

Deep Green BAA 08-09 FAQ

1. Q: What is the overall program size per year?

1. A: That depends on the number of proposals selected for funding and their amounts. It could be one proposal or several proposals per effort. It will be determined after the proposal evaluations results are presented to the Director when meeting to request funding for the Program.

2. Q: Has Deep Green considered the efforts of the Army data integration working group?

2. A: Yes, but that might not be the only solution for Deep Green. Deep Green will have to be modular and able to interface with whatever C2 System there is today and in the future.

3. Q: How will Deep Green be impacted by Battle Command Systems convergence being worked by PEO C3T?

3. A: DARPA is working with PEO C3T for possible future transition of the technology to them. Thus it is planned to have them involved right at the beginning through transition under the Deep Green Program.

4. Q: What level of functional modularity do you want? At the big box level or small box level?

4. A: Both, the Deep Green System must be modular to interface with C2 systems that exist today, such as CPoF for example, and the system must be modular to replace a sub-component, such as the Blitzkrieg component, with another new or similar sub-component and the whole system continues to work.

5. Q: Are there any existing technologies preferred or required for the effort?

5. A: No, there is no preference to which technologies are used in creating the Deep Green System but it must be capable of talking to and meeting the Modular interoperability Open Source requirements.

6. Q: With regard to Task 2: could company X subcontract to company Y on task 2 and still allow company X to be selected to perform Task 1?

6. A: No, a company can only bid on one or the other task. If the company submits a proposal for Task 1 and a proposal for Task 2. Only one proposal will be selected if found meeting the selection criteria and the other will be disqualified. DARPA will make the determination of which proposal will be selected for which task.

7. Q: The RFP states that the T&E performers must “fill in the gaps” for testers and graders above those provided by DARPA. How many testers and graders will DARPA have on staff?

7. A: As many as are needed to meet the requirements.

8. Q: Who is responsible for creating the experimental evaluation scenarios? The T&E performers or DARPA?

8. A: The T&E contractor will bear the primary responsibility, but DARPA will be the final say

as to which experimental evaluation scenarios will be used.

9. Q: How will the Selection process be structured? For instance, will Task 2 be selected first thereby eliminating a dual-proposer from being evaluated for Task 1?

9. A: They will be evaluated on their own individual merits and if the proposer is selected from both efforts then and only then will a determination be made by DARPA as to which proposal will be selected for a specific task and the other proposal will be disqualified.

10. Q: Are additional metrics anticipated for test and evaluation beyond those articulated in the BAA?

10. A: No, not at this time.

11. Q: The BAA discussion on Crystal Ball mentions two metrics: Value/Utility and Flexibility. These metrics are not mentioned anywhere in the metric chart shown in the T&E task description which was described as being non-negotiable. Are they no longer included or will they be added in later?

11. A: The value, utility, and flexibility metrics described in the BAA are meant to be used to evaluate possible futures by Crystal Ball. These are separate and distinct from metrics used to evaluate the Deep Green program.

12. Q: What dates should we use for our proposal schedule?

12. A: Phase 1 – 12 month effort, with a 12 month Phase II Option and then a 12 month Phase III Option.

13. Q: Is the seedling work/products/artifacts available to all proposers?

13. A: Yes, as the Final reports which are approved for Public Release they will be posted to the DARPA IPTO Solicitations Web Page for download.

14. Q: Does the integrator have to be the prime?

14. A: No.

15. Q: Do you have any additional good guidance about areas in which the previous set of proposals were weak?

15. A: In general, Sketch to Decide proposals did not have enough detail on how information would be presented to commanders in a way that aided in cognition and battlefield visualization. If the answers are unknown, the proposal should address how the answers will be determined as part of the effort.

16. Q: If there are multiple Phase I awards, will DARPA SMEs be firewalled?

16. A: No, one, there are not enough SMEs to go around for multiple awards, and they will be made available to all as humanly as possible.

17. Q: Which Seedlings are not available?

17. A: One, and only because their contract has not ended and the final report has not been created and submitted. It is anticipated that the final report will not be available by the close of the initial BAA submission date. But as soon as the final report is approved for public release it will be posted to the BAA website.

18. Q: Does this require non-kinetic options for the commander?

18. A: Non-kinetic options need to be included as a component of Deep Green and should be considered when submitting the proposal.

19. Q: As the enemy is destroyed, is it supposed to show on the commander's display and change the resultant probabilities in Blitzkrieg?

19. A: Yes, for Crystal Ball is expected to get updates from the environment on a regular basis. The system is not a static but a dynamic real time (or near-real time as possible) continuously changing system that will keep the commander apprised of his/her options as they develop.

20. Q: Is there an incumbent contractor working on these issues for DARPA?

20. A: No, the current seedling efforts were sub-set proof of concept efforts that it is feasible for Deep Green to work, but their approach might or might not be the best approach in solving the problem. There are other approaches that might be proposed that have equal or better solutions thus each proposal must stand up on its own merits and will be reviewed to determine if it meets the selection criteria for contract award funding consideration.

21. Q: Is teaming a requirement for bidding on only Task 2?

21. A: No. Teaming should be pursued if there are sub contractors that could strengthen a proposers proposal of the task to achieve the objectives and goals for the Deep Green effort.

22. Q: Can you please provide the spelling of "DRAPER M I D" who wrote that report? I googled it but couldn't find anything.

22. A: the effort was done by Draper Labs and MIT and the Final report will be posted to the DARPA IPTO Solicitations Web site under BAA 08-09 for all to download.

23. Q: Is there a preference for an existing vs. new simulation as the core of Blitzkreig? Is there a preference for OOS vs. other sims?

23. A: No, but OneSAF OOS is an open source system and can be made available to those that request it once they are on government contract. OneSAF OOS is ITAR protected and as such other simulation systems are equally as acceptable as long as they can comply with the Deep Green Government Use/Open Source rights as stated in the BAA 08-09 document.

24. Q: The new proposals will like consolidate content from 3-4 original proposals. So you have any guidance about prioritizing what material should make the cut?

24. A: The proposer will have to determine what to cut as long as they can meet all the requirements as stated under the BAA 08-09.

25. Q: Please elaborate on expectations for testing of multiple collaborating users at each phase. Will users be simultaneously speaking through the same microphone or use separate microphones?

25. A: Phase I will test each functional component individually against the Go/No Go criteria to show that they can perform as required. Phase II will test the functional integrated system components as a series of force-on-force, human-in-the-loop experiments in a simulation center against the go/no go criteria for Phase II. And Phase III will test the integrated system with Battle Command, a series of force-on-force, human-in-the-loop experiments in a simulation

center AND a tactical environment to be designated by DARPA at that time. The performer will have to determine how many microphones, if any, that are used to satisfy meeting the requirements for Phases' I, II, and III.

26. Q: The BAA suggests that a subset representing approximately 20% of the MIL-STD-2525b symbol set can address about 80% of scenarios, and would comprise the symbol set that the sketch recognition component will be evaluated against in Phase

I. Is there an available reference which can tell us which 2525b symbols are likely to be included in this 20% subset?

26. A: No. Contractors will have to determine the number of symbols and which symbols. This will depend on the use cases chosen by the test and evaluation contractor early in Phase I.

27. Q: Will the government supply a collection of audio & video recordings (capturing commander's speech as a plan is sketched out) that can be used as exemplars for training the sketch recognition system? If not, will the government provide access to SMEs and/or end-users, from which such a collection of recordings could be captured?

27. A: SME's will be on contract as a program resource. These SME's may be called upon to assist in this way. Coordination for the use of SME's will be made through the PM's representatives.

28. Q: What is your best estimate for an award date (i.e., what should be us as the start point for the schedule / budget)?

28. A: No

29. Q: Since the first BAA was canceled, is there any information you can share regarding the proposals received (e.g., number of proposals received for each task, name of companies submitting proposals for each task, etc.)?

29. A: No.

30. Q: What is your best estimate of the likelihood of multiple performers for task 1?

30. A: No estimate will be provided.

31. Q: If there are multiple awards for task 1, do you have any preference for whether the experimentation will occur in series or parallel?

31. A: T&E contractor should propose an approach they believe will be most supportable and effective, in other words the best value to the government. The PM does not have a preconceived notion (he's willing to share) of which is better than the other.

32. Q: Part One of the BAA, Overview Information refers to Blitzkrieg as subtask 1b and Crystal Ball as subtask 1c. Part II, Section V. Application Review Information refers to Crystal Ball as subtask 1b and Blitzkrieg as subtask 1c. Can the Government confirm that that the Part One references are correct: subtask 1b is Blitzkrieg and subtask 1c is Crystal Ball.

32. A:

1a is Commander's Associate

1b is Crystal Ball

1c is Blitzkrieg

33. Q: Part II, Section IV, Paragraph B, Content and Form of Application Submission, Proposal Preparation and Format of the BAA includes clear instructions related to the size of pages and text. Can Offerors assume that the 12 point minimum is not applicable to the text within graphics and tables? If 12 point sizing was intended to apply to both graphics and tables, we respectfully recommend that the Government consider allowing Offerors to use their discretion for the text size within each. If a minimum font size is necessary for graphics and tables, we recommend that the Government consider an 8 point minimum for graphics and 9 point for tables.

33. A:

Contractors may use a font not less than 8 point in figures and tables.

34. Q: In Part II, Section IV, Paragraph 3.2 Detailed Cost Breakdown of the original Deep Green Proposal, the Government had requested a cost proposal as detailed as the offeror's cost proposal to be submitted by the subcontractor. This requirement is not included in the new BAA. Can the Government confirm that a separate cost proposal is not required for subcontractors via a sealed bid submittal?

34. A: It is not required as long as the prime supplies the required information. Table 2 in the appendix should cover it, as well as the last part of section 3.1 which says "all subcontractor proposal backup documentation..."

35. Q: As indicated in Part II, Section IV, Paragraph 2.9, offerors should use "x months after contract award" designations for all dates. For purposes of pricing, can offerors assume a program start of 15 May 2008? If not, can the Government provide the desired date?

35. A: The purpose of the "x months" requirement is because we cannot guess how long the contracting process will take once the selection is made.

36. Q: Can we assume that proposals submitted should remain valid for a minimum period of 120 days?

36. A: Yes

37. Q: Part II, Section IV, Paragraph 2.8 requests that offerors provide a brief synopsis of key personnel. Item e in this paragraph requests we provide the amount of effort to be expended by each person during each year. Paragraph 2.10 that follows similarly request that offerors indicate the hours to be expended by each person during each contract year and provides a table showing the format desired for this information. This would appear to be a request to provide the same information in two places. Can the Government clarify if they desire offerors to provide the key personnel hours information in response to both 2.8 and 2.10? If there is a difference in the information desired in response to each paragraph, can the Government provide further clarification?

37. A: Where duplicate information is requested, include it in 2.10. Inclusion in 2.8 is optional.

38. Q: Part II, Section IV, Paragraph B, Content and Form of Application Submission, Proposal Preparation and Format, Paragraph 2.3 includes the following: "... The roadmap must also cross-reference the proposal page number(s) where each area is elaborated." Rather than requiring specific page number(s) in the Proposal Roadmap,

would the Government consider allowing offerors to specify proposal paragraph numbers.

38. A: Paragraph numbers are an acceptable surrogate for page numbers.

39. Q: Can US Government entities submit to the BAA, either as a prime or as a sub?

39. A: Government organizations cannot normally compete in any FAR procurement. "Full and open competition" (which includes BAAs) means that any responsible nonfederal source can compete in the procurement by submitting an offer or bid. FAR 2.101 helps define the context of "full and open competition" by defining "contracting" as meaning "the purchase, renting, leasing, or otherwise obtaining supplies or services from nonfederal sources." A proposer under a BAA can refer to "work being submitted independently to DARPA" by a government organization.

Proposals from government organizations are considered by DARPA for the performance of in-house RDT&E in support of DARPA objectives. In order to allow for appropriate review and decision-making on the part of DARPA, these proposals must contain the following:

- a. Title of research;
- b. Detailed statement of the objectives of the work to be undertaken, and why it is unique and innovative;
- c. Statement of work with sufficient technical detail to permit a thorough technical evaluation;
- d. Detailed costs and schedule; and
- e. Statement on why it cannot/should not be done by outside contracting resources.