

## MAINGATE BAA08-21 Q&A/EMAIL

**Q1:** Does the MAINGATE program have any concerns about access to spectrum given that a MAINGATE is expect to operate with data rates ranging from 6.5Mb/s up to 100 Mb/s?

**A1:** The ability to gain access to sufficient spectrum for communications and networking is important for any deployment of MAINGATE, and also could affect the experimentation and Limited User Testing (LUT) envisioned in the program solicitation. Techniques such as dynamic spectrum access (DSA) may be proposed for inclusion in the MAINGATE development as a means for spectrum access management. It is not a requirement, but will be viewed as added capability in any MAINGATE proposal evaluation. Material on DSA technologies developed under the DARPA Next Generation (XG) Program will be posted on the BAA website. Its inclusion on the BAA Website should not be construed as the only possible solution for DSA, but available if the proposer wants to take advantage of the DARPA developed capability.

**Q2:** Who should provide company capability/teaming briefings at the industry day and what should be presented?

**A2:** The opportunity for companies to present at the industry day is provided to facilitate teaming among the various attendees and thus all companies are strongly encouraged to present. These briefings will be limited to 4 slides and 5 minutes, outlining basic skills and capabilities that the presenter offers, and will be presented to all industry day attendees. More specifically, we expect two categories of presenters:

1. Primes/System Integrators: Those companies interested in being prime contractors/system integrators should identify themselves to industry attendees, and may wish to discuss their teaming process and how to get in contact with their respective capture manager.
2. Subcontractors: Companies looking to be subcontractors may wish to describe their capabilities and related benefits with respect to the MAINGATE effort.

Opportunities for companies to provide an on-site demonstration of their capabilities at the MAINGATE industry Day WILL NOT be provided, nor allowed.

**Q3:** Does the 4 slide limit on capability briefings include the cover slide? Can backup charts be provided for posting along with the 4 slides to be presented at the proposer's day conference?

**A3:** The 4 slide limit does not include the cover slide, provided the cover slide provides only the briefing title, company name, and contact information for the company. Additional "backup" slides cannot be presented nor provided for

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posting with the 4-slide briefing.

**Q4:** Does the prime contractor's/system integrator's Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) need to include subcontractor activities?

**A4:** Yes, all program activities, including those of subcontractors, must be included in the prime contractor's/system integrator's WBS (identified in the solicitation as Work Outline (WO)). This should go down to WBS Level 4.

**Q5:** Does a company need to have a Facility Clearance to attend the MAINGATE Industry Day and/or participate in the MAINGATE Program?

**A5:** No. The Government anticipates that the MAINGATE Development and Limited User Testing (LUT) under the BAA will be unclassified. However, the program may involve NSA Type 1 COMSEC Material, so prime contractors/systems integrators must have a Facility Clearance at the Secret level for safeguarding, and storing said material during the MAINGATE development, field experiments, and LUT, if required. Subcontractors do not necessarily need one unless their respective prime contractors/systems integrators identified their need for one. This, and the process for getting one, is discussed more in the Security Section, Section 6.2.1, in the MAINGATE BAA08-21,

**Q6:** Is it possible to bring a small technology demonstration to the MAINGATE proposer day that could be set this up in the hallway or in the meeting room?

**A6:** No. Demonstrations and presentations beyond the 5-minute briefings stated in the meeting announcement are beyond the scope of the MAINGATE BAA08-21 Proposers' Day. You are encouraged to present your capabilities in the 5-minute venue offered to all participants at which time you could offer interested parties to view a demo at another time and location.

**Q7:** Will DARPA pay for the acquisition and maintenance of a secure fax and other related items needed for security?

**A7:** The Government anticipates that the MAINGATE Development and LUT under the BAA will be unclassified. However, the program may involve NSA Type 1 COMSEC Material, so prime contractors/systems integrators must have a Facility Clearance at the Secret level for safeguarding, and storing said material during the MAINGATE development and LUT, if required. Subcontractors do not necessarily need one unless their respective prime contractors/systems integrators identified their need for one. The transfer, protection, and security of classified information is expected to be part of the effort and proposed accordingly.

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**Q8:** We have been doing work in this area for some time. Is the government allowing individual visits by prospective proposers to discuss what has been done in more detail and show a demonstration of the capabilities?

**A8:** No. Discussions and demonstrations of prior and ongoing efforts, existing technologies, and company capabilities with respect to MAINGATE applicability can only be provided to DARPA through a formal response to the BAA, which includes a proposal submission, oral presentation of TRL levels, and a demonstration of existing capabilities as described therein.

**Q9:** The subject BAA mentions Option 1 and Option 2 under paragraph 1.1.7. Can you provide a specific tasking for each of the options?

**A9:** The intent of the two options is simply to provide equipment to a group of users for LUT. Specific tasking and costs related to that intent (e.g., training, installation, testing, technical support, etc.) are to be proposed and justified by the bidder.

**Q10:** I am a foreign citizen. Is it possible to attend the Proposers' Day?

**A10:** Only US Citizens and Permanent Residents representing US Subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies are permitted to attend the MAINGATE BAA08-21 Proposers' Day conference provided that the company meets the qualification criteria described in BAA08-21. Those individuals and companies are similarly permitted to submit a proposal and perform as a contractor or subcontractor as part of a selected bid.

**Q11:** Is it possible for different individuals to sign the Authorized Representative and the Company Qualification forms?

**A11:** Yes, the POC listed on the Company Qualification form may be different the Authorized Representative for the NDAs. The Authorized Representative legally binds the company to the terms of the NDAs; any exchange of materials provided under BAA08-21 that are covered by the NDAs can only be provided to the Authorized Representative to ensure integrity of the process. The authorized representative may then disseminate the data internally to their organization within the limits defined in the NDAs. The company POC submitted on the Company Qualification form serves as a point of contact for all other correspondence related to BAA08-21, such as email notifications from BAA08-21@darpa.mil.

**Q12:** Are there provisions of late registration including up to the day of the event?

**A12:** Registration of attendees must be made in advance to ensure the integrity of the qualification process and protect the dissemination of sensitive data.

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**Q13:** Will foreign companies be allowed to participate?

**A13:** See section 3.1 of the solicitation.

**Q14:** May a US citizen participate in the industry day with the intention of applying for Department of State licenses to team with a foreign company who has significant technical capability in this area?

**A14:** US citizens are allowed to participate in the Proposers' Day. The BAA outlines the responsibilities and expectation for a company to propose including the provisions for foreign participation. See Section 3.1 of the solicitation.

**Q15:** Please confirm that a contracts representative is not required to attend this conference.

**A15:** A contracts representative is not required to attend this conference. Attendance is at the discretion of the proposer.

**Q16:** Will the prime contractor(s) / system integrator(s) selected for MAINGATE be required to manage the program using Earned Value Management (EVM) techniques?

**A16:** Yes, EVM will be required for the management of MAINGATE, no matter what the value or duration of the contract. Here is the policy guidance that this requirement is derived from:

[https://akss.dau.mil/dag/Guidebook/IG\\_c11.3.asp](https://akss.dau.mil/dag/Guidebook/IG_c11.3.asp);

[https://akss.dau.mil/dag/Guidebook/IG\\_c11.3.1.2.asp](https://akss.dau.mil/dag/Guidebook/IG_c11.3.1.2.asp)

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### “11.3.1.

#### Earned Value Management (EVM)

EVM is a key integrating process in the management and oversight of acquisition programs, to include information technology projects. It is a management approach that has evolved from combining both government management requirements and industry best practices to ensure the total integration of cost, schedule, and work scope aspects of the contract. Unless waived by the MDA, EVM applies to contracts described below. For more information on EVM, refer to the Office of the Secretary of Defense EVM web site <http://www.acq.osd.mil/pm/> , the Defense Contract Management Agency web site <<http://www.dcma.mil/>> , or the EVM Community of Practice web site <https://acc.dau.mil/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=17609> on the Acquisition Community Connection (ACC) <https://acc.dau.mil/> knowledge sharing system.

### 11.3.1.1.

Earned Value Management (EVM) Applicability The requirement for EVM applies to cost or incentive contracts, subcontracts, intra-government work agreements, and other agreements that meet the dollar thresholds prescribed in USD(AT&L) policy memorandum dated March 7, 2005

<http://www.acq.osd.mil/pm/currentpolicy/EVM%20Policy%20letter%203-7-05.pdf>

. The application thresholds (total contract value including planned options in then-year dollars) are summarized below:

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\$20 million or greater – EVM implementation compliant with ANSI/EIA-748 is required. No formal Earned Value Management System (EVMS) validation is required.

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\$50 million or greater – EVM implementation compliant with ANSI/EIA-748 is required. An EVMS that has been formally validated and accepted by the cognizant contracting officer is required.

The program manager should implement EVM on applicable contracts within acquisition, upgrade, modification, or materiel maintenance programs, including highly sensitive classified programs, major construction programs, and automated information systems. EVM should be implemented on applicable contracts wherein the following circumstances exist: (1) the prime contractor or one or more subcontractors is a non-U.S. source; (2) contract work is to be performed in government facilities, or (3) the contract is awarded to a specialized organization such as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. In addition, EVM should be implemented on applicable contracts designated as major capital acquisitions in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, Part 7

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a11/current\\_year/part7.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a11/current_year/part7.pdf) , Planning, Budgeting, Acquisition, and Management of Capital Assets.

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The application of EVM is not required on contracts, subcontracts, intra-government work agreements, and other agreements valued at less than \$20 million (total contract value including planned options). The decision to implement EVM on these contracts is a risk-based decision at the discretion of the program manager. The program manager is required to conduct a cost-benefit analysis before deciding to implement EVM on these contracts. The purpose of the cost-benefit analysis is to explain the rationale for the decision to require cost/schedule visibility into the contract and to substantiate that the benefits to the government outweigh the associated costs. See the DoD Earned Value Management Implementation Guide [http://guidebook.dcma.mil/79/guidebook\\_process.htm](http://guidebook.dcma.mil/79/guidebook_process.htm) (EVMIG) for additional guidance on applying EVM on contracts valued at less than \$20 million. If the value of a contract is expected to grow to reach or exceed \$20 million, the program manager should consider imposing an EVM requirement on the contract.

The application of EVM is not required on contracts, subcontracts, intra-government work agreements, and other agreements less than 12 months in duration, including options. The decision to implement EVM on these contracts is a risk-based decision at the discretion of the program manager. If the duration of a contract is expected to grow to reach or exceed 12 months, the program manager should consider imposing an EVM requirement on the contract.”