



**S²MARTS Project: Misty Night – 5G Threat Assessment & Warning (22-08)  
Request For Solutions (RFS) Question & Answer | Date: June 23, 2022**

**1. Question: Is a solution that uses external equipment connected to a UE that scans for threats acceptable or is a software-only solution (implemented on the UE) what is desired?**

Answer: The government is open to solutions which incorporate software on the device and/or external equipment. Any external equipment should be appropriate and proportional to the form factor and use of the device. Ideally, the solution will comprise software which does not affect the form factor of the device. Devices which attach to the device without requiring device modification will be deemed acceptable. Solutions which significantly affect the form factor of the device or place undue burden on the operator will be deemed unacceptable.

**2. Question: Within the list of Requirements and Specs, are any prioritized? – I.e. IOS vs Android**

Answer: There is no further prioritization within the list. The envisioned solution shall be capable of running on a UE/device and support up to 3GPP Rel 16. There is no preference between IOS and Android; either is equally good and the proposal should use whatever is best suited to the proposed solution. Further, the application must operate in both Standalone (SA) and Non-Standalone (NSA) 5G network configurations. There is no preference between SA and NSA; both must be supported.

**3. Question: Since this is a Prototype project, would the Government consider a Cost-Plus Type contract? Reason: testing requirements, including external, are not clearly specified to enable realistic pricing over two years.**

Answer: The Government intends to award one Other Transaction Agreement as a result of this RFS; however, more than one award may be made if determined to be in the Government's best interest. The Government also reserves the right to not select any of the solutions proposed. The government will consider and entertain any costing model chosen by the performer but will ultimately choose the pricing model which is in the best interest of the government. The Government will select the prototype-level performer and award this project, via NSTXL, to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to the Government, when price, schedule, technical potential, level of data rights, and other factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.

**4. Question: Does the Government require 500 units on a Prototype project? Reason: a significantly smaller set of units could still support prototyping efforts. Additionally, 500 units, each with copies of COTS licenses will increase costs.**

Answer: The prototype quantities will be dependent on the maturity of the solution and the demand from the requirement providers. Small batch production of the technology is expected. Potential exists for post evaluation and testing Medium to Large batch production.

**5. Question: What is full network situation? – Is the Network part local civilian and part military mobile? – Is this envisioned for CovCom? ClanCom?**

Answer: This network may be either government or commercial; 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.

**6. Question: Is NSA CSfC approval needed for the proposed secure mobility package?**

Answer: NSA CSfC is not required, but if you have approval it can be submitted as a part of the solution.



**7. Question: Is use of a 2-factor hardware key allowable?**

Answer: This is not required. However, the government is open to considering this approach if the vendor identifies this as the optimal approach and can deliver a viable solution which meets requirements and specifications. The Government will select the prototype-level performer and award this project, via NSTXL, to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to the Government, when price, schedule, technical potential, level of data rights, and other factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.

**8. Question: Is Wi-Fi monitoring in-scope?**

Answer: Yes, the effort and desired solution is primarily focused on 5G. However, 5G does incorporate aspects of Wi-Fi and interoperations with Wi-Fi. Therefore, Wi-Fi monitoring is in scope, assuming the solution is also monitoring 5G bands. The Government will select the prototype-level performer and award this project, via NSTXL, to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to the Government, when price, schedule, technical potential, level of data rights, and other factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.

**9. Question: Can we have access to a RAN-CORE traffic network monitor tap? For testing? For deployment?**

Answer: Funded teams will have access to a test range at Idaho National Labs and may have full access to traffic monitoring during test periods. The government team will work funded efforts to explore collaborations that could help in this regard, but an unrestricted network tap is not provided as part of this RFS.

**10. Question: Is use of commercial mobile protection products in-scope? Are secure “ghost” operating systems allowable? A ghost O.S. is an alternate O.S. that runs along-side the host O.S.**

Answer: This is not required. However, the government is open to considering this approach if the vendor identifies this as the optimal approach and can deliver a viable solution which meets requirements and specifications. The Government will select the prototype-level performer and award this project, via NSTXL, to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to the Government, when price, schedule, technical potential, level of data rights, and other factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.

**11. Question: How extensive is the attack testing? Who is doing the attack testing?**

Answer: The attack testing will occur at INL unless the proposal has made a strong justification is made for an alternative. Attack testing will validate and verify the solution has achieved performance standards outlined in the solution requirements and specification sections of the RFS.

**12. Question: Can honeypots be used to determine if attacks are being attempted?**

Answer: The devices and the solution(s) can cooperate with one another and can cooperate with additional systems, such as honeypots. This is not required. However, the government is open to this approach if the vendor identifies this as the optimal approach and can deliver a viable solution which meets requirements and specifications. The Government will select the prototype-level performer and award this project, via NSTXL, to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to the Government, when price, schedule, technical potential, level of data rights, and other factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.



**13. Question: Are threat intelligence feeds available?**

Answer: The government team will work funded efforts to explore collaborations that could help in this regard, but threat intelligence feeds are not provided as part of this RFS.

**14. Question: Can phones communicate concerning attack status?**

Answer: See answer to Question #12

**15. Question: Will there be use of monitoring for RF jamming of signal from cellular network? (Smart, dumb, etc.)**

Answer: RF jamming could occur and the RFS is seeking a solution that provide continuous situational awareness in the device's operating area. Situational awareness includes identifying potential RF emitters that have the potential to compromise the security of the user, device, or data.

**16. Question: For "in person" meetings, what is the physical location?**

Answer: These will be decided upon award and prior to project kickoff.

**17. Question: Are Cover pages required as a separate file or can they be included in the files of both the Technical Response and Price Response?**

Answer: Cover pages can be submitted as a part of the solution.

**18. Question: Does the Government intend to move multiple solutions into Phase 1? If so, how many?**

Answer: The Government intends to award one Other Transaction Agreement as a result of this RFS; however, more than one award may be made if determined to be in the Government's best interest

**19. Question: Please clarify the meaning of a "partial solution" vs a "partial response"**

Answer: Partial responses are those proposed solutions which address only a subset of the project's overall objectives. They are responses that only address a critical element of the total solution being sought. The Government will select the prototype-level performer and award this project, via NSTXL, to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to the Government, when price, schedule, technical potential, level of data rights, and other factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.

**20. Question: Is the number of solutions that move forward to Phase 1 dependent on budget? If so, what is that budget?**

Answer: The Government intends to award one Other Transaction Agreement as a result of this RFS; however, more than one award may be made if determined to be in the Government's best interest. The Government will select the prototype-level performer and award this project, via NSTXL, to the respondent(s) whose solution is assessed to be the most advantageous to the Government, when price, schedule, technical potential, level of data rights, and other factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all the requirements of the RFS.



**21. Question: Section 3: Under section 3.0, Specifications: Operating Environment of the Misty Night RFS, "non-phone hardware with reasonable size, weight, and power" is mentioned. Will all potential UE devices include either iOS or Android mobile operating systems? 2. Section 3: Under section 3.0, Specifications: Operating Environment of the Misty Night RFS, IATT and RMF are both mentioned. Will the government participate in submitting the ATO package for approval?**

Answer: An ATO is not required for Phase 1 or 2. For successful solutions moving into Phase 3, the government will work with the performer to identify and support key actions, which can include an ATO.

**22. Question: Section 7. Anticipated Number of Awards states the Government intends to award one contract. However, the Project Deliverables section, identifies multiple awards and a down select for Phase 2. Can the Government provide clarification on contracting approach?**

Answer: The Government intends to award one Other Transaction Agreement as a result of this RFS; however, more than one award may be made if determined to be in the Government's best interest

**23. Question: In the Project Deliverables section, it references a Phase 2 "proposed" plan will be required prior to the end of Phase 1. Are we to provide pricing for all three phases with the Misty Night proposal submission?**

Answer: Cost proposal should cover Phase 1 & 2.

**24. Question: The Security Information and Restrictions section identifies proposal requirements however, the Technical and Price volume outlines (pg 10-12) do not identify placeholders for this information. Should the security information be included as a non-page limited Attachment to the Technical Volume?**

Answer: The attachments required would be included as a non-page limit.

**25. Question: Proposal Structure & Assessment Methodology (page 8): Table identifies Price Volume is limited to five pages. We recommend the MS Excel pricing information and the BOEs be excluded from page limitations.**

Answer: The RFS Section E2 Pricing page limit states five pages. This is the set Government requirement.

**26. Question: Project Deliverables on page 4: Is the Final Prototype Deliverable delivered at the end of Phase 2?**

Answer: Yes.