



North Central Texas Council of Governments

**NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NORTH TEXAS PROVIDERS OF SERVICES TO UAM (PSUs) AND UNCREWED TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT (UTM) SERVICE PROVIDERS REGIONAL INTEGRATION PILOT
PROGRAM PHASE TWO**

“To enable residents and businesses to fly safely, by providing live data on areas of potential risk, advisories for local events or emergencies, and other flight planning features”

May 9, 2025

REVISED MAY 21, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is requesting written proposals from qualified firms(s) to provide a tool that will enable residents and businesses to fly safe and also inform the public of local drone operations by providing live data on areas of potential risk, advisories for local events or emergencies, and other flight planning features. ~~at no cost to NCTCOG.~~ Enabling residents and businesses to fly safe, by providing live data on areas of potential risk, advisories for local events or emergencies, and other flight planning features.

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

NCTCOG is a voluntary association of, by, and for local governments, and was established to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions.

Since 1974, NCTCOG has served as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metropolitan Area. NCTCOG's Transportation Department is responsible for regional transportation planning for all modes of transportation. The Department provides technical support and staff assistance to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and its technical committees, which compose the MPO policy-making structure. In addition, the Department provides technical assistance to the local transit providers of North Central Texas in planning, programming, coordinating, and implementing transportation decisions.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Phase One was issued on March 17, 2023, NCTCOG selected three firms as participants for the pilot program. Phase One sought firms to provide a tool that will keep residents and businesses informed on local drone operations by providing live data. Phase Two is necessary to continue activities of Phase One while also working to develop a process that will enable the sharing of data across all platforms. This will ensure that all airspace management platforms in the region will have as much flight and safety data as possible to be a viable solution.

To safely integrate Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and autonomous beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) small drone deliveries, the region will require the use of **Providers of Services for UAS** (PSUs) and/or UAS Traffic Management (UTM) Services. These services will be integral to not only increasing safety, executing flight plans, balancing airspace capacity, providing aircraft conflict resolutions, enhancing adherence to federal, state, and local regulations, and offering additional emergency services, but also on safely integrating into the activities of the FAA's UTM Key Site initiative.

There is also a need for competing providers to integrate cooperatively into a large metropolitan area to provide the highest degree of safety possible. Operating these platforms independently of each other leaves immeasurable gaps in regional safety, which needs to be mitigated—therefore, the focus of Phase Two.

Only participants selected in the Phase One pilot program are eligible to submit a proposal response and participate in Phase Two. This collaboration aims to enhance the sharing of critical data and incorporate local municipalities' event information effectively.

PROJECT SUPPORT

NCTCOG will provide the venue for the training workshops for regional municipalities and other additional users. The training will be conducted in coordination with NCTCOG and platform providers. Marketing materials will also be conducted by NCTCOG staff with coordination from the technology providers.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work is summarized below. Proposers are encouraged to exercise creativity in responding to the project needs.

Phase Two Overview: In the second phase of the pilot project, NCTCOG is committed to enhancing partnerships with existing technology vendors. Each vendor's proposal for services must adhere to a financial cap; no proposal should exceed a total cost of \$75,000. This budget constraint is essential for ensuring efficient resource allocation and fostering the development of a system that seamlessly integrates each vendor's data and advisories, along with effectively incorporating regional municipalities' data into a unified platform.

Centralized Data Management: To improve upon the workflow from Phase One, NCTCOG will assume the responsibility of inputting drone advisories, centralizing this task to enhance operational efficiency and responsiveness.

Continuation of Phase One Activities: Building on the foundational work with Aloft Geo, ATA Aviation North Texas FIX, and Airspace Link Airhub Portal and Flysafe, the project will deepen airspace awareness and data integration. This phase will focus on expanding data coverage, increasing the number of participating cities, and refining integration processes to establish a standardized operational framework.

Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement: Efforts will be broadened to include more diverse public and private stakeholders, supported by the North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies and university-assisted outreach. This initiative aims to expand the scope of engagement and foster a more inclusive stakeholder environment.

Development of a Unified Operating Dashboard: A significant aim for Phase Two is to develop a unified dashboard that integrates all platforms, providing comprehensive, real-time insights into airspace activities. This dashboard will be central to managing data flows and enhancing decision-making processes.

Support for FAA UTM Key Site Onramp: Phase Two will actively support the FAA UTM Key Site Onramp initiative, facilitating vendor collaboration to share essential airspace data effectively.

Key Deliverables:

- **Stakeholder Engagement Reports:** Documentation of all stakeholder interactions and feedback.
- **Data Asset Publication Reports:** Detailed accounts of the data management improvements and publications.
- **Marketing and Outreach Summary:** Insights into the outreach efforts' impact and effectiveness.
- **Annual Report:** A detailed summary of the Phase Two objectives, activities, outcomes, and future recommendations.

PARTNER CRITERIA

NCTCOG is looking for technology providers that can do the following:

1. Provide a browser-based visualization and monitoring of airspace above jurisdictional territory.
2. The ability to create and publish localized advisories for governmental, commercial, and recreational operators including ground-based rules and regulations and relevant real time advisories.
3. Create data sharing between platforms to ensure the operating picture between platforms.
4. Complement NCTCOG's region's existing UAS safety messaging.
5. Assist in keeping the community updated on rules, regulations, and potential hazards.
6. Provide a solution that will help NCTCOG communicate and connect with the community by embedding one or more live maps into our northtexasuas.com webpage.
7. Conduct an active process, led by NCTCOG to identify and add relevant local data assets to the platforms.
8. Identify additional real-time data and sensor feeds and provide a public feed for use by vendors and others (i.e., CASA, CAD systems, ADS-B sensors, Truweather and other weather data).
9. Create a standard set of interconnect agreements that vest data ownership in NCTCOG for the publicly owned data to simplify and streamline the process of system-to-system interconnection.
10. Exchange public advisory data between platforms by connecting server-level Application Programming Interfaces to keep common baseline public advisory data synchronized between the platforms.
11. Engage with Shared Airspace Project / Dallas UTM Key Site participants to understand what public data assets the Airspace Awareness project could bring that would be of benefit to the Key Site.
12. Develop a plan to support operational intent and constraint sharing with participants in the Shared Airspace Project / Dallas UTM Key Site via the Key Site DSS and ASTM 3548-21 interfaces.
13. Make initial data feeds available to Key Site DSS (as desired by the key site)
14. Seek additional grant funding to support expanded capabilities, including UTM and sensor integration.
15. Ability to participate in research with regional universities.

In your response to this RFP, please elaborate on any specific areas of the program where you may specialize. Indicate how your expertise and services can uniquely contribute to one or more aspects of the project, ensuring that your proposal reflects this specialization. This approach will help us understand how your solutions align with the overall goals of the program

PROJECT BUDGET

NCTCOG is allocating a total budget of \$400,000 to be used over a two-year period for Phase Two of the pilot. This funding will support selected vendor services and software, informed by the outcomes of the initial evaluation phase.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Proposers shall develop a schedule of tasks with completion deadlines and methodologies for the project. NCTCOG will select all the identified tasks or a subset of the tasks to be completed. NCTCOG and the selected firm will jointly determine a schedule for progress meetings in accordance with the final schedule for the scope of work. The timetable for completion of this project is 2 years from the date the consultant firm is authorized to proceed. NCTCOG anticipates the contract will begin September 2025.

CONSULTANT SELECTION CRITERIA

The Consultant Selection Committee (CSC) will review all proposals and select a consultant it considers qualified to undertake the project. The following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals:

1. Project Understanding	30 percent
2. Scope of Services	25 percent
3. Project Managers/Staff Qualifications	20 percent
4. Knowledge of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area	10 percent
5. Firm Qualifications/Consultant References	10 percent
6. Schedule	5 percent

If the CSC determines that interviews will be required before a final decision can be made, the interviews will take place via Microsoft TEAMS **the week of June 23, 2025**. Proposers should be willing and able to attend these interviews in person or via web conference, if necessary. Consultants who are invited to an interview will be notified by the close of business on **Friday June 20, 2025**, that an interview has been scheduled. Costs for developing the proposal and

costs attributed to interviews (and subsequent negotiations) are at the proposer's own expense and will not be reimbursed by NCTCOG.

CONTRACT AWARD

Following final negotiations of the work plan and costs satisfactory to NCTCOG, the consultant will be asked to execute a contract with NCTCOG. If applicable, a Notice to Proceed will be issued upon execution of the contract. NCTCOG reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to contract for any or all portions of the project with the selected consultant, or to hire multiple firms.

The successful responder(s) to this Request for Proposals is expected to provide qualified personnel to accomplish each portion of the work in this project. NCTCOG will maintain the right to request the removal of any personnel found, in its opinion, during the course of work on this project, to be unqualified to perform the work.

Proposers shall provide their preferred contract mechanism for NCTCOG to review as part of their proposal response.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions regarding the RFP shall be directed in writing by e-mail to TransRFPs@nctcog.org by the close of business on **May 16, 2025**. All questions and responses will be posted on the NCTCOG website at www.nctcog.org/rfp by the close of business on **May 21, 2025**. NCTCOG reserves the right to respond to inquiries as it deems necessary.

OVERALL PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

This RFP shall be used to accept, review, and score proposals based on the following schedule with the intent of awarding a License Agreement contract. The following represents the schedule of procurement activities leading to contract award:

Issue Request for Proposals	May 9, 2025
Last Day to Submit Questions	May 16, 2025
NCTCOG Q&A Posted to Website	May 21, 2025
Proposals Due & Proposal Public Opening	June 6, 2025
Consultant Selection Committee	week of June 16, 2025
Interviews (if needed)	week of June 23, 2025

NCTCOG Board Approval
Execute Contracts

August 28, 2025
September 2025

NCTCOG reserves the right to make changes to the above-mentioned schedule. All such changes shall be made by an amendment to the RFP and shall be posted on NCTCOG's website at www.nctcog.org/rfp. It is the responsibility of the consultant to frequently check this website for information concerning amendments to the RFP.

*Public opening of the proposals will be done via Microsoft Teams on **June 6, 2025 at**

5:05 p.m. A link to the Microsoft Teams meeting is below. Microsoft Teams is integrated with audio so you will only need to use the conference call number (below) if you are unable to access the Microsoft Teams App. The Teams App is available for download [HERE](#).

Microsoft Teams meeting – Public Opening of Proposals

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 246 058 800 949

Dial in by phone

[+1 903-508-4574](#)

Phone conference ID: 313 535 297#

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSERS

The Sample Contract provided with this Request for Proposals contains federal requirements which must be included with Proposals. The appendices contain compliance requirements and certification forms which must accompany the Proposals. **Failure to comply with the requirements may result in finding the proposal to be nonresponsive.**

Additional information is provided below:

1. Proposers may submit one hard copy or one flash drive of the proposal to Ernest Huffman, Program Manager, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011. Flash drives should contain one file preferably with indexed sections. Flash drives that are unreadable or contain corrupted files will be considered non-responsive. **Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 6, 2025.** Proposals received after that time will not be considered and will be returned to the proposer unopened. The in-hand submittal will count as the official submittal. In addition to the in-hand submittal, NCTCOG is requesting electronic submission of proposals to TransRFPs@nctcog.org. The electronic submittal only will **not** be evaluated.
2. The proposal should address the criteria identified in the Request for Proposals that will be used for consultant selection. Proposals should include, at a minimum, the following information.
 - **Proposal Formatting** – Proposals should be printed double-sided and include a footer containing consultant firm name, page number, and total pages in the proposal. (e.g., Planning firm 1 of 20).
 - **Cover Letter** – A brief summary of the key points of the proposal and approach to accomplishing the work. Name and address of the firm, as well as the contact person's name, phone number, and email address should also be included.
 - **Project Understanding** – A general description of the approach to be used in accomplishing the work, including the project organization and management plan. Senior personnel who will work on the project, including subcontractor personnel, should be identified by name and by role in the project; e.g., project manager, principal in charge, project advisor, etc. The project manager in particular must be specified and a clear indication given as to his/her involvement in the project. If more than one firm will be involved, the proposal should clearly delineate the work to be accomplished by each firm and how the work will be coordinated and managed. Any special requirements or coordination needs should be clearly identified.
 - **Scope of Services and Schedule** – This section should respond to the Request for Proposals task descriptions for the project by describing clearly in detail what and how work in each task will be accomplished, the technical methodology to be used, and the planned workflow and schedule. A description should be included concerning quality control and how this will be maintained and accomplished during the course of this project.

- **Consultant Qualifications** – This section should identify the background and experience of the consulting firm(s) and individuals in similar types of work and the results of that experience, along with up-to-date references (name, current affiliation, and phone number), should be included. Knowledge of the Dallas-Fort Worth area should be specifically indicated.
 - **Compliance Requirements** – The Sample Contract contains compliance requirements and other certification forms which must accompany the Proposal.
3. The NCTCOG Executive Board encourages the use of local firms. However, all proposals, regardless of firm locale, will be evaluated using the consultant selection criteria contained in the Request for Proposals.
 4. A consultant selection committee will review the proposals and select a firm it considers qualified to undertake the project. The selection of the proposal will be based on the technical proposal and/or interviews but will be subject to negotiation of conditions of cost satisfactory to NCTCOG. NCTCOG reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to contract for any or all portions of the project with the selected consultant.
 5. As part of the proposal, consultants should summarize the budget for the project on the excel form provided. The overall project budget should include the cost of personnel, fringe benefits, overhead supplies, printing, and travel. The budget shall detail out separately the tasks by prime and sub-consultant, and profit. If needed, additional tabs should be added for sub-consultants working on the project.
 6. The Texas Legislature has adopted House Bill 1295. In short, the law states a governmental entity or state agency may not enter into certain contracts with a business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties (Form 1295) to our agency at the time of a signed contract. As part of contract development, the consultant will be asked to complete the disclosure of interested parties electronically and submit through the Texas Ethics Commission website. NCTCOG will provide a specific contract number associated with the award for inclusion in the submittal. Once submitted, the consultant will be requested to return an e-mail confirmation of submittal to NCTCOG.

For more information about the process, please visit the following website for a Frequently Asked Questions:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/resources/FAQs/FAQ_Form1295.php

7. Procurement information shall be a public record to the extent provided by the Texas Open Records Act and the Freedom of Information Act and shall be available to the public as provided therein. If a proposal contains information that the proposer considers proprietary and does not want disclosed to the public or used for any purpose other than the evaluation of the offer, all such information must be indicated with the following suggested language:

The information contained on pages _____ shall not be duplicated, used in whole or in part, for any purpose other than to evaluate the proposal; provided that if a contract is awarded to this office as a result of or in connection with the submission of such

information, NCTCOG has the right to duplicate, use or disclose this information to the extent provided in the contract.

8. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Requirement

Pursuant to Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code, any person or agent of a person who contracts or seeks to contract for the sale or purchase of property, goods, or services with a local governmental entity (i.e. NCTCOG) must disclose in the Questionnaire Form CIQ ("Questionnaire") the person's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the local governmental entity. By law, the Questionnaire must be filed with NCTCOG no later than seven days after the date the person begins contract discussions or negotiations with the NCTCOG, or submits an application or response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence or another writing related to a potential agreement with the NCTCOG.

Updated Questionnaires must be filed in conformance with Chapter 176.

A copy of the Questionnaire Form CIQ is enclosed with the submittal documents. The form is also available at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/data/forms/conflict/CIQ.pdf>

If you have any questions about compliance, please consult your own legal counsel. Compliance is the individual responsibility of each person or agent of a person who is subject to the filing requirement. An offense under Chapter 176 is a Class C misdemeanor. If the consultant has no Conflict of Interest, please include the following statement: [insert firm name] has reviewed and confirmed there are no Conflicts of Interest for the prime or subconsultants with the North Central Texas Council of Governments or any associated local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A).