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Exhibit R-2, RDT&E Budget Item Justification: PB 2025 Air Force **Date:** March 2024

Appropriation/Budget Activity 3600: <i>Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force I BA 7: Operational Systems Development</i>	R-1 Program Element (Number/Name) PE 0303004F / EIT CONNECT
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COST (\$ in Millions)	Prior Years	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 OCO	FY 2025 Total	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Cost To Complete	Total Cost
Total Program Element	-	0.000	32.900	32.960	0.000	32.960	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	65.860
673100: <i>Operational System Development - Hq USAF Only</i>	-	0.000	32.900	32.960	0.000	32.960	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	65.860
Quantity of RDT&E Articles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

A. Mission Description and Budget Item Justification

This activity builds upon the deployment and connectivity of solutions being delivered under the DAF Advanced Battle Management System (ABMS) Program Element 64003F. The DAF executed Task Force Sentinel Stand (TFSS) to assess cyber command relations (COMREL) at the tactical edge. TFSS proved warfighters have a critical need to take their endpoint devices to austere locations and still access needed classified data without High Assurance IP Encryptor devices. Connectivity will allow relevant mission data requirements to the edge and through space with diverse access paths to deter adversary intrusions. This will include the SD-WAN (Software-Defined Wide Area Network) routing layer to transport content across nodes through both government and commercial communication paths. Through this effort the DAF will deploy, connect, and test SD-WAN solutions in direct support of USAFE, Air Force Forces Generation (AFFORGEN), and Agile Combat Employment (ACE) initiatives, to allow Combat Air Forces to connect, move and maneuver, and recover safely, reducing risk to mission and life.

DAF CIO's vision is to provide resilient, software-defined, transport and portable end points that create efficiencies and resiliency in transport by creating a "Black Fabric" that allows multiple providers to transport multiple classifications, rather than the historic and vulnerable approach of 1 fiber, 1 network, 1 classification.

In FY24, funding was allocated for activities to support deployment, connection and testing of an Operational EIT SD-WAN network in an "operational prototype" configuration, to demonstrate distributed edge intelligence and C2 "on-the-move." Funding initiated deployment of network capability that could in the future, if successful, be scaled for employment across any DAF (or DoD) installation or weapon system.

FY25 funds are focused on the following outcomes:

- Codify requirements, through experimentation and evaluation activities, for provisioning future network solutions to proliferate and sustain the SD-WAN architecture for any DAF installation or weapon system.
- Define the DAF level standards for ensuring access to a proliferated SD-WAN architecture, which aligns with analogous technologies employed in the private sector today, to allow the widest possible adoption of this capability in the future.
- Deliver critical near-term infrastructure for OI championed ACE needs and to demonstrate a technology that supports broader Joint All Domain C2 objectives.

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This program element may include necessary civilian pay expenses required to manage, execute, and deliver weapon system capability. The use of such program funds would be in addition to the civilian pay expenses budgeted in program element 0605827F, 0605828F, 0605829F, 0605831F, 0605832F, 0605833F, 0605898F, 0606398F. In FY23 \$0.000M was expended for civilian pay expenses in this program element, and in FY24 \$0.000M is forecasted for civilian pay expenses in this program element.

This program is in Budget Activity 7, Operational System Development because this budget activity includes development efforts to upgrade systems that have been fielded or have received approval for full rate production and anticipate production funding in the current or subsequent fiscal year.

B. Program Change Summary (\$ in Millions)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 OCO	FY 2025 Total
Previous President's Budget	0.000	32.900	32.902	0.000	32.902
Current President's Budget	0.000	32.900	32.960	0.000	32.960
Total Adjustments	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.000	0.058
• Congressional General Reductions	0.000	0.000			
• Congressional Directed Reductions	0.000	0.000			
• Congressional Rescissions	0.000	0.000			
• Congressional Adds	0.000	0.000			
• Congressional Directed Transfers	0.000	0.000			
• Reprogrammings	0.000	0.000			
• SBIR/STTR Transfer	0.000	0.000			
• Other Adjustments	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.000	0.058

Change Summary Explanation

No significant change to FY25 funding request.

C. Accomplishments/Planned Programs (\$ in Millions)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 OCO	FY 2025 Total
Title: EIT CONNECT	0.000	32.900	32.960	0.000	32.960
Description: To ensure the efficient use of DAF investment in the tactical communications at the edge to execute ACE design and validate broader DAF level requirements that provide resilient, distributed, and secure connectivity—including mobile computing and multiple communications pathways (government and commercial space, cellular, wireless, fiber)—to mitigate adversary threats to our critical Enterprise Information Technology infrastructure during both normal/peacetime operations and in wartime operations. Initial deployments support PACAF/INDOPACOM and USAFE.					
FY 2024 Plans:					

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C. Accomplishments/Planned Programs (\$ in Millions)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 OCO	FY 2025 Total
- Award task order to facilitate deployment, test and validation of network capability that could in the future, if successful, be scaled for employment across any DAF (or potentially DoD) installation or weapon system. FY 2025 Base Plans: - Will facilitate deployment, test and validation of network scalability in support of USAFE. FY 2025 OCO Plans: N/A FY 2024 to FY 2025 Increase/Decrease Statement: No significant change.					
Accomplishments/Planned Programs Subtotals	0.000	32.900	32.960	0.000	32.960

D. Other Program Funding Summary (\$ in Millions)
N/A

Remarks
N/A

E. Acquisition Strategy
The EIT Connect program will award the SD-WAN Development Task Order for a one-year Period using a commercial solution opening IDIQ contract. The period of performance is projected to start in April 2024 and ends in April 2025. A follow-on contract is expected to be awarded in April 2025, to support testing system scalability in USAFE.

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Exhibit R-4A, RDT&E Schedule Details: PB 2025 Air Force		Date: March 2024
Appropriation/Budget Activity 3600 / 7	R-1 Program Element (Number/Name) PE 0303004F / <i>EIT CONNECT</i>	Project (Number/Name) 673100 / <i>Operational System Development - Hq USAF Only</i>

Schedule Details

Events by Sub Project	Start		End	
	Quarter	Year	Quarter	Year
<i>Operational System Development - Hq USAF Only</i>				
SD-WAN	3	2024	3	2026
PACAF	3	2024	3	2025
USAFE	3	2025	3	2026