

SMARTS Q&A HLDF CUAS Project 21-08



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Request For Solutions (RFS) Questions & Answers | Posted March 24, 2021

1. **Question:** What type of cybersecurity solution are you implementing to protect these systems from attacks by adversaries? Sensors, data, and overall system wise?
 - a. **Response:** The HLDF architecture is envisioned to be used in deployed systems, so all elements of the design will need to comply with all applicable DoD cybersecurity directives, instructions, regulations, scan, and update requirements which are necessary to receive an ATO.
2. **Question:** Is there additional information available about the current sensor constructs (waveforms, platforms) and their intended uses (threats, environments, and scenarios)? Is there additional information available about the current C2 nodes ? • Intended uses of the C2 nodes? • messages to/from C2 nodes and sensors ? • messages to/from C2 nodes?
 - a. **Response:** The Government expects Phase 1 efforts to define what sensor and C2 nodes and messages are necessary for HLDF architecture; the GOV will provide the RFS selectee with a list of relevant sensor and C2 systems being evaluated and the available documentation. The Government is not trying to design a new sensor communication standard, nor is the Government trying to define a new C2 standard or architecture. The HLDF architecture should receive input from existing sensors, using existing sensor communications standards, and provide data fusion capabilities for consumption and display by existing C2 systems. The design of the HLDF architecture should include definitions of what data fusion modules and interfaces are necessary to support the HLDF architecture and the data flows necessary for situational awareness and threat assessment.
3. **Question:** RFS states, "c. Respondent Restricted are limited to Domestic Companies based in the United States." Does this preclude a Canadian company from bidding as the requirements for this solicitation is in our wheelhouse as we are well versed in CUAS and data fusion. We are Section 889(a)(1)(B) and ITAR compliant and hold a NATO Secret clearance.
 - a. **Response:** The Government has no issues with a properly cleared and vetted Canadian company participating.
4. **Question:** Throughout Phases 3 & 4, should offerors assume that there is some sort of an on-site cloud infrastructure planned, a hardware solution is required or some hybrid approach?
 - a. **Response:** The HLDF architecture will need to be capable of being deployed on tactical edge systems that may only have single sensors and that may have limited or no communications capability (due to adversarial denial of communications, limitations due to operational constraints, or other reasons). However, as the architecture is intended to scale from the tactical edge to higher echelon commands, the GOV will consider options that employ cloud based elements. Cloud based elements may be used to train algorithms prior to deployment to the tactical edge systems. Long term archival storage (cloud based or otherwise) is not a goal of this project, though the ability to record and playback interactions and scenarios, for training or analysis, will be considered as well as the ability to export data for training or analysis. The SIL is notionally to be located at NSWC Crane, IN and the awardee will be expected to assist with the design and standup of the SIL.
5. **Question:** Is NSWC Crane willing to consider product solutions that can deliver the desired HLDF capabilities as a rapidly deployable, commercially mature software product?
 - a. **Response:** The Government is willing to consider a solution that is a rapidly deployable, commercially mature software product, however, RFS Section 9 and 10(b)(ii)(8) are still applicable regarding data rights.
6. **Question:** Can the Government provide a notional project start date for pricing purposes?
 - a. **Response:**
7. **Question:** It is stated that both Options 1 and 2 are to be costed. Is the technical proposal to include only Phase 1 or should it also include Phase 2 in the 20 page technical proposal due on 09 April 2021?.

- a. **Response:** Pricing is required for Phase 1 but pricing for subsequent Phases may be included. The Government recognizes that the allocated funding may not be adequate to accomplish all phases of the project and that additional funding may be required.
- 8. **Question:** Would an awardee in this effort be precluded from bidding a follow-on development effort that leverages the architecture, due to OCI concerns?
 - a. **Response:** The scope of phases I & II are defining the architecture. Respondent may bid on developing gap list capabilities as long as OCI mitigations are in place prior to the architecture definition and the OCI mitigations are included in the submission documents.
- 9. **Question:** Can offerors include both an excel spreadsheet and PDF/word document as the price response? If so, does the PDF/word document still have the 10-page limit?
 - a. **Response:** Yes, offerors may include both an excel spreadsheet and PDF/word document. If both are provided, the PDF/word document still has a 10-page limit.
- 10. **Question:** Can the sponsor please specify the place of performance for this effort? Will work to be conducted on government site, contractor site, or a mixture of the two?
 - a. **Response:** The GOV has no issue with the contractor working remotely at their own facility with appropriate cybersecurity protections in place. It is envisioned that there will be travel to NSWC Crane, IN and NIWC Pacific (San Diego), although travel to other sites may be possible. If the respondent does not have the capability to handle SECRET material at their facility, the GOV will work to arrange a location where the respondent may travel to review any necessary SECRET material.