BAA04-18 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Last updated: January 31, 2005

1. Will HSARPA provide opportunity for collection of all relevant clutter data that will be used to assess performance during project? Does HSARPA have all clutter data it deems relevant for conducting the project without the performer needing to seek additional clutter data elsewhere?

The Government will provide standardized clutter challenges at the GST. Contractors may propose doing additional experiments as necessary.

1. Can you clarify what is requested/required regarding contract type? Is the level of detail provided for OT agreement expected for other types of agreements? Additionally, the BAA states "*Labor hours shall be allocated to each work outline element and segmented by team member*" By "*team member*" does it mean by name or by labor category i.e. Senior ME, EE, Test Engineer?

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The performer can suggest their preference for a contract type. The
ultimate determination will be determined by the Contracts officer.
Labor category is acceptable.
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2. When are the proposal registration and submission deadlines?

The deadlines have been extended one week. The proposal registration closes at 4:00pm EST on Friday January 28th and the proposal upload closes at 4:00pm EST on Wednesday February 09, 2005.

3. In the Proposer Information Pamphlet (PIP), Volume I of the full proposal is stated to be limited to 15 pages maximum. At the bidder's conference, it was stated that Volume I of the full proposal is limited to 25 pages maximum.
Which is correct?

The PIP is correct. **Volume I of the full proposal is limited to 15 pages maximum.**

4. What is the correct way to register and submit a proposal?

- Go to www.hsarpabaa.com and click on the white paper/proposal registration and submission link.

- If you have a username you may choose to login. (Please note that if you register while logged in, you must log in to submit your proposal)
- Choose the topic you would like to submit your proposal under. Choose Register for Proposal Submission.
- Upon completion of proposal registration, you will be sent a unique control code. You will need this control code in order to submit your full proposal. If you do not have the control code, you will not be able to submit a proposal.
- When ready, return to the website and repeat previous steps to submit your proposal. Choose Submit. Enter your unique control code when prompted. Complete your submission.
- You will receive a submission confirmation e-mail after completion. If necessary you may revise your proposal submission by returning to the website and re-entering your control code.

5. Under Section 3.1 Program Schedule and Phases, there is no mention of TTA-3 Part A. Can you please explain this?

Proposer's can submit to Part A, B or C for TTA3. For Part B proposals, we require Phase I to be divided into Phase IA and Phase IB as described in the PIP.

6. For proposed projects that will involve use of the Government Sponsored Testbed, how should this activity be budgeted? Will the government separately fund the tasks that utilize the GST, or should resources be budgeted in each individual White Paper and Proposal?

Performers should budget costs to setup, operate and remove their system at the GST testbed. The testbed will be in the Baltimore/Washington vicinity. All costs associated with operation of the testbed will be funded separately by HSARPA.

7. Please clarify the testing schedule for Part A proposals by phase for the tests defined in Appendix D. Is it correct that the "PDR Testing" should be completed prior to PDR, the "CDR Testing" between PDR and CDR, and the "Prototype Evaluation and Testing" in Phase II?

Yes. However, since there is significant overlap between PDR and CDR testing, results may be combined and delivered as part of the CDR.

8. How many awards will be made?

Multiple awards may be granted for Phase I. There will be approximately $14M available during Phase I. TTAs 1 and 2 will receive higher priority over TTA-3,

and Parts A and B will receive higher priority over Part C.

9. Are TTA-1 and TTA-2 intended to be continuous or periodic operation?
TTA-1 is continuous, TTA-2 will have a continuous front-end coupled to a confirmation technology. The confirmation sensor may operate only when triggered.

10. For BIOCADS would detection of nucleic acids sufficiently address the perceived toxin threat, e.g., "purified toxins"?

Systems will be tested at the toxin levels specified in the proposers information pamphlet. It is up to the performers to select toxin detection technologies and it is not required that the system detect the toxin directly.

11. Can a sub-contractor participate in more than one submission to this BAA? Can a company team with multiple primes?

Yes.

12. What are the ranges of clutter interference to be used during testing?

We will be looking at elevated levels of clutter and clutter combined with a threat (or simulant). The ultimate goal will be to perform accelerated False Alarm testing by presenting the sensor with challenging test conditions. The exact level of and composition of the clutter is TBD but we intent to create test aerosols representative of indoor environments.

13. Do you have any preferences for trigger technologies?

No, we are open to all applicable technologies.

14. Are foreign organizations permitted to participate?

Foreign organizations may participate, but are subject to negotiation.

15. Will IBADS be given Safety Act designation?

At this time, it is unclear what, if any, role the Safety Act will play with this solicitation.

16. Should the network or actual sensor be addressed?

This solicitation is tailored to development of individual sensors that meet the goals of each TTA.

17. For BioCaDS, how important is the detection of toxins?

Performers will need to present ROC curves for the toxin levels stated in each TTA. Ultimately the performance goals for toxins will depend on performance verses cost trade offs and result from ongoing system architecture studies.

18. Will larger companies have an advantage over smaller ones?

No. The size of the company (or size of team members) is not part of the evaluation criteria. The ability of the company (or team) to achieve the goals of this BAA will be considered.

19. Can performers propose only to the confirmation portion of TTA-2?

Yes, as defined in Part C.

20. Where can we find information on the DARPA SUVOS program?

Information can be found on-line at http://www.darpa.mil

21. Can you provide a template for the predicted performance of proposed technologies?

We are looking for proposers to determine performance of their proposed concept against the metrics described in this BAA.

22. If a company intends to pursue each Part (A, B, and/or C) within a TTA, must they register and submit a separate White Paper for each Part of the TTA? Does this hold true for Proposals as well?

Companies may register and submit **one (1)** White Paper per TTA. You may discuss plans for multiple Parts and describe how each may be beneficial for the IBADS program. This holds true for proposals as well.

23. What is the specific performance requirement for TTA-3 (VBAIDS)?

The intent of TTA-3 is to detect a Hazardous vs. a Non-Hazardous biological aerosol cloud. The main goal is to detect a biological aerosol hazard, not strain identification.

24. Does the TTA-3 CONOPS require that the VBAIDS sensor provide rapid, sensitive, high Pd, and low Pfa warnings independent of point sensors, or is the goal to achieve these results working in concert with point sensors?

For the purpose of this BAA, VBAIDS may consist of single or multiple sensors, but the intent is to provide a capability to interrogate a volume of air. Concepts that rely on networks of point sensors are of lower priority. If multiple sensors are used, the entire system will be evaluated against the goals of this BAA.

25. Section 3.2 of the PIP states that HSARPA may publish a list of list of transition ready technologies or unique supporting capabilities from the DHS ORD Intramural Program. Is it possible to get a list of these technologies at this stage of the BAA?

A list of any available technologies is currently available at www.hsarpabaa.com.

26. If a proposed system requires a liquid sample for detection and identification of an agent, is it possible to defer aerosol sampler integration to Phase II following the PDR?

Yes, but the team will need to explain this in their White Paper and must show aerosol measurements and calculations for a PDR in their Phase I approach.

27. In Appendix D, the tenth bullet item states, *"Part 3 technologies or components may be tested with liquid agent if required."* Part 3 technology has not been defined in the PIP.

This is a typographical error and Part 3 refers to Part C.

28. Will HSARPA provide the test samples listed in Appendix D for use during Phase I to produce the required ROC curves?

The samples listed in Appendix D, may be provided by the Aerosol Science Team

at ECBC. This will be discussed more thoroughly at the Bidder's Conference.

29. Please clarify the expectation of testing of the TTA-3 sensor before the PDR. The PIP indicates testing of the sensor performance against a matrix of test samples performed at a GST before the PDR. Is this correct?

This is correct and will be explained more fully at the Bidder's Conference.

30. Will the Bidder's Conference be classified? Do companies need a security clearance to attend?

This Bidder's Conference is not classified.
HSARPA does reserve the right to make certain aspects of this BAA classified at a future time. If this happens, each team must have at least one key member with a Government clearance.

31. The PIP provides an example of an OTA contract template and also makes reference to FAR based contracts being an alternative. How will a decision be made as to whether to utilize an OTA vs. a FAR based contract? Is there a FAR based model agreement available that may be used for this award?

Teams may propose their preferred contract mechanism. As part of negotiations, the Government reserves the right for final selection of the appropriate contracting mechanism.

32. To what extent will DHS acquire and deploy the "production" systems?

DHS has made no definitive decision as to deployment of systems developed in the IBADS program.

33. The white papers will be evaluated by HSARPA and offerors will be notified either encouraging or discouraging the submission of a full proposal. In the event offerors propose part A, part B and part C solutions, will encouraging or discouraging the submission of the proposal be made for individual parts?

If a proposal is encouraged, HSARPA will offer feedback to the submitter describing the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed effort. In the event that a proposal is not encouraged, no feedback will be provided.

34. Will available IBADS Phase I funding information be made available?

Yes, we anticipate that approximately $14M will be available for Phase 1 of IBADS

35. Paragraph 4.2 of the PIP for TTA - 2, states "the trigger portion of the system possibly based on BioFACS". Is it the intent that offerors are to propose a trigger for TTA - 2 independent of the trigger solicited in TTA - 1 (BioFACS) or should the offerors assume that the trigger for TTA-2 is the TTA-1 trigger?

Offerors can either propose a TTA-2 trigger independent from TTA-1, or propose to use a system being developed as part of TTA-1.