

10.2 Question and Answer Matrix

As of June 4, 2010

ID#	Date Answered	Topic Area	Question	Answer
1	5/14/2010	10.2-007	For SBIR solicitation 10.2, Topic #H-SB010.2-007. Are the technologies that are presented to DHS operating components and first responders for evaluation assumed to be mature products that have achieved a TRL of 9?	No.
2	5/14/2010	10.2-002	For topic area of "Next Generation Vacuum Systems for Hand-held Mass Spectrometers", #H-SB010.2-002. What is the objective of this particular topic?	The objective of the topic is for development of a vacuum system/vacuum pump that will allow miniaturization of the Mass Spectrometers to produce a robust and affordable handheld detector.
3	5/21/2010	10.2-009	In reviewing this topic, I was unable to locate the Phase I, II, and III requirements. Could you please provide these requirements to me at your earliest convenience?	The revised topic description is posted on the FedBizOpps website (and linked on the SBIR website) and is incorporated into the Solicitation in its entirety.
4	5/21/2010	General	How much funding is allocated for this research program?	Federal agencies with extramural research and development budgets over \$100 million are required to administer SBIR programs using an annual set-aside of 2.5% for small companies to conduct innovative research or research and development (R&D) that has potential for commercialization and public benefit. The FY10 DHS Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate's SBIR project budget is approximately \$15.5M, which is used for Phase I projects resulting from the FY10 solicitations and Phase II projects resulting from the FY09 solicitations. The number of Phase I awards for the DHSSBIR-2010 will be consistent with the S&T Directorate's budget and the number of anticipated Phase II contracts. Historically, three Phase I projects and one Phase II project is funded per solicitation topic area, as several different proposed solutions to a given topic may be funded. This is merely an advisory estimate and DHS reserves the right and discretion not to award any or to award less than or more than this number for each topic area. DHS is not obligated to make any awards under either Phases I, II, or III, and all awards are subject to the availability of funds.
5	5/21/2010	General	Can you direct me to where I would submit a proposal and guidelines and forms for submission?	Detailed information on proposal submission can be found within the DHS SBIR 2010-2 solicitation posted at http://www.fbo.gov and linked at the DHS SBIR Program portal at https://www.sbir.dhs.gov .
6	5/21/2010	General	Can you tell me if there are any restrictions on subcontracting to an employee of a government agency such as NIST for SBIR funding?	Awards made to concerns owned by or employing current or previous Federal Government employees could create conflicts of interest for those employees and could be in violation of federal law. Such proposals should contact the cognizant Ethics Counselor from the employee's Government agency for further guidance. Also, Please refer to the SBIR 10.2 Solicitation (located on www.fbo.gov , quick search: DHS-SBIR-2010.2), Section 3.5 entitled "Subcontractors/Consultants".
7	5/21/2010	General	Solicitation 10.2 Section 3.6 "Page Numbering" seems to contradict something. It states "Number all pages of your proposal consecutively. The Cover sheets are pages 1 and 2. The Technical Proposal begins on page 3 and continues through not more than page 22." Should this read "...through not more than page 24?"	Yes.
8	5/21/2010	General	Our company is planning to submit an SBIR phase I proposal under the solicitation. We have DCAA approved accounting systems and rates. I'm planning to build the cost proposal using our audited rates, however, sometimes agencies have a cap on the indirect labor rate (labor overhead) or on the G&A rate, or both. After carefully reviewing the web site and the solicitation, I didn't find any mention of a cap. Does the DHS SBIR solicitation have separate caps for these rates, or should we propose using our DCAA audited rates?	Phase I SBIR contracts are awarded as fixed price contracts; therefore the rates are not capped. However the rates proposed are reviewed. For Phase II contracts, if a company proposes rates that are different (less) than the company's approved rates, then they would be capped at the proposed rates.
9	5/28/2010	General	What is the projected project start date for the current DHS SBIR Solicitation?	Please refer to the SBIR 10.2 Solicitation on www.fbo.gov < http://www.fbo.gov >, quick search: DHS-SBIR-2010.2), for all dates and information regarding the current solicitation. Of particular interest might be Section 5.1 (d), Timing of Phase I awards, and Section 5.1 (j), Technical Topics. Please note that the timeframes provided are strictly estimates.
10	5/28/2010	General	Is it acceptable to submit a proposal to DHS SBIR funding that includes collaboration with an academic agency? And how would we best determine the role of that organization in our proposal? (PI, Co-PI, etc.)?	Involvement of a university or other researchers or consultants in the project may be appropriate (see Section 2.3 of this Solicitation). Per the SBIR Policy Director, a minimum of two-thirds of the research and/or analytical work in Phase I, as measured by direct and indirect costs, must be carried out by the proposing small business concern. University involvement in an SBIR project is as a subcontractor. Regarding PIs, Co-PIs, etc., please note that primary employment of the principal investigator must be with the small business concern at the time of the award and during the conduct of the proposed effort. Primary employment means that more than one-half of the principal investigator's time is spent with the small business. Primary employment with a small business concern precludes full-time employment at another organization.
11	5/28/2010	General	The question is about the following statement: The percentage of work is usually measured by both direct and indirect costs for Phase I. Should the cost method be used for all topics in this solicitation? I ask this because of the usage of the word usually.	
12	6/4/2010	10.2-006	Is a proposed solution which involves defining the wireless networking protocol/system architecture aspects of exchanging information from the accident area to the command post. Other responders in line with what the topic authors intend to be included in responses?	No.
13	6/4/2010	General	Could you please clarify when the deadline is for submitting SBIR Proposals?	The deadline for submitting SBIR FY10.2 Phase I Proposals is 2:00pm Eastern Daylight Saving Time (EDST) on June 24th, 2010. Solicitation dates and information are posted on the Federal Business Opportunities website at www.fbo.gov and linked on the DHS S&T SBIR website at https://www.sbir.dhs.gov .
14	6/4/2010	10.2-008	Our company is considering submitting a proposal for DHS SBIR Phase I FY 10.2 (Topic #H-SB010.2-008). The title for our proposal is "Handheld Chemiresistive Multisensor for the Trace Vapor Detection of Hidden Explosives". This would be for topic 10.2-008. The objective of this topic is to develop a robust handheld system for the "bulk properties detection" of threat or illicit objects. Does this requirement exclude the proposals using trace detection techniques? We think bulk quantities of explosives hidden on a person's body can also be disclosed by detecting the surrounding atmosphere.	Handheld Chemiresistive Multisensor for the Trace Vapor Detection of Hidden Explosives sounds like an interesting technology but it would not be responsive to the expressed need for an integrated handheld multisensory wand for the bulk - as opposed to trace - detection (e.g. detection of physical properties of objects hidden under clothing and/or in body cavities) of threat and illicit objects. Although the focus is more on innovative explosives projects offering leap-ahead capabilities for HSARPA (Homeland Securities Advanced Research Projects Agency), the Explosives Division of DHS S&T is interested in the trace vapor detection capability you describe. Accordingly, you may wish to keep an eye on other opportunities (https://baa.st.dhs.gov/) as they are announced and/or consider the Long Range Broad Agency Announcement 10-01 to submit an unsolicited White Paper. As a benchmark, however, you may wish to compare the capabilities your detector could offer against a state-of-the-art handheld trace detector system such as the currently deployed Sabre (http://www.smithsdetection.com/eng/SABRE_4000.php).
15	6/4/2010	10.2-009	Is it acceptable to submit a proposal to DHS SBIR that includes work that requires use of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Landscan data set? Is it acceptable to submit a proposal to DHS SBIR that includes work that requires use of the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Data (HIFLD) data set?	It does not matter which data sets are used as long as the resulting capability meets the requirements stated in the topic description. DHS does not have a data set preference.