored on system's ability to find, fix, finish targets, both day and night, regardless of weather
  - Performance in contested environment (EW & GNSS denied) will be a key differentiator

Minimum performance thresholds (e.g., BVLOS distance requirement, night operations) will be specified in RFS.

Stage 2 – Production & Delivery Test

The Order

Intended Use: Warfighter Training & Gauntlet II Testing

Receive a firm fixed price order to deliver the following

- 120 x OWA air vehicles (NDAA Compliant w/ Non-Chinese Batteries & Motors)
- 20 x night vision systems
- 30 x trainer munitions
- 20 x lethal munitions / explosive ready
- 8 sets Durable System Components (GCS, comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, any supporting air assets, e.g., ISR/relay drones)

Quantities are estimates & will be finalized in the RFS

The Deadline

Full delivery is required no later than 2 weeks prior to Gauntlet II

The Stake

- Mandatory pass/fail gate
- Late or incomplete orders will be rejected
- Results in disqualification from Gauntlet II

Stage 3 – Gauntlet II Event

Gauntlet II Event

Warfighter Piloted Scenarios

- Systems will be tested by trained warfighters
- Training
  - 4 days of training
  - Training approx. 1 week before G2
- Scenario-Based Testing
  - Scenarios designed by warfighters
  - Not scripted testing; dynamic scenarios

Production Contract Award

- Mission Area A – Approx. 5 Vendors
- Mission Area B – Approx. 3 Vendors

Top performers will be awarded a production OTA. Anticipate min order of 4,000 drones with highest ranked performer receiving largest order (approx. 9,000 drones)

Scenarios for Mission Area A and Mission Area B will be described in the RFS.

Potential Discriminators

Achieving a Competitive Edge
Systems are not required to include any of these features. However, demonstrating even one of them is likely to provide a meaningful performance advantage over basic, manually piloted FPV drones.

Advanced Target Engagement	Autonomous Behaviors	Force Multiplication
Benefit: Faster & more accurate targeting against stationary & moving targets	Benefit: Perform complex tasks with minimal operator input	Benefit: One operator controls multiple drones for simultaneous strike
Example: Automate Target Recognition (ATR); robust pixel lock	Examples: Autonomous area search and navigation	Example: Multi-drone control (1: several)

Projected Order Quantities

Industry Feedback Requested

Mission Area A – Long Range Strike		Mission Area B – Tactical Assault in Urban & Confined Environment	
Cost Per Drone: $5,500		Cost Per Drone: $4,500	
System Ratio: 1:20 (Drone to Durable System Components)		System Ratio: 1:20 (Drone to Durable System Components)	
Vendor Ranking	**Prototype Quantities**	**Vendor Ranking**	**Prototype Quantities**
1st place	8,500	1st place	9,500
2nd place	7,000	2nd place	8,500
3rd place	6,000	3rd place	7,500
4th place	5,000	N/A	N/A
5th place	4,000	N/A	N/A
Total	**30,500**	**Total**	**25,500**

Quantities are estimates & will be finalized in the RFS

Delivery Specifications

Industry Feedback Requested

- **OWA Air Vehicles** – Total quantity of expendable drones based on rank (see previous slide)
- **Durable System Components** – GCS, comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, any supporting air assets (e.g., ISR/relay drones) or equipment required for Gauntlet II. Delivered at 1:20 ratio.
- **Spares** – 5% sparing on self-identified common failure components (e.g., batteries, chargers, propellers, etc.
- **Integrated Fire Set** – 40% with live munition and 20% with reusable trainers
- **Night Vision** – 20% with night vision systems
- **Fiber** – If a drone has fiber integrated, deliver 10% with fiber connection. All fiber drones also require alternate comms solution.

Drone Dominance Program Leadership Panel / Q&A

- A program leadership panel was held following this talk:
  - Mr. Travis Metz, DIU
  - Dr. Erin Cherry, TRMC
  - LTC Leo Burkardt, TRMC
  - Mitch Haag, NSWC Crane
  - CPT Zach Bates, PBAS