SBIR 26.BZ R1 Q&A Telecon Transcript
30 April 2026

- SOC26BZ01-DV001: **COMPACT UUV BORNE LIDAR SYSTEM**
- SOC26BZ01-DV002: **IRONWALKER**

SBIR Process Timeline
13 April 2026: Topic issued for pre-release
06 May 2026: USSOCOM begins accepting proposals via DSIP
20 May 2026: DSIP Topic Q&A closes to new questions at 12:00 PM ET
03 June 2026: Deadline for receipt of proposals no later than 12:00 PM ET

SOC26BZ01-DV001: COMPACT UUV BORNE LIDAR SYSTEM

1. **What are the size and weight limitations along with power available?**
   The size and weight will be limited to 5" OD by 36" length and a max 30 lbs total weight
2. **Which platforms are you targeting?**
   Platforms as dictated in the solicitation which will be provided as GFE
3. **What are range of operational speeds that the payload needs to operate over?**
   2 to 6 knots
4. **More on the proposal side, is there a proposal template and budget template?**
   Please go to solicitation documents and instructions. Under Supporting Documents & Templates, you will find what you need.
5. **Does this system require sonar and if so, does that need to be within the 5" OD requirement?**
   Any additional sensors or subsystems selected by the proposer must be contained in the prescribed SWaP. Sidescan sonar staves will be allowed as an exception.
6. **Are there any requirement related to real time processing of data for target ID?**
   All LiDAR data must be able to be downloaded to a laptop for immediate viewing upon UUV return. Diver borne systems should display a real time point cloud image quality view.
7. **What target sizes are we taking about?**
   NA, LiDAR resolution should be a goal of 1cm with a threshold of 3cm.
8. **Is there a preferred data interface format to host UUV (USB, Ethernet etc) ?**
   TCP//IP is preferred, but can be malleable as needed.
9. **What standoff distances are desired along with area coverage?**
   360 degree scan with 40m range is desirable, out to 4 inches max closeness.
10. **Can you say anything about required standoff ranges at a specified water quality?**
    They are applicable.
11. **For the diver application, what type of display interface would be preferred?**
    Visual real-time.
12. **What type of INS does the host platform have?**
    They are applicable.
13. **In the DSIP Q/A mentions no extruding object beyond 5" OD. Would SS elements be acceptable?**
    SSS staves of max 1" are acceptable as a secondary system, if a SSS is proposed and implemented as a requirement by the proposer.

14. **Is there a specific UUV targeted for this payload and if so can that UUV be identified?**
    Yes, it is identified in the solicitation.
15. **Would the Sidescan data be available to the LiDAR.**
    Presumably, if you include an SSS as a requirement, you identify.

SOC26BZ01-DV002: IRONWALKER

1. **Does the area interface need an AI back end to be able to run offline?**
   Yes, must be standalone, lightweight, on-prem, with no reliance on internet or communications.
2. **Is there a desired object or device for this project to be on?**
   No specific device; preference is for the most compact AR solution possible, ideally standalone sunglasses without extra packs or wires.
3. **What equipment are you targeting to utilize from an additive capability perspective? For example, Strassis F450s or F900s.**
   Not those systems; focus is on large 5-axis CNC machines and metal manufacturing, not those additive systems.
4. **Was the machine skill level the intended users experience or should it be usable by novices?**
   Should be usable by novices with only basic understanding of machine safety and operation.
5. **For the AI, is the expectation to utilize Jen.ai API, or is the expectation to be a lightweight model that runs on device?**
   Not GenAI APIs; likely requires a custom-built or heavily adapted AI that runs locally/offline.
6. **Can a firm submit a D2P2 proposal for Iron Walker if it's underlying phase one equivalent baseline technologies from past unrelated CDR programs.**
   Depends on the baseline technology; needs further evaluation.
7. **Since this is a standalone system where the goal is for weight and battery life, assume that you're talking about weight and battery life for the actual AR headset.**
   Use current industry capabilities; not a strict constraint, and multiple headsets may be used if needed.
8. **A solicitation says CMC is 1, level is 1, but it says ITAR. Does this mean companies need JCP since it is ITAR?**
   Likely moving to CMMC Level 2; still under discussion.
9. **Are there power thermal limits specified for the AI hardware running the model at the edge?**
   No strict limits; assume some infrastructure like a server rack is available.
10. **Are glasses supposed to be safety compliant like ANSI Z87.1?**
    Not required initially, though may be revisited later.
11. **So the expectation is just the AR headset running everything, not some attached system with additional computational resources.**
    False; compute can be external, with the AR headset acting as a display interface.
12. **Since this is aircraft parts, is there a conversation with the chief engineers to allow these parts to be used on aircraft?**

Yes; engineers can be embedded on-site and approve parts locally.

13. **This is a very large award over a short period. What is the expectation for TRL of the various components at the end of the 12 month pop?**
    TRL 7–8 expected by the end of the 12-month period.
14. **In terms of any data related to the project, is AWS GovCloud supposed to be used to separate contractors' commercial data with military data?**
    Unclear; requires more clarification depending on the data being referenced.
15. **The parts that you provide.**
    Parts are often redesigned in-house from approved drawings and that approach is acceptable.
16. **For vehicles or ground equipment, will we get some of these other things answered?**
    Aircraft use provides the baseline; broader applications may be addressed later.
17. **So based on the aircraft portion, we basically have a gold standard for repeatable manufacturing process, and the AI is just assuring, assisting users to use tools.**
    Yes; AI assists users, with long-term vision of reducing or eliminating human involvement.
18. **Are there specific manufacturing platforms and or use cases the prototype must support, specific CNCs, additive systems, materials, part types, et cetera?**
    No specific manufacturers required; Haas-type CNCs are common; focus is on metal manufacturing.
19. **Will the government provide access to machine equipment during the development process?**
    No; contractors must provide the equipment as part of the deliverables.
20. **Are there any data collection requirements on the operator side, E.g. operators, post positions, etc.?**
    Yes; the system must track operator actions, detect mistakes, and guide corrections.
21. **Is there a part you're looking at to be the first one to pilot?**
    No specific part; depends on machine capabilities and system maturity.
22. **Just verifies the goal of Iron Walker to assist operators in doing maintenance on the physical vehicle or manufacturing parts for the vehicle.**
    Manufacturing only; not focused on maintenance tasks.
23. **For training data, will we have access to experts on support equipment, or is that expected to also come from the small company side of things?**
    Expected to come from the small business/industry side, not the government.
24. **Since offline capabilities are needed, is a mobile server box acceptable to run these models?**
    Yes; a portable/mobile server is acceptable.
25. **In terms of testing capabilities, is there a sample size and a number of users who have to run for pilot testing?**
    No fixed requirement; testing scope is flexible.
26. **The project sounds similar to the DARPA's program, Rocks to Rockets, has now changed basically everything. Have you spoken with that team?**
    No; they have not engaged with that DARPA program.

27. **What is the difference between CMMC and ITAR? Please don't raise the proposal barrier unnecessarily.**
    Not fully answered; both CMMC and ITAR apply and require further clarification.
28. **Would there be any restriction on marketing this capability on the domestic civilian market?**
    No restrictions; strong commercial potential is expected.
29. **Can you clarify again, is the goal to have an operator use an additive 3D printing machine at the end of phase two or CNC subtractive?**
    Both; system is intended to combine additive and subtractive manufacturing.
30. **Since this is ITAR topic, is DSP 5 license required while applying to the proposal for nationals working?**
    Deferred for clarification; likely subject to ITAR-related restrictions and approvals.
31. **Is it required to have AI integrate with the machine, process itself, live feedback, automatic corrections, et cetera, or just the AR system?**
    No direct control required, but AI should monitor processes and provide guidance.
32. **With machine data feedback be just from the operator looking at the control panel, or is it allowable to pull directly from the host?**
    Direct integration with the machine is allowed and preferred.
33. **Do you envision the AI having access to the CAD models for the parts? And if so, what format are they likely to be in?**
    Yes; formats may include STEP, SolidWorks, and Fusion 360 files.
34. **For the glasses, do they have to be fully manufactured in the US or parts can be from any country?**
    Preference for U.S.-based manufacturing, but exceptions may be possible.
35. **Will the R&D need to take into account any variables relating to extreme combat environments, or is it just for use that are base?**
    Yes; must consider harsh environments such as heat and humidity.
36. **How's TDP's management distribution handled for version control, access control, and cybersecurity across environments?**
    Not answered clearly; question was not fully understood in the discussion.
37. **Do you have a price target for a final phase three unit machine plus AR device plus AI computer plus software, et cetera?**
    No fixed price target; assumes existing machines are already in place, with costs focused on AR, AI hardware, and software.