

4 November 2008

Subject: HIBR Q&A

1. The Proposers Day for DARPA-BAA-09-08 "Harnessing Infrastructure for Building Reconnaissance" was held on 30 October 2008. Several questions were posed that required clarification. Answers to the questions are provided in the following paragraphs.

2. Worldwide Construction Practices (WCP)

Question: How do we obtain a copy of the WCP briefing presented at Proposers Day and the WCP program?

Answer: The materials may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Speler T. Montgomery, Speler.T.Montgomery@usace.army.mil, 601-634-3584.

3. List of Proposers Day Registrants

Question: How do we obtain a copy of the list of people who registered for Proposers Day?

Answer: The list of Proposers Day registrants may be obtained by sending an email to the DARPA-BAA-09-08 Coordinator at DARPA-BAA-09-08@darpa.mil.

4. Number of Proposals to be Submitted

Question: If companies are going to team, does DARPA want one proposal from the team, or separate proposals from the individual team members?

Answer: Per the BAA, if companies are teaming, then submit one proposal covering the entire team, and not separate proposals from individual team members.

5. IP Assertions

Question: Are IP assertions considered when scoring a proposal?

Answer: Yes. The BAA states that IP is a consideration for technology transition.

6. Priority of Issues

Question: On page 7 of the BAA, there is a list of four operational questions (scalability, assumptions, stand-off, number and geometry of sensors) that should be addressed in the proposal. Are these ordered by priority?

Answer: No.

7. Submission of Multiple Technologies

Question: If proposing multiple sensing technologies, does DARPA want separate proposals or separate proposal sections?

Answer: Per the BAA, the offeror should submit separate proposals.

8. Multiple Sensor Technologies for One Objective

Question: What if you need to propose multiple sensing technologies to meet one objective?

Answer: DARPA would accept that proposal for consideration, but would expect that SWAP considerations would be more difficult to meet.

9. Multiple Building Stories

Question: Can you comment on what is meant by multiple stories?

Answer: Per the BAA, the buildings of interest can have up to have 10 stories with up to 2 levels of basement.

10. Primary Building Type Focus

Question: Is DARPA interested in a particular building type?

Answer: DARPA expects successful Sensing Technologies to be applicable to a wide ranges of buildings typically found in an urban area.

12. Stand-Off Distance

Question: In the metrics table, standoff is listed as 10 to 20 m. Is that a strict exclusion?

Answer: Per the BAA, in order to reduce blue force exposure, no personnel may be within 10 meters of the building and no personnel may not be within 20 m for no more than 5 minutes.

12. Building Scenario

Question: Please clarify the definition of stand-off for adjacent, connected buildings. Does the 10 m limit apply to the particular building of interest, or the entire connected block?

Answer: Per the BAA, the underlying intent is for the building infrastructure to transfer information about the interior to the exterior. Technical solutions requiring

access to the interior of connected, adjacent structures is not within the scope of the BAA.

13. System Cost

Question: Will the cost of a potential notional system be considered in proposal evaluation? If the proposed approach depends on a technology that requires very expensive sensors, would that be part of the evaluation?

Answer: Per the BAA, notional system cost is not a specific metric. System cost however would impact the ability to transition the technology.

14. Types of Construction

Question: Flat-slab and steel-frame construction was not mentioned in the world-wide construction practices briefing. Is that type of construction practice not seen overseas?

Answer: The briefing on world-wide construction practices provides illustrative examples of the wide variation of building practices around the world. The briefing did not contain an exhaustive list of construction practices.

15. Available Intelligence of HIBR Target

Question: What type of information is available to supplement HIBR data or to use in support of HIBR?

Answer: Per the BAA, offerors should explicitly state as assumptions their prior information needs.

16. Active System

Question: What does an "active system" mean?

Answer: A HIBR solution that includes transmitter or source as well as the receiver.

17. Technology Readiness Level (TRL)

Question: What TRL is expected for each Phase?

Answer: DARPA expects Phase 1 is TRL 3/4 and Phase 2 is TRL 4/5.

18. Transition Partner

Question: Does a commercial transition partner need to be identified in the Proposal.

Answer: Per the BAA, paragraph 4.4.1 "Volume I, Technical and Management Proposal" Section II "Summary of Proposal" asks for "... plans and capability to accomplish technology transition and commercialization."

19. Radar Solutions

Question: Are external radar solutions applied against basements within scope?

Answer: DARPA will consider external radar solutions against basements because this is not a VisiBuilding objective.

20. History of Building

Question: Can we watch the building being built to gain information about the interior?

Answer: No. Offers should not assume they have access to information collected during building construction.

21. Building Side Access

Question: Will the sensors have access to all sides of the building?

Answer: The BAA places no limits on access to all sides of a building. If the proposed solution requires access to all sides of the building, then state this as an assumption in the proposal.

22. Detection of a Void

Question: Is an approach that detects a void an acceptable solution?

Answer: Yes. A void is created by the infrastructure, i.e., the basement walls.

23. Classification Level

Question: At what level should we classify our proposed solutions.

Answer: Per the BAA, the classification guidance is contained in the program SCG. If you have questions, please send an email to the administrative POC requesting a meeting to resolve any security issues.

24. System Configuration

Question: Are handheld, ground vehicle, or airborne acceptable in a stand-alone configuration or in combination?

Answer: Per the BAA, the Phase 1 focus is on sensing technologies. The notional system configurations of handheld, ground vehicle, or airborne are acceptable in combination or stand-alone.