



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
APRIL 28, 2025**

**PERIOD OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION ENDS:
MAY 19, 2025**

ABOUT PROPOSALS. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (hereafter “the Commission”) invites submission of proposals to provide a concise, one-time unclassified report on China’s Management of Electromagnetic Spectrum Resources.

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 P.L. 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.

(D) Foreign investment by the United States in the People’s Republic of China and by the People’s Republic of China in the United States, including an assessment of its economic and security implications, the challenges to market

access confronting potential United States investment in the People's Republic of China, and foreign activities by financial institutions in 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. Provide an Overview of How China Manages its Electromagnetic Spectrum

- a. Examine China's spectrum objectives and include its regulatory structure (both civilian and military). As part of this section, include answers to the questions below.
 - i. How does China prioritize between conflicting interests in spectrum allocation?
 - ii. How does China allocate spectrum bands across its primary telecommunications providers, including reallocation and clearing of in-use wavelengths?

2. Provide an Overview of How China Leverages its Spectrum and Its Application in Technology, Economic, and Military Uses

- a. What advantages/disadvantages, if any, in spectrum usage does China gain from its domestic spectrum regulatory structure? How has this created economic benefits for China?
- b. Has China's spectrum strategy led to more rapid deployment of technologies that rely on wireless communications and, if so, how has this created economic benefits for China?
- c. How does China's domestic considerations for spectrum allocation impact its objectives for achieving "regional harmonization" on spectrum policies?

3. ***Assess China's Military Spectrum Protocols and Standard Setting***
 - a. What are China's protocols for deconflicting dynamic spectrum sharing through policy, protocol, or other processes, particularly as it relates to military use of spectrum?
 - b. How does China's management of spectrum improve the PLA's joint warfighting capabilities? What are the implications for the PLA's Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), space capabilities, electronic warfare capabilities, cyber capabilities, and any other applicable military capabilities?
 - c. Examine how China's management of electromagnetic spectrum may complicate the aims of the U.S. Department of Defense' Electromagnetic Spectrum Superiority Strategy and the Joint Force.
4. ***Examine Global Implications of China's Spectrum Protocols and Standard Setting***
 - a. Describe how China promotes its vision of spectrum management to low income countries as a development tool. What, if any, are the economic and national security implications to the United States of developing countries aligning with China's vision for future wireless generations?
 - b. How is China pursuing its interests in setting global standards for the next generation of wireless technologies, including space-based uses of spectrum? Please include China's current role in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and its activities that could shape the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) in 2027.
 - c. Assess how Chinese companies in technologies reliant on spectrum engage with the ITU and other international standard setting bodies on spectrum. How does their role impact the global competitive landscape for U.S. companies regarding spectrum allocation?
 - d. How does China's role in setting international standards impact the U.S. military's allocation of spectrum and satellite orbits?
5. ***Identify and Assess Commercial and Economic Benefits of China's Spectrum Leadership***
 - a. Identify which companies, laboratories, universities, and other entities are leaders in China's spectrum technology development and the areas of significant advances and capabilities.
 - b. What does China assess as the primary applications for future wireless communications technology and how is this impacting its approach to spectrum management?
 - c. Assess the implications for U.S. industry and commercial competitiveness if Chinese competitors gain an advantage in spectrum applications.
 - d. Identify commercial capabilities where China or Chinese companies do not have a lead or advantage in spectrum technologies.

The report should include an **executive summary** of the report's key findings; **policy 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**.

Deliverables:

Task/Deliverable	Due Date
1. Kick off meeting with Commission	Within 1 week of award of contract
2. Interim Progress Report (IPR) and supporting enclosures defined below	Within 4 weeks of award of contract; other ad hoc meetings on progress to be determined by mutual agreement between the Commission and contractor.
3. Draft Report	Within 8 weeks from award of contract
4. Final Report	Within 2 weeks of Commission acceptance of a final draft 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 publish a report on China's management of electromagnetic spectrum resources. Once the Commission selects a contractor and a contract is signed, Commission staff will work with the contractor through the following deliverables and tasks:
 - a. **Kick-Off Meeting:** Commission staff will meet with the contractor for a "kick-off meeting" one week after the contract is awarded to discuss the project, Commission standards and expectations for contracted research, and any challenges anticipated by the contractor for this effort.
 - b. **Interim Progress Report:** Within four weeks of the award of the contract, the contractor will submit an interim progress report on progress made and challenges encountered. The report should include a detailed report outline, a summary of initial findings and challenges, and a written sample of the work completed to date. Commission staff will review the deliverables with the contractor and provide feedback as needed to support the Draft Report. Other ad hoc meetings on progress to be determined by mutual agreement between the Commission and the contractor.
 - c. **Draft Report:** A complete first draft of the report—not to exceed 25 pages of text (not inclusive of appendices)—must be submitted to the Commission for review no later than 8 weeks from the award of the contract. The Commission will assess the first draft of the report to ensure that it satisfactorily answers all key research requirements contained in the Request for Proposals (RFP), incorporates feedback on the interim progress report, employs a clear methodology, makes appropriate use of evidence, is well organized,

is well written, and includes all required elements. The contractor, in their contract proposal, may propose a different time frame for submission of the draft report.

- d. **Final Report:** The final report must be submitted within two weeks of the Commission's certification that it has accepted the final draft report and must respond to additional guidance the Commission issued in conjunction with that certification. The final report should be free of typographical errors and conform to the Chicago Manual of Style.
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 outline and draft in progress.
5. At the Commission's discretion, the report procured via this RFP may be posted on the Commission's website.
6. 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.
7. 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. 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, 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 commission not subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

Proposal submissions should include:

1. A description of the offeror's proposed research methodology. In describing methodology, the offeror 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. Offerors should endeavor to address each key research requirement individually in describing their intended research approach.
2. A statement of the offeror's relevant qualifications to satisfy the terms of this RFP, to include a list of relevant past performance with entities for whom the offeror has conducted research or provided consulting services.
3. Identification of and curricula vitae for the principal researchers who will be responsible for the preparation of the report. 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.
4. A statement that the research for which the Commission is contracting is not also being funded, and will not also be funded, in whole or in part by another other entity or individual unless the Commission waives this requirement in writing.
5. A disclosure regarding whether the offeror is presently receiving compensation, directly or indirectly, from a foreign government, foreign corporation, foreign political party, foreign individual, or other foreign entity.
6. For offerors who are already registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM), the offeror's Unique Entity ID (UEI). For offerors who are not already registered in the SAM, the offeror's responses to FAR 52.204-24, Representation Regarding Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (November 2021) available at: https://www.acquisition.gov/far/52.204-24#FAR_52_204_24 and to FAR 52.204-26, Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services—Representation (October 2020) available at: https://www.acquisition.gov/far/52.204-26#FAR_52_204_26.
7. An estimate of the time the offeror will need to complete the required work.

8. The Firm-Fixed Price the offeror will charge to the Commission to complete the work set forth in this RFP.
9. The proposal shall not exceed ten (10) 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 **5:00pm (ET)** on **MAY 19 2025**, or it will not be accepted or considered.

Electronic submissions are acceptable.

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

Rachael Burton
Research Coordinator
U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
Hall of the States, Suite 602
444 North Capitol Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
phone: 202-624-1421
email: rburton@uscc.gov