

The modern battlespace requires power and energy to maintain our military advantage. This includes innovative power solutions for directed energy, electronic warfare, proliferated drones, and artificial intelligence at the tactical edge. We cannot expect to win if our most advanced capabilities remain tethered to a vulnerable logistical tail.

The Operational Energy Prototyping Fund (OEPF) addresses joint operational energy needs and requirements that enhance warfighter lethality and survivability in this modern battlespace. OEPF investments accelerate transition of critical power and energy enablers through an emphasis on purposeful demonstrations, testing, and validations of prototypes in operationally relevant environments. These events collect warfighter feedback, operational performance data, and focused analyses, supporting data-driven decision-making by acquisition, requirements, and programming senior leaders.

The OEPF is accepting proposals for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) until 30 June. This year's process is an open topic call intentionally structured to accelerate high-priority capabilities in close partnership with Service Energy Office (SEO) and Combatant Command (CCMD) representatives. Submissions are restricted to a maximum of \$5M of 6.4 RDT&E across a 12-18 month execution window.

Historically, the single most important discriminator for a successful OEPF proposal is the strength of its transition plan. To help you build highly competitive proposals this cycle, our evaluation board prioritizes the following two criteria:

- **Defining an Executable Transition Pathway:** Competitive proposals identify a committed acquisition partner and include a written endorsement from that PM or PEO. Furthermore, we prioritize proposals demonstrating a firm commitment through acquisition co-funding and verifiable out-year funding (e.g., an intent to POM that sits above the Service's funding cut line).
- **Enhancing Warfighter Lethality and Survivability:** Competitive proposals clearly frame a priority operational problem from a commander's perspective. The capability or technology demonstrates a clear and decisive advantage for the warfighter in the expeditionary environment.

Our goal is to deliver a lasting impact to the warfighter. I strongly encourage you to engage with your transition partners early and use this proposal process as your point of maximum leverage to secure their commitment.

Here are the critical dates:

Call for Proposals Released - 01 June 2026

Proposals Due in SAFiRE (<https://safire.cristl.gov.com/home>) - 30 June 2026

OERB Invitations Issued - 01 August 2026

Operational Energy Review Board (OERB) - 24 August 2026

Service, Joint Staff, OSW Final Inputs Due - 4 September 2026

Selection Announcement - 25 September 2026