

## Abstract

Our research seeks to identify and remove industrial security process obstacles that dissuade non-traditional vendor participation and engagement within the Department of Defense for classified projects. A convoluted process, disaggregated resources, outdated policy, governmental-specific jargon, and a too-common tendency for smaller companies to work for larger prime contractors all reduce small businesses' desire to produce on the government's behalf.

The outcomes of this research provided a three-tiered solution consisting of process, technical, and policy recommendations that streamline the application and provide a simple-to-understand framework for small business industrial clearance application and approval that fosters a more inclusive and diversified industrial base in support of national defense.

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**NPS INNOVATION PIPELINE**

CURATE → IDEATE → PROTOTYPE → EXPERIMENT → TRANSITION

WARFARE INNOVATION CONTINUUM  
NAVAL INNOVATION EXCHANGE TEAMS  
FIELD EXPERIMENTATION (JIFX)  
INNOVATION CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Transition capabilities for the warfighter

**DDM**  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MANAGEMENT  
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

**Innovation Capstone Project**  
Fulfills the academic thesis or capstone research requirements for NPS graduation with inter-department agreement

- ★ Learn core concepts of innovation and solve real defense acquisition problems
- ★ Interact directly with problem sponsors and beneficiaries to explore problems and solutions
- ★ Connect across campus and with industry to develop and transition minimum viable products in 3 quarters

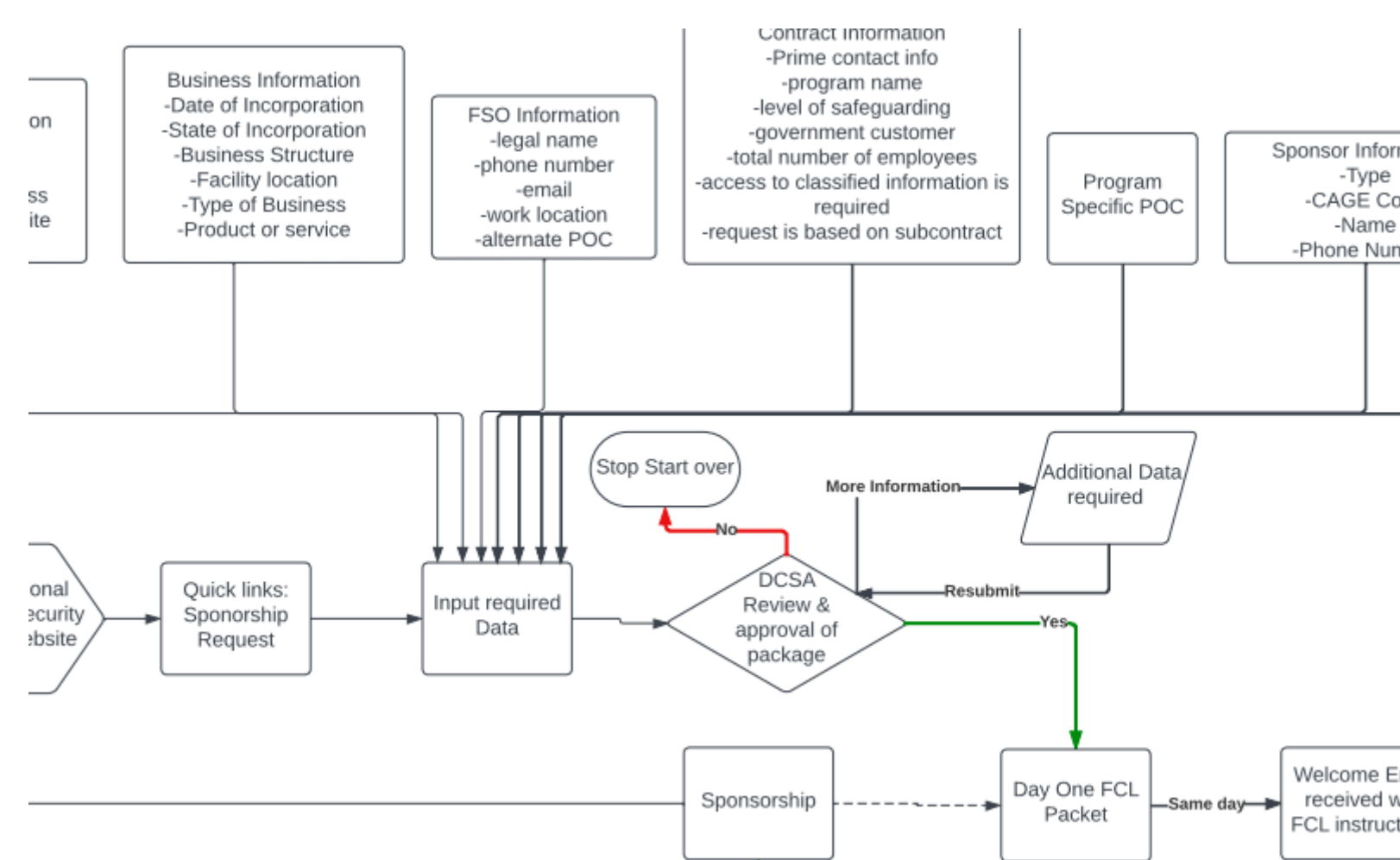
Supports: Innovation focused education, Student-led innovation teams, Mentor supported problem discovery, Iterative Value Proposition solutions, Prototypes & Minimum Viable Products

## Recommendations

### Technical



### Process



### Policy

1. Provide greater funding for DIU and DCSA
2. Utilizing Interim FCL
3. Follow the DARPA Bridges model for providing start-up funds to qualified companies

