

AINetANTX Networks Prize Challenge Q&A

1. Where can I find the White Paper and Quad Chart Template?

- a. Please see **White Paper Submission Guidelines** and **Quad Chart Submission Guidelines**. They are hyperlinked at “Appendix A” and “Appendix B.”

2. We would like to register for the challenge and virtual Q&A Session. How do we register?

- a. We appreciate your interest in this challenge and are excited to have you onboard! The Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) will be hosting a question and answer (Q&A) session for two recently posted Networks and Artificial Intelligence Prize Challenges on <https://challenge.gov>. The Q&A session will be held in a virtual environment on 30 June 2021 and is open to all. The morning agenda will include a brief overview of the Network prize challenge, followed by a Q&A session. The afternoon agenda will include an overview of the AI prize challenge, followed by a Q&A session. All information being presented and all discussions will be held at the unclassified level and is releasable to the public.

To register for the Q&A session, please visit:

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=605952&k=046147007E55>.

This announcement for registration will also be promulgated widely via SAM.gov, NavalX Tech Bridges, and other venues.

3. Do we need to have a SECRET clearance to attend or participate?

- a. No, you do not need a clearance to participate! The competition is UNCLASSIFIED.

4. Does the “Naval Force” refer to only traditionally associated Naval assets such as ships and submarines? Does it include elements for other Services or expeditionary forces? I.e., does my submission need to be specific to only traditional Naval Force use cases?

- a. Great question! The test scenarios will encompass platforms for land, surface, sub-surface, and air. However, we are looking for general-use protocols that are radio-independent. Note that the solution needs to work in existing networks. Radios and hardware are beyond the scope of this competition.

5. We have technology that may be applicable to this competition, but it is tied to our hardware. There may be an issue in compatibility with a virtual environment, which may not accurately portray the results our system is capable of achieving. Can we still participate, and what allowances are provided in the challenge for unique solutions?

- a. Great question! We are seeking technologies that can be deployed in existing Navy networks rather than field new hardware, and therefore evaluating new radios are beyond the scope of this competition.

We are using a network simulator to approximate interference and other channel effects on transmissions. If the radio can output via ethernet, rather than RF, it can be evaluated in the simulator, however, that is beyond scope.

We are interested in algorithms and protocols that would work well in a system-of-systems environment, and if you can extract the routing protocol, that might be more applicable to this challenge.

6. We are an international company. Is this challenge open to non-U.S. companies?

- a. Thank you for your interest, but per the Prize Challenge eligibility requirements, participant entities must be incorporated in and maintain its primary place of business in the United States.

7. What Technical Readiness Levels are required for this Challenge?

- a. It should be at least TRL 4. We are looking for effective solutions that needs to be at the point where it can be evaluated. In this case, that means that it must run as a system in Linux containers in a simulated network.

NAVWAR may award, pursuant to Title 10 U.S.C. § 2371b, a follow-on prototype agreement or transaction, or Limited Procurement for Experimentation Title 10 U.S.C. § 2373 to one or more participants who successfully demonstrate an operationally relevant networking technology during the Challenge. If the selected technologies are not yet mature enough for prototype awards, other agreements such as Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) may be utilized. This Challenge, however, does not in any way obligate NAVWAR to procure any of the items within the scope of this challenge from the winners. For full language, please see **Agreements**.