



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
APRIL 28, 2026**

**PERIOD OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION ENDS:
MAY 15, 2026**

1. ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (hereafter “the Commission”) is a legislative branch commission 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.
2. ABOUT PROPOSALS. The Commission invites submission of proposals to provide a concise, one-time unclassified report on China’s research and development (R&D) ecosystem. The Commission solicits this research pursuant to its statutory mandate (contained in Pub. L. No. 113-291, Section 1259B).
3. SCOPE OF WORK.

The report’s key research requirements are:

1. ***Provide an overview of how China’s R&D ecosystem is organized across the central government, local governments, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and research institutions, private firms, and universities.***
 - a. What roles do key institutions (i.e., MOST, NDRC, CAS, etc.) play in setting priorities and allocating funding?
 - b. What industries and technologies does the Chinese government currently prioritize? How does the Chinese government identify and update “strategic emerging industries” and priority technologies?
 - c. How do national plans (e.g., Five-Year Plans, Made in China 2025) translate into actual funding decisions?
2. ***Assess the methods by which the Chinese government funds R&D efforts across the science and technology (S&T) ecosystem.***
 - a. What are the main channels of R&D funding? Examine how R&D funding is allocated via central and local government budgets, government subsidies, SOEs, venture capital, guidance funds, or other mechanisms. Describe any trends in funding over the last 10 years.

- b. What is the process for applying for and/or receiving government support for S&T work?
 - c. What type(s) of entities receive the most government support? Are there specific sectors or technology areas where universities or SOEs or other types are the dominant recipients? Have funding trends changed over the past 5–10 years?
 - d. How does China’s R&D system interact with the broader global S&T community?
 - i. Does the Chinese government ever fund R&D outside of China? If so, are there specific industries or technologies that Beijing appears to be outsourcing? Are there trends in what foreign entities receive funding?
 - e. How does China’s system for government funding of R&D funding differ from the United States system? What are the relevant strengths and weaknesses of the Chinese system versus the U.S. system.
3. ***Examine how Chinese government leaders and relevant experts view the strengths and weaknesses of China’s R&D system.***
- a. During the Xi Jinping era, what efforts has the Chinese government made to reform its R&D system and why?
 - b. Identify objective case studies that point to how China’s R&D system contributed to specific technological advancements.
 - i. What success stories or failures do Chinese leaders and experts most often reference when speaking about China’s technological advancement? Do these align with the objective case studies identified above?
 - ii. Are there aspects of China’s S&T ecosystem, including its level of success or challenges, that are not well understood in U.S. policy discussions?
 - c. How sustainable is China’s current R&D model given economic slowdown and fiscal pressures?

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

The Research Working Group may refine the scope of the report as the project develops.

4. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

- a. Prior to the award of any contract, the contractor must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM).
- b. 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.
- c. Once the Commission selects a contractor and a contract is signed, Commission staff will work with the contractor through the following deliverables and tasks:
 - i. **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.
 - ii. **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.
 - iii. **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.
 - iv. **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.
- d. 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 key research requirements identified in this RFP. The Research Manager shall, on request to the contractor, be entitled to updates on the status of the research work and to copies of any outline or draft in progress.

- e. At the Commission’s discretion, the report procured via this RFP may be posted on the Commission’s website.
- f. 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.
- g. At the discretion and request of the Commission, the contractor shall draft one (1) press release for the published report and two (2) social media posts suitable for LinkedIn and X platforms concurrent with the delivery of the final report. The Commission may use these materials, in whole or in part, at its discretion.

5. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS.

Offerors should submit a proposal that includes the following:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Identification of and curricula vitae for the principal researchers who will be responsible for the preparation of the report. This 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 key personnel may be included as an appendix to the submitted proposal.
- d. 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.

- e. A statement that the offeror 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. 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.
- i. The proposal shall not exceed ten (10) pages and may be shorter. Appendices do not count toward the page limit.
- j. All submissions must be submitted electronically to contact@uscc.gov by May 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern or they will not be accepted or considered. Emails must be submitted with the following subject line: "ATTN R&D RFP".
- k. The Commission will acknowledge receipt of all submissions. Hard copies will not be accepted.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA.

- a. The Commission will determine which offeror responding to this request will be awarded the contract based on a comprehensive "best value" analysis of the proposals received, to include:
 - i. The proposal's technical value and approach;
 - ii. The proposed cost;
 - iii. The assessed qualifications and ability of the offeror to fulfill the Scope of Work satisfactorily and on time;
 - iv. The offeror's past performance with the Commission, if applicable.
- b. The Commission is a legislative branch commission not subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

7. POINT OF CONTACT. Inquires or any other correspondence related to this matter should be directed to the Research Manager at the following email: contact@uscc.gov. Emails must include the following subject line: “ATTN R&D RFP Inquiry”.