

Question and Answer for MDA BAA  
N00039-08-X-0001  
18 January 2008

1. Is there a minimum TRL requirement for systems presented in response to this BAA? What TRL does SPAWAR hope to achieve for any products or systems developed, demonstrated, evaluated, and tested under Spiral 2?

***Answer: No required Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are specified in the BAA, nor are there specified TRLs for any products or systems to be provided under Spiral 2.***

2. Should offerors responding to one of the topics consider interface and interoperability requirements with products/systems under other topics? For example, in responding to #1, Vessel Tracking, should respondents consider how such systems would be interoperable with cargo monitoring systems?

***Answer: No. Each topic submission should be self-contained.***

3. Under the People Screening topic area is the government more interested in a near term innovative biometric collection device for a fixed installation that will automatically collect biometrics from subjects at a distance or does the application require a portable biometric acquisition device that can be used aboard small boats?

***Answer: The areas of interest related to People Screening and Identity Management are found on page 4 of the BAA. The Government will not express a preference with regard to a technology solution; however the Government does not intend to award any contracts resulting from this BAA specifically for biometric sensors.***

4. Is the government interested in an innovative biometric acquisition device that will be integrated into a larger existing system or should the proposed project cover a full system capability?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #3.***

5. What kinds of legacy biometric databases would it be desirable to have the people screening device communicate with?

***Answer: No biometric databases are specified in the BAA. BAA applicants should identify candidate databases associated with their technical concept. Identify in your technical paper which databases your technical concept would interface with.***

6. How long do typical maritime interdiction operations last? How long will a boarding be onboard a suspect vessel? How long might a boarding party be away from their main ship?

*Answer: See the material on the BAA GFI NESI web site in the following two documents, Navy\_Maritime\_Domain\_Awareness\_Concept\_FINAL\_2007.pdf and Capstone CONOPS for DoD Biometrics 2006-11.pdf for background information relevant to this question. No additional information is available. State any assumptions in your technical papers that are required for your technology to be successfully implemented.*

7. What is the maximum weight allowable for a biometric collection or communication device carried by a boarding party member?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #6.*

8. Under this BAA does the government require proposals for systems that will be field ready by FY09 or is the government also open to longer term development of more capable and innovative biometric collection devices?

*Answer: Further technology development may extend beyond Spiral 2 fielding. Applicants should discuss long term development options in their technical paper and identify the option cost within their total ROM (i.e. basic concept ROM amount \$1M, Option ROM \$1M, Total ROM \$2M).*

9. What are current MDA (Spiral 1) capabilities as related to 'People Screening'?

*See the material on the BAA GFI NESI web site in the draft DODAF Architecture for background information relevant to this question. No additional information is available.*

10. What is the projected funding allocation for MDA Topic #3 (People Screening and ID Management)?

*Answer: No determination has been made with regard to the funding allocations by topic area.*

11. How many 'People Screening' systems will be required in August 08?

*Answer: No determination has been made regarding the number of systems that will be fielded.*

12. Is there preference for a Commercial product versus militarized?

*Answer: There is no stated preference in the BAA for either commercial or militarized products. Contract awards resulting from this BAA are for research and development of MDA capabilities, not the procurement of existing commercial or military products.*

13. What are the Environmental requirements?

*Answer: Environmental requirements will be dependent on the technology solution(s) selected for contract award and the fielding location.*

14. Will there be an opportunity to brief our capabilities in addition to submitting a technical paper?

*Answer: No briefings or demonstrations are permitted.*

15. We are planning to submit a research proposal on Real Time Vessel Identification. For this proposed research, we will need images of different vessels for investigation. In this respect, we would like to know whether there will be any provision from your side to provide us with the images or we will have to arrange capturing the images. Accordingly we will prepare our schedule of work and budget.

*Answer: Assumptions regarding the data requirements associated with your technical concept should be stated in the technical paper.*

16. This Spiral 2 BAA states the requirement to deliver a MDA capability in FY09. Does the Government plan to release future BAAs (e.g., for a Spiral 3) to cover technology enhancements in later years, or does it prefer to see options for such work proposed under this BAA.

*Answer: There has been no determination regarding the acquisition strategy for future MDA spirals. See the answer to Question #8 for information regarding options for enhancements in later years.*

17. Can you tell me the typical award size that SPAWAR would expect to award under this BAA?

*Answer: No typical award size and award allocation for individual proposals or for topic areas has been determined.*

18. In Section III, item 2, Evaluation Criteria for Stage 1 would you define and further elaborate on "Technical Data Rights restrictions;"?

***Answer: Information on Technical Data Rights specific to DoD contracts can be found in Parts 27 and 227, respectively of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS).***

19. In Section III, item 2, Evaluation Criteria for Stage 1 it is difficult to develop the “Proposed Rough Order of Magnitude;” from a Data, Database and Information Management perspective as no specific, or broad, usage universe is defined. To that extent could you provide general numbers for the following to enable us to provide a realistic ROM:

- \* Number of user licenses?
- \* Number of people receiving data from applications?
- \* Amount of data required – length of history, how detailed, etc.?

***Answer: BAA applicants should include the assumptions underlying their technical concept regarding licenses, people receiving data, etc. in their technical paper.***

20. In Section V, item 3, Technical Paper Content, could you define and elaborate on “...(d) preliminary schedule;...”?

***Answer: Preliminary Schedule refers to the delivery schedule for data or products associated with an applicant’s concept, should the applicant be awarded a contract.***

21. In Section V, item 5, Submission of Electronic Proposals, when an “e-Proposal” is referenced is this in regard to the Technical Paper or the Stage 2 process of an SOW?

***Answer: The reference to an e-Proposal is to Stage 1, Technical Paper. The invitation to submit a Stage 2 cost proposal and SOW will be done via the Government selection letter as described in the BAA.***

22. Noting that this BAA refers to Spiral 2, and since I can't seem to find any useful information on-line about Spiral 1, can you tell me (or direct me to where I can find out) about the nature and status of Spiral 1?

***Answer: No information is available on the Spiral 1 effort.***

23. We have been speaking with staff at USCG and NUWC about TEG technology as an advanced power source for sensor buoy networks. I would like to know if advanced power is a topic of interest under this BAA and also if I can learn anything about the power requirements for buoy systems in order to submit an appropriate paper.

***Answer: Please review the list of BAA topics and areas of interest. If an applicant believes their solution is pertinent to any of the listed topics or areas of interest, an applicant may submit a technical paper.***

24. It is our belief that it is in the best interests of the Government to have as many responses as possible to the individual topic areas addressed in the RFP. In relation to MDA BAA RFP Section V, Paragraph 2, we request clarification of the term "applicant" as it relates to the submission of individual topic area responses from potential industry sources.

***Answer: An applicant is a company, business unit of a company, subsidiary of a company, or division of a company. However, each separate paper must identify its business unit, subsidiary, or division. Applicants may make at most one technical paper submission per topic.***

25. I have a question on the due date, with so many people out over the holidays and just getting back into the swing of things. Will SPAWAR consider extending the due date out two weeks?

***Answer: No extension will be considered at this time.***

26. Is video (motion imagery) and/or still imagery a modality that will be available for vessel identification / fingerprinting, vessel tracking and hand-off?

***Answer: Technical papers should explicitly state the assumptions with regard to data and imagery availability and requirements that support their technical solution.***

27. Is the fusion of Radar and Video/Imagery sources a problem of interest for this BAA?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #23.***

28. Will solutions from UAV video / imagery domain for vessel identification and tracking be entertained?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #23.***

29. Will vessel and tracking data from current systems be made available to performers?

***Answer: No. Applicants submitting technical papers should state their assumptions about their requirements for vessel and tracking data from current systems.***

30. Is the modeling of normal and abnormal behavior of vessels a problem of interest?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #23.*

31. Is automatic detection of pre-defined suspicious behaviors of people and or vessels a problem of interest?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #23.*

32. (a) What TRL level (or 6.2 / 6.3 categorization) are the deliverables expected out of the effort in this BAA? (b) Will the deliverables be component software for individual capabilities? (c) Will an integrated system be expected as a deliverable?

*Answer: (a) See the answer to Question #1.  
(b and c) Individual deliverables (component software or integrated systems) will depend on the technical concept presented in the technical paper.*

33. Is there a testing site or sites identified for data collection, test and evaluation of a proposed system?

*Answer: Spiral 2 integrated data collection, test and evaluation facilities will be dependent on the selected technologies. The government intends to conduct integration, test and evaluation at appropriate facilities prior to fielding.*

34. In regards to the cited BAA, I would like to ask if there is an award limit per proposal.

*Answer: See the answer to Question #17.*

35. Is it possible to share the total value (or a general range) of each award by topic?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #17.*

36. The 15 page total - does this include the 5 pages (maximum) of administrative information?

*Yes.*

37. Should the Stage 1 ROM cost estimate be formatted in the same manner as the Stage 2 Process Cost Proposal? Or, is there a minimum amount of information required for the Stage 1 ROM cost estimate?

*Answer: No. The ROM cost estimate is just a single number associated with the applicant's technical concept (including separately identified ROMs for future development as discussed in answer to Question #16). The Cost Proposal under Stage 2 will be defined in more detail in the Government letter that is sent out to the selected contractor(s).*

38. Are standoff iris biometric collection techniques (e.g. 5-10 meters) a problem of interest for this BAA?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #3.*

39. Is there an existing biometric or identity management platform that has been selected or deployed?

*Answer: No specific existing biometric or identity management platform has been selected.*

40. Is automated video-based monitoring with biometric capabilities of interest?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #23.*

41. Are multimodal sensing techniques (e.g. video plus chemical sensing) for threat determination of interest?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #23.*

42. What level of technical integration with existing systems is expected during the project, and over what period of time?

*Answer: There is no prerequisite to integrate with any specific external system. Proposed technical solutions should explicitly identify any dependencies on external systems and databases that are required to successfully implement the proposed technical solution.*

43. The BAA states (Section IX.1.b) "...to furnish with their technical papers information that may have a bearing on any existing or potential conflict of interest". Further on, the terms "technical papers" and "proposal" are used interchangeably discussing inclusion of a mitigation plan. Is the mitigation plan required only with the full cost proposal after favorable notification of the technical paper, while the technical paper requires a disclosure that an OCI may exist and that a mitigation plan will be submitted if selected for a Stage 2 proposal? Paragraph (c) says "The mitigation plan will not be part of the technical evaluation".

***Answer: A detailed OCI Risk Mitigation Plan should only be submitted after favorable notification of the technical paper.***

44. The BAA states (Section V.2) "Applicants may make at most one technical paper submission per topic..." Does the Government consider an applicant to be the parent corporation in total, or can the term "applicant" include multiple business units within a corporation, such as a subsidiary, division, or other corporate entity, while still limiting submittals to a single topic. In this interpretation, an "applicant" would be the specific company unit submitting the white paper."

***Answer: See answer to Question #24.***

45. Under Section V. Application and Submission Information, Paragraph 2 Technical Paper Topic Submission, the government states that "Multiple topics MAY NOT be submitted in one volume." Because the nature of Maritime Domain Awareness is reliant on Collection, Fusion, Analysis, and Dissemination, a proposed solution could, in fact, include multiple technologies of interest as defined in Section II Topic Descriptions, integrated into a total solution. Would the government consider rewording the Section V Paragraph 2 sentence to allow vendors to submit white papers that cover multiple technologies of interest in one volume, provided that the solution is, in fact, an integrated solution and that the technologies of interest are well defined and that the white paper does not exceed a maximum of 25 total pages?

***Answer: No.***

46. The BAA states requiring "a typeface of 10-pitch". Is this intended to mean a typeface of 10 point size? Or, does it mean literally 10 letters per inch (as in the standard typewriter)? Additionally, is there a typeface/font requirement (e.g. Times, Arial, etc.)?

***Answer: Times New Roman and no smaller than size 10 font.***

47. Are diagrams and images allowed in the submission?

***Answer: Yes, as long as it is within the 15-page limitation.***

48. Please clarify the page count allocation as laid out in Section V, Paragraphs 1 & 3: does the 15 page limit on the Technical Paper include the 5 pages (max) of administrative information, or is the administrative information (still 5 pages max, including the cover page, past performance and ROM costs) additive to a 15 page Technical Paper?

***Answer: The 5 pages for administrative information is included in the 15 page limitation.***

49. Section IV, Intellectual Property, requires the respondent to assert any limitation of data rights in the delivered capabilities. Should this information be included in the Technical Paper in subsection (c) per Section V Paragraph 3, or in another location in our response?

***Answer: Applicants shall certify to the DFARS clause 252.227-7017 and include it as an attachment to the technical paper. This attachment is not part of the 15-page technical paper limitation.***

50. Does the Government have a preferred period of performance for the technical work? We understand the projected award date of 26 May 2008. We also note that Section III, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph 2 requires delivery to the Government in FY09. Is there a specific preferred delivery date for an initial capability and/or a final capability? Is there a preferred timing for installation, test & evaluation of the delivered capabilities at a Government location?

***Answer: There are no preferred delivery, install, test, and evaluation dates.***

51. (a) Can the Government provide guidance as to the expected size of individual awards either in terms of an acceptable range or a not-to-exceed amount for a base period? (b) Or for total cost of a proposed project? (c) What is the total budget available to SPAWAR for awards under this BAA?

***Answer: (a and b) See the answer to Question #17.***

***(c) As stated in the BAA, funding of the MDA Project BAA is currently awaiting official approval from Congress. A decision to fund the MDA Project is expected in Early 2008.***

52. I'm told that the ceiling for a BAA is one-million dollars. Is that so and is there a FAR clause I can reference to show some other folks?

***Answer: There is not a FAR clause that limits the dollar value for BAAs.***

53. Topic Description 6 – Information Management, Databases, Service Oriented Architectures and Interoperability – appears to have 4 separate parts to the topic. If this is the case then does the requirement of one paper per topic submission apply or is this meant to be individual papers addressing each of the 4 areas (or those areas that are relevant to your expertise)?

***Answer: Every topic has multiple areas of interest. Applicants may submit only one technical paper for each topic, whether the applicant's technical concept covers some or all of the areas of interest listed under the topic.***

54. The BAA indicates on page 2 that an objective of MDA Spiral 2 is to "provide cross data type (vessel, cargo, crew, and infrastructure) anomaly detection." However, the BAA asks for applicants to propose technical papers in six individual areas; it does not appear to provide an opportunity for an applicant to submit a paper across multiple categories so as to achieve the type of "cross data type anomaly detection" that is a goal of Spiral 2. Is this correct? Relatedly, is Navy SPAWAR planning to serve as the integrator of the individual technology categories for Spiral 2?

***Answer: Applicants may make at most one technical paper submission per topic area. The Government will be responsible for system level integration and operational testing and assessment of MDA related technologies.***

55. Although the BAA makes clear that funding is "awaiting official approval from Congress," does SPAWAR have an estimate of an average amount that it expects to award annually per technical paper to a successful applicant? Relatedly, can SPAWAR provide an order of magnitude of funding that is realistic for applicants (e.g., \$1 million, \$10 million, other) to expect that SPAWAR can provide to pursue a technical paper? Such an average, or order of magnitude, will help applicants in responding to the BAA with the most realistic proposals possible.

***Answer: See the answer to Question #17.***

56. What is the definition of the word "applicant," as used in the BAA, on page p. 9, section V. 2. ("Technical Paper Topic Submission")? Relatedly, can legal entities within the same corporation submit a technical paper on the same topic?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #24.***

57. We are contemplating submitting one technical paper with a government organization as a teammate. Are there any restrictions with regard to teaming with government laboratories?

***Answer: Government laboratories should not be a party to a technical paper submission under this BAA.***

58. Can respondents to the BAA submit Stage 1 technical papers with projects that extend beyond fiscal year 2009? What range of schedule length for technical proposals is acceptable?

***Answer: The Government will consider technical papers for Stage 2 that discuss options for long term development. See answer to Question #8.***

59. Will there be any requirements for technical interface / integration work between the MDA Prototype Acceleration system proposed and higher level system architectures?

***Answer: No.***

60. Is the deliverable "demonstration of a single prototype", or "installation and operation of one or more prototypes over a period"?

***Answer: Deliverables may be the results of basic research or the delivery of prototypes. The specific deliverables will depend on the technical papers selected for contract award.***

61. Can the ROM be optioned and/or parameterized for capabilities and scope of coverage?

***Answer: No. the ROM should be a single number. See answer to Question #8.***

62. In reference to the subject BAA, in Section V.1. Technical Paper Format, states font size to be 10 pitch. Do you really mean point size (considering that what computers use)? Does this really mean 10 point font?

***Answer: See Answer to Question #46.***

63. Can the government provide details about current and planned Spiral 1 capabilities and environments? What is the planned network architecture? What applications will be installed at each node under Spiral 1 activities? Is there an interface or integration standard that our Spiral 2 solutions are expected to meet?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #22. There is no interface or integration standard required for Spiral 2.***

64. Section III Paragraph 2 item (3) on page 7 of the BAA refers to "Maritime Data Models." Are there specific data models that the government is referring to? Can the government provide details about these data models, or point us to a source of information about these models?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #6.***

65. The first section is about tracking vessels. Will this request pertain to coastal surveillance of surface vessels as well? The request does not specifically call out coastal surveillance. Would it be appropriate for us to submit our technical paper for this request or is there another RFP coming on just coastal?

***Answer: Coastal Surveillance is not a topic or area of interest for this BAA. There is no current requirement for coastal surveillance.***

66. Topic 1, Vessel Tracking - For the goal of anomaly detection, which would be considered a more important research task, to improve vessel tracking algorithms and processes (for better tracking accuracy and fewer untracked vessels) or to improve algorithms which attempt to label each track as <sup>3</sup>normal<sup>2</sup> vs. <sup>3</sup>abnormal<sup>2</sup>?

*Answer: The Government will not express an opinion or preference with regard to the importance of research tasks.*

67. Topic 1, Vessel Tracking - For the <sup>3</sup>Non-Cooperative Vessel Tracking<sup>2</sup> and <sup>3</sup>Real-Time Vessel Identification<sup>2</sup> Areas of interest, is there a preference for methods based on further processing of existing sensor data (such as more advanced signature extraction), methods based on fusion across existing sensor assets, or the design of new sensing approaches?

*Answer: The Government will not express a preference with regard to technology solutions or methods.*

68. Topic 1, Vessel Tracking - For the goal of threat detection, what is the typical timescale and nature of trends that need to be understood?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #6.*

69. Topic 1, Vessel Tracking - Also for threat detection, is the desired output the prediction that a particular vessel may be a threat, or the demarcation of a geographic region of heightened threat probability?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #66.*

70. Topic 4, Extended Maritime Interdiction Operations - One of the goals is to track wireless communication from boarding parties. Is the purpose of tracking to geolocate wireless transmissions? If so, is this for safety, data fusion, something else?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #6.*

71. Topic 4, Extended Maritime Interdiction Operations - Another goal is to improve boarding team safety. Can you expand on this point and how it intersects with improved communication? Would real-time identification of people of interest who might pose an immediate threat to the team be a scenario?

*Answer: See the answer to Question #6.*

72. Topic 4, Extended Maritime Interdiction Operations - It seems that much of the focus is on effectively getting data from the boarding team to the ship databases. Is this considered a more difficult problem or more relevant use case than the reverse?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #6.***

73. Topic 4, Extended Maritime Interdiction Operations - Can you elaborate on the anticipated result of "the forward staging of data?" Does this imply that ideally, data is compiled and processed by the boarding party? Or is data meant to be primarily compiled and processed onboard the ship?

***Answer: See answer to Question #6.***

74. Explain what is desired by data visualization? Does this include a desktop application where the analytic model output, naval rules and strategies and data simulations can be performed?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #6***

75. When the analytics are delivered using Naval data how important is it to be able to develop systemic rules and strategies around the data?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #6.***

76. Is data simulation using historical data important? (If the Navy desires to test and deploy a new strategy using historical data would a desktop simulation tool be useful to this mission? If so, why?)

***Answer: See the answer to Question #6. Test tools including those that are simulation based are not a topic of interest in this BAA.***

77. Is data optimization a capability and/or a systemic feature desired by the Navy? If so, what are the primary items you would optimize against the systemic outputs? (Example: The system provides details of a wayward vessel over 500 kilometers from its projected patch – should the system be able to optimize the best intercept based on available military assets in the theater?)

***Answer: See the answer to Question #6. You should state your capabilities within your technical paper.***

78. What data are available historically (specifically, which fields were collected)?

***Answer: The question is unclear. However, the Government has posted background data that can be accessed on the GFI NESI website. No historical data is available under this BAA.***

79. How much historical data is available? (both in terms of number of records, i.e. ship contacts, cargo records, etc. and in terms of amount of time covered, i.e. how many months of years of data are available?)

***Answer: See the answer to Question #78.***

80. Is all of the data to be used for analysis considered classified, or is part of it public data?

***Answer: Proposed solutions are not restricted to specific data sources. You may propose to utilize any data source deemed relevant to your technical solution.***

81. Can vendors add external data (public data sources) to be used in the analysis/model-building effort (economic data, import/export data, weather data, general shipping data, etc.)? Are there any specific data external sources that are expected to be used? Expected to NOT be used?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #80.***

82. Are there any known data integrity/reliability issues in the currently available data?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #6. No historical data is available under this BAA.***

83. Are there any known gaps in the data (time periods where the data is not available or was only partially collected, for example)?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6. No historical data is available under this BAA.***

84. What level of time-stamp is associated with the data? (For example, does each record include the date and time it was collected?)

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6. No historical data is available under this BAA.***

85. Does each record/field include the source of the information? (i.e. collected by US Navy, public data source, foreign source, etc.)

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6. No historical data is available under this BAA.***

86. Which of the historically available data is expected to be also available for use in an operational system? (for example, some data may not be available in operation because it will no longer be collected, or because it is difficult/impossible to collect in real-time)

***Answer: Explicitly state the dependencies of your technical solution on particular data sources and data histories.***

87. Are there specific standards, mandated by the customer, the software solution must comply with regarding:

- Functional Requirements
  - Data Capture/Generation
  - Workflow
  - Post Decision Processes
  - Reporting
  - External Interfaces
  - System Security
  - User System Maintenance
- Other Requirements
  - Standards Compliance
  - Performance
    - Processing Time
    - Application Throughput
  - Installation and Configuration
  - System Requirements
    - Supported Operating Systems
    - Supported Hardware
    - Supported Databases
    - Operating Platform
      - a. ASP/hosted services
      - b. Mainframe
      - c. Client/server

***Answer: There are no specific standards required by this BAA. Review the BAA GFI site for additional background information. State any support or dependencies on specific standards in your technical paper.***

88. What specific Spiral 1 capabilities is the Government interested in building upon during Spiral 2?

***Answer: The Spiral 2 topic areas are described in Section II of the BAA. No information is available on the Spiral 1 effort.***

89. What vendors were involved in Spiral 1 activities?

***Answer: This information on Spiral 1 vendors is not available as part of this BAA.***

90. How much total funding per year do you expect for this BAA?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #51.***

91. What is the anticipated funding (or range of funding) for each award?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #51 and 90.***

92. How many awards do you anticipate will be made?

***Answer: The Government has not determined a specific number of awards.***

93. What is the typical period of performance (PoP) (or range of PoPs) for awards made under this BAA?

***Answer: The answer depends on the technology being proposed.***

94. Which technology topic areas (or sub-areas) in the BAA are the highest priority in terms of funding availability?

***Answer: The Government has not established any priorities for funding among topic areas/areas of interest. Also see answer to Question 90.***

95. Topic Area 2: Cargo Monitoring - Beyond recognizing threats and anomalies, the solicitation calls for rule-based decision support.

***Answer: Yes.***

96. Topic Area 2: Cargo Monitoring - As a practical consideration, deciding which cargo to inspect is one obvious decision that is necessary.

- a) What other key decisions should be considered?
- b) Can you provide examples of how different types/levels of threats or anomalies might lead to different decision rules being needed?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6. Please include any assumptions regarding the key decisions and decision rules that support your technical concept.***

97. Topic Area 2: Cargo Monitoring - Are you interested in tools that:

- a) enable domain experts to describe anomalous/threatening behavior, and then have tools that help find such patterns in the data?
- b) automatically process data looking for unusual patterns without being provided the expert guidance?
- c) do both of the above?
- d) are hybrid approaches, where the machine and a human expert work together collaboratively to identify patterns?

***Answer: The Government will not specify areas of interest beyond those identified in the BAA.***

98. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - The topic area description suggests that the primary users of advanced people screening and identity management tools are boarding teams, to support real-time identification of all persons on board a given ship. Is this the only user group of interest for this capability?

***Answer: The user group of interest is not restricted to boarding teams.***

99. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - Can you identify the existing biometric collection capabilities that are being applied in Spiral 1 of the MDA Prototype Acceleration Project?

***Answer: There is no definitive biometric collection capabilities being applied.***

100. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - Have you characterized specific gaps in capability from these biometric technologies?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6.***

101. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - Can you characterize existing automation technologies being used in Spiral 1 to support Fusion and Analytical capabilities?

***Answer: There are no fusion and analytical capabilities in Spiral 1.***

102. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - Does the requirement for near real-time person identification in an environment with limited network connectivity imply that one of the critical challenges is focused on providing sufficient

data to local systems (i.e., in-the-field with boarding teams, disconnected from shore-based databases) regarding potential people that might be encountered in a given area in some time interval?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6.***

103. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - If so, could you characterize potential areas of interest (e.g., specific harbors, specific offshore regions, etc.) in terms of geographic size, expected number of potential target vessels in given time interval, etc?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6.***

104. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - Can you identify existing data sources (across agencies) that might be incorporated into a real-time identity management system?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6.***

105. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - Which of these databases are currently accessible to MDA operations (e.g., within Spiral 1)?

***Answer: The question is unclear. However, background information on people screening and identity management can be located on the GFI NESI website.***

106. Topic Area 3: People Screening and Identity Management - Which are considered most valuable to supporting identity management?

***Answer: The question is unclear. Background information on people screening and identity management can be located on the GFI NESI website; the specific areas of interest for Topic 3 can be found on page 4 of the BAA.***

107. Spiral 2 Implementation. Contract award date assumption stated in BAA is 26 May 2008 with the resulting capabilities to be deliverable to the Government in FY2009 with the intention of extending the MDA capabilities to the all of the numbered fleets. For this extension to the numbered fleets, what quantities of materials (e.g. how many ships and / or shore installations should be considered) and what dates within FY 2009 should contractors use in planning and pricing?

***Answer: Quantities of materials and specific installation dates have been established at this time.***

108. Application of Spiral 2. What class of ship or technology level in the ships, or ashore facilities, is envisioned for the installations (i.e., command ship, command center, etc) or are the technologies intended for broad distribution (DDG, LHA, etc)?

***Answer: See the Answer to Question #6.***

109. System-level performance and integration. Does the Government intend to apply system-level modeling and simulation of the technologies, set up a systems integration lab, or in some other way develop a system level understanding of the resultant Spiral 2 system?

***Answer: See the answer to Question #54.***

110. Classified addendum. Is there a mechanism to submit a classified addendum?

***Answer: No. The technical paper shall be unclassified, but should indicate the classification level necessary to perform the work.***

111. Risk. What is meant by "risk" as a specific topic to be addressed in Para V 3 (e)?

***Answer: Risk refers to technical and schedule risk associated with the proposed technical solution.***

112. Spiral 1 base. Spiral 1 is the base for building Spiral 2. What systems and capabilities are in, or targeted for, Spiral 1?

***Answer: No. Spiral 1 is not the base for building Spiral 2.***

113. Evaluation & certification. "New" approaches to data models and data types are suggested. What evaluation, testing, and certification of such new systems or software will be required prior to IOC? Will implementation be phased in order to accommodate such evaluations?

***Answer: Evaluation, testing and certification is the responsibility of government.***

114. Training. Training is not mentioned in the BAA. What plans has the Government for the development of training materials, program, and operator certs for systems to be fielded in the prototype?

***Answer: The Government currently has no plans for the development of training materials, programs, or certifications.***

115. SAFETY Act. USG AFAR 5150 requires that acquisition of technology related to anti-terrorism, or integration of subsystems into a system that addresses anti-terrorism, require the acquirer to seek designation of such systems as Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology (QATT) in order to reduce risk to the US Government. Much of the technology in MDA will be anti-terrorism in the spirit of the AFAR. Does SPAWAR / PEOC4I intend to seek QAAT designation as appropriate?

***Answer: No.***

116. Can foreign countries submit a response as a prime contractor and/or as a partner company and/or as a subcontractor?

***BAA respondents may be foreign firms or may team with foreign firms as long as the firm meets the criteria in this BAA, and the Government is otherwise permitted to conduct business with the firm. No specific countries can be identified until papers are submitted.***