Naval Energetic Systems and Technologies Program (NEST) Other Transaction Agreement

Written By: Christopher Wilhelm, PhD
Presented By: Gregory Longworth
Presented On: 31 October 2022

NEST Program Overview

- **Other Transaction Agreement (OTA)**

  Established using 10 USC § 2371b "Authority of the Department of Defense to carry out certain prototype projects"

  Base Agreement signed on March 5, 2021

- **Advanced Technologies International (ATI)**

  Base Agreement established with ATI as the Consortium Management Firm

  Several decades of Consortium Management experience

- **National Armaments Consortium (NAC)**

  920+ consortium members, most with energetics experience

  Several decades of experience with OTAs

  Open to industry and academia

- **Collaboration**

  The NEST OTA is collaboration between the DoD, ATI, and the NAC's members to provide innovation technology solutions to address security threats in the surface, subsurface, air, ground, littoral and expeditionary environments

What is an Other Transaction Agreement?

- OT authorities were created to give DoD the flexibility necessary to adopt and incorporate business practices that reflect commercial industry standards and best practices into its award instruments

- OTs provide the government with access to state-of-the-art technology solutions from traditional and non-traditional defense contractors (NDCs), through a multitude of potential teaming arrangements tailored to the particular project and the needs of the participants

- OTs can help:

  - Foster new relationships and practices involving traditional and NDCs

  - Broaden the industrial base available to Government

  - Support dual-use projects

  - Encourage flexible, quicker, and cheaper project design and execution

  - Leverage commercial industry investment in technology development and partner with industry to ensure DoD requirements are incorporated into future technologies and products

  - Collaborate in innovative arrangements

- OTs are NOT:

  - FAR-based procurement contracts

  - Grants

  - Cooperative Agreements

  - Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs)

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What is a Prototype?

- A "prototype project" addresses a proof of concept, model, reverse engineering to address obsolescence, pilot, novel application of commercial technologies for defense purposes, agile development activity, creation, design, development, demonstration of technical or operational utility, or combinations of the foregoing. A prototype may be physical, virtual or conceptual in nature. A process, including a business process, may be the subject of a prototype project.

- Although assistance terms are generally not appropriate in OT agreements, ancillary work efforts that are necessary for completion of the prototype project, such as test site training or limited logistics support, may be included in prototype projects. A prototype project may be fully funded by DoD, jointly funded by multiple federal agencies, cost-shared, funded in whole or part by third parties, or involve a mutual commitment of resources other than an exchange of funds.

- A prototype project should be directly relevant to enhancing the mission effectiveness of military personnel and the supporting platforms, systems, components or materials proposed to be acquired or developed by the DoD, or to improvement of platforms, systems, components or materials in use by the armed forces. In this context, the phrase "directly relevant" focuses on the agency determination of the direct relationship of the prototype project (as opposed to a tangential association) with the DoD mission.

- Both dual-use and defense specific projects are encouraged for prototype projects.

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NEST Structure

- **Enhanced Whitepaper (Recommended)**

  Detailed whitepaper with ROM and SOW

  Full Cost Proposal only if selected for award

- **Semi-annual solicitation using the Enhanced Whitepaper Process**

  Three formal solicitations annually

  Streamlined and proven process that the members understand

  Reduced B&P for industry, lower barriers for small, nontraditional defense contractors

- **Remain open to Ad Hoc solicitations**

  Responsive to more urgent or specific needs from government customers

  Can be a faster process for more pressing needs

- **All proposals either placed in basket or rejected when feedback is released to industry**

  Award selection happens from the basket (36 month validity from proposal submission)

More Information About NEST

SITE PROMOTION

- Blast emails with links
- Social media notifications with links
- Promotion of site at conferences
- Searches
- Blogs and articles

SITE ATTRIBUTES

- Segmented into private and public sites
- Search Engine Optimization
- Section 508 compliant
- Fully responsive to various devices

Public Calendar   Members Only Calendar   Documents Library   Announcement of RPPs   Awards and Project Status   How to Participate

- **Public Webpage URL: www.NSWCIHDNEST.org**
- **BIDS Webpage URL: https://ati.acqcenter.com/NEST/BIDS.NSF/**

Timeline

WP Submission Window: 3-4 weeks

CMF Screening: 1 day

Technical Evaluations: 2 weeks

TAM Consensus/Competitive Evaluation: 2 weeks

Acquisition Review: 2 weeks
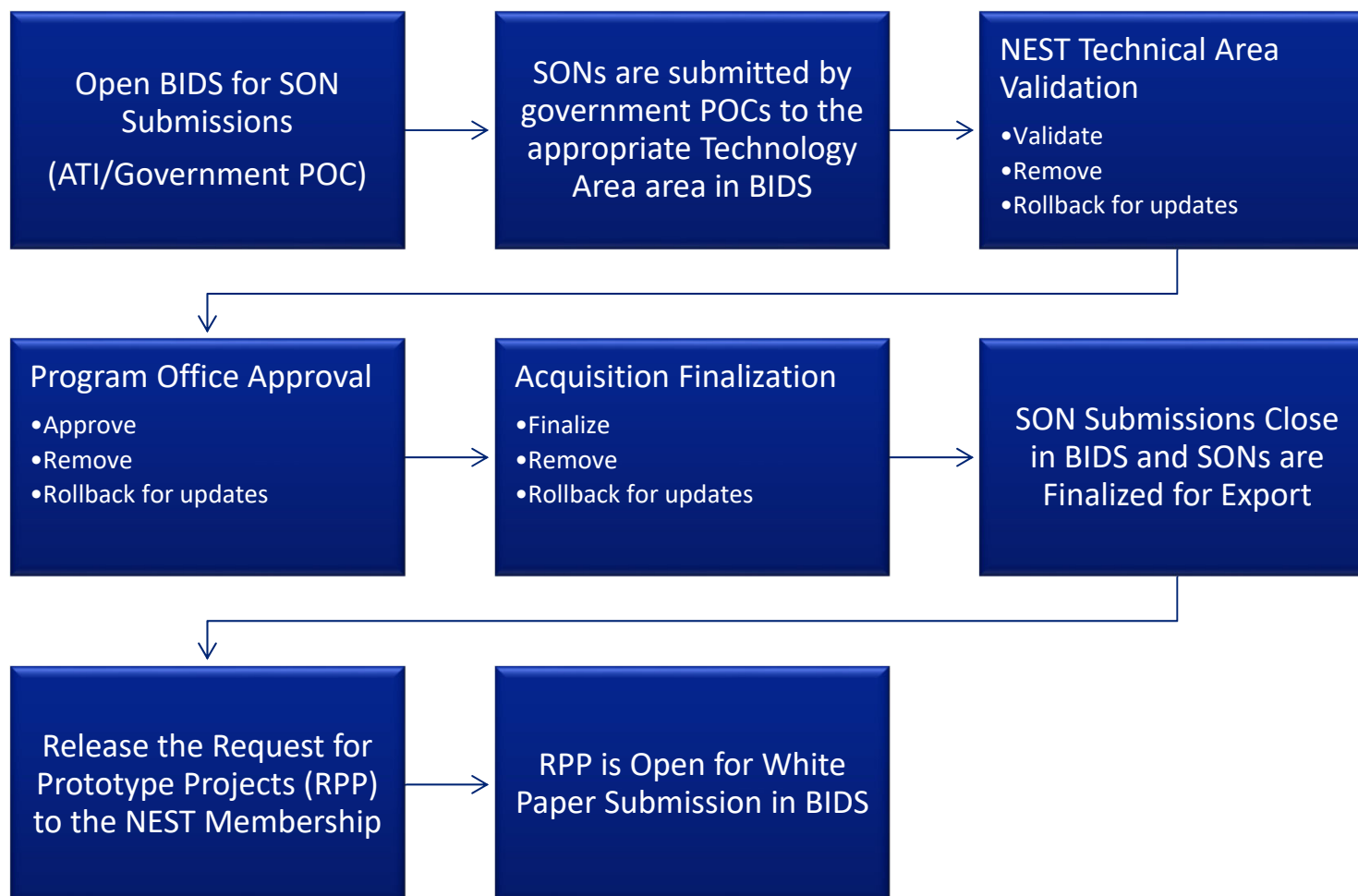
NEST Technology Areas

1. Energetics (ENR)
2. Energetics Manufacturing (ENRM)
3. Energetic Systems (ENRS)
4. Energetics and Energetic Systems Modelling (EESM)
5. Modelling Software and Coding (MSC)
6. Artillery Systems, including Naval Gun Systems (ART)
7. Ammunition and Guns Ammunition (AGA)
8. Propellants (PLS)
9. Propulsion Systems (PPS)
10. Warheads (WHD)
11. Ordnance Disassembly and Related Technologies (ODRT)
12. IED Detection, Defeat, and Exploitation (IED)
13. Fuzing and Safe and Arm Systems (FSA)
14. Counter Unmanned Systems (CUxS)
15. Micro Electrical Mechanical Systems (MEMS)
16. Underwater Energetic Technologies (UET)
17. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)
18. EOD Robotic Systems (EODR)
19. EOD Systems and Tools (EODS)
20. Electromagnetic Radiation, Signals, Signal Processing, and Signal Capture (EMRS)
21. Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN)
22. Packaging, Handling, Storage, and Transportation (PHST)

NEST Statement Of Need

- The Statement of Need (SON) Requirement collection is intended to define the Government's needs that fall within the 22 Technology Areas of NEST.

- SON Requirements must be a prototype project that includes innovative technologies and/or prototype processes that may benefit the DoD. They should solicit prototype solutions that improve performance, capability, and/or addresses technology gaps pertinent to Naval Surface Warfare advances.

- The final Request for Prototypes will be distributed to the NEST members as part of the NEST Request for Prototypes.

NEST SON Process

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┌────────────────────────┐     ┌────────────────────────┐     ┌────────────────────────┐
│  Open BIDS for SON     │     │  SONs are submitted by │     │  NEST Technical Area   │
│  Submissions           │ ──→ │  government POCs to the│ ──→ │  Validation            │
│                        │     │  appropriate Technology│     │  •Validate             │
│  (ATI/Government POC)   │     │  Area area in BIDS     │     │  •Remove               │
│                        │     │                        │     │  •Rollback for updates │
└────────────────────────┘     └────────────────────────┘     └────────────────────────┘

┌────────────────────────┐     ┌────────────────────────┐     ┌────────────────────────┐
│  Program Office Approval│     │  Acquisition Finalization│   │  SON Submissions Close │
│  •Approve              │     │  •Finalize             │     │  in BIDS and SONs are  │
│  •Remove               │ ──→ │  •Remove               │ ──→ │  Finalized for Export  │
│  •Rollback for updates  │     │  •Rollback for updates │     │                        │
└────────────────────────┘     └────────────────────────┘     └────────────────────────┘

┌────────────────────────┐     ┌────────────────────────┐
│  Release the Request for│     │  RPP is Open for White │
│  Prototype Projects (RPP)│ ─→ │  Paper Submission in BIDS│
│  to the NEST Membership │     │                        │
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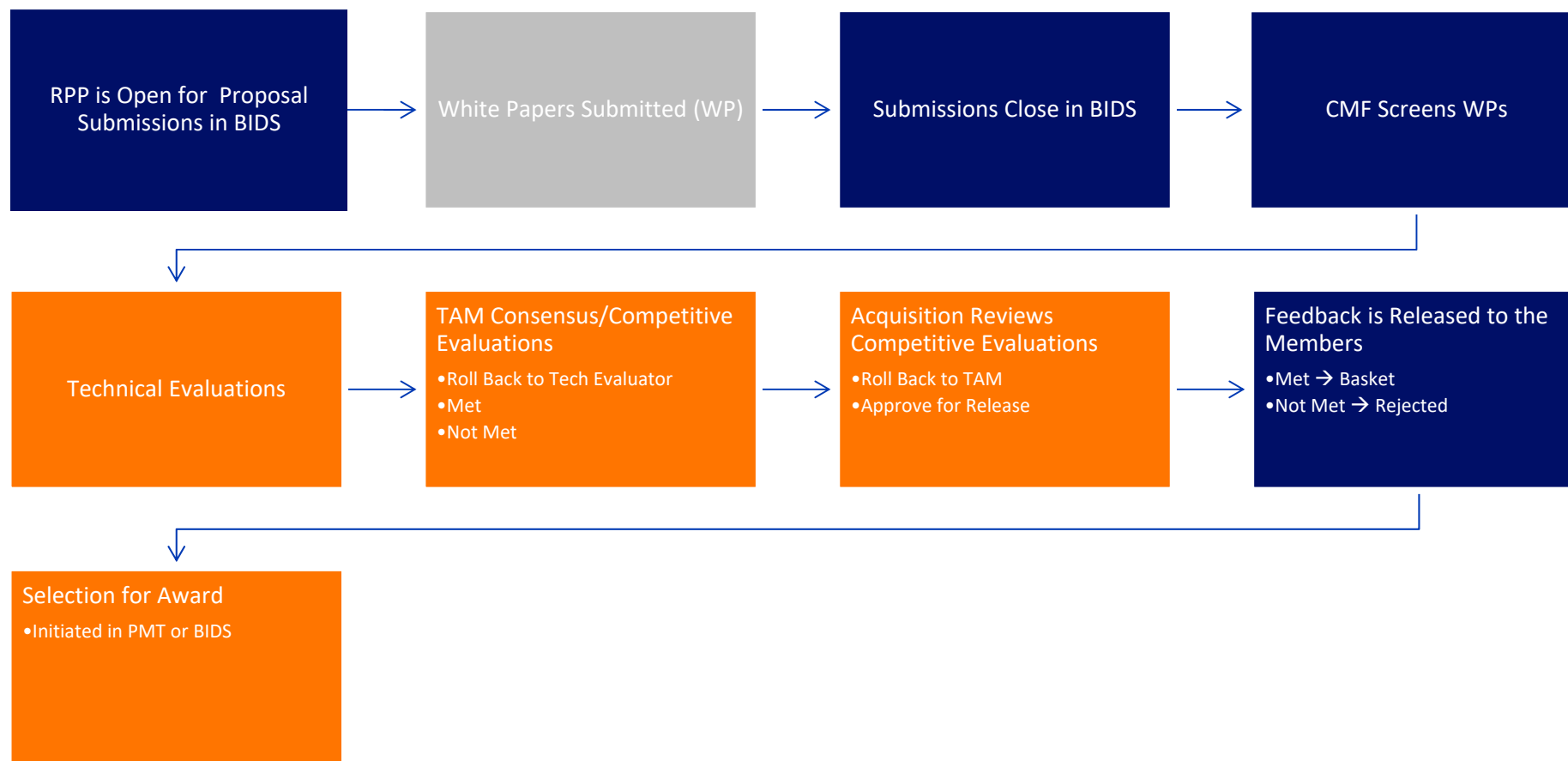
What Happens Next?

- Once the SON is submitted in BIDS, the NEST Technology Area Managers, Program Office and Acquisition will review submitted SON requirements to ensure they meet the requirements of the NEST OTA.

- Once finalized and approved the final SON document will be released with the Request for Prototypes to the consortium members.

- Draft SONs will be made available to Consortium Members prior to "release" to allow for maximum collaboration.

NEST Evaluation Process

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RPP is Open for Proposal        White Papers Submitted (WP)   →   Submissions Close in BIDS   →   CMF Screens WPs
Submissions in BIDS
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RPP is Open for Proposal Submissions in BIDS → **White Papers Submitted (WP)** → **Submissions Close in BIDS** → **CMF Screens WPs**

Technical Evaluations →

TAM Consensus/Competitive Evaluations
- Roll Back to Tech Evaluator
- Met
- Not Met

→ **Acquisition Reviews Competitive Evaluations**
- Roll Back to TAM
- Approve for Release

→ **Feedback is Released to the Members**
- Met → Basket
- Not Met → Rejected

Selection for Award
- Initiated in PMT or BIDS

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Useful NEST Information

- Open communication/collaboration a must

  Government informed about industry state-of-the-art, IRAD, emerging trends

  Industry understands government challenges and goals, maps capabilities and investments accordingly

- "The Basket"

  Allows the government to hold approved but unfunded projects until funding becomes available, up to three years.

  Sponsors can award OTA prototype projects expeditiously and at a lower administrative cost because basket projects can be placed on contract quickly without recompeting the project.

  The basket also provides previously competed solutions to other government sponsors with similar needs.

- Early engagement with CMF and Consortium leadership during the awards process can solve issues before they cause significant delays

- ATI's cost analysis support shortens the time to award

NEST Program Office
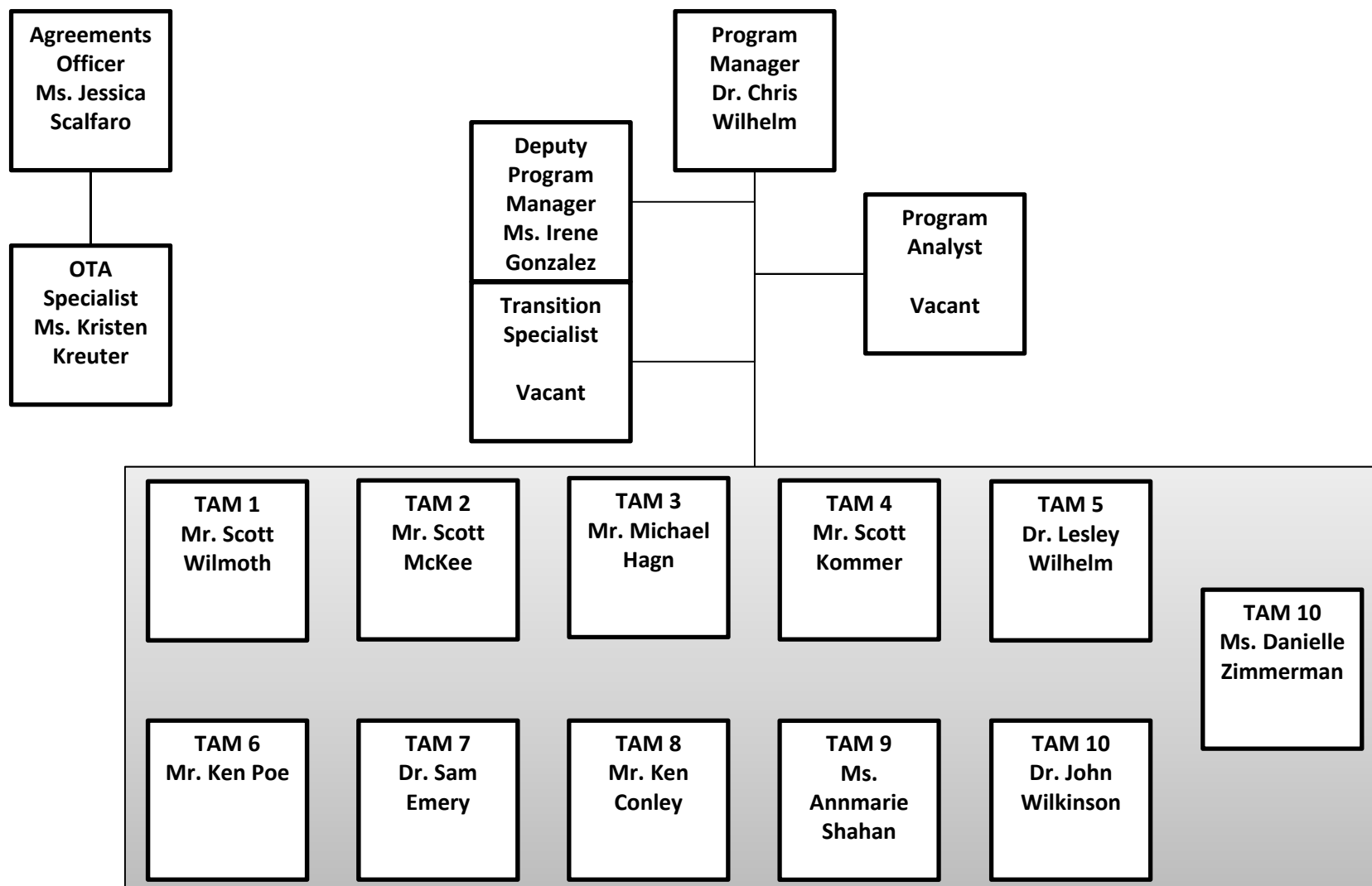
NEST Contacts

NEST Program Director

Dr. Christopher Wilhelm, christopher.wilhelm@navy.mil, 301-744-6489

NEST Deputy Program Director

Ms. Irene Gonzalez, irene.n.gonzalez@navy.mil, 973-724-8931

NEST Agreements Officer

Ms. Jessica Scalfaro, jessica.scalfaro@navy.mil, 301-744-6614