

## Responses to Questions submitted for BAA 13-01

1. The separate R&D projects we anticipate proposing each involve dogs as a needed project resource and we believe that these projects can be conducted in a manner in which the dog resources overlap / are shared between simultaneously conducted projects, thus reducing cost across projects and adhering to the one of the primary principals of the Animal Welfare Act as it relates to the conduct of research, reduction of the number of animals used. Working dog acquisition and care is a significant cost component of R&D involving trained detector dogs. Is it permissible/advisable, where applicable, to propose cost estimates both as if the project is stand-alone in terms of dog resources and an alternative cost estimate should we be awarded multiple projects and dog resources are able to be shared across projects? **A: It is permissible to propose cost estimates both as if the project is stand-alone in terms of dog resources and as if there are multiple projects and dog resources are able to be shared across these projects.**
2. We believe one or more of the topic areas would, in part, be best approached by including analyses of the performance of deployed DHS explosive detector dog teams. The analyses we envision would be relatively non-intrusive observation and measurement requiring no alteration in the teams' working activities or schedules but perhaps requiring momentary access to take physiological measurements from the dog and access to the handlers to obtain their responses to some questions about their work.
  - a. Will access to DHS Explosive detector-dog teams for relatively non-intrusive observation and measurement be possible? **A: Access to DHS Explosive detector-dog teams is not in S&T's control but may be possible with cooperation of components. However, S&T does need to know how the offeror will accomplish goals such as: Will the Offeror need access to a cadre of detector dog teams? If so, how many? How long will the offeror need to work with the dogs and what will they need to do to the dogs to accomplish goals?**
  - b. Is it permissible/advisable to note the need for DHS provision of such access in the White Papers? **A: Yes, it is permissible to note the provision of such access in the White Papers.**
  - c. Alternatively, is it the position of DHS S&T that all projects should be planned in a manner not requiring access to deployed DHS explosive detector dog teams? **A: Ideally, all projects should be planned in a manner that does not require access to deployed DHS Explosive detector dog teams. However, if access to deployed DHS Explosive detector dog teams becomes available, S&T would need to know how the offeror will accomplish goals such as: Will the Offeror need access to a cadre of detector dog teams? If so, how many? How long will the Offeror need to work with the dogs and what will they need to do to the dogs to accomplish goals?**
3. Please clarify and provide further guidance about the desired format of the White Papers, specifically:
  - a. Should the format of White Papers follow the detail as described in, for example, DHS S&T BAA 12-07, "DHS S&T Long Range Broad Agency Announcement"? **A: The format of**

the White Papers should follow the instructions found on pages 10-11, Section 4.3, of the BAA Document.

- b. The guidance in EXD BAA 13-01 is for '5 pages maximum concentrating on the technical description of the proposed work' but also a 'cover page, resumes, and a cost summary'. Please provide guidance as to:
  - i. The structure of the 'cover page' **A: There is no defined format for the cover page.**
  - ii. The structure and desired level of detail of the 'resumes' **A: DHS S&T prefers that resumes be no more than 2 pages**
  - iii. And, especially, the structure and desired level of detail of the 'cost summary'. **A: The cost summary within the White Paper needs to detail major cost items, such as the breakdown of labor, materials, facilities, travel, capital equipment, etc.**
- c. Will the submission process (i.e., online proposal upload system) require a separate abstract and list of key words as has been the case with some other DHS S&T proposal submission processes? **A: The submission process for this BAA will not require a separate abstract and list of key words.**
4. The BAA requests a White Paper and at the top of page 11 there is a reference to the quad chart, "graphics or tables in the body of the white paper or the quad chart may not be smaller than 10-point.", are you requesting a quad chart in addition to the white paper in response to the BAA 13-01? **A: A quad chart is not needed as long as the White Paper addresses schedule, funding and deliverables.**
5. With only a year to do the research, a large population of dogs would be required; to our knowledge the only appropriate population of dogs would be the ones at Australian Customs in Melbourne and we would aim to collaborate with them (as we have done in our previous research). However, we would be open to working with other dog populations in the U.S. or elsewhere. **A: DHS S&T cannot commit to working with any foreign Government's canine population. Such an agreement to do so is beyond the scope of what DHS S&T can do within this BAA. However, DHS S&T may be able to get cooperation if the parameters/requirements of what a particular Offeror wants to accomplish are described in the White Paper and in the full proposal, should one be encouraged. It is suggested that interested Offerors respond to the BAA and be specific about the "appropriate population of dogs" they require and what type of access they would need.**
6. What types of explosives are of most interest to topic 2? **A: Home Made Explosives (HMEs) and Conventional explosives in that order of priority are of the most interest to topic 2.**

7. What operational settings are of most interest to topic 2? A: DHS operational settings are of most interest to topic 2 including Aviation and Surface Transportation modes, however operational settings important to the overall Homeland Security Enterprise are also of interest.
8. In regard to BAA 13-01, is there a specific breed of canine that DHS requires for this research? If so, which breed(s) is acceptable? A: There is no specific breed of canine that DHS requires for the research being sought under this BAA.
9. Is a separate white paper required for each of the two areas Canine Structure and Function or Canine Performance or if submitting for both areas can one white paper be submitted to cover both areas? A: White Papers need to be distinct enough to understand what the research is going to be focused on, what the costs of the research will be, with a distinct set of deliverables.
10. If more than one award is made will they be for each separate area or to three separate awardees for both areas? A: There is no set number of awards for each category. Awards will be made on the basis of merit after a review has been conducted by an evaluation panel, which will use the evaluation criteria found on page 19 of the BAA 13-01 document.