

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM
PROGRAM SOLICITATION FY07.2

Full Solicitation Issued on 06/27/2007
Q&A #2 Posted on: 07/24/2007

The purpose of this release is to provide the below Questions and Answers.

Question: Are there any available datasets on which we can test our algorithms?

Response: DHS will not be providing data sets during Phase I. Any data set of your choice may be used to demonstrate your approach.

The following six (6) questions pertain to SBIR Topic H-SB07.2-03:

Question: What is the expected size of your recognition database (i.e. number of people) for Phase I, II and III?

Response: Since there are many potential areas for the application of this technology, there is no one specific database size that can be used. The applicant is asked in their technical proposal (see Solicitation section 3.5.b (1)) to "define the specific technical problem or opportunity addressed and its importance" and further in section 3.5.b (2) to "enumerate the specific objectives of the phase I work..." It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify the problem or opportunity that they are addressing and to state what objectives they anticipate achieving.

Question: Given the expected size, what recognition rates do you expect?

Response: Please see the above response.

Question: Can you define more explicitly what you mean by standoff and remote distances? In other words, what is the range of distances that you envision this system to be engaged in the recognition process in units of meters?

Response: This solicitation is for Research and Development (defined in section 2.1 of the Solicitation) and it is the responsibility of the applicant to describe in their technical proposal what specific technical problem or opportunity is being addressed (see Solicitation section 3.5.b (1)), the objectives for the work (3.5.b (2)), awareness of related state-of-the-art work, (3.5.b (3)) and the relationship of the work to future research or research and development (3.5.b (5)).

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Question: Do you have a preference for active (e.g. near IR) vs. passive sensors?

Response: No; there is no preference for active vs. passive sensors, but it is the applicant's responsibility to determine and describe the feasibility of the proposed approach (see Solicitation section 3.5.b (2)).

Question: Is it within scope to propose the development, test & evaluation (T&E) of multiple *new* standoff biometric methods, or is the effort restricted to T&E methodology/framework for existing or well-established methods requiring essentially no development on the techniques per se?

Response: This solicitation is for Research and Development (defined in section 2.1 of the Solicitation) and all levels of research and development are welcome on existing or new methods.

Question: To ascertain the extent of standoff ranges achievable, it seems that even if the effort is restricted to existing biometrics, that additional data collection will be required against human subjects. What strictures or protocols are expected or required (e.g., NIH), and at what level of documentation and approval process?

Response: According to the solicitation (section 9.3), the first phase focuses on establishing the set of multi-modal biometrics will be used, the second phase would develop the framework for evaluation and test the performance in controlled settings, and it is not till the third phase that performance would be evaluated in relevant environments. The solicitation does not specify strictures or protocols for documentation or approval on the collection efforts, but use of existing databases, standards and protocols are encouraged to the greatest extent possible. In all cases, the DHS Management Directive for Human Subjects is followed.

**THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PROGRAM SOLICITATION FY07.2
REMAIN UNCHANGED.**

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