

## ITMARS Q&A

**Q: Would the interpretation that each sense and transmit stage in Phases I, II & III have areas bounded by [5 mm x 5 mm], [3 mm x 3 mm] and [1 mm x 1 mm], respectively be accurate? COTS VGA imagers, for example, are much larger than phase II & III goals, and appear to not be on a path to reducing the size & power of the array to meet phase II & III goals.**

The larger arrays are for optical transceivers only - the expectation is that the rotary stages with the camera chips will be individually placed in different locations for image acquisition. So as the phases go on, we want to increase the density of the transceivers for applications such as optical interconnects.

**Q: The milestones table describes the expected stage performance in detail, but for one axis. Is it the expectation that the polar axis will also have a similar performance in terms of position accuracy and wobble? Is there a desired span requirement for each axis?**

The position accuracy is specified mainly for the theta axis if the stage is considered to be at  $z=0$  of a standard spherical coordinate system. The wobble is specified for the phi axis as the phi error after one rotation. These are specs traditionally given to rotation stages.

**Q: Will a proposal be considered unresponsive if the Phase III metrics cannot be met without relying on projected improvements in COTS imagers / camera-on-chip systems?**

The power specs are for the stage only - not for the camera chip. The power transmitted onto the stage should be what is needed by the camera chip, but that is not included in the power/stage control budget.

**Q: Is it possible to team with academia partners outside of the United States?**

Yes; however, the prime is responsible for export control compliance to the extent it would apply.

**Q: Can you offer any guidance on expectations for the time frames for each phase of the program?**

ITMARS does not have set specific time restrictions on each phase. Phase length should be determined by each individual proposer.

**Q: Will there be a website posted under BAA08-74 that contains a collection of FAQ's? (with answers?)**

Per the DARPA ITMARS BAA, pg.22, "DARPA will post a consolidated Question and Answer response after February 18, 2009, before final full proposals are due. In order to receive a response to your question, submit your question by February 11, 2009 to [BAA08-74@darpa.mil](mailto:BAA08-74@darpa.mil)."

The questions and answers will be posted on the ITMARS MTO Solicitation page. <http://www.darpa.mil/mto/solicitations/baa08-74/index.html>

**Q: Should proposals be submitted to grants.gov or TFIMS?**

Please refer to Section IV, Part B2 of the BAA (pgs.14-16) All instructions and guidelines can be found there.

**Q: The award associated with the above referenced BAA is one that does have or does not have a "6.1" funding source or reference?**

No additional information regarding this subject is available. Please consult Page 10, Paragraph 2 of the DARPA ITMARS BAA which gives information regarding fundamental research.

**Q: I am interested in teaming with other organizations to submit a proposal. How can I contact them?**

Page 12 of the DARPA ITMARS BAA describes how collaborative teaming efforts can be arranged. There is a teaming website that has been established to facilitate the formation of teams. The link to the website is provided in the BAA. If you are interested in working with another team please visit this site and enter your information there.

**Q: How much emphasis should be placed on the development of the ST link over the motor, power transfer and control?**

The successful proposals will have to meet all the metrics as that is the number one criteria. So both optical link and motor control are important.

**Q: Are there any requirements on the zenith control of the VCSEL or LASER source?**

All necessary requirements are outlined in Table 1 of the BAA, which summarizes the go/no-go milestones for each phase.

**Q: What is the best method for submitting an abstract?**

Please see Section IV, Part B2 (beginning at bottom of Page 14). All abstracts must be submitted via Grants.gov or DARPA's T-FIMS system.

**Q: How many hard copies or electronic copies are required?**

Please do not send hard copies OR email any portions of your proposal. Please see Section IV, Part B2 for all instructions regarding abstract and proposal submission.

**Q: When submitting a proposal abstract, are the forms in Section VIII required to identify proprietary claims?**

No

**Q: Are the forms in Section VIII included in the 15 page limit for proposal abstracts?**

For guidance on page limits please reference section 2, "Proposal Abstract Format", on page 16.

"Proposal abstracts should follow the same general format as described for Volume I under PROPOSAL FORMAT (see below), but include ONLY Sections I and II. The cover sheet should be clearly marked "PROPOSAL ABSTRACT" and the total length should not exceed 15 pages, excluding cover page and official transmittal letter."

Therefore, these forms will not count towards the 15 page limit as this applies only to Sections I and II.

**Q: According to the BAA, white papers/pre-proposals are encouraged and proposals for grants or cooperative agreements may only be submitted via Grants.gov. However, in reading the Grants.gov BAA instructions, the pre-application field of the 424 R&R should not be used. Do you prefer that the white paper/pre-proposal is attached to the Other Attachment form instead?**

Either the "R&R Other Project Information" or the "Attachments" form may be used for the abstract volumes.

**Q: Has the due date for proposal abstracts under BAA08-74 been extended from 2/2/09 to 2/9/09?**

Yes, the due date for abstracts has been extended to February 9th. This amendment to the BAA can be found on the FedBizOpps website

[https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=0c7beca6d9ff3bf7723449b8097796e4&\\_cview=0](https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=0c7beca6d9ff3bf7723449b8097796e4&_cview=0) or the DARPA MTO Solicitation page <http://www.darpa.mil/mto/solicitations/baa08-74/index.html>.

**Q: On page 8, the Phase II milestone for volume is missing. Please specify the module volume for Phase II.**

On the official FedBizOpps page and the MTO Solicitation page you will see a 2nd Amendment that fills in the missing number for the Phase II Volume metric.

**Q: Is an official transmittal letter or authorized signature required for the abstract submission?**

If you refer to section 2, Proposal Abstract Format, on page 16, it states "No formal transmittal letter is required."

**Q: Can the two rotary stages (for imaging chip and data link) for Phase 1 be on two separate chips that are packaged together in one module?**

This is ok.

**Q: Is the proposer required to fabricate their own CCD chip or can acquire it from an outside source and post process it?**

COTS or a highly developed chip are acceptable as well as a new effort that provides new capability or pushed technology.

**Q: Is it required to incorporate a VCSEL (or other sources) on the rotary stage or it can be mounted on the substrate and the optics on the rotary stage without compromising the required functionality?**

Any solution that meets the spec is ok but you do need to show power on the stage to manipulate the beam.

**Q: How many hours of rotation are required in the overall lifespan of ITMARS in Table 1?**

The MTBF, mean time between failure, is listed on the last row.