

Amendment 0001
Solicitation Number 13-SN-0009
Special Program Announcement for 2013
Office of Naval Research Research Opportunity:
Computational Methods for Decision Making
Date 25 MAR 2013

The purpose of Amendment 0001 is to respond to questions submitted prior to 22 MAR 2013.

Questions received after that date and before the deadline for submissions of questions will be addressed in a subsequent amendment.

1. Questions and Answers are provided as follows:

Question 1: Is \$250k the overall maximum value over all the contracts each year? Or is it \$250,000 PER contract?

Answer 1: Subject to the availability of funds, ONR plans to fund multiple individual awards each with an estimated average value of \$250,000 per year.

Question 2: Funding of \$250K (+/-) per year: is this for one task area or for all four of the tasks?

Answer 2: ONR plans to fund multiple individual awards with an average value of \$250,000 per year. The funding is not related to one particular thrust area. Awards maybe larger of smaller depending on the resources required to achieve the technical goals.

Question 3: White paper (4 pages): Does the proposer need to respond to all four task areas? Do you need a white paper for each area?

Answer 3: No, a white paper/proposal can address one or more of the four thrust areas described in Section II. entitled Topic Description. White papers/proposals that address multiple thrust areas should provide severable estimates/budgets for each thrust.

Question 4: What is the planned Technology Readiness Level (TRL)? Will real data sets be provided?

Answer 4: This is a solicitation for applied research which is generally understood to be TRL 2, 3, and 4. Proposers may request that the government provide real world data.

Question 5: Can we submit a classified white paper or proposal?

Answer 5: White papers and proposals are expected to be unclassified.

Question 6: In the special notice there are four thrusts identified. Given appropriate scope, is it proper / desired for a project to expand multiple thrusts?

Answer 6: No, it is not proper/desired for a project to expand over multiple thrust areas. Please refer to Question and Answer #3. above.

Question 7: If the project focuses on general algorithm and methodological development that can be extended to naval applications and other areas, what is the expectation on the specific naval applications being directly targeted in the project? More specifically, in the white paper or later the full proposal, is it preferred to show preliminary data / demonstration examples on naval-related data and problems? In the proposed project, is the targeted application of the algorithm / theoretical development expected to be directly related to naval problems? Or it can be proposed to be demonstrated in other applications given the notion that the developed algorithms are general and can be extended to naval applications (even if it's not directly demonstrated in the project)?

Answer 7: The solicitation describes applied research opportunities motivated by naval concerns. The algorithmic development should be for algorithms that could be used in a variety of circumstances; however, the performance of the algorithm will be demonstrated in a specific circumstance. Offerors may propose to demonstrate the performance of their algorithms in applications other than those described in the solicitation. However, the applications described in the solicitation have preference over an application that is not described in the solicitation and that is proposed as a demonstration vehicle by the offeror.

Question 8: If we are responding to one or more areas - what if any are the page restrictions? Do we have to stay within the 4 page limit?

Answer 8: Offerors are encouraged to submit a single white paper that is no more than 4 pages in accordance with the instructions stated in the Special Notice. Offerors responding to multiple thrust areas may submit multiple white papers. No more than four white papers should be submitted by any one offeror or business unit.

During the full proposal submission process, only a single proposal may be submitted from a business unit and if it addresses multiple thrust areas it must contain a severable SOW and separate cost proposal/budget for each area.

Question 9: Are we able to meet with you regarding our proposed direction/idea prior to submitting a white paper?

Answer 9: No. One on one feedback cannot be provided. Answers to questions will be published as Amendments to the Special Notice.

Question 10: Can a non-US organization, submit a proposal as a single contractor, or should we team with a US company, institute or university?

Answer 10: Yes, non-US entities may submit white papers and proposals. Please review the proposal submission requirements to ensure you are eligible for award as a prime contractor. Additionally, a model contract award is available for reviewing at: <http://www.onr.navy.mil/Contracts-Grants/submit-proposal/contracts-proposal/contract-model-awards.aspx>.

Question 11: Are there any specific regulations or security issues for non-US applicants?

Answer 11: No, this solicitation is for unclassified applied research in the areas described within the body of the solicitation.

Question 12: Would you consider it more appropriate in our case to submit a proposal for a contract or for a grant? Or is this depending on the type of research (basic, applied or advanced)?

Answer 12: It is the offeror's responsibility to determine whether or not they should submit a proposal for a grant or contract. However, institutions that will be submitting a proposal for a grant should do so through grants.gov. Offerors submitting a proposal for a contract should follow the instructions contained within the solicitation. Awards under this solicitation make take the form of grants or contracts.

Question 13: Do you have any preference that we cover the topic of automated image understanding as complete as possible (issues a-e) or do you prefer that we focus on a single issue? Or is there no preference at all?

Answer 13: Within a particular area, for example Automated Image Understanding, potential offerors can focus on any or all of the issues that are described.

Question 14: I noticed that the white paper submission only specifies to include "Principle Investigator." Does it mean this special notice only supports single-PI proposals?

Answer 14: A proposal can have only one Principal Investigator, but may have as many Associate Investigators as necessary.

Question 15: The white paper must include a funding plan showing requested funding per fiscal year. Is this budget binding, or would we have the opportunity to make changes at a full proposal stage?

Answer 15: The budget is not binding; however, offerors should make every attempt to provide a realistic budget.

Question 16: Does the reference list (bibliography) of the white paper counts against the 4-page limit?

Answer 16: The reference list (bibliography) does not count against the page limitation.