

BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Reader Pilot
Initial Capability Evaluation (ICE)

THIS IS A BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT (BAA). THIS IS *NOT* A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL, QUOTATION, OR INVITATION TO BID NOTICE, but is provided as information to the marketplace and is an invitation for vendors to express their interest, provide information, and demonstrate their capability to provide Smart Card biometric readers .

The Government will not pay for the provision of any information nor will it compensate any respondents for the development of such information or costs associated with demonstrating equipment capabilities.

Background. Pursuant to the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 (SAFE Port Act) (P.L. 109-347), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is conducting a pilot program to test the business processes, technology, and operational impacts required to deploy transportation security card readers at secure areas of the marine transportation system. After the pilot program has concluded DHS will promulgate final regulations that require deployment of transportation security card readers that are consistent with the findings of the pilot program (the Reader Rule).

In furtherance of this pilot, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is seeking small and large business sources that can provide Smart Card biometric readers capable of reading the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) currently being issued to workers in the maritime transportation industry. The Government is interested in obtaining information on both fixed and handheld portable readers. Card readers must conform to the recently updated TWIC Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification provided as Attachment (1) to this BAA. Sources able to provide these readers are requested to provide information to TSA as detailed in this BAA and its Attachments.

Attachments Include:

- (1) TWIC Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification (Version 1.1 Amendment 1) dated May 30, 2008
- (2) Initial Capability Evaluation Scenarios (Version 1.5; June 2008)
- (3) TWIC Biometric Reader Capabilities Statement (Version 1.0; June 2008) (to be completed by respondents)

Overview. This BAA invites interested vendors to submit information to participate in the first of three initiatives to identify readers capable of reading TWIC cards. A second purpose of this BAA is to inform vendors of how the Government plans to systematically move from a research and development mode to providing a standardized assessment

process for approving readers when the final TWIC Reader Rule is in place. The three reader initiatives are to:

- (1) Conduct an initial evaluation of readers to determine their ability to read a TWIC, and from this evaluation, establish a list of readers from which the port, facility, and vessel pilot test participants can choose and acquire the readers best suited for their needs—this is the Initial Capability Evaluation (ICE);
- (2) Conduct laboratory tests to assess the conformance of a limited number of readers to the technical and environmental requirements of the TWIC specification—this is the Specification Conformance Test (SCT); and,
- (3) Develop a standard test to assess reader compliance with the final TWIC specification for the final TWIC Reader Rule—this is the Final Reader Assessment (FRA).

Refer to Figure 1 at the end of the BAA to view a high level flow chart of each of these initiatives.

The immediate goal of this BAA is to conduct the ICE on all qualifying readers so that pilot test participants can begin to acquire, install, and use readers as part of the TWIC pilot test.

Initial Capability Evaluation. Respondents to this BAA whose reader(s) supports the TWIC Privacy Key functionality will be invited to participate in an Initial Capability Evaluation (ICE). ICE will be conducted by the Government at a To Be Announced (TBA) location. The purpose of the ICE is to demonstrate the ability of a reader to properly recognize, read, and match the biometric on the TWIC to the biometric of the owner of the TWIC using the TWIC Privacy Key capability as provided in the TWIC Card and Reader Specification.

The ICE consists of a simple series of tests that can be conducted using production TWICs that will demonstrate the reader's ability to properly read a TWIC. The ICE Scenarios are provided as Attachment (2) to this BAA.

All readers that demonstrate their ability to satisfactorily complete each of the ICE Scenarios will be included in a published list noting that they have completed the ICE Scenarios satisfactorily. Vendors who are Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or system and equipment integrators may respond to this BAA, subject to the limitations described in the Evaluation Criteria section of the announcement. The readers proposed by vendors will be included in the ICE list after satisfactorily completing the ICE. The ICE list will be made available to the public and will specifically be provided to all participating ports, facilities, and vessels in the TWIC pilot test. We anticipate that pilot test participants will use the ICE reader list in making reader acquisitions for the pilot test.

The Government will continue to periodically re-solicit information requested in this BAA to provide additional opportunities for new or previously un-nominated readers to

be evaluated using the ICE process. These additional opportunities for vendors to submit readers will be announced through the BAA process.

Formal Government Functional and Environmental Reader Testing—Specification Conformance Tests (SCTs). The Government will also conduct reader SCTs in controlled laboratory environments. The results of the SCTs will be published in the final pilot test report. The purpose of these tests is to conduct detailed, precise evaluations to assess the performance of a sampling of readers relative to the TWIC card and reader specification. TSA discourages offerors from submitting proprietary information, but if obtained, TSA will not include such information in the report. Only performance information will be included in the final report. Any information that the submitter considers confidential proprietary information should be marked accordingly.

The SCTs will enable the Government to assess reader performance in a controlled laboratory environment to provide consistent, controlled measurement and more accurate information than could otherwise be obtained during field tests. Due to the cost and time required to perform the SCTs only a limited number of readers (handheld portable and fixed) will be tested. SCT results will be made available to the public and pilot test participants in the final report. As stated previously, the purpose of the SCTs are to provide an accurate assessment of the ability of a sampling of readers to meet the TWIC specification, and thus, provide an indication as to the potential for readers to perform well in the maritime environment. The intent of conducting the SCTs is to achieve a comprehensive evaluation; not to establish a list of readers “approved” for use in accordance with the final Reader Rule. The reasons that the Government will not place readers that complete the SCTs on the FRA list are: (1) until the final Reader Rule is published the TWIC specification is considered to be a “working specification”; and, (2) until the final Reader Rule is published the process (if any) for certifying readers for compliance with the rule will not be finalized.

The SCTs will consist of two efforts: (1) Functional Specification Conformance Test (F-SCT)—i.e. an evaluation of the technical performance of a reader’s conformance to the card-reading requirements of the specification; and, (2) Environmental Specification Conformance Test (E-SCT)—i.e. an evaluation of the ability of a reader to withstand exposure to conditions in the specifications relating to outdoor service (i.e., weather conditions; vibration; power fluctuations; etc.). Readers for both SCTs will be selected from among the readers included on the ICE list. The process and criteria for selecting readers for the functional SCT and environmental SCT are independent of each other and differ as described in the following paragraphs. Readers selected for functional testing may, but not necessarily will, be selected for environmental testing or vice-versa.

Table 1. EXAMPLE of Reader Types Tested in the SCT

<i>Reader Type</i>	<i>Functional Test (F-SCT)</i>	<i>Environmental Test (E-SCT)</i>
1. Fixed TPK "A"	X	X
2. Fixed TPK "B"	X	X
3. Fixed TPK "C"		X
4. Handheld portable TPK "A"	X	X
5. Handheld portable TPK "B"	X	
Total Tests	4	4

Functional Specification Conformance Test (F-SCT). The purpose of the F-SCT is to evaluate a reader's ability to meet the functional requirements of the TWIC specification. The F-SCT will be conducted by a Government contractor under the observation of a Government Independent Test Agent. A detailed test plan and protocol is being developed. To the extent possible the test plan and protocol will be made available to vendors interested in participating in the F-SCT prior to executing a participation agreement.

The F-SCT will be limited to four readers. Vendors whose readers are best able to meet Government evaluation criteria will be offered an opportunity to voluntarily cooperate with the Government to complete the F-SCT. Vendors must agree to make available readers, associated equipment, and provide limited technical assistance to the Government at no cost. In selecting readers for testing, the Government will evaluate readers on their conformance to the evaluation criteria specified in this BAA. Offers to participate in the test will be made based on these evaluations with the most highly rated reader listed first and the others following in rank order. If circumstances permit, more than four readers may be tested. Additional offers to participate in the test, if any, will be tendered in the order that readers were ranked. Both handheld portable and fixed readers will be included among those selected for testing. Declining an offer to participate in the F-SCT will have no effect regarding the inclusion of readers on the ICE list. Once listed on the ICE readers will remain on the ICE until the list is no longer required.

F-SCT Qualification and Evaluation Criteria. Since the purpose of the F-SCT is to determine if a reader complies technically with the TWIC specification, only Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), or system integrators who make a significant functional change to a reader manufactured by another entity, will qualify for the F-SCT. The Government considers a "significant functional change" to enable a reader manufactured by another entity to perform a task that enhances its usefulness to reading or processing TWIC cards or information that the reader otherwise does not possess. For example: enhancing the firmware of a PIV reader to use the TWIC TPK process, which thus avoids the need to enter a PIN prior to conducting the biometric match, would be interpreted by the Government as a significant functional change.

The following criteria, ordered from most important to least important, will be used in evaluating reader suitability for nomination to the F-SCT:

1. Technical (conformance to TWIC specification; use of TPK)
2. Production Readiness (date reader was, or will be, available to sell to the broader commercial market)
3. Functionality (user interface, esthetics, display, simplicity of use, etc.)
4. Maintenance Requirements
5. Vendor Experience Relative to Identity Verification Solutions
6. Degree of Compliance with Environmental Requirements of the Specification

Environmental Specification Conformance Test (E-SCT). Identified qualification and selection procedures will apply to the E-SCT. The E-SCT will be conducted by the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Patuxent River, MD under the observation of a Government Independent Test Agent. The E-SCT will be limited to four different readers. Readers best able to meet Government test criteria will be acquired by the Government in sufficient quantity to conduct the E-SCT. The Government estimates that two readers of each reader type selected for the E-SCT will be needed. If circumstances permit, more models of readers may be tested. Additional readers will be acquired in the order that readers were evaluated. Both handheld portable and fixed readers will be included among those selected for testing. Regardless of the outcome of the E-SCT, once listed on the ICE, readers will remain on the ICE until the list is no longer required.

E-SCT Qualification and Evaluation Criteria. Since the purpose of the E-SCT is to determine reader performance when subjected to the environmental requirements of the TWIC specification, readers will be acquired only from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), or system integrators who make a significant functional change to a reader manufactured by another entity as described in previous paragraphs.

The following criteria, ordered from most important to least important, will be used in evaluating reader suitability for the F-SCT:

1. Technical (conformance to TWIC specification; use of TPK)
2. Degree of Compliance with Environmental Requirements of the Specification
3. Production Readiness (date the reader was, or will be, available to sell to the broader commercial market)
4. Functionality (user interface, esthetics, display, simplicity of use, etc.)
5. Maintenance Requirements
6. Vendor Experience Relative to Identity Verification Solutions

Final Reader Assessment (FRA). The FRA is a separate and distinct process from either the ICE or the SCTs. Inclusion on the ICE is not a substitute for, or a prerequisite of, the FRA. The FRA will be a component of the final Reader Rule.

The Government plans to continue to use the ICE process to add readers to the ICE reader list until either the pilot test concludes or a formal Final Reader Assessment (FRA) process commences. The Government anticipates that the FRA process will not be implemented until the results of the pilot are known and can be considered in finalizing the TWIC Reader Rule.

The FRA will establish an ongoing reader approval process resulting in readers being listed by the Government on the DHS Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) which provides an on-line source of information on products, equipment, and other information. The Responder Knowledge Base web site may be viewed at: www.rkb.us . The Government anticipates that the owners and operators of Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) regulated facilities will be required to select readers from either the RKB or the GSA PIV list to be compliant with the final TWIC Reader Rule.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION:

All interested sources wishing to respond to this BAA shall provide:

A completed TWIC Biometric Reader Capabilities Statement, Attachment (3).

The completed Capabilities Statement is limited to sixteen (16) pages inclusive of the completed matrix and any additional capabilities information. Pages may be single-spaced, and no smaller than a 10-point font. All margins shall be at least 1 inch. Fold-outs are not authorized. The completed Capabilities Statement must address all evaluation criteria, at a minimum.

Interested sources may also provide:

A copy of existing relevant marketing, collateral, and technical information. This optional information will not count against the page limit (above). Fold-outs or brochures are authorized in this section of the submission.

Interested sources shall supply their responses as:

One electronically submitted copy of the completed TWIC Biometric Reader Capabilities Statement; and,

One copy of any optional marketing, collateral, or technical information in either printed or electronic form (CD) delivered to:

Email: Michelle.schmidt@dhs.gov

U.S. Mail: Transportation Security Administration

Office of Acquisition, TSA-25

ATTN: Michelle Schmidt, Contract Specialist

601 S. 12th Street

Arlington, VA 22202

Please be advised that mail delivered to the above address will first be sent to a pre-screening facility; therefore, sufficient additional time must be allowed for submissions to reach the ultimate destination if delivered by mail.

Submissions must be received no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on **July 21, 2008**

QUESTIONS:

Questions regarding this BAA must be submitted in writing by email to the above email address no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on ***July 01, 2008***. The Government will post response to questions to the public TWIC Internet site (www.tsa.gov/twic) as soon as possible. The Government will not respond individually to vendor questions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

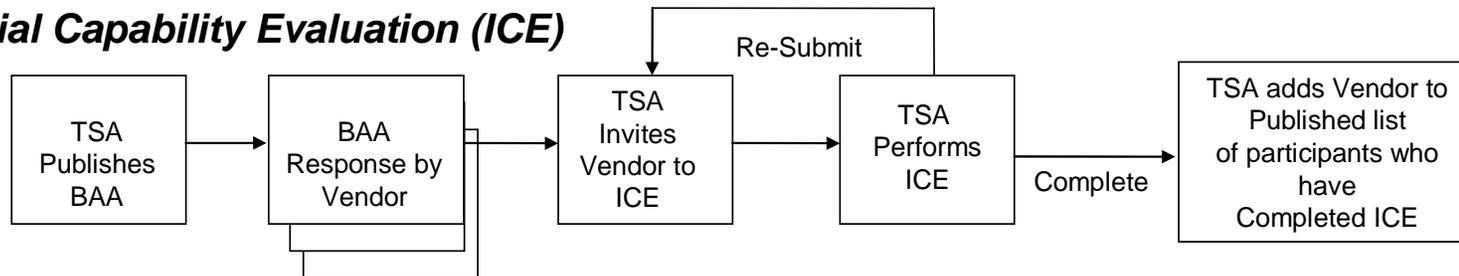
There is no bid package or solicitation document associated with this announcement. This request for information does not constitute a commitment, implied or otherwise, that a procurement action will be issued. No entitlement to payment of direct or indirect costs or charges by the Government will arise as a result of the submission of contractor's information. The Government shall not be liable for or suffer any consequential damages for proprietary information not properly identified. Interested sources are strongly encouraged NOT to submit proprietary information.

The BAA will remain open with additional submissions dates announced on a periodic basis.

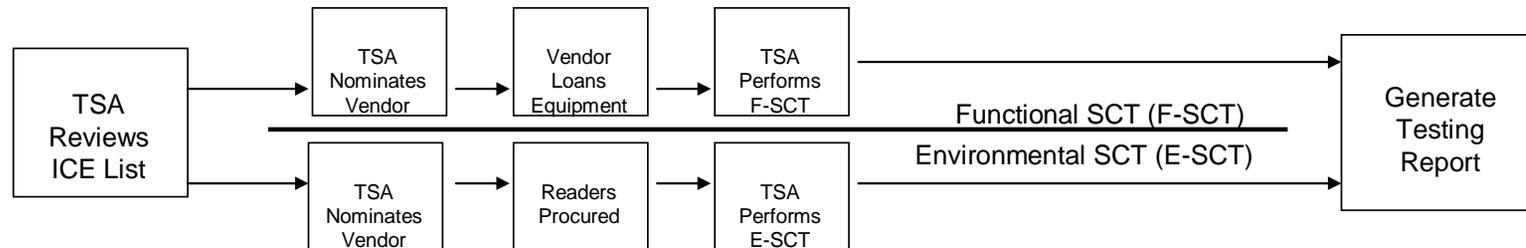
TWIC Reader Assessment

Pilot through Final Reader Rule

Initial Capability Evaluation (ICE)



Specification Conformance Tests (SCTs)



Final Reader Assessment (FRA)

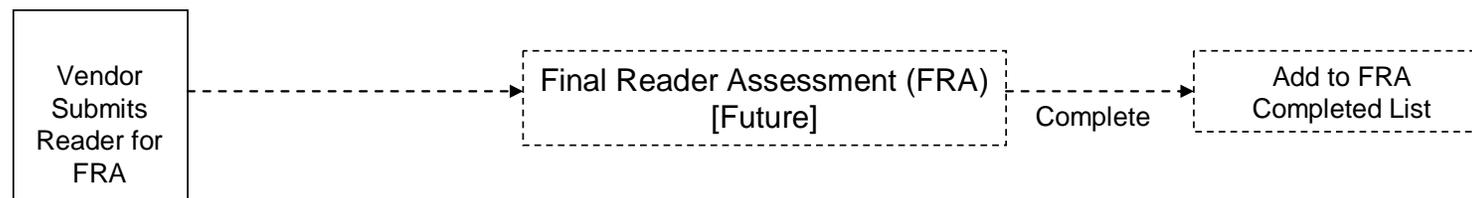


FIGURE 1