

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**for**  
**VIRAT BAA08-20**  
(as of 5 May 2008)

*Questions and Answers 15 through 36 are from Industry Day.*

**Q53. The industry day slides state that proposers should register in TFIMS by 5/5/08. I do not see this date listed in the BAA. Is this date a deadline or recommended date? I am having trouble registering and sent an email to TFIMS-BAA@darpa.mil requesting assistance. Is the May 5th date a recommended date? The BAA states that proposers should not wait until the due date to register.**

A53. This is a recommended date to allow proposers to work through any problems or delays in the registration process. Typically it takes 1-2 business days to accomplish all the steps required to register.

**Q.52 Many universities cannot receive any ITAR restricted information and FOUO data. In such cases, are there any restrictions on publications by university personnel if they apply their pre-existing ideas to public-domain data sets as part of the work performed on the program?**

A52. There would be no publication restrictions if they apply their pre-existing ideas to public-domain data sets outside the contract performance, but the publication restrictions we put in our contracts will apply if the publication includes aspects from work performed on the contract. In addition, if the information was all from the public domain then our review and approval of the publication in question should be a moot point and the universities should have no worries about our review. The factor to consider is if the information from the public domain is coupled with other information from contract performance that then makes the publication sensitive.

**Q51. What is the start date that should be used for costing?**

A51. The start date depends on a variety of factors and cannot be accurately predicted; however, you may use October as a start date for costing purposes.

**Q50. In a large company it is conceivable that one business unit may submit a proposal under Task 1 and another business unit a proposal under Task 2, and not even be aware of each other's submittal. What would happen in this situation?**

A50. As stated in the eligibility section of the BAA, "If selected for Task 2, any other proposal(s) submitted by that organization will be considered "not selectable" even if they would have been considered "selectable" according to the evaluation criteria.

**Q49. Large companies have several major business units, which are geographically distributed, each with different business goals and capabilities. Will DARPA accept two or more proposals from the same company on Task 1 if they are from different business units, assuming that none of these business units submits a proposal under Task 2?**

A49. Yes, there are no restrictions on the number of proposals received from a company on the same task.

**Q48. Is it permissible to order the subsections in the technical proposal differently than they are listed in the BAA? For example, is it permissible to put the Statement of Work (SOW) after the description of the technical approach?**

A48. Section I – IV cannot be reordered, however, within a section there is some flexibility. For example, in Section III, the Statement of Work can be aligned with your enhanced, detailed technical approach.

**Q47. The BAA states, “For all proposed research that will involve human subjects in the first year or phase of the project, the institution must provide evidence of or a plan for review by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) upon final proposal submission to DARPA. Question 1. If we are not planning to collect video data as part of our contract, are we required to submit this documentation? In other words, if we are given video data by DARPA or other government providers, does this clause apply? Question 2. If it does apply, are proposals required to include this evidence/plan for the May 12 deadline? Or is it permissible to supply this information upon selection for negotiation?”**

A47. The VIRAT program has been reviewed by the appropriate authority and is NOT considered human subjects research. However, per the BAA, for all proposed research that will involve human subjects in the first year or phase of the project, the institution must provide evidence of or a plan for review by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) upon final proposal submission to DARPA. If no such research is planned, the offeror must state "NONE" in this section of their proposal.

**Q46. Slide 19 of the industry day packet mentions that the Go/No-Go evaluation would occur 3 months before end-of-phase. Additionally it stipulates that the interim and Go/No-Go evaluations will be at 6 month intervals. Are these dates fixed, and therefore should Task 1 performers incorporate the 3 month period for the evaluation into their schedule? [As an example, if you proposed a 12 month phase 1, that would imply evaluations would occur at months 3 and 9; is that an accurate understanding of what should be incorporated into a Task 1 performers schedule?].**

A46. Yes, the 3 month date should be considered fixed. However, the 6 month interval is notional and should represent appropriate review intervals based on the proposed development schedule. Yes, your example is appropriate.

**Q45. In DARPA proposals we have submitted in the past, there has been an explicit request for a listing of key personnel in the form of a biography. Within this proposal the only mention of personnel comes in Section II: Summary of Proposal, (F) which is the organization chart. Should we assume then that biographies of key personnel should not be included in this proposal or is there another section where they should be integrated?**

A45. No, biographies should be included in this section as needed to describe "the unique capabilities of team members" as specified in part (2) of this paragraph.

**Q44. IV.B.2 states that offerors may submit "not more than three (3) relevant papers." We assume that these relevant papers are excluded from the page count limitation. Is this correct?**

A44. Yes, that is correct.

**Q43. IV.B.2 states that type must not be smaller than 12 point. Due to the complexity of some graphic elements, will the government allow the font size for figures and tables to be smaller than 12 point? We recommend a font size of no smaller than 8 point for figures and tables.**

A43. 8-point font is acceptable for figures and tables.

**Q42. IV.B.2 states that except for the attached bibliography and Section I, the Technical proposal volumes are limited to 60 pages for Task 1 and 40 pages for Task 2. Will the**

**government allow the table of contents, divider tabs, list of acronyms, and compliance matrix to be excluded from the page limitation?**

A42. Tabs are excluded from the page count, but any pages with content are counted, to include: table of contents, lists of acronyms and matrices.

**Q41. IV.B.4 of the BAA states that "All proprietary subcontractor proposal documentation which cannot be uploaded to T-FIMS, shall be made immediately available to the government, upon request, under separate cover (i.e., mail, electronic/email, etc.) either by the Proposer.....". Can we assume that it is acceptable for the subcontractors to submit their proprietary submission upon request by the government, or should it be sent via the means described above, by the same date and time as the BAA due date?**

A41. The sub can send this information to DARPA separately, usually via email (encrypted file) to BAA08-20@darpa.mil, and that information will be added as a supplemental file to the prime's proposal. However, they must reference the control number that the prime is using for its submission. This documentation is due at the same date and time as the BAA due date.

**Q40. Section III. Detailed Proposal Information, indicate that the OCI Representation and IP information should be provided in sections J and K, respectively. Is subcontractor data of this nature to be included in this section, or can it be included in the cost volume with the subcontractors proposal? If not, it could impact the page count for the technical volume.**

A40. All OCI and IP documentation should be in the Technical Volume. Since offerors are expected to take as much space as is necessary to fulfill these requirements, they are not counted in the page limit.

**Q39. We need clarification on the statement: "...for awardees subject to the cost principles in 48 CFR part 32..." Does 48 CFR apply to all awardees, or just those subject to 2 CFR parts 220, 225 and 230?**

A39. Neither. 48 CFR part 32 applies to only those awardees subject to the cost principles of 48 CFR part 32. This applies only if 6.1 funding is used for this effort as per the FY2008 Defense Appropriations Act; however, at this time DARPA has no intentions of using 6.1 funding.

**Q38. Since there are GPU available on most laptops desktops, would you consider the use of acceleration, or at least implementations that would be aware enough to use if available?**

A38. Yes, but the system should still be able to function (albeit somewhat slower) without it.

**Q37. Can we assume some computational distinction between archive and user interface. For example, a standard client/server search engine architecture in which indexing and retrieval algorithms run in an environment having more computational resources, and the query, real time analysis would assume standard desktop/laptop operation?**

A37. No, per FAQ #7, the VIRAT system should be able to perform both kinds of operations (streaming and archived video) on a single desktop/laptop system.

**Q36. Will there be non-ITAR pass through clause for University sub-contractors?**

A36. No. ITAR is a Department of Commerce regulation and DARPA has no authority to modify the rules or exempt any performers.

**Q35. What methods/processes are you implementing to ensure Task 1 awardees' IP is protected from Task 2 evaluators? (Particularly background IP previously developed with private funds.)**

A35. The government intends to have non-disclosure agreements put into place for Task 2 evaluators. Testing and evaluation should not require access to the Task 1 source code, but should be possible with the executable code.

**Q34. Would you discourage the use of COTS software due to IP and licensing concerns?**

A34. Not necessarily, there are often solid pragmatic reasons for using a COTS software, for example, a database management system.

**Q33. Can we get a comprehensive list of desired attributes?**

A33. Desired attributes related to system performance are listed in the “Performance Metrics” section of the BAA. Attributes related to the indexing of actions, events, or activities are the subject of research under Task 1.

**Q32. Do we expect to add attributes on the fly in the future, then re-query under the same performance constraints?**

A32. Users (analysts) will interact with the system using activities and will likely be unaware of the underlying attributes used by the algorithms. We expect to add activities on the fly in the future, then re-query under the same performance constraints. It’s highly desirable that re-indexing of the archive should not be required for the addition of each new activity.

**Q31. COTS license costs? Decoders – video; database – Oracle, Sybase; web servers – weblogic.**

A31. Instructions relating to this are provided on pages 31 and 32 of the BAA.

**Q30. Will the Task 2 team have a role/input into the data (development/collection)?**

A28. Since classified data will be used in the evaluation of the VIRAT program, the PET must be capable of handling, storing and processing classified electronic data. Task 2 proposers must have a plan to evaluate system performance on both classified and unclassified data.

**Q27. Roughly what split between Task 1 and Task 2 is envisioned funding-wise?**

A27. There are no predetermined amounts for either task.

**Q26. The BAA explicitly excludes “image-based” anomaly detection, but presumably “video-based” or spatiotemporal anomaly detection is in scope.**

A26. Yes, spatiotemporal anomaly detection in video is allowable. However, anomaly detection is not the main focus of this program and is not addressed by the Go/No-go metrics.

**Q25. How will government furnished data base provided? (e.g., will the video files be provided on a hard drive or via some other means?)**

A25. We expect to distribute the data via a hard drive.

**Q24. Will stereo image data be supplied either partially or exclusively?**

A24. No, stereo data will NOT be supplied.

**Q23. Will use cases be provided for searches, queries and alerts?**

A23. No use cases will be provided prior to the proposal submission deadline. Proposers are welcome to supply use cases within their proposal to clarify system capabilities or technical approach.

**Q22. Will the system be required to process compressed video data?**

A22. Yes, however some data that will be provided may not be compressed. Actual predator data is downlinked – compressed, typically MPEG2.

**Q21. Is any data available before proposals are due May 12?**

A21. No data will be made available before the proposal due date. Some samples of Predator video can be found on the web.

**Q20. What unclassified data will DARPA make available for testing and evaluation, if any?**

A20. Under this program unclassified data will be collected with predator-like sensors; the program plans to collect data using both of the MTS sensors.

**Q19. Please give us ballpark or “pain point” estimates of costs for Task 1 technology proposals?**

A19. Costing should be generated by an honest assessment of the resources required for developing a useful system that is transitionable and capable of meeting the stated Go/No-Go criteria.

**Q18. Is VIRAT a 6.2 or 6.3 research effort? What limitations will apply to university subcontractors?**

A18. Planned funding now is 6.2, however, this may change depending on budget constraints. We will make every effort to ensure that universities can be included, while maintaining all necessary restrictions. Please see Section VI.B.6 “Publication Approval” in the BAA for further information on possible limitations.

**Q17. Are query inputs restricted to video clips? Does VIRAT require query using natural language, specific query language or a list of events and sample videos?**

A17. No, however video clips and images will be the main input mode. If you have other means, include them, but this will not be the input modality against which system performance will be measured. In later phases when we get into interactive query refinement, other means to focus and refine the query input will be needed.

**Q16. Is the design of a graphical query composition and specification system within the scope of work?**

A16. Yes, this is within scope.

**Q15. Is a GUI interface for specifying relevant/irrelevant part(s) of an example query video within the scope of the interactive query refinement?**

A15. Yes, this is within scope.

**Q14. Is there a classified document that has more descriptions of the particular work that needs solving.**

A14. No, there is neither a classified nor an unclassified document that discusses this problem in more detail.

**Q13. What is the definition of “geo-registered video” that the Government will provide (p.10, parag. 4)? What’s the difference between “geo-registration” and “geo-spatial registration” (of video, top of p.7)?**

A13. “Will” was too strong a word. The government MAY provide geo-registered video, but performers should not expect it as a given input. Any “geo-registered video” supplied will be registered to a given reference image, but may include only one or two points of registration. The two terms (“geo-registration” and “geo-spatial registration”) are loosely used interchangeably.

**Q12. BAA says the government will provide “geo-registered video” (p.10, parag. 4). Does that mean the function of the second green box in Figure 1, p.7 will be provided by the government, but a contractor has to provide other video processing functions such as video stabilization and object tracking?**

A12. Figure 1 is a notional system concept and merely an example. Since not all video input data will be geo-registered, the geo-registration function must still be provided by the contractor, if needed for their particular algorithms.

**Q11. Will the Day TV feeds be black and white or color? Will the TV and IR videos be simultaneously available and co-registered?**

A11. Day TV includes both color and black & white. TV and IR videos will NOT be simultaneously available NOR will they be co-registered.

**Q10. Table 2, p15, for sources of video for Phase-III, what does it mean to have “ground based and all airborne”?**

A10. “Ground-based” means fixed, stationary, or ground-vehicle mounted cameras, such as poles, towers, buildings, or trucks. “All airborne” means cameras mounted on airborne platforms, to include unmanned vehicles, planes, and helicopters.

**Q9. Can a subcontractor (e.g., a University) be on multiple teams?**

A9. Yes, as long as the subcontractor is not on a Task 1 team AND a Task 2 team.

**Q8. In the BAA, the link to the teaming page doesn’t work.**

A8. The correct link to the teaming page is:

<https://www.csc-ballston.com/baa/VIRATteaming.htm>

**Q7. Are there computing platform specifications/restrictions to go with the speed criteria specified in the Go/No-go criteria?**

A7. Yes because the end-goal of the program is to transition into a military program-of-record (POR). Few, if any POR, can support unique or non-standard platforms or software. Proposers are encouraged to consider a typical, off-the-shelf desktop or laptop system as the computing platform.

**Q6. What is the funding level for each phase and for each task/team?**

A6. Funding decisions are contingent upon the evaluation of programmatic and technical elements of a proposal, the availability of funds, and other program considerations. Proposers are encouraged to propose funding levels required to achieve the Go/No-go criteria and fulfills all the deliverables for your task of interest.

**Q5. How long is each phase?**

A5. Phases for DARPA programs are typically nine (9) to eighteen (18) months long and depend upon many factors. Proposers are encouraged to propose a schedule which is challenging, yet achieves the Go/No-go criteria specified for each phase.

**Q4. How long should proposals be valid? 90 days? 120 days?**

A4. Proposals (specifically the cost proposals) should be valid for 120 days.

**Q3. What other GIS products/services can be used or will be provided?**

A3. Proposers are permitted to use any GIS products or services that are openly available. Use of in-house, proprietary products/services is discouraged. As available, the government will try to

provide a standard set of digital terrain data, political boundaries, road networks, and other GIS products and services for all to use.

**Q2. What are the ten (10) activities of interest for Phase 1?**

A2. These are yet to be determined. Proposers are encouraged to list and/or discuss the activities that their approach will be able to retrieve in Phase I.

**Q1. BAA08-20 states that "If DARPA anticipates using 6.1 funding for this effort, the Contractor must be made aware that total negotiated indirect cost rates may not exceed 35% of the total cost of the award." Will 6.1 (Basic Research) funding be used to award under this BAA thus capping the recovery of indirect costs at 35% or will another funding source (6.2 or 6.3) be used?**

A1. Currently, DARPA does NOT anticipate using 6.1 funding for this effort.