Drug Treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury (DTTBI)

The Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) is excited to post this announcement for a Request for Project Information (RPI) focused on Drug Treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury (DTTBI) – to rapidly advance the development of TBI drug candidate prototypes, through focused Phase 2 clinical trial testing, to produce a TBI drug that has been fully characterized and ready for Phase 3 trial. The end goal of DTTBI is a commercial TBI drug product that is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat moderate – severe TBI. This RPI contains background material and guidance for the preparation of Project Information Papers to MTEC. Project Information Papers will be reviewed by the Sponsor and used in a manner that shapes a future MTEC solicitation that requests full project proposals (RPP). The results of the Project Information Paper submissions will serve as a means to assess the TBI drug development clinical landscape, identify assumptions, scope of the project, and clarify the proposal effort that will follow.

MTEC:
The MTEC mission is to assist the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) by providing cutting-edge technologies and effective materiel life cycle management to transition medical solutions to industry that protect, treat, and optimize Warfighters’ health and performance across the full spectrum of military operations. MTEC is a biomedical technology consortium collaborating with multiple government agencies under a 10-year renewable Other Transaction Agreement (OTA), Agreement No. W81XWH-15-9-0001, with the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA). MTEC is currently recruiting a broad and diverse membership that includes representatives from large businesses, small businesses, “non-traditional” government contractors, academic research institutions and not-for-profit organizations.

Technical Background:
Treating TBI remains one of the top priorities for the Department of Defense (DOD). The DOD and the military services require solutions to fill the capability gap to treat moderate – severe TBI as close to point of injury as possible to reduce brain damage. The current standard of care for TBI remains supportive in nature, based on management of symptoms, with no drug therapies that address the brain damage, resulting in increased long-term mortality and reduced life expectancy. Estimated economic costs of care for TBI in the U.S. are >$75B per year according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Therefore, it is important to develop a therapy that will decrease lost duty time and mitigate the life-long disability and rehabilitation costs associated with moderate - severe TBI.
Despite numerous clinical trials on potential therapies, there are currently no drugs approved by the FDA for the treatment of TBI. The lack of success of clinical trials for TBI is complex and includes the need for optimization of therapeutic dosing, poor patient stratification, lack of biomarkers for mechanism of action, and inadequate data to inform confirmatory Phase 3 clinical trials.

**Overall Program Objective:**
The outcome from the DTTBI MTEC award is a TBI drug prototype candidate(s) for moderate – severe TBI that has been fully characterized, successful in TBI outcomes in Phase 2 trial(s) and has the best chance for success in a Phase 3 trial. The end goal of DTTBI is a commercial drug product that is approved by the FDA to treat moderate – severe TBI. The Government seeks an established and experienced TBI Clinical Consortium to enable the rapid development and clinical testing of TBI drug candidate prototypes currently in FDA-regulated clinical development. It is the Government’s expectation that the TBI Clinical Consortium shall design and execute focused Phase 2 clinical trials on multiple TBI drug candidate prototypes (moderate – severe indication, already in or completed Phase 1 - 3 clinical trials), to enhance the Phase 2 data set and reduce the overall risk of future investment into a Phase 3 clinical trial. The TBI Clinical Consortium shall be led by a centralized point of contact (at the prime contracting organization) that integrates multiple partners with a Government Steering Committee (GSC) in a comprehensive TBI drug development strategy.

*Through this program, the DOD aims to establish a contractual relationship with a competent and experienced TBI clinical trial consortium, and fund the evaluation of specific drug candidates in multiple Phase 2a/2b clinical trials that are jointly selected between the TBI clinical trial consortium management, associated subject matter experts, and the military (GSC). The selected Phase 2 clinical trials would be conducted by the TBI clinical trial consortium, and funded by the DOD (potentially in collaboration with non-DoD sources of funding). The desired end goal is to demonstrate efficacy in the Phase 2 clinical trials with at least one candidate drug and recommend its continued development toward FDA regulatory clearance.*

**Requirements of the Project Information Paper:**
The intent of this RPI is to serve as a means to assess the TBI drug development clinical landscape, identify assumptions, scope of the project, and clarify the forthcoming formal MTEC RPP. Project Information Papers should help the Sponsor understand the Offerors’ proposed solutions, existing capabilities within the TBI field, open discussion for feedback, and bring forward critical questions.

- 5 page limit
- 11 point (or larger) font, smaller font may be used in figures and tables, but must be clearly legible
- Single-spaced, single-sided, 8.5 inches x 11 inches.
- Margins on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right) should be at least 1 inch
- Date of Submission
-Submitter’s name, institution, email address, and phone number
- Indicate if your organization is a member of MTEC at the time of submission
• Project Information Papers should focus on the requirements and information requested below and Offerors are encouraged to bring partnerships to their solution to meet as many requirements as their expertise allows:

  o We are seeking a TBI Clinical Consortium that provides existing clinical trial centers with a proven history of TBI patient recruitment, clinical trial data management, FDA regulatory compliance, integrated Contract Resource Organization, and infrastructure already in place with no funding needed for standup. The forthcoming RPP for DTTBI will not be focused on the establishment or formation of a new TBI Clinical Consortium, but rather intends to utilize a well-functioning Clinical Consortium already in existence. Through this RPI, identify the current capabilities of the TBI Clinical Consortium that you are part of and describe your role and expertise within this consortium in selection, conduct, and management of such clinical trials;

  o Describe and defend the experience of the team of TBI subject matters experts, specifically how their skills and expertise directly inform TBI clinical trial design (adaptive or other methods), provide strategy and/or describe any current partnerships that maximize funding dollars (via agreement structure, cost sharing with industry or other partners) for TBI clinical trials and how these reduce risk for stakeholders;

  o Describe evaluation criteria (cost, schedule, feasibility, clinical data analysis, etc.) for TBI drug selection, analyze and defend for proposed TBI drug candidate prototypes for development and testing;

  o Describe the means/solution to produce a TBI drug that will be fully characterized and ready for Phase 3 clinical trials, describe the strategy and execution of standardized, exploratory and adaptive Phase 2 clinical trials on TBI drug candidates, touch points required with the GSC, describe indicators for trial progress and methods for reducing risks in TBI clinical trials

  o Describe and defend adaptive clinical trial design concepts for TBI drug candidates including methods for interim subgroup analysis and population enrichment, provide, describe and defend the elements and methods of the statistical plan;

  o Describe the criteria for moving promising TBI drug therapy prototype(s) into further study, and describe criteria for down select to Phase 2b or Phase 3 clinical trials;

  o Describe strategy and ability to manage relationships among partners including non-disclosure agreements, intellectual property rights, data sharing, and regulatory sponsorship; and/or

  o Describe evaluation criteria and strategy for TBI drug manufacturing timeline and costs, methods to ensure Good Manufacturing Processes, product quality assurance and testing, industry partner capabilities for manufacturing initial lots for clinical trial testing, as well as viability of long term manufacturing and sustainment.

  o Though the forthcoming RPP will be focused on adapting the TBI Clinical Consortium for the purposes of the program described herein, the military is very interested in expanding their own knowledge of potential candidate drugs. Identify any lead candidate TBI drugs that could be evaluated by the
TBI Clinical Consortium in a Phase 2 Clinical Trial. Provide pertinent preliminary data regarding your proposed drug, evidence that it is ready for Phase 2 clinical trials, and confirm your interest in having the proposed drug evaluated in a Phase 2 clinical trial by the TBI Clinical Consortium.

- This program is focused on evaluating prototypes that are fairly advanced. While not a requirement, Offerors are strongly encouraged to discuss the ability to bring leveraged funding/cost share to complete the project goals.

- Though the military believes that this planned project of using an already established TBI Clinical Consortium is sound, there may be risks and cautions that should be identified and explained prior to launching such a program. In your Project Information Paper, highlight potential risks that entities have already uncovered or open questions that should be addressed prior to the start of this formal solicitation and execution process. If there are questions of the feasibility of such an action, please address within your white paper any such concerns.

**Follow-Up:**
The submitted Project Information Papers may generate questions by the military about capabilities or risks that may be identified in your papers. Since this request is strictly for information purposes and is not leading directly to selection and award, the military reserves the right to reach out and contact submitters of Project Information Papers to garner additional information as deemed necessary. This RPI is strictly focused on gathering sufficient information to provide a feasible solicitation in the near future, and the project information papers and potential follow-up discussion will be used to refine the forthcoming RPP.

**Financial Framework:**
The DTTBI MTEC award has a Milestone and Deliverable dependent incremental funding structure, with a total of approximately $25M over the next five years. The initial phase of award Deliverables shall incorporate GSC input, address all requirements listed above, and focus on TBI candidate drug selection, protocol development, and Institutional Review Board approval. Upon successful completion of initial Deliverables, Phase 2 clinical trials may begin at the discretion of the GSC. Critical knowledge points, interim analysis shall be delivered to the GCS for evaluation and approval of all Deliverables throughout the course of the award. Any potential follow-on funding may be negotiated based on industry partnerships, FDA feedback, cost sharing, partner matching, and cost/price for further clinical trial testing.

**Administrative Information:**
Project Information Papers are **due no later than December 11, 2017 at noon Eastern Time** using the submission form located here: [https://secure.ati.org/mtec/mtec-rpi.html](https://secure.ati.org/mtec/mtec-rpi.html). This RPI will be posted to the MTEC website ([www.mtec-sc.org](http://www.mtec-sc.org)) and a notice will be posted on FedBizOpps ([www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov)) to notify interested parties. **MTEC membership is NOT required for the submission of a Project Information Paper in response to this MTEC RPI.** In coordination with MTEC, the Government reserves the right to interact directly with Offerors who submit Project Information Papers in response to this RPI.
The request for full proposals through the MTEC RPP for DTTBI is anticipated to be released in early Quarter 1 of 2018. Please note that MTEC membership is required for the submission of a full proposal in response to a future MTEC RPP for DTTBI. To join MTEC, please visit [http://mtec-sc.org/how-to-join/](http://mtec-sc.org/how-to-join/)

If you already submitted a response to the MTEC’s Multi-Topic RPP that satisfies the information requested in this RPI, then you do NOT need to resubmit here.

For inquiries regarding this announcement, please direct your correspondence to the following contacts:

- **Technical questions**
  Dr. Lauren Palestrini, MTEC Director of Research, [Lauren.Palestrini@officer.mtec-sc.org](mailto:Lauren.Palestrini@officer.mtec-sc.org)

- **Administrative questions**
  Ms. Kathy Zolman, MTEC Program Manager, [Kathy.zolman@ati.org](mailto:Kathy.zolman@ati.org)

- **Membership questions**
  Ms. Stacey Lindbergh, MTEC Executive Director, [execdirect@mtec-sc.org](mailto:execdirect@mtec-sc.org)