

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM

PROGRAM SOLICITATION FY07.2

Full Solicitation Issued on 06/27/2007

Q&A #1 Posted on: 07/12/2007

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

Question: Phase I can be granted up to \$100k. What in case when estimated cost of the project exceeds \$100k due to expensive equipment needed to be purchased? Who covers that exceeding cost?

Response: During Phase I, feasibility-related experimental or theoretical research/research and development is conducted. Expensive equipment should not be purchased as part of Phase I feasibility study. Consider renting equipment as an option. The SBIR Phase I proposal should not exceed \$100,000 if you are submitting under the S&T topics, or \$150,000 if you are submitting under the DHS DND0 topic. Any additional expenses above the dollar thresholds, and not approved by the contracting officer, will be considered unallowable and must therefore be funded by the company or other funding sources.

Question: How many times does DHS release SBIR topics to industry? What are the dates?

Response: Historically, DHS SBIR has released two solicitations per year. Two solicitations were released in FY07 -- FY07.1 on 20 April and FY07.2 on 27 June. The FY08 solicitation release schedule is not yet available; however, the intent is to release three solicitations during FY08. Current Solicitations are posted at <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>. Information regarding current and previous Solicitations can be accessed via the DHS SBIR web site at www.sbir.dhs.gov and at <http://www.hsarpabaa.com>.

Question: I would kindly like to ask whether an Israeli R&D company ("For-Profit") is eligible for a DHS grant, and where can I find the eligibility conditions. In addition, what is the average grant amount such companies?

Thank you very much for your answer and attention.

Response: For participation in the DHS SBIR program, for both Phase I and Phase II, all research or research and development work must be performed by a small business concern, and its subcontractors if any, in the United States. Also the company must be

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owned by US citizens or permanent resident alien. Please refer to section 1.3 of the DHS SBIR 7.2 Solicitation for specific guidance. DHS SBIR Phase I awards are up to \$100,000 (or \$150,000 for DNDO topics), and Phase II awards are up to \$750,000 (or \$1,000,000 for DNDO topics). Eligibility requirements of other DHS grants and/or contracts would be contingent upon the specific DHS procurement guidelines.

Question: The Responder-Wireless Body Area Network topic description (7.2-004) seems virtually identical to the Responder Wireless Physiological Monitoring Device topic description (7.1-005). Please clarify the difference, if any.

Response: H-SB07.2-004 is about developing the network technology that is needed to transport the physiological monitoring measurements to the commander's station that is located somewhere away from the scene of the incident. H-SB07.1-005 is about developing the physiological monitoring device (or the sensor). If you are interested in competing in SBIR 7.2, you must submit a separate proposal as proposals submitted under SBIR 7.1 will not be considered for SBIR 7.2.

Questions: Re: Topic Number H-SB07.2-002

1. The system could be augmented with various types of optical filters to improve Pd and enhance identification, classification, and tracking performance. Should we consider only those optical filter types mentioned in the topic?
2. The system could also be augmented with advanced signal processing algorithms to improve performance. Is the application of these algorithms relevant to this solicitation?

Responses:

1. Any and all optical filters that enhance the parameters mentioned should be considered.
2. We expect that the Offerors will need to use advanced signal processing to achieve high Pd.

Questions: Re: Topic Number H-SB07.2-004

1. How many sensors should the sensor array usually have?
2. How are the sensors connected to a personal server? May they be connected through the wires in the protective clothes? Do they have to be connected wirelessly?
3. What sensors are the first responders usually interested in?
4. What is the normal distance between the first responders and commanders? How far should the personal server send data?

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Responses:

1. There is no specific number; less than 10-20 for now.
2. Not prescribed. This is something that is a function of the solution being proposed and we cannot favor, approve, or disapprove any specific solution.
3. It depends on the first responder community. Examples are tracking and physiological monitoring.
4. It varies depending on the incident and could be from a few feet to a few miles.

Question: I would like to submit an SBIR with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) as a subcontractor. They have done extensive work with my firm on the idea that we will be proposing. What do I have to do to be able to use them?

Response: No portion of an SBIR award may be subcontracted back to any Federal Government Agency, or other units of the Federal government, including Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs). Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is a FFRDC. However, 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) why the Agency will not and cannot fund the use of the Federal/FFRDC facility or personnel for the SBIR project with non-SBIR money; and (c) the concurrence of the small business concern's chief business official to use the Federal/FFRDC facility or personnel. Award is contingent on the sponsoring agency obtaining a waiver.

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

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