

**9.1 Question and Answer Matrix**  
As of December 31, 2008

ID#	Date Answered	Type	Question	Answer
1	11/14/2008	General	I understand that the full solicitation should be available today, November 12, 2008. However, I do not see it on the https://sbir.dhs.gov site. Also, I am unable to access the cover page site in order to generate the 09.1 cover sheets. Is the site still in the process of updating?	The DHS S&T Directorate's FY09.1 SBIR solicitation is posted both on http://fbo.gov and https://sbir.dhs.gov.. The proposal submission system accepts proposals submitted for this solicitation from November 12, 2008 - January 5, 2009.
2	11/14/2008	General	Were there any changes between the full solicitation referenced above and the pre-solicitation released on October 29? I don't see another version available on your website.	The DHS S&T Directorate's FY09.1 SBIR solicitation is posted both on http://fbo.gov and https://sbir.dhs.gov.. The proposal submission system accepts proposals submitted for this solicitation from November 12, 2008 - January 5, 2009.  No further direct contact between proposers and Technical Points of Contact shall occur from November 12, 2008 through January 5, 2009 for reasons of competitive fairness. However, proposers may submit written questions to STSBIR.PROPOSALS@dhs.gov through 2:00 p.m., EST, December 12, 2008. Questions must be limited to technical information related to improving the understanding of a particular topic's requirements; any other questions, such as those asking for advice or guidance on solution approach, will not receive a response.
3	11/20/2008	9.1-001	Can you please clarify the following section? Average Dollar Value of Awards. Section 5.1.c. - Phase I awards to small businesses will typically cover a one-half person-year effort over a period not to exceed six months (subject to negotiation). Public Law 102-564 allows agencies to make Phase I awards up to \$ 100,000 without justification. Does the Phase I and Phase II awards allow me to pay for consultant, equipment, component and assemblage expenses?	Each topic description included in the FY09.1 DHS Science and Technology Directorate SBIR solicitation outlines the scope of work for the SBIR phases (e.g., Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III). The evaluation of the proposed approach is at the discretion of the evaluation team. DHS S&T SBIR Phase I projects are funded up to \$100,000; Phase II projects are funded up to \$750,000. The amount requested should be commensurate with the scope of effort proposed. Consultant, equipment, component and assemblage expenses should be itemized in the cost proposal. Each Cost Proposal will be evaluated for cost realism and reasonableness, and overall best value to the Government.
4	11/24/2008	9.1-003	I would like to focus the proposal on the development of the EASA assay and use detection methods that Dr. Chambers have available in his laboratories as a proof of the binding capabilities of the aptamers generated by this method...would this address the needs of this topic?	The following sections from the Solicitation I believe are the best answer to your question.  Sample Preparation – Develop a manual laboratory protein sample preparation method for samples derived from a filter (e.g., a dry filter unit) or other complex environmental source. Assume that the sample contains the components of floor sweepings as a guide to defining relevant background contaminants. <sup>1</sup>  Develop a protein detection and identification, or at minimum selective protein detection assay, through any means that do not use antibodies. No assumption of technology is made by this other than the exclusion of antibodies. Assume that the output from sample preparation defined in the previous sections is the input for this assay.  Using prototype or commercial off the shelf laboratory supplies and equipment (modified or unmodified) demonstrate and report the feasibility of sensitive and selective protein detection for simulated biological threat agents (e.g., bacillus thuringensis spores) in a complex environmental background (e.g., from a dry filter containing dust) by the use of a non antibody-mediated detection assay. A written report including graphical and tabular data comparisons with statistical significance clearly stated, and a copy of all raw data collected, must be delivered as specified in the
5	11/24/2008	9.1-003	The solicitation mentions bacteria and viruses detection. Is it appropriate to submit proposal regarding detecting toxins such as, Ricin or Clostridium botulinum, using a non-antibody based approach?	As stated in the solicitation:  Develop a protein detection and identification, or at minimum selective protein detection assay, through any means that do not use antibodies.  As Clostridium botulinum is a Gram-positive bacterium that produces a toxin (neurotoxin botulin), I cannot see anything that is inconsistent with binding the product toxin (Botulinum toxin is a neurotoxic protein) to indicate the presence of the bacterium. The same could be said for any binding event between a probe molecule and a molecule that comes from a particular species and strain of bacterium or virus. Any such binding event is, in essence, a surrogate indicator of the presence of a bacterium or virus.
6	12/5/2008	General	My company has developed a technology and has a Patent Pending on that technology. We were interested in applying for an SBIR Contract to develop a Product based on that technology. However, we are wondering about paragraph 5.8. Since we already have a Patent Application pending, would paragraph 5.8 still apply to any Product based on that technology?	Any patents resulting from technology developed prior to an SBIR award to your company, are retained by your company. Patents resulting from the technology developed under an SBIR award are subject to Section 5.8 of the solicitation.  Please note that SBIR Phase I projects are for advancing technology, not product development.

ID#	Date Answered	Type	Question	Answer
7	12/9/2008	General	We will be submitting a proposal for H-SB09.1-006 Highly Scalable Identity Management Tools prior to the January 5, 2009 deadline. We reviewed the sbir.dhs.gov website looking for a template but were unable to find one. Would you help us find a suitable template?	There is no template available, however, please refer to section 3.0 "PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS", as there is a sub section 3.5, entitled "Phase I Proposal Format" which provides the information necessary to develop your proposal. This section begins on page 11 of the solicitation.
8	12/9/2008	9.1-007	Is the technical manager more interested in the mapping/software aspect (the ability to sense foreign objects in oil) or is it the hardware/mechanical robot that is of the most interest? Would the TPOC consider awarding the topic to different companies – one for hardware and one for software?	In response to the question on Autonomous In liquid survey vehicles the Program Manager is looking for a complete technical solution to the problem not separate software and hardware solutions.
9	12/10/2008	General	I believe there is some content that would help my research, located on DTIC. DTIC has unclassified research but won't allow access unless a government user approves the access. Is it possible for DHS to approve me access to DTIC unclassified? I have no current government contracts therefore can not get access.	DTIC is part of the DOD system. I believe you can get access to DTIC by applying for the "potential contractor" program through one of the services. Call Ms Vincent at 703-696-4792 to confirm if you can get access to DTIC info that way.
10	12/16/2008	9.1-001	1) Does DHS have a preferred method? STR analysis or restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP). 2) The proposal is for initial biometric screening to be performed in an office, what's the confidence level the system has to achieve. I am trying to determine if DHS has a minimal matching probability or power of exclusion value requirement. 3) If we choose STR analysis. The more STR markers we use, the more reliable it will be. Do we need to cover all the 13 STR markers commercially used currently? If not, what's the minimal numbers the DHS want to see for this screening method?	1. No, DHS does not have a preferred method. Meeting DHS user requirements that will be established in Phase I of the effort is more important than a particular technical approach. 2. DHS does not have a minimal matching probability requirement or confidence threshold set at this time. Phase I of the SBIR effort includes establishing specific performance metrics based on DHS needs and requirements and identifying a viable technical architecture for a prototype device.
11	12/16/2008	9.1-005 (edited)	Does the DHS Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate's SBIR Program accept white papers?	The DHS Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate's SBIR Program does not accept white papers. Two solicitations are issued per year. Full proposals in response to a solicitation must be submitted per the instructions provided in the solicitation. Currently, the DHS S&T Directorate's SBIR Program has its FY09.1 solicitation open. The solicitation includes seven topics. Information regarding this solicitation can be found on the Federal Business Opportunities website at <a href="http://www.fbo.gov">www.fbo.gov</a> (specifically at <a href="https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&amp;mode=form&amp;id=12177e3cc4867759c3937a1ea91a48c0&amp;tab=core&amp;_cview=0&amp;cck=1&amp;au=&amp;ck=">https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&amp;mode=form&amp;id=12177e3cc4867759c3937a1ea91a48c0&amp;tab=core&amp;_cview=0&amp;cck=1&amp;au=&amp;ck=</a> ) and on the DHS S&T Directorate's SBIR Program website at <a href="https://sbir.dhs.gov">https://sbir.dhs.gov</a> .
12	12/17/2008	General	I am interested in submitting a SBIR proposal to DHS as listed on the FedBizOpps. I am trying to get the instructions for cost proposal from the weblink provided in your solicitation:	The cost proposal must be submitted via the input of data using the electronic submission portal reachable from <a href="https://sbir.dhs.gov">https://sbir.dhs.gov</a> . Cost proposal guidance is provided in the solicitation beginning on page 13.
13	12/18/2008	General	We are VC-funded; does that make us ineligible for DHS SBIR funding?	It depends. Each organization submitting a proposal under the SBIR program must qualify as a small business concern as defined in Section 2.2 of the solicitation. Specifically, a small business concern is one that, at the time of award of Phase I and Phase II, meets all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is independently owned and operated, is not dominant in the field of operation in which it is proposing, has a place of business in the United States and operates primarily within the United States or makes a significant contribution to the US economy, and is organized for profit.</li> <li>• Is (1) at least 51% owned and controlled one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the United States); or (2) a for-profit business concern that is at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the United States.</li> <li>• Has, including its affiliates, an average number of employees for the preceding 12 months not exceeding 500, and meets the other regulatory requirements found in 13 CFR Part 121. Business concerns are generally considered to be affiliates of one another when either directly or indirectly, (1) one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or (2) a third-party/parties controls or has the power to control both.</li> </ul> Control can be exercised through common ownership, common management, and contractual relationships. The term

ID#	Date Answered	Type	Question	Answer
14	12/23/2008	General	I am having trouble finalizing my coversheet.	When completing the coversheet, please be sure not to enter in special characters such as "\$", "%", ":", "+", "=", "*", "^", "@", "!", "?", etc. into the following fields:  1. Proposal Title 2. PI Title 3. Company POC Title 4. Abstract 5. Keywords  We also ask that when completing the required fields that are marked with an asterisk, if you find that do not have any information available for those fields, please use "na" vice "n/a".
15	12/24/2008	General	Q1 (on p14) "A minimum of two-thirds of the research... must be carried out by the proposing small business..." If we are hiring consultants to do ~1/2 work within in our company (NOT subcontract to other firms). Is it ok?  Q2. (on p13) "...include a schedule showing the quantitative commercialization results ..." Please clarify if this is required in Phase I proposal. Our understanding it is normally required artifact for Phase II proposal.	Response 1: With the Contracting Officer's permission, this is allowable.  Response 2: As it is required for Phase 1.
16	12/24/2008	General	After entering my name and password, I get the following response "Your account has not yet been approved by the site's administrators." What do I need to do?	It is possible that your account is an expired one that requires a manual "unlock" to proceed. Please contact the Help Desk at 1-800-754-3043. The Help Desk may be contacted from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.
17	12/26/2008	General	I am submitting a Phase I proposal and would like to include a letter from a potential partnering company. To whom should the potential partner address his letter of support?	All letters of support, should one choose to include them, must be included within the technical proposal. The Phase I proposal page count remains the same. Letters can be addressed to the Contracting Officer and/or the Technical Program Manager for the topic area listed in the solicitation.
18	12/29/2008	General	I plan on responding to the FY09.1 solicitation. I tried to access the website at <a href="https://sbir.dhs.gov">https://sbir.dhs.gov</a> but get the following error message: "There is a problem with this website's security certificate. The security certificate presented by this website was issued for a different website's address."	The Treasury Department is aware of this issue and is working on a resolution. In general, it is safe to click on the "Continue to this website (not recommended)" link to proceed to the <a href="https://sbir.dhs.gov">https://sbir.dhs.gov</a> website. Please note that DHS cannot accept responsibility should this cause an issue with your computer.
19	12/29/2008	General	The instructions note that Phase I awards are granted up to \$100K. Is this \$100K the limit of total costs, or is it just direct costs? In other words, are labor overhead costs and G&A costs included in the \$100K?	The total cost of a DHS S&T Directorate SBIR Phase I effort is limited to \$100,000, inclusive of direct and indirect costs, as well as G&A and fees.
20	12/30/2008	General	My proposal contains proprietary information. What should I do?	If your proposal is selected for award, the technical abstract and discussion of anticipated benefits will be publicly released on the DHS S&T SBIR website; therefore, do not include proprietary or classified information in these sections. Additional information regarding marking of proprietary proposal information can be found in Section 5.6 of the solicitation. Please note that classified proposals are not accepted under this DHS S&T SBIR solicitation.
21	12/31/2008	General	I don't have a CAGE code? What do I enter in the field?	If you do not yet have a CAGE code, please enter either "NA" or "none" in the field.