

CND/IA EC Industry Day Questions & Answers

24 February 2010

1. **Question:** There is a wealth of other information other than network traffic. Are we limited to network traffic?

Answer: No, any information as well as traffic can be used/processed in order to support cyber situational awareness and decision making in order to protect our networks.

2. **Question:** How many gateways are planned?

Answer: Many. They are designed to be deployable at all appropriate levels within the network infrastructure.

3. **Question:** Does this BAA cover DON networks in combat and tactical environments? Are these mobile networks?

Answer: Not initially. However, our intent is to develop the technology to facilitate migration into the tactical environment.

4. **Question:** Is the BAA open enough where you can consider deploying a sensor on every host?

Answer: Yes we are open to that approach, however, it cannot be cost prohibitive.

5. **Question:** At what level will the Common Operational Security Decision System (COSDS) be deployed?

Answer: The COSDS will be developed to be scalable, thus supporting deployment at any level deemed appropriate, including shipboard.

6. **Question:** Are you interested in attribution?

Answer: Yes, attribution is a critical network traffic characteristic that we plan to address within this EC.

7. **Question:** How does the Common Operational Security Decision System (COSDS) relate to CANES/N-GEN?

Answer: The COSDS provides a capability that CANES/NGEN can utilize.

8. **Question:** Is there a collection of logs/data (data set) for this effort?

Answer: Yes. A malware data set is being developed by NRL to support tool/system development, as well as integration testing.

9. **Question:** Will this vehicle be used to enhance malware analysis capability?
Answer: This program is not intending to develop malware reverse engineering capabilities/tools.
10. **Question:** At what level will the malware catalog be classified?
Answer: At the SECRET level.
11. **Question:** You mention that malware collection data can become classified but the BAA mentions most work will be unclassified. How do you reconcile this?
Answer: The development of various capabilities will be handled in an unclassified environment where each Offeror will provide their own data sets to validate their technology. However, each capability will be assessed using actual data in the NRL Testbed that will be classified.
12. **Question:** Can you comment on the scalability, characteristics or the network that you want us to work with?
Answer: Use NIPRNET as the baseline for a starting point.
13. **Question:** Do you prefer for solutions in protocols to be in-line with current government standards?
Answer: No, that is not a requirement.
14. **Question:** Are you trying to make this more GOTS than COTS?
Answer: This Program is intended to develop a healthy mix of GOTS and COTS.
15. **Question:** Do you want the system to be scalable from the unit level to the global level?
Answer: Yes.
16. **Question:** Are we looking for reverse code enhancements?
Answer: Not directly. However, our intent is to find unique ways to characterize malware such that our gateways and sensors can detect the presence of malicious code in network traffic.
17. **Question:** Are you interested in insider threat as well?
Answer: Yes.
18. **Question:** Is the EC concerned about false decisions?
Answer: Yes, false detections as well as false positives are a significant problem that will need attention.

19. **Question:** For the visualizations in the COSDS, are we limited to the two-dimensional standard monitor?

Answer: *The short answer is no. However, recognize that in this EC we need to determine what data is essential for the human to “see” in order to leverage human processing skills as part of the decision support process.*

20. **Question:** Can we assume COSDS will be on land in a room?

Answer: *No, it can also be placed on ships as well as in airborne platforms.*

21. **Question:** Who will perform the overall integration of the system?

Answer: *The Naval Research Laboratory.*

22. **Question:** How many vendors will there be in Phase 1?

Answer: *As stated in the BAA, the most will be five.*

23. **Question:** If we submit a white paper with three topics can you award on one of those three topics or is it all or nothing?

Answer: *If we believe one of the topics is well suited to this EC, we are willing and able to approach the vendor with a request for a Full Proposal only addressing specific topics.*

24. **Question:** How much technical detail should be in the white paper?

Answer: *You should provide sufficient evidence to support your proposal.*

25. **Question:** What is the level of substantiation of the ROM for the white paper?

Answer: *A detailed breakdown is not needed. Only a number is necessary for the White Papers.*

26. **Question:** Will separate ROM's per key technology areas within a single white paper be permitted?

Answer: *Yes, that is available to the Offeror.*

27. **Question:** Do you have to bid for both phases?

Answer: *Yes.*

28. **Question:** Do you want a ROM for the Phase II in the white paper?

Answer: *Yes.*

29. **Question:** After Phase I, can we re-estimate Phase II work.

Answer: Yes. The intent of the Phase I effort is to result with a revised Phase II proposal that now takes into consideration the level of effort involved with the other vendor technology components/solutions that will be integrated into the completed system.

30. **Question:** What documentation is required during Phase I besides the design document?

Answer: The revised Phase II proposal.

31. **Question:** If the white papers address three technologies should the pricing be separated out?

Answer: Yes.

32. **Question:** If you write about technology “x” in the white paper and are invited to submit a technical proposal, can the technical proposal address technology “y”?

Answer: Yes, only if technology “y” is pertinent to technology “x”. In that circumstance, contact the program office to inform them of this addition.

33. **Question:** In Phase I, do you want us to propose an architecture?

Answer: You can, but it is likely not going to be the one that is used in this program.

34. **Question:** Can we get a list of SIBR topics that NRL or ONR are currently working on? It will show what the Navy is currently invested in.

Answer: You may request that information through a FOIA request to ONR.

35. **Question:** Will there be multiple awards in Phase II?

Answer: Yes.

36. **Question:** Do you want an end-to-end solution?

Answer: It does not have to be. You can focus on one technology area that is relevant to this effort.

37. **Question:** Regarding the white paper, do we send a hard copy and a disk or is email sufficient?

Answer: Email is sufficient. However, if there is a problem reading the file, ONR will not be held responsible. Note, do not send zip files. Also, to address the buffer/size limitations of NMCI, send your email proposal to stanley.chincheck@nrl.navy.mil

38. **Question:** Will NRL be evaluating the white papers?

Answer: Yes, NRL will be participating as part of a team of evaluators.

39. **Question:** Are you using contractors to support the program management of this effort?

Answer: Minimally.

40. **Question:** Can we have COTS products that are protected by patents? Is a limited license agreement with the government acceptable?

Answer: This will have to be handled on a case-by-case basis. Just recognize you are placing yourself in a disadvantaged position if technology with limitations is being proposed to the government.

41. **Question:** Should travel costs to NRL be included in pricing?

Answer: Yes.

42. **Question:** If you do have DCAA approved rates for Phase I can you still submit a proposal?

Answer: Yes. However, all work for Phase II will require DCAA approved rates.

43. **Question:** If DCAA rates of 2003 are available, can we use them?

Answer: Current rates should be use when preparing the cost proposal.

44. **Question:** If you submit a white paper and then add a team member, can you still submit a technical proposal with the new team member?

Answer: Yes.

45. **Question:** Since this will be an IDIQ, can other agencies use this BAA as a vehicle if they have money?

Answer: No.

46. **Question:** Since the Industry Day was delayed by two weeks, will you consider extending the white paper submission deadline by a corresponding two weeks?

Answer: No.

47. **Question:** Does “activity” in the Tech Interest section “Methods and Techniques to determine the topology and activities of networks” mean all activity or just hostile/suspicious activity as identified by sensors?

Answer: All forms of activity.

48. **Question:** How will ONR protect proprietary information within the government and within industry?

Answer: *As stated on page 10 of the BAA, "Proposal submissions will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with FAR Subpart 15.207, applicable law, and DoD/DoN regulations. Offerors are expected to appropriately mark each page of their submission that contains proprietary information."*

49. **Question:** NSWC's and other government agencies are excluded from participating in this BAA. Does this apply to the Naval Post Graduate School as well?

Answer: *Government agencies, such as NPS, can approach the EC Manager directly for consideration.*

50. **Question:** Can the NPGS be used as a teammate?

Answer: *Yes.*

51. **Question:** Can the government accept more than one proposal per vendor?

Answer: *Yes, only if the various parts of the company are separate legal entities.*