

**Dynamic Command and Control for Tactical Forces and Maritime Operations
Center (MOC) FORCEnet Enabling Capability
BAA 08-015**

Questions and Answers

(As of 12 May 2008)

Question #1: Page 15 of ONR BAA 08-015 states: "Proposals under this BAA will only be considered from those Offerors that have a SECRET facility clearance with SECRET safeguarding, since any ensuing contract will require access to and storage of classified information." Page 30 of the BAA states: "In order to facilitate intra-program collaboration and technology transfer, the Government will attempt to enable technology developers to work at the unclassified level to the maximum extent possible. If access to classified material will be required at any point during performance, the Offeror must clearly identify such need prominently in its proposal." Which is correct?

Answer #1: Page 15 is correct. Text on page 30 relates to intra-program collaboration concerning technology (instead of actual work performed in the area of the research opportunity). Discussion of technology and theoretical applications of technology are normally discussed in unclassified venues.

Question #2: Is it feasible for universities and other performers that do not have personnel or facilities with access to classified information to team with industry performers that do have these capabilities?

Answer #2: Yes.

Question #3: Will ONR grant an extension of time for submission of white papers?

Answer #3: White papers are due at 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time on Thursday, 8 May 2008.

Question #4: My organization is interested in proposing work for individual thrusts, and for the overall effort described in ONR BAA 08-015. Will ONR consider multiple white papers to describe work on thrusts individually as well as a proposed effort to work on the entire effort?

Answer #4: Yes.

Question #5: My organization has cleared personnel and a Secret facility clearance with Secret safeguarding; but some of the researchers who are interested in work on ONR BAA 08-015 do not have clearances. Can these researchers attend unclassified portions of the Industry Day?

Answer #5: No. Industry Day briefings will be held at the SECRET level.

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Question #6: I was not able to attend the ONR BAA 08-015 Industry Day due to prior business commitments. How can I arrange to meet with appropriate ONR personnel to get information that was provided on Industry Day?

Answer #6: Briefings presented on Industry Day will be provided in a Digital Video Disk (DVD) format upon request from potential Offerors that have a Secret facility clearance with Secret safeguarding. The request should be sent to Mr. Peter St. Jacques peter.stjacques@navy.mil, with instructions concerning how to mail the DVD to the Facility Security Officer. ONR personnel will not meet with potential offerors except as described in ONR BAA 08-015.

Question #7: ONR BAA 08-015 indicates that transition of technology to Navy Command Control and Combat System Programs of Record is an area of emphasis. My organization is not familiar with Navy Command Control and Combat Systems Programs of Record. Will ONR consider proposals that would deliver technology articles directly to ONR, with transition to the Navy Programs of Record being accomplished by ONR?

Answer #7: ONR will consider any proposal submitted in response to the BAA. Your attention is invited to paragraph 6.4 in ONR BAA 08-015 which states in part:

"Offerors selected to perform research will be expected to work with other technology developers and also as members of government-lead teams that will coordinate the delivery of products to acquisition programs in a way that meets the schedule and performance requirements of the acquisition sponsor. Offerors should expect that the prototypes they develop will require interface modifications in order to properly integrate into the acquisition program or experimentation venue. The government will provide the guidance and coordination for interfacing and integrating products into acquisition programs and experimentation."

Question #8: My organization has invested extensively in development of basic technology through Internally-funded Research and Development. Will ONR consider proposals that include an appropriate licensing arrangement for intellectual property that is owned by my organization?

Answer #8: Your attention is invited to paragraph 6.4 in ONR BAA 08-015 which states in part:
"Full government rights to technology products - including intellectual property - is a necessary and important factor in the selection process."

Question #9: My organization has capability to develop technology solutions that are highly relevant to the research opportunity described in ONR BAA 08-015; but our solutions and their application are extremely sensitive. Will ONR designate government personnel who can enter into a non-disclosure agreement with my organization; so we can disclose our technology solutions to them?

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Answer #9: Section IV, paragraph 2 of ONR BAA 08-015 states:

"The white papers, oral presentations, and full proposals submitted under this solicitation must be unclassified. The proposal submissions will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with FAR 15.207, applicable law, and DoD/DON regulations. Offerors are expected to appropriately mark each page of their submission that contains proprietary information. The proposal shall include a severable, self-standing Statement of Work, and does not include any propriety restrictions."

Question #10: We are interested in applying only for the "compositions of enterprise services" part of the BAA. Our deliverable would be a tool which provides this functionality. Would such a limited proposal be acceptable, and what budget would be reasonable for this tool from ONRs point of view?

Answer #10: Yes, such a proposal would be acceptable. Page 32 of the BAA states:

"The Office of Naval Research plans to award multiple technology development efforts that represent the best value to the Government in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this announcement. The Office of Naval Research is seeking participants for this Program that are capable of supporting the goals described in this announcement. Offerors have the opportunity to be creative in the selection of the technical processes and approaches to addressing the thrust areas."

It would not be appropriate for ONR to provide guidance concerning budget.

Question #11: We would prefer to avoid providing secret facilities. To solve the problem of testing, we could deliver an operational prototype to a testing/integration contractor of ONRs choosing. That contractor would, say every 3 months, deploy the tool against a secret SOA infrastructure. Within one week, the contract would make feature/bug requests back to us (using non secret language). This arrangement would seal us from contact with secret knowledge, but provide a feedback channel to focus our research and development efforts. Would such an arrangement be acceptable from ONRs point of view?

Answer #11: Page 12 of the BAA clearly describes the arrangement that ONR expects potential offerors to take in performing work. ONR will not direct contractors to work together in connection with pre-award activities.

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Question #12: ONR BAA 08-015 describes the research opportunity in terms that specifically relate to military warfare area needs. My organization can provide a proposal for transformational technology that is broadly applicable to both business and military activities. Would a proposal that is not specifically linked to the needs of a military warfare area be considered under ONR BAA 08-015?

Answer #12: Yes. Please note that the purpose of ONR BAA 08-015 is to seek: "innovative solutions for enhanced capabilities for tactical-level command and control (C2)". Proposals that do not show a clear connection between the proposed technology solution and tactical-level command and control may be at a disadvantage in the evaluation process.
