



**S²MARTS Project: Gray Summer - 5G Core Based Threat Identification and Warning (22-07)
Project TalX Question & Answer | Date: June 23, 2022**

1. Question: Are we focused mostly CONUS or OCONUS for phase 2?

Answer: This network may be either CONUS or OCONUS; both are equally important. The proposal should articulate one (or more) relevant networks on which the solution will be demonstrate. Showing relevance to DoD use cases should be the focus.

2. Question: Are we primarily focused on CONUS-based use-cases?

Answer: See question 1 above.

3. Question: Can you give an example of what you consider a data display based on a mission specific interest and location of mission operations?

Answer: The data display (data dashboard) must be relevant to the network use case and network objectives. For example, in some use cases the number of users on the network as well as related information on association attempts, invalid authentication, and so forth may be highly relevant. In other use cases, spectrum sharing behavior may be highly relevant. In yet another use, QoS factors such as latency, bandwidth, and jitter may be highly relevant. This information should be displayed in a way that is easily understood and actionable by a network operator. These are illustrative and not prescriptive examples. The proposal should clearly identify the data to be displayed, justify its relevance, and be adaptable.

4. Question: Can you talk about facility clearance requirements? Also, if demos are performed on a TS/SCI network the hardware will have to be left behind and we'll have to duplicate for future work.

Answer: Awardees/Prototype Level Performers are not required to possess an active facility clearance to perform in support of the subject project.

5. Question: Do all personnel supporting all phases require the clearance specified in the RFS?

Answer: Awardees/Prototype Level Performers are not required to possess an active facility clearance to perform in support of the subject project. Phase 1 and 2 may be conducted at any classification level, including unclassified. Performers interested in a Phase 3 award must obtain the appropriate clearance prior to the start of Phase 3.

6. Question: Do we need to price out Phase 3 since we were just told to focus on Phase 1 & 2?

Answer: No, cost proposal should cover Phase 1 & 2.

7. Question: Does this include voice?

Answer: Yes.

8. Question: For NSA operation, how do you envision co existing with the Native Providers NOC and SOC?

Answer: This is a design decision for the proposers and will vary depending on the solution. As a general guidance, a plug and play solution is preferred over designing an entirely new NOC/SOC (for SA as well as NSA).



9. Question: How many devices (UE's) are expected to be included with the prototype and demonstration?

Answer: This again varies depending on the network itself. The NOC/SOC for a network spanning a large geographic region would expect a different number of UEs than a network intended for a small expeditionary command post. The demonstration should identify a use case and illustrate with UE numbers (real as well as simulated) relevant to that use case.

10. Question: In RFS - it states, "The scope of required scanning is comprehensive, comprising all visible/identifiable elements including but not limited to the local Core Network, remote locations of the same Core Network, and peer-Core Networks." Wanted to know if remote core was intended to be a MEC?

Answer: This proposal considers the components of a relevant 5G network to include a RAN, Core, and MEC. Proposals should assume MEC (e.g. edge computing capabilities) will be part of DoD operated networks.

11. Question: Are "remote locations of the same Core Network" intended to be a MEC deployment?

Answer: See answer to question #10.

12. Question: Is a signed SF 328 required for all vendors/suppliers?

Answer: The standard form 328 is only necessary if the Prime or Subcontractor have FOCI to disclose.
<https://www.sprs.csd.disa.mil/pdf/NISTSP800-171QuickEntryGuide.pdf>

13. Question: Is the assumption that we will own all components of the network, or will it be a mix of DOD and commercially owned infrastructure?

Answer: If needed, a proposed solution can indicate it is restricted to a particular mix of components, provided it clearly identifies the required mix. The government is seeking a NOC/SOC so one may assume DoD has a role in operating at least some components of the network. For example, one could envision a NOC/SOC a stand-alone DoD deployed and operated network. It could also envision a DoD slice operating on a commercial network.

14. Question: What evidence is expected for eligibility?

Answer: You must be an active NSTXL member.

15. Question: What evidence is required as evidence for NIST SP 800-171 compliance?

Answer: You have to show you're in full compliance with DFARs Interim Rule.

16. Question: What level of cooperation/integration is to be expected with Private 5G Provider/MNO/vMNO?

Answer: See question 13.

17. Question: When will Q/A be released for both opportunities?

Answer: Q&A will be answered by OUSD R&E no later than 10 June 2022; release pending NSTXL approval.

18. Question: With respect to Grey Summer security requirements will TS/SCI billets be available after award? Also, we expect a portion of work to be unclassified and thus is it possible for some engineers do work without TS/SCI clearances provided they support all other restrictions?

Answer: Awardees/Prototype Level Performers are not required to possess an active facility clearance to perform in support of the subject project.



19. Question: With the boundaries of a network blurring, how far across the network is the solution expected to operate? Is assurance meant to be guaranteed over every hop from one point to the last?

Answer: See question 13. The government is seeking a solution that provides actionable information about network operations, not an assurance guarantee over network hops.