



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
November 8, 2019**

**PERIOD OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION ENDS:
December 1, 2019**

ABOUT PROPOSALS. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (hereafter “the Commission”) invites submission of proposals to provide a one-time unclassified report on developments in China’s military and dual-use logistics capabilities to support expeditionary operations beyond China’s borders.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The Commission was established by Congress in 2000 to monitor and report to Congress on the national security implications of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and the People’s Republic of China. Further details about the Commission are available on its website at: www.uscc.gov.

The Commission solicits this research pursuant to its Congressional mandate (contained in Pub. L. No. 113-291, Section 1259B), which states, “The Commission ... shall investigate and report ... on...”

“(A) The role of the People’s Republic of China in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other weapon systems (including systems and technologies of a dual use nature), including actions the United States might take to encourage the People’s Republic of China to cease such practices.

(B) The qualitative and quantitative nature of the transfer of United States production activities to the People’s Republic of China, including the relocation of manufacturing, advanced technology and intellectual property, and research and development facilities, the impact of such transfers on the national security of the United States (including the dependence of the national security industrial base of the United States on imports from China), the economic security of the United States, and employment in the United States, and the adequacy of United States export control laws in relation to the People’s Republic of China.”

“(E) The military plans, strategy and doctrine of the People’s Republic of China, the structure and organization of the People’s Republic of China military, the decision-making process of the People’s Republic of China military, the interaction between the civilian and military leadership in the People’s Republic of China, the development and promotion process for leaders in the People’s Republic of China military, deployments of the People’s Republic of China military, resources

available to the People's Republic of China military (including the development and execution of budgets and the allocation of funds), force modernization objectives and trends for the People's Republic of China military, and the implications of such objectives and trends for the national security of the United States.

(F) The strategic economic and security implications of the cyber capabilities and operations of the People's Republic of China.”

“(H) The drivers, nature, and implications of the growing economic, technological, political, cultural, people-to-people, and security relations of the People's Republic of China's with other countries, regions, and international and regional entities (including multilateral organizations), including the relationship among the United States, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China.”

This report's key research requirements are:

1. **Assess the capability of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) logistics system to support expeditionary operations beyond China's borders.** Please focus on the respective roles of the Central Military Commission's Joint Logistics Support Department and the Joint Logistics Support Force, as well as the motivations behind the creation of the Joint Logistics Support Force. Please also identify the leadership of both organizations and assess the degree to which the reorganization of the PLA's logistics system has improved China's logistics planning and capability, especially as it pertains to expeditionary operations. This discussion should address the role of specialized logistics reserve units subordinate to the PLA services and assess the extent to which PLA exercises and training have improved the force's expeditionary logistics capabilities.
2. **Where is China seeking to develop bases and other access points to support expeditionary operations, and what are its objectives in doing so?** What do these efforts suggest about where China envisions itself being most likely to conduct expeditionary operations in the future? How does China leverage different instruments of national power to further these goals?
3. **To what extent is China currently capable of conducting and sustaining expeditionary operations?** How quickly can China deploy forces overseas, at what distance from its littoral waters can forces operate, what size expeditionary force is it currently capable of supporting, and how long can China sustain these deployments? By 2035, what is the PLA's force projection capability likely to encompass in terms of naval and air support, combat logistics support, and amphibious operations capability?
4. **What role do Chinese civilian organizations play in supporting the development of PLA expeditionary capabilities?** Please address how the PLA seeks to use Chinese-constructed or invested ports and airfields, especially those built along the Maritime Silk Road, to enhance its expeditionary capabilities, and

assess the role of state-owned enterprises such as China COSCO Shipping Limited and China Merchants Group in supporting PLA operations overseas.

The report should include an **executive summary** of the report's key findings; a list of **recommendations for Congress**; a **brief overview of the sources and analytic methodology used for the report**; and a **brief explanation of the scope and limitations of the report**.

Additional Requirements:

1. Prior to the award of any contract, the contractor must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM).
2. Once the Commission selects a contractor for this project, and a contract is signed, public notice of this may be made on the Commission's website.
3. The Commission's goal is to have a report prepared for review in a timely fashion. In ordinary circumstances, once the Commission selects a contractor and a contract is signed, a draft report—not to exceed 40 pages of text—must be submitted to the Commission for review no later than 45 days from the date the contract is signed. The Commission will then endeavor to provide comments and requests for adjustments within 30 days; subsequently, the final report must be submitted within 30 days of formal receipt of the Commission's comments. The Commission recognizes, under certain circumstances, a contractor may wish to have more time to prepare the first draft of the report under the contract. The contractor, in their contract proposal, should stipulate the time frame for submission of the draft report. It is to be understood; however, that time is of the essence in completing research contracts for the Commission.
4. As work on the report progresses, the Commission's Research Coordinator shall act as the Commission's representative in monitoring the progress, quality, and responsiveness of the report to the major issues of concern identified in this Request for Proposals (RFP). The Research Coordinator shall, on request to the contractor, be entitled to informal briefings on the status of the research work and to readings of the draft in progress.
5. The report shall be free of typographical errors and conform to the Chicago Manual of Style. Upon receipt of all drafts, the Commission will inspect the document for typographical errors and deviations from the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. At the discretion of the Commission, if a draft contains excessive deficiencies, the Commission will return the draft to the contractor and request the contractor cure the draft of deficiencies within five (5) working days (not counting weekends and Federal holidays). Upon resubmission of the draft by the contractor to the Commission, should deficiencies remain, the Commission, at its discretion, will submit the draft to its copyeditor for correction, the cost of which (\$40.00 per hour) will be deducted from the final cost of the contract. The contract shall be subject to termination if the Commission deems that the work is of unsatisfactory quality.

6. At the Commission's discretion, the report procured via this RFP may be posted on the Commission's website.
7. Each organization or individual responding to this request must warrant they will perform this work solely for the Commission, and the resulting report will not be shared with other parties without the prior written consent of the Commission.
8. The Commission expects contractors to identify all personnel working on the contract, and that there will not be any delegation of responsibilities to other parties without prior written approval of the Commission.
9. After completion of the report, the Commission staff, in consultation with the contractor, will prepare a short summary of the research for posting on the Commission's website and other media. The Commission staff may consult with the contractor in preparing said document.
10. At the discretion and request of the Commission, the contractor shall, within a year after publication of the report, agree to participate in up to two (2) separate briefings, and up to one (1) public hearing, held by the Commission, of up to two (2) hours each in the Washington, DC area, supported by at least one (1) individual affiliated with the contractor identified as "key personnel." This could include, but not necessarily be limited to, briefing the content of the research to Commissioners and Commission staff, appearing as witnesses at a public hearing held by the Commission, and briefing the content of the research to Members of Congress and/or their staff, as arranged by the Commission. No additional remuneration will be provided to the contractor for these briefings or a hearing. The Commission will make a good faith effort to schedule briefings and a hearing at times that are subject to mutual agreement.

Primary Selection Criteria:

1. The Commission will determine which organization or individual responding to this request will be awarded the contract based on a comprehensive "best value" analysis of the proposals received, to include costs, technical value, and ability to complete the work satisfactorily and on time, and past performance with the Commission, if applicable.
2. The primary weighting criterion in selection shall be the assessed qualifications and ability of an organization or individual to address the fundamental research points enunciated above ("key research requirements").
3. The cost and amount of time necessary to complete the report will also be considered as criteria in the selection process.
4. The Commission is a Legislative Branch agency not subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

Proposal submissions should include:

1. A statement of the applicant's relevant qualifications to satisfy the terms of this RFP, to include curricula vitae for personnel intended for work on the project.
2. Identification of the principal researchers who will be responsible for the preparation of the report. It is understood that the designation of the researchers is a critical element of the proposal, and any changes regarding which individuals will be involved in the report's preparation must be approved by the Commission in advance and in writing.
3. A description of the research methodology the applicant proposes to employ. In describing methodology, the submission should provide detailed descriptions of the sources and methods that will be used to research the report's topic and the extent to which Chinese language sources, if any, and other primary materials will be used.
5. A list of any entities for whom the applicant has conducted research or provided consulting services in the past. The Commission understands you may be limited in providing such information by confidentiality agreements.
6. An estimate of the time the applicant will need to complete the required work.
7. The price the applicant will charge to the Commission to complete the work set forth in this RFP.
8. The proposal shall not exceed seven (7) pages and may be shorter.

Organizations and individuals wishing to submit a proposal in response to this RFP must ensure that the response arrives at the location noted below by **5:00 p.m. (EST)** on **December 1, 2019**, or it will not be accepted or considered.

Electronic submissions are acceptable. Email attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

Proposals, as well as inquiries or any other correspondence related to this matter, should be directed to:

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