Amendment 0003

BAA 10-020 titled "Dynamic Tactical Communications Networks"

The purpose of Amendment 0003 is to answer questions submitted prior to 13 July 2010.

The following questions have been received and the answers provided:

DTCN Q&A #1

Q: Will the attendance list from the Industry Day be posted?

A: Yes. It was posted at the Office of Naval Research (ONR) website and at the FedBizOpps (FBO) website on 8 July 2010.

Q: Is ONR envisioning the products developed under this BAA support Inter- or Intra- platform combat systems information exchanges?

A: Yes. We believe that products may support both inter- and intra- platform combat systems information exchanges.

Q: Will all questions and answers be posted at FedBizOpps?

A: Yes, Q&As will be posted to both ONR and FBO websites.

Q: What are current Technology Transition Agreements (TTA) and are they available?

A: We have existing TTAs with Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) (Level B) and Automated Digital Network System (ADNS) (Level C, Level B). They are available to performers.

Q: What level of maturity are you expecting for performers technologies at the entrance of this program? Q: What TRLs are required, in what time frame?

A: TRL of 3-4 at contract start, 6-7 by program end.

Q: Do you see a role for universities? How do you expect them to participate?

A: Yes, universities are encouraged to participate. We may issue either grants or contracts as appropriate. Universities may be either prime offerors or subcontractors.

Q: Do the SOW (3 pages) and project schedule (1 page) count against the Technical Volume page limit (20 pages)?

A: Yes.

Q: Following the July 23 proposal submissions, when will those proposers meeting the criteria be notified of invitation to orals?

A: Orals are nominally scheduled for 23 August 2010. Proposers will be given 10 days notice. The Government intends to notify successful offers no later than 13 August 2010.

Q: Are proposers required to bid both thrusts? Are proposers required to bid all topic areas in a thrust?

A: No. Proposers may choose topic areas of interest/competence.

Q: Proposal instructions call for Times New Roman 12. Can a graphic use Arial 10?

A: Yes.

Q: Who (or what) decides that the mission phase has changed?

A: The operational and/or tactical commander decides mission priorities.

Q: For the Marines, Is WIN-X the real priority? What is the timeline for transition to NOTM/WIN-X deployments or current systems?

A: Unknown. The DTCN Enabling Capability does not currently have a signed TTA with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Q: How are the mission phases selected and communicated to all mission commanders?

A: ONR is looking for good ideas to address this problem. The viability of the proposed approach and risk to the program will be used to assess each proposal.

Q: How are mission phase decisions passed to the Tactical Core?

A: ONR is looking for good ideas to address this problem. The viability of the proposed approach and risk to the program will be used to assess each proposal.

Q: Priority deconfliction and hierarchical aggregation is a complex process. Should tools in thrust 1 assist in it or is it to be done by humans/fleet communities?

A: The fleet currently uses a manual process, but the desired end state is to have more automation to reduce the manpower required to operate the network. ONR is looking for good ideas to address this problem. The viability of the proposed approach and risk to the program will be used to assess each proposal.

Q: Is the flow prioritization process hierarchical and done in 1 pass or is it iterative?

A: ONR is looking for good ideas to address this problem. The viability of the proposed approach and risk to the program will be used to assess each proposal.

Q: In the CANES/ADNS architectural picture there was an INE connected to the unclassified domain. What is the purpose of having the INE connected to the unclassified domain?

A: The purpose of the INE is to cryptographically separate the unclassified LAN from the routing core.

Q: Would you consider proposals with non-IP/TCP (clean slate) architectures?

A: ONR is open to any approaches that are TRL of 3-4 at contract start, 6-7 by program end, with low risk to the program. However, given that the Navy still uses IPv4 and TCP, there should be a discussion about backwards compatibility/interoperability between what is being proposed and legacy systems.

Q: What is the current government position on management across the enclaves? On one of the slides I saw a figure that seems to suggest that management node will have guarded flow path to all enclaves. Is that correct?

A: ONR is looking for good ideas to address this problem. The viability of the proposed approach and risk to the program will be used to assess each proposal.

Q: What are the specific group communications applications being considered?

A: There are no specific group communications applications being requested. Vendors are free to offer new solutions.

Q: Are you expecting a new transport protocol or modifications to existing protocols?

A: The ONR is open to any approaches that are TRL of 3-4 at contract start, 6-7 by program end, with low risk to the program.

Q: Which Line of Sight (LOS) links support ADNS? Q: What RF links are being used in the DTCN tactical core?

A: Unknown. These programmatic decisions have not yet been made. The Navy is evaluating JTRS, HNM, and Wi-Fi 802.16.

Q: Will ONR make EMANE scenarios available to proposers?

A: EMANE scenarios will be available to all performers after the award.

Q: Who are current FNT 09-02 performers and what are they developing?

A: The current performers are Boeing and Telcordia. Boeing is developing technology related to routing protocols. Telcordia is developing technology related to policy-based network management.

Q: The proposal schedule appears to be very aggressive. For example, after oral presentation response on August 30, response is due September 7 (Labor Day weekend part of this). Same

with initial proposal due July 23 (less than 30 days with July 4 in midst). Would the government entertain extending the timelines?

A: No. The Government is not considering extending the timelines at this moment.

Q: Will there be capability for the warfighter to override mission configuration of DTCN based on immediate tactical situation?

A: ONR is looking for good ideas to address this problem. The viability of the proposed approach and risk to the program will be used to assess each proposal. However, this type of capability needs to have sufficient safeguards to ensure that global priorities are not adversely impacted by local changes.

Q: Does DTCN effort include development and/or integration of new physical link types?

A: Yes, but it must be abstracted due to the programmatic uncertainty regarding the physical links that will be deployed in the future.

Q: Can we get access to the prior work solutions listed in the solicitation (pg 7) and build onto/leverage these work areas? Are they available in EMANE?

A: Army and DARPA materials can only be provided by these organizations. NRL and RFC materials are available on the web.

Q: Is this a multi-phase contract award with base period of 9-12 months? or is the contract awarded for the entire period of performance at full price?

A: Base + option(s) for the entire period of performance.

Q: To what extent should IPv6 be considered? e.g., May an IPv6-only solution be proposed?

A: The viability of the proposed approach and risk to the program will be used to assess each proposal. Vendors are free to propose whatever solutions they think have value. However, given that the Navy still uses IPv4, there should be a discussion about backwards compatibility/interoperability between an IPv6 and legacy systems.

Q: Please provide a baseline for calculating travel costs for the 3 phases, especially for the integration and demonstration phase.

A: See BAA pg 17 and 18. Nominally, there are the four Quarterly Performance Reviews (QPRs) per year, alternating between San Diego, CA and Washington, DC. Additional travel may be required to support demonstration/experimentation/evaluation. Possible locations include: the greater Washington, DC area, NUWC, Rhode Island, SPAWAR-Pacific, San Diego, CA, SPAWAR-Atlantic Charleston, SC, MCB Cherry Point, NC, MCB Yuma, AZ, Norfolk, VA. This list is not to be considered all-inclusive, as current schedules and events are likely to change. Offerors can estimate the potential for eight (8) three day events per year. This is in addition to the 4 QPRs.

Q: What is the leave behind policy for hardware and software after the lab integration and technical demonstrations?

A: See BAA pg 15: Vendor shall specify in detail all deliverables, hardware and software. The government will review proposed deliverables during proposal evaluation.

Q: There is a "NRL Notional DTCN Architecture and Gaps Document", can that be provided to the bidders?

A: No publicly available document exists.

Q: Can you support Windows VMs or an attached server/workstation in the lab environment?

A: While supported, current attempts to execute VMs in the existing EMANE environment show substantial time jitter. Our current suggestion is to run directly on the hardware.

Q: For each technology bid, should there be an independent separable Statement of Work (SOW), of max of 3 pages each, or one SOW covering each technology, within the 20 page constraint of the Technical Volume? Same question for the project schedule?

A: The SOW is three pages (maximum) of your twenty technical pages. Vendors may submit multiple proposals. Vendors are requested not to abuse this privilege. We suggest that vendors concentrate their efforts on generating one excellent proposal in a technical area rather than multiple, less focused proposals.

Q: Please provide the "Naval Scenario intended to encourage proposers to consider what technologies are needed." and the "Working documents from the OSD-chartered JTEN" ? The BAA says we were supposed to get a CD at Industry Day but that was not provided.

A: The PIP has been superseded by the information presented and already provided.