



Request for Proposal

For: Drone as First Responder

Event	Date	Time
Questions and/or Request for Clarification Due Date	6/12/2026	5:00 PM
Answers and/Clarifications	6/29/2026	5:00 PM
Mandatory/Optional Site Visit	N/A	N/A
Proposal Submission Date	7/13/2026	2:00 PM

Dates are subject to change. All changes will be reflected in Addenda to the Request for Proposal (RFP) posted on the New Jersey Department of Corrections website.

<https://njdoc.gov/pages/grants.html>

RFP Issued By:

State of New Jersey
Department of Corrections
Special Operations Group
PO Box 863
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Date: 05/19/2026

1 Purpose and Intent

The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) is seeking to implement a pilot program to test and evaluate drone technology as a first responder solution, with the potential for future purchase and statewide implementation. The NJDOC Special Operations Group (SOG) plans to conduct the pilot program at two (2) NJDOC facilities: South Woods State Prison (SWSP) located in Bridgeton, NJ and Bayside State Prison (BSP) located in Leesburg, NJ.

The pilot program will provide the NJDOC with the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of drone operations in varying correctional environments and determine the operational benefits of integrating this technology into daily security functions. Additionally, the evaluation will allow the NJDOC to analyze potential cost savings through the replacement of certain manned exterior posts with technology capable of monitoring environments changes using Artificial Intelligence (AI). The results of the pilot program will assist the NJDOC in determining the feasibility and long-term value of expanding the technology to additional NJDOC facilities.

Drone as a First-Responder (DFR) technology represents the future of the industry. The NJDOC continues to lead the way in identifying operational efficiencies and implementing emerging technologies to enhance safety, security, and innovation for staff, visitors, and incarcerated persons in our care.

2. Background

The NJDOC is responsible for the operations and management of correctional facilities in the State of New Jersey. The NJDOC operates nine (9) correctional facilities comprised of eight (8) male facilities and one (1) female facility. The NJDOC's correctional facilities and thirteen Residential Community Reintegration Programs house a combined total of approximately 13,000 incarcerated persons in minimum, medium, and maximum-security levels. Locations of the NJDOC facilities can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/corrections/pages/index.shtml>

The NJDOC faces ongoing operational challenges including staffing shortages, operational cost considerations, and the ever-present demand for enhanced facility safety and security. To address these demands while enabling a future-ready NJDOC, we propose the implementation of a Real-Time Awareness Security Operations Center (RTA SOC) platform, integrated with the real-time platform and autonomous drone systems. This modernized security ecosystem will maximize staff efficiency, significantly reduce human error, enhance situational awareness, and improve both incarcerated person and officer safety while generating measurable fiscal savings and operational improvements across all NJDOC facilities.

3. Scope of Work

The NJDOC will position three (3) or more drones on the premises of the nine (9) facilities. The drones should have the technology and the capability to:

- Conduct routine perimeter flights.
- Allow NJDOC pilots to monitor live feeds for alerts, threats and operational anomalies from a centralized location staffed by qualified personnel.
- Continuously capture imagery to detect real-time changes in monitored areas and immediately alert custody staff when issues are identified.

- Incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities, including:
 - Detection of environmental deviations.
 - Identification of unknown or unauthorized movement.
 - Integration with perimeter fence technology to automatically deploy drones to provide an aerial view of the exact location upon alert activation.
 - Detection of environmental changes, including objects such as sports equipment (e.g., soccer balls, basketballs, etc.).
- Provide Global Positioning System (GPS)-independent navigation capabilities.
- Include thermal imaging camera functionality.
- Support encrypted video streaming.
- Enable autonomous launch capabilities.
- Utilize infrared (IR) technology and AI-based mapping features.
- Allow full system control from a centralized command location.
- Generate AI-based alerts for environmental deviations.

4. **Contract Term**

The pilot program will run for a period of twelve (12) months from date of implementation.

1. **Submission of Proposal**

In order to be considered for award the Vendor(s) must submit all required documentation throughout the RFP to COHQ.Procurement@doc.nj.gov no later than **2:00 pm on July 13, 2026** with a subject line **“Drone as a First Responder”**

ANY PROPOSALS NOT RECEIVED ON TIME WILL BE REJECTED.

2. **Pricing**

Vendor(s) must submit a detailed description and price in their proposal including, but not limited to, the total cost and *dates to which prices are firm*.

3. **Questions and/or Requests for Clarification**

Questions and/or requests for clarification must be submitted to: **5:00 PM on June 12, 2026**, with a subject line **“Drone as a First Responder”**

4. **Review**

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked based upon the qualifications of the Vendor(s) experience, capability/capacity to provide services and overall cost effectiveness. Failure to submit a proposal containing all elements specified in the RFP will negatively affect the review of the proposal.

Questions cannot be answered by telephone.

5. State Registration/Documentation Requirements

If your company is not a State of New Jersey registered vendor or currently hold a New Jersey State contract adhere to the following:

The State of New Jersey requires all vendors to register through the NJSTART portal. Click the following NJSTART link to register, update or review the vendor profile

njstart@treas.nj.gov or call (609) 341-3500 Monday to Friday between 8:30am to 4:30pm.

If it becomes necessary to clarify or revise this RFP, such clarification or revision will be by addendum. Any addendum will become part of any awarded as a result of this RFP.

All RFP addenda will be posted on the NJDOC website <https://www.nj.gov/corrections/pages/index.shtml> There are no designated dates for release of addenda. Therefore, interested Vendor(s) should check the NJDOC website daily from the time of the RFP issuance through the proposal submission deadline. It is the sole responsibility of the Vendor(s) to be knowledgeable of all addenda related to this procurement.