

Request for Proposal (RFP)

RFP FOR THE KANSAS TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW

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REVISIONS

Revision	Description	Date
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ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning/Definition
EA	Environmental Assessment
ER	Engineering/Technical Report
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
KDOT	Kansas Department of Transportation
KTC	Kansas Transportation Corridor
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act
NIAR/NIAR WERX	National Institute for Aviation Research
RFP	Request for Proposal
SOW	Statement of Work
WSU	Wichita State University

1 SCOPE

NIAR WERX at WSU (National Institute for Aviation Research - Wichita State University) in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is engaged in a program to establish a supersonic flight test corridor known as the Kansas Transportation Corridor (KTC) shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Kansas Transportation Corridor

Authorization to exceed Mach 1 is explicitly defined FAA Order 1050.1F as a proposed action requiring an Environmental Assessment (EA). Therefore, environmental considerations for the KTC must be evaluated and documented in an EA, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The primary potential impact associated with the proposed action is the sonic boom generated by aircraft during supersonic flight. The scope of this EA is to establish the baseline noise levels of locations underneath the proposed KTC tract to support future flight operations of supersonic aircraft, and address all other environmental concerns outlined in FAA Order 1050.1F. The Order establishes criteria for noise level increases that are considered a significant change resulting from the proposed action (the KTC). The baseline noise levels established by this EA will be compared with the increased noise generated by future KTC operations and ensure the significance threshold is not exceeded. The Baseline EA does not include supersonic aircraft noise analysis, or discussions of flight permits and KTC operational procedures as these are outside the scope of this EA.

The initial draft of the EA has been completed by NIAR WERX. At request of the FAA, NIAR WERX intends to sub-contract a review of the draft EA titled “Draft Environmental Assessment: Kansas Transportation Corridor” for completeness and content, ensuring it is suitable to show compliance with applicable NEPA requirements. The incorporation of solutions to gaps identified remains the responsibility of NIAR WERX.

2 DESCRIPTION

This Request for Proposal (RFP) seeks a complete review of Draft EA titled “Draft Environmental Assessment: Kansas Transportation Corridor” for completeness and content, ensuring it is suitable to show compliance with applicable NEPA requirements. The incorporation of solutions to gaps identified remains the responsibility of NIAR WERX.

NIAR WERX is requesting that you provide a proposal outlining the cost required to accomplish the tasks described in Section 3 of this RFP.

3 STATEMENT OF WORK

This Statement of Work (SOW) defines the effort, the services, and deliverables to be provided by the selected consultant (herein referred to as the Seller), to NIAR WERX (herein referred to as the Buyer) in support of KDOT (herein referred to as the Customer). The Customer has the desire to establish a corridor allowing the testing of sustained supersonic flights along the KTC.

3.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1.1 Definitions

The following words have the specific meanings shown below when used in this document:

- “Shall” and “is to” are used to indicate a mandatory and legally binding requirement.
- “Should” or “may” are used to indicate a desirable requirement.
- “Will” is used to indicate an intention.

Gap: A break in logic, argument, regulatory compliance, or other deficiency that reduces the quality of the EA and/or likelihood of receiving a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) from the FAA.

FONSI: FAA finding that a proposed action does not have the potential for significant environmental impacts.

3.1.2 Scope of Requirements

This SOW defines the work and deliverables to be provided by the Seller.

The Seller shall conduct a complete review of the Buyer’s Draft EA titled “Draft Environmental Assessment: Kansas Transportation Corridor” for completeness and content, ensuring it is suitable to show compliance with applicable NEPA requirements for the baseline and is suitable for use of future endeavors.

3.1.3 Environmental Assessment Review

The Seller shall assist the Buyer with the review of the Draft EA titled “Draft Environmental Assessment: Kansas Transportation Corridor”.

This review shall assess the state of the Draft EA and identify gaps in the Draft EA regarding:

1. NEPA Standards and Regulations
2. FAA Order 1050.1F (Including FAA Order 1050.1F Desk Reference)
3. Applicable Environmental Regulations, Dockets, Acts, Exemptions, or other documents the Seller determines to be applicable to this Draft EA.
4. Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, Cumulative Impacts, and arguments of “No Significant Impact” for the following items:
 - a. Biological Resources
 - b. Climate
 - c. Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)
 - d. Farmlands
 - e. Historical
 - f. Architectural
 - g. Archeological and Cultural
 - h. Land Use
 - i. Natural Resources
 - j. Socioeconomics
 - k. Environmental Justice and Children’s Health
 - l. Visual Effects
 - m. Water Resource
 - n. Natural Resource
 - o. Noise

Additionally, this review should highlight potential issues in the following areas:

1. The “No Action Alternative” is sufficiently described in its application utilized appropriately.
2. Other sites defined in Appendix B and E of the Draft EA
3. Acceptability of methods for reducing Baseline Noise Data provided in Appendix C of the Draft EA.
4. Applicable existing conditions are sufficiently described in Appendix F of the Draft EA.

3.1.4 Product and Services Deliverables

The Seller shall deliver Goods, Services, and Data deliverables in accordance with this SOW.

3.1.5 Applicable documents

Unless otherwise specified, the following documents are of the latest Draft as at the date of this SOW and form a part of this SOW to the extent specified herein. Nothing in this document supersedes applicable laws and regulations unless a specific exemption has been obtained. Reference to these documents elsewhere within the body of this SOW is by their basic part number, title, or related activity only.

Document Number	Title	Issue/Date
NW00-ER-WS003	Draft Environmental Assessment: Kansas Transportation Corridor	Latest Draft

3.1.6 Period of Performance

The Seller shall respond within Fourteen (14) calendar days of receiving this SOW. This response will include the cost required to carry out tasks described in this SOW and a schedule with projected milestones and expected completion dates.

All Program Deliverables, as outlined in Section 3.2.4 must be completed and provided to the Buyer within forty-five (45) calendar days of contract start.

3.2 PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The Seller shall define a detailed Program Schedule and outline any budget requirements prior to commencement of activity.

The Program Schedule shall contain, but not be limited to:

- Project Scope Definition
- Resource Requirements
- Milestones (With estimated completion dates)
- Constraints

3.2.1 Seller Reporting and Reviews

The Seller shall conduct Status Reviews via teleconference. Such meetings will be conducted on an “as needed” basis during the period from contract start through completion.

The need for a status review will be determined by the Buyer and may be requested by the Seller. Status reviews should only include attendees germane to the presented information. At a minimum, the status review will include:

- Action item status
- Accomplishments and plans
- Identified gaps, and proposed resolutions.

The above information is intended to be used to communicate the status of the program and to outline any issues and/or risks so that the team can take a proactive approach in the mitigation process to ensure schedule and budget requirements are still met.

3.2.2 Program Startup Review

The Seller shall, at the discretion of the buyer, conduct a Program Startup Review. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that the program is sufficiently staffed, and the program schedule has been reviewed and understood.

If a Program Startup Review is required by the buyer, the Seller shall provide suitable presentation material within Seven (7) calendar days of contract acceptance. As a minimum, the agenda shall include the following items:

- Subcontract and Supporting Documents Review
- Deliverables Review
- Schedule Review

The Program Startup Review should only include attendees germane to the presented information.

3.2.3 Program Conclusions Review

The Buyer shall host and conduct a Program Conclusions Review. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the findings of the Draft EA Review and ensure all deliverables are completed. The Program Conclusions Review should only include attendees germane to the presented information.

3.2.4 Program Deliverables

1. Evaluate NW00-ER-WS003 “Draft Environmental Assessment: Kansas Transportation Corridor”.
2. Identify gaps, insufficiencies, and potential solutions for items listed in Section 3.1.3 of this Document in the manner agreed to by the Seller.
3. Determine whether the Draft EA must be updated continuously to account for time sensitive information such as the endangered species list in Appendix F.
4. Provide a document detailing the findings of the Draft EA review, in Seller format, to include the following:
 - a. Deficiencies in the Buyer’s Draft EA
 - b. Required tasks for completion of the Buyer’s Draft EA

Note: The incorporation of solutions to gaps identified remains the responsibility of the Buyer.

3.2.5 Documentation

Documentation from the Seller shall be provided in English. The Seller shall provide soft and hard copies of each document. Soft copies shall contain digital signatures and hard copies shall contain wet signatures of responsible parties.

3.3 PROGRAM SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

3.3.1 Data Management

Data Formats – The Seller shall manage data in accordance with their internal procedures. Data shall be provided to the Buyer in formats that enable them to be read using:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Adobe Acrobat Reader XI

3.3.2 Deliverable Data Review

Information provided by the Seller will be presented to inform the Customer of status, risk, or issues related to the Buyer’s Draft EA.