



DoD Issues Call for Concept Papers for its Commercial Operations and Support Savings Initiative

As part of its focus on finding ways to reduce operating and support costs, the Department of Defense recently issued a call for concept papers from firms with ideas for inserting commercial technologies into fielded military equipment under the Commercial Operations and Support Savings Initiative (COSSI). Started in 1997, COSSI seeks to reduce operating and support costs by leveraging innovative commercial technologies that will result in reducing the costs of parts and maintenance, decreasing the need for specialized equipment and increasing the reliability and efficiency of sub-systems.

In Fiscal Year 1997, COSSI awarded 30 stage one agreements for cost-shared non-recurring engineering and qualification testing projects. After successful completion of the testing, the military services fund a stage two procurement of commercially based retrofit kits to reduce operating costs for specific fielded weapon systems. The estimated 10-year savings from this competition is \$3 billion, on the Department's investment of \$100 million.

Although there will not be a Fiscal Year 1998 COSSI project solicitation, DoD is seeking ways to identify innovative ideas for the Fiscal Year 1999 program. Toward this effort, a call for concept papers was announced in the Dec. 15, 1997, issue of *Commerce Business Daily*. The response date for the concept papers has been extended to March 17, 1998, in order to give companies more time to work with program managers to identify system cost drivers and seek ways of cutting costs through insertion of commercial items.

Additional information on COSSI and details on how to prepare concept papers are available on the Internet at <http://www.darpa.mil/jdupo/index.html>. Information also may be obtained by E-mail at cossi@acq.osd.mil and by calling 1-800-382-5873.

Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain on the DefenseLINK Home Page and may be accessed at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news> on the World Wide Web.

