Presolicitation Notice to Industry
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Criminal Justice Information Services Division

Disclaimer*:*
THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OR QUOTE. IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SOLICITATION AND SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT. RESPONSES IN ANY FORM ARE NOT OFFERS AND THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO AWARD A CONTRACT AS A RESULT OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. NO FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAY FOR PREPARATION OF RESPONSES TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. ANY INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY RESPONDENTS TO THIS TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY.

Background:
Title 28 of United States Code section 534 authorizes the Attorney General to collect and preserve identification records and information for criminal justice purposes. The mission of the Federal Bureau Investigations (FBI)'s Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division is to equip the FBI and its partners with the criminal justice information, including biometrics, they need to crush violent crime and protect the homeland, while at the same time protecting civil liberties. Pursuant to applicable law and policy, the FBI is prohibited from conducting investigative activity based solely on the exercise of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and is prohibited from maintaining records describing the exercise of First Amendment rights unless pertinent to and within the scope of an authorized law enforcement activity.

The CJIS Division manages its Next Generation Identification (NGI) system which is one of the world's largest electronic repositories of biometric and criminal history information. The FBI continually looks for new scientific and technological advancements to increase the effectiveness of its identification and investigative capabilities. One method the FBI uses to stay apprised of advancements within the biometrics industry is partnering with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to evaluate performance of biometric technology. This is accomplished through the various NIST biometric vendor testing platforms, which provide industry with the ability to bring their automated matching technology to NIST to have it independently tested for accuracy and performance. NIST then openly publishes their test results for consumption by the vendor community, users of this technology, and other various interested parties.

Purpose
The FBI is issuing this Pre-Solicitation Notice to provide advance notification to industry regarding an anticipated Request for Proposals (RFP) expected to be released in or around February 2027 for biometric algorithm capabilities. This notice is intended to allow potential offerors adequate time to prepare their algorithm performance in anticipation of the forthcoming solicitation.

Anticipated Requirement
The anticipated acquisition is seeking biometric algorithm capabilities supporting one or more biometric modalities. Specific requirements will be detailed in the forthcoming RFP. Offerors shall anticipate the need to demonstrate algorithm performance through independent testing and evaluation conducted by NIST.

Industry Preparation
The Government anticipates requiring performance results from testing conducted by NIST. Interested vendors are encouraged to initiate algorithm preparations for submission to NIST in advance of the RFP release.

Vendors should be prepared to:

- Submit algorithms for NIST testing (if desired), any time between now and the deadline required by the solicitation;
- Provide NIST test results for the specific algorithm version being proposed as required by the solicitation.
- Have their testing results made public by NIST in accordance with standard NIST policies and procedures.

Modalities

The anticipated solicitation will include evaluation of algorithms supporting one or more of the following biometric modalities: Fingerprint, Latent, Face, Iris, and Tattoo.

Proposal Readiness
Prospective offerors are strongly encouraged to assess their current testing status and, where necessary, make updates to prepare for participation in the NIST Testing sufficiently in advance of the anticipated February 2027 solicitation release.

NOTE: Response to this pre-solicitation notice is not required.