



# REMOTE BREACHING OF OBSTACLES

## THE PROBLEM

Current breaching operations — tasks performed by Army forces to advance through enemy-emplaced obstacles — are incredibly dangerous. These operations require numerous steps, many of which necessitate Soldiers' being at the point of breach, risking lives and threatening mission accomplishment.

Soldiers maneuver large, slow formations through minefields to detect and breach obstacles. They'll first launch explosive line charges to detonate mines in the breaching area. Deeply buried mines often don't detonate during this step. The breaching units then plow the field to clear leftover mines and manually mark "safe zones" through which personnel and equipment can pass. Other obstacles Soldiers must breach include anti-tank ditches, physical barriers, concertina wire, and many more. All the while, enemy forces reinforce these obstacles with direct and indirect fires, and threaten these efforts with counterattacks.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

This is a Phase I SPARTN SBIR opportunity using our cohort program. The objective of Phase I is to establish the technical merit, feasibility, and commercial potential of the proposed effort, and to determine the quality of performance of the awarded companies prior to providing further support in Phase II. Final deliverables will be a concept design presentation, optional proof of technology demonstration, and plans for follow-on Phase II work.

As many as six businesses will be selected to receive up to \$200,000 each for a 12-week period of performance.

Solutions should contribute to at least one of the following breaching efforts, including but not limited to:

- Detect mines or other subsurface, explosive hazards and mark or communicate their locations
- Detect obstacles and mark or communicate their locations
- Neutralize mines, explosive hazards, and physical barriers via explosive, mechanical, kinetic, electromagnetic, directed energy, or other means
- Verify obstacle neutralization prior to vehicular or personnel traffic in the breach lane
- Mark the breach lane to guide safe passage of vehicular or personnel traffic
- Command and control the breaching operation remotely

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

Open: Oct 24 | Close: Nov 14 at 11:00am CT

[Learn more at aal.army](https://aal.army.mil)

**THE ARMY NEEDS TECHNOLOGY  
SOLUTIONS THAT REMOTELY BREACH  
OBSTACLES TO INCREASE SOLDIER SAFETY.**

# THE SPARTN PROGRAM

Special Program Awards for Required Technology Needs (SPARTN) blends government and industry best practices to introduce a new whole-of-Army, collaborative approach to solution innovation. The result is a way to solve Army problems faster and to accelerate the process by which successful technology is purchased by the Army.

All topics released through SPARTN feature challenging and important problem statements from problem owners across the Army. These represent some of our biggest challenges and the ones we want to work closely with industry to solve.



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## WHAT MAKES SPARTN DIFFERENT?

- Problems released through SPARTN are tied to the Army's critical needs and other focused modernization efforts
- Faster contracting speed, with businesses typically notified of award 4x faster than the conventional SBIR process
- Potential for millions in total value of follow-on contracts to build a concept or prototype related to the specific problems
- Acquisition teams included early on, with the goal of easing transition and building new tech into recurring Army budgets
- Potential for future high-value contracts by combining SBIR or other government funds, and private investment you secure

To learn more about SPARTN or how to apply for SPARTN topic, visit [aal.army/SPARTN](https://aal.army/SPARTN).

## SPARTN Phases Explained.

The objective of Phase I is to establish the technical merit, feasibility, and commercial potential of the proposed effort, and to determine the quality of performance of the awarded companies prior to providing further support in Phase II. Final deliverables will be a concept design presentation, optional proof of technology demonstration, and plans for follow-on Phase II work.

In Phase II, companies are selected for a period of performance to advance their technology into a working prototype with higher federal funding and, on certain projects, matched funds from private investment. Companies receive technical and programmatic feedback from Soldiers, DoD scientists and engineers. Senior leadership provides guidance on how to move forward.

To make it to Phase III, companies must receive Program Executive Office (PEO) endorsement. Selected companies are then given more funding and the opportunity to continue developing their technology with the goal of transitioning it to an Army program of record.

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## AAL COHORT MODEL

Our cohort program brings together companies that may not typically work with the DoD and focuses them on solving a specific Army problem. They work side by side with Soldiers, a community of Army experts, and other stakeholders on a shared learning journey. While joining a cohort isn't required, it can provide a deeper level of insight to help refine your solution.

### A Different Kind of Cohort

- + 12-week hybrid program with virtual and in-person activities
- + Each cohort focuses on solving a specific SPARTN problem
- + Increased contact with key Army stakeholders and Soldiers
- + Visits to military installations where you can see the problem firsthand

Visit [aal.army/cohortprogram](https://aal.army/cohortprogram) to learn more about the AAL cohort program and the benefits of participating.

