

DHS SBIR 2012.2 Questions and Answer Matrix as of June 20, 2012

ID#	Date Answered	Topic Area	Question	Answer
1	6/15/2012	General	Can we collaborate with a Federal agency?	Per Section 3.5.b.(10) of the Solicitation, "No portion of an SBIR award may be subcontracted back to any Federal Government Agency or Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC). The Small Business Administration (SBA) may issue a case-by-case waiver to this provision after review of the DHS written justification that includes the following information: (a) an explanation of why the SBIR research project requires the use of the Federal/FFRDC facility or personnel, including data that verifies the absence of non-federal facilities or personnel capable of supporting the research effort; (b) the concurrence of the small business concern's chief business official to use the Federal/ FFRDC facility or personnel. Award is contingent on DHS obtaining a waiver from the SBA." If you propose the use of a Federal Agency, please provide your responses to (a) and (b) above in your technical proposal. Your response to (a) will be considered during the evaluation of your proposal, as use of a subcontractor is considered in criterion b (see Solicitation Section 4.2). If your proposal is recommended for award, DHS will seek a waiver from the SBA. If SBA does not approve the waiver, your proposal will not be funded. Please note that 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.
2	6/15/2012	12.2-005	Can we use surrogates for CWAs in Phase I and II, and use real chemical in Phase III?	If it can be shown that the surrogates selected for testing will provide data that is representative of the performance of the material against actual agents, it may be acceptable. However, DHS may conduct independent laboratory tests with actual agents on the material samples that are submitted as part of the Phase II deliverables to determine its' performance against actual agents of interest.
3	6/15/2012	General	Can we collaborate with small business company, Universities and Federal agency for DHS STTR instead SBIR?	Per Section 3.5.b.(10) of the Solicitation, "Involvement of a university or other subcontractors or consultants in the project may be appropriate (see Section 2.7 of this Solicitation). If such involvement is intended, it must be described in detail and identified in the Cost Proposal. 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." Please note that DHS does not have an STTR program.
4	6/15/2012	12.2-005	Is DHS S&T interested in proposals that provide major improvement in protection against one threat? What is the intent of topic SBIR Topic Number H-SB012.2-005, entitled "Next Generation Textiles for Multi-Threat Personal Protective Equipment	Although proposals that provide major improvement in protection against one threat may be considered, the intent of the Solicitation topic is on materials that will provide protection against multiple (i.e., two or more) threats.
5	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Are there desired specifications available for the systems, post-hardening? Such as vibration, temperature, immersion specifications, others?	No defined specifications for post-hardening tests have been created.
6	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Is there a desired life expectancy of the equipment after hardening? Clearly longer life is preferred, but is there a minimum value?	The hardening process should not reduce the life expectancy of the device. No minimum value has been established.
7	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Does DHS expect to send the equipment to a vendor for hardening or is hardening at the OEM preferred?	An aftermarket product or process was anticipated but not a requirement. OEM integration of a hardening technology is acceptable.
8	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Does DHS anticipate the hardening process to be a rework to existing equipment or to be applied only to newly acquired equipment?	Incorporating existing equipment is preferred.
9	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Clearly, lower cost is preferred, but is there a desired price point for a solution? If so, what is it?	The price point should be competitive with existing hardening technologies but no target price has been identified.
10	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Does DHS have any preference as to whether the output of this SBIR is a process, or service, or whether it should be some physical hardware-added solution?	No preference.
11	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Is DHS considering all options for smart phones, including touchscreens?	Full functionality of devices selected should be maintained, to include touch screens.
12	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Is there a desired time target for supplying the hardened equipment?	The time target is in alignment with the SBIR Phases.
13	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Does DHS anticipate the ordering of these upgrades to equipment to happen en masse at the federal level, or will ordering likely be from state and local entities?	The transition of a successfully developed technology to the market is the responsibility of the company that developed the product. The government does not make any assurances that it would purchase the product even if successful.
14	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Does DHS prefer a non-intrusive technology or process for performing this upgrade?	DHS does not want to limit potential solutions in Phase I of the SBIR.
15	6/15/2012	12.2-004	What is required for a COTS device to be compatible with a TACnet system?	Any COTS device that is LTE compatible would function on the proposed TACnet system.
16	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Can DHS provide the referenced document under H-SB012.2-004 - "An Approach to providing Tactical Wireless Broadband Capability in an Affordable and Sustainable Manner"?	See Link: https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=f250c8c317cd8fadab95946c4ba9e1a0&tab=core&cview=1
17	6/15/2012	12.2-004	Is it within the scope of this topic to address "software/firmware code hardening" solutions, not just the physical hardening of the devices?	The topic is not looking at software/firmware code hardening, only at the physical ruggedizing of commercially available devices.
18	6/15/2012	12.2-005	What is the current product? Construction, weight, fabrics etc.	The products and the material used for PPE is dependent on the manufacturer and the threat that the PPE is designed for, and would have to be safe for use in that environment (for example, materials for fire fighter use would have to be no-melt, no-drip). Additional information on materials used in the manufacturing of PPE may be available on the manufacturer's websites. Examples of manufacturers of PPE can be found in the Responder Knowledge Base website (www.rkb.us/), in the Standardized Equipment List (SEL) and/or the Authorized Equipment List (AEL).
19	6/15/2012	12.2-005	Which NFPA standard needs to be met?	Fabrics and garments intended for use by firefighters will have to be certified to the applicable NFPA standards. The NFPA has several standards related to PPE due to the various operational environments where thermal protection is required by firefighters. These various NFPA standards reflect the operational requirements for these various conditions. Therefore, if you are interested in obtaining information regarding the certification test requirements for garments, you will have to know the scenarios and conditions for which you are designing them to be employed. DHS is concerned with firefighter safety regardless of the conditions under which they operate, so there is no single NFPA standard that was referenced. Additional information on the NFPA standards can be found on their website, NFPA.ORG .
20	6/15/2012	12.2-005	Which NIJ standard and level for ballistic protection needs to be met?	NIJ has several standards related to ballistic protection for the various operational environments that are dependent where the garments will be used and the threat levels in those scenarios (e.g. handgun protection, rifle etc.). These different NIJ standards reflect the requirements for these various conditions. Therefore, if you are interested in obtaining information regarding the certification test requirements for garments, you will have to know the scenarios and conditions for which you are designing them to be employed and will be dependent on the level of protection you design the fabric/garment to provide to the wearer.
21	6/15/2012	12.2-005	Are there any standards for comfort (e.g. Guarded Hot Plate)	Some suggestions for measures of comfort are determining the Total Heat Loss (THL) and, if measuring thermal/fire protection levels, Radiant Protective Properties (RPP) values. Other tests would also be acceptable if they provided an objective method to obtain data by using a standardized test method that is accepted thru peer review.
22	6/15/2012	12.2-005	What is the level of chemical agents challenge? Number of g/m2 and number of hours and for which chemical agents.	Similar to the protection for protection against thermal/fire and ballistic threats discussed above, the level of chemical agent challenge and the agents that are tested are dependent on the threat level that the fabric/garment is designed for. For example, a garment used by HAZMAT personnel for use for extended periods of time in the Hot Zone will have different requirements than a garment designed to provide protection for personnel to safely exit an area once the hazardous material is detected. Therefore, the chemical agents used and the challenge level that will need to be tested will be dependent on the level of protection you design the fabric/garment to provide to the wearer.
23	6/15/2012	General	Do you have a template or sample to follow for this requirement?	There is no template for the requested information. The offeror must provide the following information as identified in Section 3.7 of the Solicitation: the name of the awarding agency, date of the award, period of performance of the Phase I and Phase II awards, Phase I and Phase II funding agreement numbers, Phase I and Phase II award amounts, and Phase I project title (include Phase II project title also, if different from the Phase I project title). Also provide the commercialization status for each prior Phase II award.
24	6/15/2012	General	Are we only required to report on Ph II awards received in the prior five fiscal years?	No. If your company has received more than 15 Phase II awards in the prior five fiscal years across all SBIR agencies, a Prior Awards Addendum must be included in the Phase I Technical Proposal. The Prior Awards Addendum is not included in the 25-page limit.
25	6/15/2012	General	What are you looking for as far as "commercialization status for each prior Ph II award"? Please explain the level of detail you wish to receive.	What was the outcome of the project? Did a product result from this? If so, what was the product (market name); intellectual property (patent(s) received and number; patent applied for (yes or no)), license(s), sales \$ numbers, sold to government and/or private sector? If there is no commercialization, also so state. If the product is still under development, so state and give an anticipated date when it will be ready for market and who the targeted end-user is.
26	6/15/2012	General	This requirement in the Ph I proposals appears to be different than what is asked for in Ph II. Correct? For Ph II, we have used the same commercialization report provided to DoD, listing all prior Ph II awards and their commercialization status, but	This Solicitation is for Phase I proposals. A Prior Phase I and Phase II Awards Addendum must be included in the Phase I proposal if the offeror has received more than 15 Phase II awards in the prior five fiscal years across all SBIR agencies.
27	6/20/2012	12.2-002	Does this topic refer to developing ATR algorithms for a CT or AT system or either one?	The objective is to develop commercial applications of ATR in X-ray screening systems (CT and AT) to include screening of air cargo, checked and carry-on baggage. This phase will incorporate advanced ATR using standardized file formats into fully functional X-ray screening systems (deployment of new methods into a qualified EDS system) and performance certification at a TSA accepted test center.
28	6/20/2012	12.2-002	What is the deliverable from Phase I? For example: - just a report on the algorithm approach for Phase II? - a functioning algorithm that supports DICOS and will serve as the basis for Phase II? - or a fully integrated end-to-end algorithm that will support Phase II?	At the conclusion of Phase I, the offeror shall identify proposed explosive detection algorithm methods(s) to be explored including image processing (e.g., artifact reduction) and/or threat recognition algorithm. Each algorithm method proposed must include a short overview of the state of the art, why the proposed approach is better than others, computational aspects, and a quantitative analysis showing how the proposed methods will be effective in the explosive detection system (EDS) problem space. Specific examples developed must use data available from DHS. A functioning algorithm that supports DICOS should serve as the basis for Phase II integration and evaluation.
29	6/20/2012	12.2-002	For Phase I, is an off-line, non real-time algorithm acceptable?	Yes, an off-line, non real-time algorithm is acceptable for Phase I.
30	6/20/2012	12.2-002	We are assuming that our algorithm will be required to process data received through the DICOS compatible interface and send the results through the DICOS compatible interface, and that this data will originate from multiple types of X-Ray systems. How many vendors (or types of X-Rays systems) will we need to support for Phase I? How about Phase II?	Currently fielded Explosives Detection Systems (EDS) utilize proprietary detection software to identify and present potential threats to the Transportation Security Officer (TSO). In order to accelerate the advancement of ATR, the DHS S&T Directorate is seeking to develop standardized image data and output file formats to allow third party algorithm developers advanced ATR algorithms using standardized file formats. This effort seeks to establish approaches to developing ATR algorithms that are consistent with standard data and image file formats. The number of hardware systems is irrelevant as the ATR will employ standardized file formats.