

Evaluation Criteria for Open Broad Agency Announcement (OBAA) Number 14-003, Call Number 3

The criteria to be used to evaluate and select white papers and full proposals for this Call are described in the following paragraphs. Each white paper and full proposal will be evaluated on its merit and the relevance of the specific proposal as it relates to the DHS S&T program rather than against other white papers and/or full proposals for research in the same general area. Proposal evaluators will consider the overall technical value to the S&T Chemical and Biological Division when evaluating the white papers and full proposals (overall scientific and technical merit and potential contribution and relevance to DHS S&T mission) as well as cost reasonableness and completeness.

The evaluation of White Papers and Full Proposals will be accomplished through an independent technical review using the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of relative importance.

Criterion I: Utility to DHS: Potential of the proposed work for providing technology or solutions that address one or more of the four Technical Topic Areas set forth in Section 1.8.3 of the BAA. Utility to DHS will also be assessed on the criteria used to conduct programmatic analysis reviews of the entire S&T portfolio, of which the Bioforensics R&D Program is a part.

- **Impact on client mission** (High Impact Potential & High Technical Feasibility)
 - o Will the deliverable(s) make a positive impact on the investigation of criminal and incidents?
 - o Will the deliverable significantly improve existing capabilities?
- **Transitioning of relevant products to the field** (High Relevance & High Transition Likelihood)
 - o Is the customer community waiting to implement the deliverable?
 - o Will the deliverable(s) be easily transitioned to the laboratories who will conduct forensic examinations
- **Technical investment positioning the organization for the future** (High Research Leadership & Low Technical Maturity)
 - o Is the research positioning the organization and its customers for the future?
- **Clarity of purpose** (High Clarity of Customer Need & High Project Clarity)
 - o Is the project clear on what it is trying to achieve?
- **Appropriate level of customer involvement** (High level of customer involvement through whole project lifecycle).
 - o Is the project lined up with well understood customer requirements?
- **Sufficient innovation to approach the challenges** (High Degree of Innovation & Significant Novel Thinking)
 - o Is the project using a new approach or leveraging best practices from projects in other domains)

Amendment Number 1

Criterion II: Sound Technical Approach: Presentation of a sound technical approach to the proposed work that demonstrates reasonableness and responsiveness, as well as, an understanding of the challenges presented by one or more of the Technical Topic Areas. Illustration of a unique and clear path to address the challenge(s), as well as knowledge, understanding and integration of the legal aspects associated with the admissibility of scientific evidence on the basis of relevance and reliability (Daubert Challenges and the Federal Rules of Evidence).

Criterion III: Sound Management Approach: Presentation of a sound managerial approach to the proposed work, including a demonstrated understanding of the issues and challenges associated with achieving the goals of the topic, and a strategy to address those issues and challenges. A successful team will possess multidisciplinary expertise to address the complexity of the effort.

Criterion IV: Capability to Perform and History of Performance: Demonstration of a capability to perform the proposed work, including history of previous performance in developing related solutions and technologies. Proposals that utilize industry-academic partnering or utilize industry-Government partnering which enhances the development of novel S&T advances will be given favorable consideration.

Criterion V: Cost Realism/Reasonableness: Presentation of accurate, well-founded and reasonable estimates of all costs related to performance of the proposed effort, including an appropriate allocation of labor resources. The cost of procurement of final products will also be considered. Members of the Evaluation panel will be looking for overall best value to the government.