Navy Decision Science Incubator
Program Announcement: N00014-20-S-B002
Question and Answers
Dated: 19 November 2019

The following list includes all of the questions concerning the Decision Science Incubator (DSI) received to date as well as responses to each.

Question 1:   Please clarify whether the government is looking to award a contract to a single company that would manage the overall new OTA, similar to the C5, UTIC or NAMC etc. OTA, and then have members of the new OTA perform the R&D?

Response 1:   The Office of Naval Research (ONR) does not intend to establish a consortium or similar arrangement to manage the DSI. ONR contemplates a single award to a responsible Applicant to conduct research into decision science, develop prototypes which promote the application of decision science methods and techniques, and perform the management and administrative functions necessary to operate the DSI. Interested parties are directed to the following sections of the Program Announcement for more information on this topic. There are no changes to the Program Announcement as a result of this question.

Section I Overview
Section II Detailed Information
    a. Program Description
    b. Federal Award Information
        3. Funded Amount and Period of Performance
            A. Anticipated Number of Awards
    e. Application Review Information
        2. Review and Selection Process
            B. Subcontracts, Teaming Arrangements, and Partnerships

Question 2.   When writing the proposal, should we assume that PhD-level personnel with expertise in decision science will review the proposal or will the reviewing group include a broader set of readers (e.g., active duty Navy officers)?

Response 2:   The identities and backgrounds of Government evaluators are source selection sensitive. ONR will not address this question further.

Question 3.   We plan to include evidence of access to space with SECRET security clearance. Is there a preferred site where such classified extensions of fundamental research would take place?

Response 3:   No.

Question 4:   Given that the initial areas of focus include improving military readiness through reinforcement of signature behaviors and reduction of destructive behaviors, would it make sense for us to include specific pre-selected proposals on these topics? Alternatively, is it better to assume that all proposals will go through the same █████ █████████ (sic: Management Plan) screening process that we propose to develop?

Response 4:   Applicants may propose however they see fit. However, Applicants are cautioned that a successful proposal must include a response to all requirements of the Program Announcement and are reminded about the page count limitation stated in Appendix 1 – Requirements Applicable to Contracts and Other Transaction Agreements. There are no changes to the Program Announcement as a result of this question.

Question 5:   Would it be OK if I reached out to ██████████████████████████████████ ███████████████████████████████

Response 5:   Applicants may seek participation from individuals as they see fit. However, Applicants are cautioned that including recently departed Government personnel in their proposal may create an Organization Conflict of Interest (OCI). Applicants are directed to following section of the Program Announcement for more information on OCIs. There are no changes to the Program Announcement as a result of this question.

Question 6   Reference Technical Proposal Template, Section 5: Personnel Qualifications – 2.0: Include resumes for the Principal Investigator and other key personnel and full curricula vitae for Principal Investigators and consultants. The resumes and curricula vitae shall be attached to this document and will not count toward the page limitations. Can ONR clarify the difference between a resume and CV? And confirm what documents should be submitted for PIs, key personnel, and consultants? Are there page limits for resumes and CVs?

Response 6   The Technical Proposal Template was prepared to speak to as broad of an audience as possible. It is not intended to require additional documentation or place additional burdens on potential applicants. In certain fields, resumes are more common than CVs. The opposite is true in other fields. Applicants shall submit a resume or CV for each individual proposed as key personnel. Applicants need not be burdened with submitting both. There is no page limitation on resumes or CVs. There are no changes to the Program Announcement as a result of this question.

Question 7   Reference PA Appendix 1-1, Section A, Content and Format of Application Submission: Can short bios for non-key personnel and letters of support be included as an Appendix to the Technical Proposal?

Response 7   No. Applicants are only to submit additional biographical information (see Response 6) for key personnel. If an Applicant wishes to include biographical information for non-key personnel in its proposal, it is most appropriately included in the Technical Volume. However, Applicants are cautioned that such material will not be excluded from the page count requirement.

Question 8   Reference PA, Section II, Paragraph d.2.C: Is there a page limit for the Non-Proprietary Statement of Work (SOW)?

Response 8   There is no page limit for the Non-Proprietary SOW. However, Applicants are cautioned that successful performance of this effort will be defined by how well the Applicant performs the tasks described in the SOW.

Question 9   Reference PA, Section II, Paragraph d.2.D: Is the Management Plan distinct from the Management Approach referenced in the Technical Proposal Template, Section 3?

Response 9   ONR intends to incorporate the Non-Proprietary Management Plan described in the PA at Section II, Paragraph d.2.D., or a negotiated version of it, into the resulting award as an attachment similar to the Non-Proprietary SOW. Applicants may summarize their Non-Proprietary Management Plan in the Technical Volume at Section 3 Management Plan or introduce additional details which may be proprietary in nature as the Technical Proposal allows for proprietary information. There are no changes associated with this question.

Question 10   Reference Cost Proposal: Supporting documentation and a justification is required for consultants, equipment, and ODC. Can a budget justification be included in the Cost Proposal for other cost categories (e.g. Labor&Ind Rates)?

Response 10   Applicants are directed to the Cost Proposal Template (available on the ONR website), Tab: General, Cell B5. Supporting documentation may be submitted in whatever format (vendor quotes, price catalogs, recent invoices) is most appropriate to substantiate the proposed cost element. Applicants may include a separate cost narrative to articulate the basis and rationale used to develop the total proposed amount if that basis and rationale is not otherwise readily apparent. There are no changes associated with this question.

Question 11: The RFP states there is $1M available for the base year and that the entire program may have as much as $75M available. Is the $1M available for the base year all that is expected to be available?

Response 11: The anticipated value of the Decision Science Incubator effort is $75 million over five (5) years. The resulting award(s) will be incrementally funded. The Government presently has $1 million available for award. Additional funding will be added to the resulting award(s) via modification. There are no changes associated with this question.

<div align="center">End of Questions and Responses</div>