



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS:
DECEMBER 18, 2025**

**PERIOD OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION ENDS:
JANUARY 30, 2026**

ABOUT PROPOSALS. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (hereafter “the Commission”) issues a Call For Proposals (CFP) and invites submission of proposals. A formal Request for Proposal (RFP), solicitation and/or additional information regarding this announcement will not be issued. This CFP is open to all for-profit and non-profit businesses as well as institutions of higher education.

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.

AREAS OF INTEREST. The Commission solicits this research pursuant to its Congressional mandate (contained in P.L. 113-291, Section 1259B).

The Commission seeks proposals to provide unclassified reports that respond to the following areas of interest. Proposals may be considered that undertake comprehensive approaches to one or more of the following areas, or that investigate one or more aspect(s) or case(s) that belong to the broader areas listed below:

1. *Emerging Technology:*

- The Commission is interested in studies on economic and security risks associated with U.S.-China emerging technology competition, including related research and development efforts. One area of particular interest would be studies on developments in uncrewed undersea technologies and the implications of such technologies for the U.S., allied, and partner militaries and for burgeoning competition in the undersea economy.

2. *Economics and Trade:*

- The Commission is interested in studies providing an analysis of economic and security implications to the United States and global financial markets of the growth of Chinese alternative asset classes (e.g., financial derivatives, private equity, venture capital, commodities markets, and cryptocurrency), including investments into such assets and/or participation in relevant marketplaces by U.S. and foreign entities.
- The Commission is interested in studies examining the economic and security implications for the United States of supply chain linkages between China and countries viewed as potential alternative suppliers in areas where the U.S. has dependencies on Chinese inputs, such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, certain areas of advanced manufacturing, and critical minerals. Such supply chain linkages could include direct supply of components and inputs from China, reliance on Chinese processing infrastructure, or outbound investment and offshoring of production by Chinese entities.
- The Commission is interested in studies analyzing the evolution of China’s geopolitical and/or economic strategy regarding outbound investment, whether state-led or ostensibly private-sector, particularly investment by China and Chinese entities in Latin America.

3. *China’s Malign Influence Activities in India or Latin America:*

- The Commission is interested in studies examining China’s influence operations in India or in Latin America. Such studies could include analysis of China’s efforts to shape the information environment, including through Chinese apps, united front work activities and broader efforts at “elite capture,” and the increased use of forms of digital authoritarianism, including “safe city” and internet surveillance systems that expand China’s influence with local governments and intelligence reach.

4. *Other Novel Ideas:*

- The Commission is interested in studies examining other novel issues relating to U.S.-China economic and national security, particularly issues that are not widely covered in existing literature and research.

A final report should include in addition to the core report content, 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**. Final reports may be made available to the public and should not contain any proprietary or confidential information. The report should not exceed 25 single-sided pages.

Required 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	Timeline for delivery of an IPR to be determined by mutual agreement during the kick-off meeting; other ad hoc meetings on progress to be determined by mutual agreement between the Commission and contractor.
3. Draft Report	Timeline for delivery of the draft report to be determined by mutual agreement during the kick-off meeting.
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. 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:** A timeline for delivery of the interim progress report will be mutually agreed on during the “kick-off meeting.” 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 at the mutually agreed upon timeline during the “kick-off meeting.” The Commission will assess the first draft of the report to ensure that it satisfactorily answers all key research questions presented in the proposal, 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.

- 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 Manager shall act as the Commission's representative in monitoring the progress, quality, and responsiveness of the report to the agreed upon research scope. The Research Manager 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 CFP 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 six months 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 Commission Members 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.

Proposal Evaluation:

1. All proposal submissions will be evaluated on a rolling basis through a technical/cost decision process. The evaluation criteria shall be:
 - a. the importance of the topic and degree of innovation as it relates to the "Areas of Interest" outlined in the CFP;
 - b. the feasibility and soundness of the technical approach;
 - c. the assessed qualifications and the ability of an organization or individual to address the fundamental research questions as described in the proposal;
 - d. the offeror's capabilities, related experience, and past performance with the Commission (if applicable); and

- e. the reasonableness of the proposed cost.
2. The Commission is a legislative branch commission not subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The Commission reserves the right to select all, some, or none of the proposals for award in response to this announcement. The Commission provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs. The Commission is not required to inform or notify any offeror of the unselected/unaccepted proposals.

Proposal submissions should include:

1. The proposal must contain a general description of the research topic, key research questions the offeror proposes to address, and 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. The proposal must contain a general description of how the proposed report is new or novel, how it would fill a research or policy gap, and how it would add value to the existing literature on and Congress' understanding of the topic.
2. The proposal should also include a literature review as an appendix.
 - a. The Literature Review must include a summary of the existing research on the topic, identify key arguments presented in available research, and include a bibliography.
3. A statement of the offeror's relevant qualifications to satisfy the terms of this CFP, to include a list of relevant past performance with entities for whom the offeror has conducted research or provided consulting services.
4. 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. The curricula vitae of the principal researchers may be included as an appendix to the submitted proposal.
5. 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. The Statement should also include the proposal's period of validity of at least three months for the purposes of the Commission's consideration.
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. The estimated time shall not exceed 12 weeks from contract award.
8. The Firm-Fixed Price the offeror will charge the Commission to complete the work set forth in the proposal, which shall not exceed \$24,500.00.
9. The proposal shall not exceed ten (10) single-sided pages and may be shorter. Appendices do not count toward the page limit.
10. The proposal should not contain any proprietary or confidential information.

Organizations and individuals wishing to submit a proposal in response to this CFP must ensure that the response arrives at the location noted below beginning December 18, 2025 to **5:00 p.m. (ET) on January 30, 2026**, or it will not be accepted or considered.

Proposals must be submitted via email to: contact@uscc.gov

Emails must be submitted with the following subject line: ATTN CFP: (Name of Offeror-Topic)

The Commission will acknowledge receipt of all submissions. Hard copies will not be accepted.

A proposal may address more than one CFP area of interest. Offerors must submit separate emails for each proposal submission. Multiple submissions are acceptable.

Inquiries or any other correspondence related to this matter, should be directed to the Research Manager at the following email: contact@uscc.gov

- Please include the following subject line: ATTN CFP Inquiry: