Multi-Disciplinary Basic Research in the Science of Autonomy with Naval Relevance
BAA 09-008

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS 9 – 18
As of 7 November 2008

Q 9:	"This BAA is focused on multi-disciplinary research efforts that intersect more than one traditional science and engineering discipline...." Are multiple core areas within one traditional discipline considered "multidisciplinary?"
A 9:	It could be if those core areas are ones that do not traditionally work together or only work together in a very ad hoc way with significant differences between methodologies, theoretical frameworks, etc.
Q 10:	Is remote interaction with devices (not based on tele-operation) within the scope? The BAA states: "Approaches that focus on tele-operation of unmanned systems or traditional operator control of unmanned systems are outside the scope of this research".
A 10:	Interaction with remote systems is within the scope of the BAA if the interaction is at a high-level, such as tasking a system with a high-level mission requirement.
Q 11:	Is there an issue if some team members are also part of another team that is responding?
A 11:	In most cases, there would not be an issue. There may be some cases where it would be, such as if the person's work on both proposals was duplicative or had some type of dependency.
Q 12	If a for-profit organization is a subcontractor to a university prime, is the for-profit allowed to charge a fee?
A 12:	According to DoD policy, there is no profit or fee under a grant.
Q 13:	I noticed the following statement at the end of Section III (Eligibility Information) on page 9: "Some topics cover export controlled technologies. Research in these areas is limited to "U.S. persons" as defined in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) -22 CFR § 1201.1 et seq." Does this mean that all investigators and/or all other junior and senior researchers (eg, graduate students, postdocs) involved in this research have to be US citizens?

	I would appreciate it if you please clarify the eligibility requirements for responding to this BAA.
A 13:	If the research involves export controlled technologies, the research is limited to U.S. persons as defined in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) -22 CFR § 1201.1 et seq.
Q 14:	The BAA is rather clear on the fact that any government funded agency cannot be a lead on any proposal, but folks from these type of agencies are allowed to team on proposals. However, the BAA is not completely clear as to whether people from government funded agencies can be FUNDED co-investigators, or if they can only be UNFUNDED collaborators. Can you please clarify?
A 14:	The government funded agency cannot be a prime.
Q 15	Is it possible to consider a proposal / white paper submitted by a university with some collaboration effort from a DoD Lab? I have a collaborator working at a DoD Lab in this research area, it would be greatly helpful to have her in this team.

This is what I found in the BAA: "Navy laboratories and warfare centers as well as other Department of Defense and civilian agency laboratories are also not eligible to receive awards under this BAA and should not directly submit either white papers or full proposals in response to this BAA. If any such organization is interested in one or more of the programs described herein, the organization should contact the appropriate ONR POC to discuss its area of interest. The various scientific divisions of ONR are identified at http://www.onr.navy.mil/. As with FFRDCs, these types of federal organizations may team with other responsible sources from academia and industry that are submitting proposals under this BAA". |
A 15:	Yes, however, the white paper should be submitted by the university.
Q 16:	Does the 4 page limit include references?
A 16:	The 4 page limit applied to the white papers. References are not required in the white paper section. List of References are required for Full Proposals; however, a page limit is not provided.
Q 17:	Is research into natural interaction with unmanned vehicles appropriate under this BAA?
A 17:	Yes. Although as the BAA states in Section I.6, "the development of advanced sensors, communications hardware or hardware of any type is outside the scope of this effort with the exception of a limited amount of effort that may be used to design hardware needed as part of experiments."
Q 18:	Since the BAA says multi-disciplinary research, does it require co-PI, or can it be done by a single lab if the project uses multiple approaches to address the problem? If it requires multiple PIs, can the PIs be located in different institutions?

A 18:	Participants in a proposal may be from a single lab or from multiple institutions. An important factor in either case is the qualifications and capabilities of the participants with regards to each of the relevant disciplines involved in the proposed work.