

Question #	Source Document	Paragraph (s)	Question	Answer
1	Request For Solution	Paragraph 2	The three-month timeline feels very tight. Is there any flexibility to go to between 6-9 months?	We do not anticipate lengthening the schedule timeline. The goal of the AI-Powered/AL prototype project effort is to leverage a variety of commercial out-of-the box (OOB), non-developmental, or open source software solution products. We are not expecting any new software development as part of the solution.
2	Request For Solution	Paragraph 2	Also, is the budget of \$414K final or prospective? Is there any flexibility there?	We do not anticipate increasing the budget. The budget of \$414K is the total for one or multiple OT awarded as a result of this RFS.
3	Request For Solution	Paragraph 5.3.6, Milestone 3	As for the pilot testing, will DAU be identifying and recruiting a specific course, instructor, and group of students? If not, the proposed 1-month timeline for pilot testing seemed very tight. Is there any flexibility?	Yes, vendors are encouraged to submit their solution to their schedule understanding that the goal is to meet the RFS stated timeline. DAU faculty will serve as the instructor(s), the courseware will be provided by DAU as GFI for Offeror's to port onto their platform and incorporate AI-powered adaptive learning features. The students will be recruited by DAU. Reference RFS para 5.3.6, Milestone 3, "Each prototype pilot assessment will be conducted with up to 75 students, selected by DAU, over a period of approximately 14-days."
4			If a contractor is not already qualified for TREX membership, how long does that process take? Would it be feasible to handle TREX membership concurrently with application or after winning?	The TREX membership process takes minutes. You must join the membership in order to submit a proposal as Prime. The TREX membership POC is: kelly@nstl.org
5	Request For Solution	Paragraph 11, Link 1 and Link 2	Roughly what percentage of the content is video content (25, 50, 75%)? For the video content, are their transcripts?	The GFI provided for the prototype pilots will closely resemble content from Link 1 and Link 2.
6	Request For Solution	Paragraph 11, Link 1 and Link 2	We see the example of the project assessment in the RFS. Are there other assessments in the content and if so, what is their format - multiple choice, true/false, short answer?	The prototype GFI will include a final exam assessment in the same format as Links 1 and 2, which include multiple choice and limited true/false.
7	Request For Solution	Paragraph 11, Link 1 and Link 2	For a particular topic, is the learn material spread across multiple modules or contained in a single module?	Generally, topics are contained in a single module; however, a few topics are spread across multiple modules. Please refer to Link 1 and Link 2.
8	Request For Solution	Paragraph 5.3.6, Milestone 3	What is the LMS in which the content is hosted and delivered to the learner?	Cornerstone on Demand (SCORM 2004 packaged); however, ref: RFS para 5.3.6, Milestone 3, "DAU will conduct a prototype pilot assessment performed on the vendor's platform utilizing the DAU ported courseware generated from Milestone 2."
9			Based on the answers to questions, is there a possibility of an extension to the due date?	The RFS will be updated to extend the due date to become 24 Feb 2020.
10	Request For Solution	Paragraph 5.3.6	Is there any flexibility on the timeline for the deliverables?	Deliverables are identified with anticipated dates. The requirements are to follow the anticipated dates identified in the RFS, however revised schedules are permissible to support the vendors solution and efficiencies.
11	Request For Solution	Paragraph 7.5.2 and Paragraph 5.3.6 Milestone 3	Would you accept a partial solution for this period of performance?	Yes. Ref: RFS para 7.5.2, "The Government reserves the right to award to a vendor that does not meet all of the requirements, but provides attributes or partial solutions of value". A partial solution could include Focus Area elements implemented for a subset of components within the courseware; however, the entire course (Ref: RFS para 5.3.6 Milestone 3) needs to be delivered and run on the Offeror's platform because it will be piloted with current DAU students.
12			How does DAU define Tier 1 support?	For this prototype pilot, vendor Tier 1 support may include the following activities: - Resolve User Logon Issues/ authentication to the vendor's application/platform - Resolve vendor application capability and functionality issues - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)/Job Aids to support students Ref: RFS, Paragraph, 5.3.6 "The vendor(s) are required to provide Tier 1 Help Desk Support and Job Aids to support students during execution of Prototype Pilots"
13			May a performer submit a proposal as the prime and serve as a subcontractor on another proposal?	yes; recommend submitting an OCI mitigation plan for any known or perceived OCI concerns.
14	Request For Solution	Paragraph 1	Are multiple awards anticipated?	Yes. Ref RFS, Para 1. The Government will evaluate the solutions with the intent to competitively awarding one or multiple Other Transaction (OT) Agreements for prototype projects through the Training and Readiness Accelerator (TRex).
15			Will we have to use the DAU LMS system or do they want us to have the LMS system?	For the prototype pilot, we expect to run the courseware on the vendor's platform.
16			If hosted on their system what is that LMS system?	DAU is currently using Cornerstone on Demand; however, for the prototype pilot we expect to run the courseware on the vendor's platform.
17	Request For Solution	Ref 5.3.6	Will the test on content and performance require active (live) monitoring by a instructor during the testing?	For Pre-Award, Stage II-Solution Presentations and Product Demonstrations, there will be no test on content and performance. For Post-Award, Ref: RFS, Para 5.3.6, Milestone 2. After the courseware is ported onto the vendor computing environment, the Government will review for acceptance of properly functioning courseware." During Milestone 3, Prototype Pilot Execution, DAU prepared to provide subject matter content expertise/instructor support as needed and monitor student progress periodically.
18			How will they provide the content for the course? Downloaded? Send course curriculum and multi media files via disks? If downloaded will it be a publicly available download or will it require CAC access?	The Government will provide a link to download the GFI course content. A CAC will not be required to access the link; the Government will provide temporary credentials to allow download of the course content for the pilot.
19	Cover page	5.2.1	Our company has a different NAICS Code as its primary NAICS Code in SAM, but also has 541330 Engineering Services included as an additional selected NAICS Code in SAM. Which NAICS Code should we list on the Cover Page?	The NAICS code is used in determining the business size. The NAICS code for this effort is 541330.
20	Cover page	5.2.1	Business Size. Should we list the size standard associated with the NAICS Code (e.g. \$15 million for NAICS 541330) or the Number of Employees from our TRex Company Profile (e.g. 20-99 employees)?	Recommend using the size standard in either dollar or number of employees for the NAICS code that is being utilized for this effort
21	Cover page	5.2.1	Status of U.S. Ownership. Please clarify what one should provide in this field for a company that is U.S. owned. Should we provide "U.S. owned"?	Yes - state U.S. owned
22	RFS	5.3.3	We are finding it difficult to limit our response to 12 pages for the Solution Paper, especially given that "Focus Area 3: Product performance and adherence to standards" has 11 topics to cover all by itself. Request that the page count limit for the Solution Paper be increased to 15 pages.	The page requirement stands as indicated in the RFS paragraph 5.3.3; Also keep in mind the Cover Page, Table of Contents, Sub-Vendor List, Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software, FOCI documentation, IMS, Cost and Pricing Breakdown, Acronym Definitions, and Traceability Matrices do not count towards the page count limit.
23			Does the Government expect a vendor to provide a learning management system (LMS) where a user creates accounts, is authenticated, progress is tracked, etc., or does the Government expect to use their own LMS and simply provide user credentials to the prototype when starting the course?	For the prototype pilot, we expect to run the courseware on the vendor's platform. Since the prototype will not have any active integrations with existing DAU systems, the vendor's platform will need to support account creation, authentication and progress tracking. If DAU were to move forward with a follow-on production effort, production capabilities and integrations would be discussed at a future date.
24			What days of the week and hours of the day should the Tier 1 Help Desk Support be available?	Vendor Tier 1 Help Desk support should be available, at a minimum, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time for the prototype pilot. If DAU were to move forward with a follow-on production effort, Tier 1 Help Desk production support would be discussed at a future date. Typical DAU Production Help Desk hours are 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time Monday -Friday; not available on Federal Holidays.

25			Has the Government established a timeline for the award and execution of the follow-on effort?	The Government continues to refine the acquisition strategy and does not have a timeline for award of this OT prototype award. Ref RFS Para 9. "Upon successful completion of the prototype, the Government anticipates a follow-on production contract or transaction may be awarded to the vendor without the use of competitive procedures. Successful completion will be defined in the negotiated Statement of Work (SOW) for this prototype project. Successful completion will occur when the prototype has been validated and is accepted by the Government." The Government has no definitive schedule for any follow-on production contract at this time.
26			What is the funding profile for this OTA?	The budget for all prototype pilots is a maximum of \$414,000 and split between each awardee based on the benefits of each offeror's solution.
27			How will the funding profile be split between multiple awardees for Focus Areas 4 and 5 for both the proposal and the follow-on effort?	The budget for all prototype pilots is a maximum of \$414,000 and split between each awardee based on the benefits of each offeror's solution.
28			Is the government more interested in a comprehensive solution to include both Focus Areas 4 and 5 together?	Not necessarily. As stated in the RFS para 7.3.1, "While these focus areas are of significant importance, responses will be considered as a whole. Vendor solutions should include Focus Areas 1 – 3 and either Focus Area 4 or 5. (Vendors may, if they choose, address both Focus Areas 4 and 5)."
29			If separate companies are awarded the Focus Areas 4 vs 5 scope, how will this be addressed by the government? Will the government operate as the LSI or would the Focus Area 4 awardee be required to integrate NLP assessment tools?	The Government will not address "what if scenarios." However, the Government will not operate as the LSI for the prototype pilots. The Government will evaluate the submitted solutions as referenced in Ref 7.3. Also, Ref RFS para 7.3.1, "Vendor solutions should include Focus Areas 1 – 3 and either Focus Area 4 or 5. (Vendors may, if they choose, address both Focus Areas 4 and 5)."
30			Is it max \$414K for ALL awards or for EACH award?	The budget for all prototype pilots is a maximum of \$414,000 and split between each awardee based on the benefits of each offeror's solution.
31			Do the DAU course materials have previous student data that may be made available to performers for analysis? If so, how many students are recorded and at what granularity are the records kept?	No, the Government will not provide previous student data for analysis.
32			Who will conduct the Prototype Pilot Execution?	Ref RFS para 5.3.6. "DAU will conduct a prototype pilot assessment performed on the vendor's platform utilizing the DAU ported courseware generated from Milestone 2."
33			For the Prototype Pilot, what environment will the students be in, and what instructions will be given to them?	Pilot participants will access the course from the vendor's platform and be geographically distributed on and off of DAU campuses. Participants will receive instructions in accordance with DAU protocol.
34			Are we allowed to include additional pre- and post- questionnaires for the prototype pilot?	Additional pre- and post- questions will be reviewed and considered by DAU for inclusion.
35			Will the prototype pilot be conducted as a scientific study with IRB approval?	While all students will participate with an informed consent, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is not required at DAU.
36			Will there be a control condition for the pilot?	DAU intends to evaluate AI adaptive intervention with courseware similar to the GFI provided in the RFS, paragraph 11, Link 1 and Link 2.
37			How will the performance of the system be scored during the pilot?	System performance will be scored based on a combination of vendor metrics and student feedback on performance. This will be further defined in the SOW.
38	RFS	page 5 Section 5.3.4 number 2	The RFS states that the solution paper shall describe how the...design solution supports...the learning objectives. RFS Page 11 Section 11 provides links to Representative Courseware that includes learning objectives. What are the learning objectives referred to in RFS Section 5.3.4 – are they the learning objectives provided via the link in RFS Section 11?	Ref RFS, para 5.3.4 bullet 2. "A design solution that can support training objectives." This statement is referring to learning objectives in the GFI courseware that will be provided to the awardee(s); the content will be drawn from Link 1 and Link 2 respectively.
39	RFS	page 5 Section 5.2.5	The RFS states that the technical solution shall include a full discussion of anticipated integration risks. Please provide the necessary information on what systems/architectures the proposed solution needs to integrate with.	The discussion should include any proprietary approach that does not adhere to the standards already identified in Focus Area 3 that could impact successful prototype completion.
40	RFS	page 6 Section 5.3.6 Milestone 2	The RFS states that vendors will be required to port DAU courseware onto their proposed platform(s). What platform(s)/architecture(s) is the courseware currently in?	Cornerstone on Demand LMS (SCORM 2004 packaged)
41	RFS	pages 6-7 Section 5.3.6 Milestones 1-4	The RFS states that "Milestone 1 will not exceed 15 calendar days after agreement award." The remaining milestones provide times in the form of "will not exceed XX days." Please explain how the days are calculated. Are subsequent milestones intended to be accomplished in the stated number of days since the previous milestone? Since agreement award?	Ref RFS, para 5.3.6. All Milestone anticipated days are in calendar days. The estimated days were derived from level of anticipated effort. Yes, subsequent milestones are intended to be accomplished in the anticipated number of days since the previous milestone. The days are calculated in a sequential manner.
42	RFS	page 17 Section 9 Follow on Production	There is a bullet that states, "The solution shall support up to 6,000 online course concurrent users and up to 500 concurrent users for pre-course NLP grading without performance degradation." Are there expected service-level agreements (SLAs) for production that you can share at this time? Regarding the NLP grading, are there standard document sizes you would expect that can be used to ensure the 500 concurrent users requirement can be met?	Ref: RFS, Paragraph 7.3.1, Table 1, Focus Area 3. If DAU moves forward with a follow-on production effort, DAU anticipates setting a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for a production system at a minimum of 99.9% availability and a page load time of < 3 secs. Refer to the Representative example in Link 2 for document grading size.
43	RFS	Page 2, Section 4.2	Will the GFI materials provided for the prototype include Flash files? If so, does the government have the source files?	No. DAU does NOT use Flash files.
44	RFS	Page 2, Section 4.2	Are the courses provided in the follow on effort expected to have Flash files in them?	No. DAU does NOT use Flash files.
45	RFS	Page 2, Section 4.2	In addition to the GFI indicated, can the Government provide a content SME, if needed?	Yes, the Government can provide a content SME, if needed, during the Prototype Pilot preparation and execution.
46	RFS	Page 3, Section 5.2	Please confirm there is no page limit on the General volume?	That is correct. There is no page limitation on the General Volume. Please review RFS paragraph 5.3.3.
47	NSTXL.org		In the announcement for this RFS, the estimated ceiling value is \$414K. In the original announcement it was estimated at \$500K. Please confirm the ceiling and, if possible, explain the change?	The budget for all prototype pilots is a maximum of \$414,000 and split between each awardee based on the benefits of each offeror's solution.
48	RFS	Paragraph 2 and 5.3.6, Milestone 4	In addition to performer-generated data and metrics, what other evaluation criteria will be required of the performer?	We are assuming the "performer" is referring to the student. Ref: RFS para 2: "The goal of the AI-Powered/AL prototype project effort is to ... improve learning effectiveness/efficiency and increase learner perceptions of mastery and self-efficacy. Also refer to RFS para 5.3.6 Milestone 4 description and deliverables and para 7.3.1. evaluation criteria

49			Is the prototype execution intended to start 60 days after Agreement award?	Yes. Please refer to RFS 5.3.6. It is anticipated that milestone 1, post award conference will not exceed 15 days; following milestone 2, courseware merge is anticipated to begin upon completion of milestone1 and will not exceed 45 days; upon milestone 2 completion, milestone 3 prototype pilot execution will begin.
50			Will any participants be remote?	Pilot participants will access the course from the vendor's platform and will be geographically distributed on and off of DAU campuses. Yes, participants will be remote.
51			How many participants may use the system concurrently?	For the prototype pilot, solutions shall support a test group of up to 75 students. For Follow-on, solution shall support up to 6,000 online course concurrent users and up to 500 concurrent users for pre-course NLP grading without performance degradation. Please reference RFS, Paragraph 7.3.1, Table 1, Focus Area 3, Scalability. Ref RFS, Page 17, Paragraph 9. Ref RFS, Paragraph 5.3.6, Milestone 3, Prototype Execution.
52			Will the contractor(s) also be providing the hardware for the pilot or will installation occur on government assets (and if so what's the planned deployment infrastructure)?	Ref RFS para 5.3.6. "DAU will conduct a prototype pilot assessment performed on the vendor's platform utilizing the DAU ported courseware generated from Milestone 2."
53		Focus Area 1	What is the order of interest on different points for adaptation (e.g. in-scenario, between-scenario, and between blocks of instruction/courses)?	For this prototype effort, all focus areas are of significant importance. Reference RFS para 7.3.1, "While these focus areas are of significant importance, responses will be considered as a whole. Vendor solutions should include Focus Areas 1 – 3 and either Focus Area 4 or 5. (Vendors may, if they choose, address both Focus Areas 4 and 5)."
54		Focus Area 2	What are some AI-powered adaptive learning methods or techniques that are not considered breakthrough for the adult learning space?	The Government recognizes that AI-powered adaptive learning methods are emerging for the adult learning space. We welcome all vendor innovative solutions.
55		Focus Area 4	What are some planned approaches to evaluating effectiveness of the prototype's impact on learning?	Per RFS Section 7.3: Individual responses will be evaluated with consideration given to the overall technical merit of the response and the total project risk with consideration aimed at the Technical Focus Areas referenced in 7.3.1 and the ability to satisfy and fulfill all the RFS requirements. The proposed project price, schedule, and intellectual property rights proposal/assertions, will be considered as aspects of the entire response when weighing risk and reward.
56		Focus Area 4	What are the government's relative priorities with regard to choice of criteria for "improve learning effectiveness/efficiency" and "improved learning mastery?" Is mastery of the learned content the ultimate criterion? Transfer to different problems/tasks/environmental conditions?	For this prototype effort, all focus areas are of significant importance. Reference RFS para 7.3.1, "While these focus areas are of significant importance, responses will be considered as a whole. Vendor solutions should include Focus Areas 1 – 3 and either Focus Area 4 or 5. (Vendors may, if they choose, address both Focus Areas 4 and 5)."
57		DAU Courseware	If necessary, will more than 3 hours' worth of materials be made available to the contractors?	We don't anticipate providing more than 3 hours' worth of training materials, post award. The GFI provided for the prototype pilots will closely resemble content from Link 1 and Link 2.
58		DAU Courseware	Will the learning materials be mapped to KSAOs/Training Objectives?	The GFI provided for the prototype pilots will closely resemble content from Link 1 and Link 2 where content is based on Learning Objectives. Any mapping for the Prototype Pilot will be up to the discretion of the vendor.
59		DAU Courseware	Will the learning materials include a mix of different difficulty levels (low, medium, high difficulty) and be mapped to difficulty levels?	Prototype Pilot GFI learning materials and difficulty levels are similar to RFS, paragraph 11, Link 1 and Link 2 which contain all levels of difficulty. There is no mapping to difficulty levels.
60	RFS	Page 11, 7.3.1, et al	The terms "Focus Areas" and "System Characteristics" seem to be used interchangeably throughout the RFS to refer to the focus areas detailed in table 1. Please confirm there is no separate listing of "system characteristics".	There is no separate listing of "system characteristics". The RFS section 5.3.4 states the system characteristic are described in the Focus Areas located in Section 7.3.1.