ONR BAA FAQ: ONR 10-004

What is the title for this research opportunity?

Computer Network Defense

What is the program name?

Proactive Computer Network Defense and Information Assurance (CND/IA) Enabling Capability (EC)

Will proposal development costs be reimbursed for those that are accepted?

ONR provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs. Technical and cost proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to this BAA will not be returned.

What kind of contract will be drawn up for the accepted proposals?

Awards will take the form of contracts; however, ONR reserves the right to award a different instrument type if deemed to be in the best interest of the Government.

What are the three main components of this new architecture?

1. Decision Support
2. Sensors and Gateways
3. Security-Enabled Protocols

What other important factors should be considered when drafting a proposal?

Although the primary consideration in this effort is the development of algorithms, techniques and software, low cost of acquisition and ownership are also critically important. Where possible and when available, developers should consider use of any modified Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) or Government Off The Shelf (GOTS) in their developments as well as any design decisions that may allow reduction of lifecycle costs.

What rights will the Navy require to the resulting data and designs from these development efforts?

The Navy will generally require "Unlimited Rights" or "Government Purpose Rights" as defined by DFARS on all technical data and designs.

What requirements must the algorithms developed under this BAA meet?

Algorithms must operate on commercial computational platforms and commercial microprocessors and must be capable of executing within an embedded environment. If not directly developed for an embedded environment, the design/architecture of the algorithms must support reasonable integration into an embedded environment.

What is meant by "embedded environment?"

This means a custom environment where execution on a processor based system may not be supported by a standard operating system (OS).

What is the definition of commercial computational platforms?

Commercial computational platforms is defined to be modern computers, whether stand-alone or blades, running a current version of a commercial operating system (e.g., Windows or Unix).

Is there going to be a testbed for technology demonstration?

Each Offeror must demonstrate their technology within their respective development environment. An overall testbed to integrate all of the disparate components/ technology will be provided by the government and will be located at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL).

How will proprietary design submissions be handled?

Submission of proprietary designs of selected system level components is not encouraged. However, such designs may be accepted at the government's discretion, provided that functionality, performance and interfaces are adequately defined to permit integration with other system level components, and that the acceptance of the designs is in the best interests of the government.

How will classified information be exchanged during this development process?

All UNCLASSIFIED questions shall be submitted via e-mail to the Technical Point of Contact (PCO) with a copy to the designated Business POC. CLASSIFIED questions shall be handled through the ONR Security POC, Diana Pacheco. Her email address is diana.pacheco@navy.mil. Specifically, any entity wanting to ask a CLASSIFIED question shall send an email to the ONR Security POC with copy to both the Technical POC and the Business POC stating that the entity would like to ask a CLASSIFIED question. DO NOT EMAIL ANY CLASSIFIED QUESTIONS. The Security POC will contact the entity and arrange for the CLASSIFED question to be asked through a secure method of communication.

How will efforts under this BAA be funded?

An anticipated budget that begins at approximately two million dollars in fiscal year (FY) 2011 will be funding the efforts under this BAA. The budget will increase to approximately four to twelve million dollars in FY-12 through FY-14 and reduce to approximately four million dollars in FY-15. Approximately fifty percent of the total budget will be applied to the topic areas described in Section 6.1 of the BAA. ONR plans to utilize Exploratory Development Funds (Budget Category 6.2) and Advanced Technology Funds (Budget Category 6.3).

How will base studies be funded?

Base studies will be funded at a level up to approximately $300,000 dollars per study. The base study period will include both an initial and a final design review, and should last approximately six months.

How many awards will be funded?

Up to five awards will be funded, with approximately two to five million dollars per award over the period of performance.

What is the estimated timeline for this development?

The Government estimates a start date of Phase I **30 October 2010**, subject to date of final award and availability of funds. A Phase II Task Order will be issued to various IDIQ contract holders contingent upon a government decision to pursue the Phase II approach. The Government estimates a start date of **30 April 2011,** subject to date of final award and availability of funds.

Who is not eligible to submit proposals under this 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 an appropriate ONR POC to discuss its area of interest. The various scientific divisions of ONR are identified at http://www.onr.navy.mil/. Additionally, some topics cover export controlled technologies, and 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. (See Section VII, Other Information).

Does ONR encourage teaming up with academia and/or industry?

Teams are encouraged and may submit proposals in any and all areas. All responsible sources from academia and industry may submit proposals under this BAA. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged to submit proposals and join others in submitting proposals. However, no portion of this BAA will be set aside for HBCU and MI participation. As with FFRDCs, Navy laboratories and warfare centers, as well as other Department of Defense and civilian agency laboratories, may team with other responsible sources from academia and industry that are submitting proposals under this BAA.

What are the significant dates and times to remember?

Event	Date	Time
Industry Day	24 February 2010	10:00am Eastern Daylight Time
White Paper Due Date	15 March 2010	2:00pm Eastern Daylight Time
Notification of White Paper Evaluation	11 April 2010	Close of Business
Full Proposal Due Date	21 May 2010	2:00pm Eastern Daylight Time
Notification of Selection: Full Proposals	4 June 2010	Close of Business
Awards	30 October 2010	Close of Business

These dates are estimates

What is considered a "late" submission?

Any proposal that is received at the designated Government office after the exact time and date specified in the BAA is considered "late." See paragraph 4 entitled Submission of Late proposals on page 16 of the BAA for additional information. Please remember that all white papers are due by 2:00pm Eastern Daylight Time on 15 March 2010.

What is ONR's expected outcome from Phase 1 effort?

Phase I efforts will consist of a complete development of a detailed design of the technologies initially proposed consistent with guidance provided by the government on the overall system design. This detailed design effort will include addressing critical issues such as functionality, performance, complexity, limitations, and integration with the proposed system design. During Phase I the contractor will prepare and conduct preliminary and final reviews of the technology being designed with the system engineering team. The primary deliverable resulting from Phase I efforts will be well developed designs of the proposed technologies, along with both revised technical and cost proposals for the implementation of those designs in Phase II.

What is ONR's estimate on the number of labor hours the Offeror should assume in interacting with the government system engineering team in Phase I and Phase II?

The amount and period of performance of each selected proposal will vary depending on the research area and the technical approach to be pursued by the selected Offeror. Depending upon the perceived Navy needs, the periods of performance and levels of work for Phase II may differ from one company to another.

Is the use of IDIQ Contracts to provide ONR the ability to award a Task Order for Phase I and the quickly award a Task Order for the Phase II's that are selected to proceed?

The intent of using the IDIQ contract approach is to provide a responsive contractual process for awards in both Phase I and Phase II.

Will multiple awards under the IDIQ be made to the same company?

ONR will only award one IDIQ contract to the same company. One or more orders can be placed with that company contingent upon proposal acceptance.

What happens if the government awards a Phase I contract to a company, however, their Phase II proposal is unacceptable?

An order (Phase II) will not be awarded to a company whose proposal is unacceptable.

How many progress meetings will be held during the time of work?

At a minimum, the Offeror should plan to present a progress briefing semi-annually

What is the expected Test Readiness Level (TRL) at the time of proposal and the time of delivery?

At the time of proposal, the TRL cannot be less than Level 3. At the time of completion, the TRL must be equal to or greater than Level 6.

Has the change in the Industry Day affected the White Paper submission date?

The date for submission of white papers remains unchanged.

Is there any expectation as to which set of technical areas would be appropriate for a given proposal?

The Offeror should propose technology/solutions that they feel they can deliver in accordance with their White Paper submission.

What is the acceptability of host-based detection and reaction components?

All technologies are viable candidates for this BAA. There is no bias towards components that are deployed within the network as opposed to the end hosts.

What are the major characteristics of the target Naval integrated warfighting systems? Are they mostly wireline infrastructure network, mostly wireless network; are they Ad hoc, Mobile?

The most critical networks at this time are the wireline and wireless networks.

What is ONR's guideline in trading off false positive with false negative? Speed versus accuracy?

There are no general guidelines at this time. Each situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Is ONR willing to consider use of components that are and will remain classified?

Yes, however, the implications of such components need to be fully disclosed to the government.

When the Offeror has multiple innovative component technologies, does ONR encourage a single integrated whitepaper/proposal to include all components or one whitepaper/proposal per component?

Only one White Paper will be accepted from each offeror. All proposed components/technologies must be addressed within the single White Paper.

Does ONR require (or prefer) the open source for the delivered software source code, or does it not matter much as long as the source code is delivered with unlimited rights?

Open source software is not a requirement, only that the source code is delivered with unlimited rights to the government.

Does the network-based auto-configuration/auto-reconfiguration mechanisms and control need to be automatic?

Automatic is preferred.

Who are the technical points of contact?

Stanley Chincheck at the Naval Research Laboratory can be reached at 202-767-2932 or emailed at stanley.chincheck@nrl.navy.mil. If he is unavailable, Kim McCormick at the Office of Naval Research can be reached at 703-696-8358 or emailed at kim.mccormick@navy.mil.

Who are the business points of contact?

AJ Tysenn at the Office of Naval Research will handle all contractual inquiries. He can be emailed at anthony.tysenn@navy.mil. If he is unavailable, Vera Carroll can be emailed at vera.carroll@navy.mil.