

Amendment 2: Questions/Responses OBAA 14-003/Call 0019

Question #	Reference	Question	Response
1	General	Should Offeror post white paper response to the section for HSHQDC-14-R-B00009? The DHS portal refers to specific call numbers, however Call 19 is not specifically listed after the solicitation number, nor is the correct due date.	When submitting your response, your submission should cite BAA 14-003, Call 0019. Please contact the BAA Portal Help Desk at DHS BAA(DHSBAA@reisystems.com) should you encounter any technical issues while submitting your response.
2	General	Is there a specific page or word limit for Call 19? The white paper instructions and the BAA are not clear for this call.	Per the attached, the White Paper should comply with the requirements of Attachment A. The submission should be submitted using this format. Please contact the BAA Portal Help Desk at DHS BAA (DHSBAA@reisystems.com) should you encounter any technical issues while submitting your response.
3	General	<p>Could you confirm that USG agencies are eligible to apply to this solicitation, either as PI or collaborators?</p> <p>Further, is there a particular geographic focus of interest for this particular DHS solicitation (domestic, global), and high-priority diseases?</p>	<p>U.S. Government Agencies are eligible to submit responses however if the submission was determined eligible for an award, the Agency would not be awarded a contract. DHS would enter into an Interagency Agreement with that particular Agency.</p> <p>There are no restrictions or preferences on items specified.</p>
4	OBAA 14-003/Call 0019, Page 4, #9 White Paper Instructions	The instructions state that White Papers should be uploaded to the DHS S&T Portal. However, Call 0019 is not listed. When will this be added to the Portal?	Call 0019 will be posted to the BAA Portal this week. When submitting your response, your submission should cite BAA 14-003, Call 0019. Please contact the BAA Portal Help Desk at DHS BAA(DHSBAA@reisystems.com) should you encounter any technical issues when submitting your response.
5	BAA 14-003, Attachment A,	Does the White Paper need to follow the exact	Per the attached, the White Paper should comply with the

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	White Paper Proposal Form	format provided in the sample Attachment A Form (e.g. enclosed in text boxes)? May we use our own format as long as we comply with the font and word count specifications outlined in Section 5.3?	requirements of Attachment A. The submission should be submitted using this format. Please contact the BAA Portal Help Desk at DHS BAA(DHSBAA@reisystems.com) should you encounter any technical issues when submitting your response.
6	OBAA 14-003, Page 9, Section 3.3, First Paragraph, Last Sentence; OBAA 14-003, Page 32, Attachment A, Proposed Follow-On Tasks in Option Years; OBAA 14-003/Call 0019, Page 3, Section 6, First Paragraph, Last Sentence	The OBAA states that there can only be a single option year for all programs, but the template and Call 0019 reference multiple option years. How many option years will be allowed for the response to Call 0019?	Please refer to Section 6 (Anticipated Ceiling) of the Call 19 Announcement. Any resultant awards made under this Call will not have an initial period of performance that exceeds 12 months from the date of contract award however, offerors will be able to propose a base year effort with additional option years which should not exceed a total of four (4).
7	OBAA 14-003/Call 0019, Page 3, Section 4.1.2, Last Paragraph, Bullet 1	Will example data be provided from DHS or DHS partners for the development and demonstration of the system requested in Call 0019?	The Government will not provide data or data sets expressly intended for development and demonstration of systems or capabilities. However, performers are permitted to use information and data found in the DoD Global Biosurveillance Portal (GBSP) or the DoD Biosurveillance Ecosystem (BSVE), which will be made available to performers (see answer to question 8, below).
8	OBAA 14-003/Call 0019, Page 3, Section 4.1.2, Last Paragraph, Bullet 3	Will access be provided to existing BSV frameworks to support effective benchmarking of capabilities developed under Call 0019 against existing capabilities, or will benchmark data be provided to performers to allow for rapid, standardized capability comparison?	The Government will provide full access to the Global Biosurveillance Portal, created and maintained by the Department of Defense Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO). While not obligated to do so, offerors are free to use all elements contained in or available through the Global Biosurveillance Portal, including

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			information and data feeds and fielded analytics capabilities. The Government will also provide access to the DoD Biosurveillance Ecosystem (BSVE) for application development and deployment testing. Application developers can access the BSVE data sources via the BSVE System Developers' Kit (SDK) and deploy to the system via BSVE Connect.
9	OBAA 14-003/Call 0019/Page 3, Section 6	Could you clarify whether eligible proposals will be awarded \$2,000,000 each, for a period of 1 year or is \$2,000,000 the total amount that has been made available for this call, and the amount will be split across multiple awards?	The \$2M amount represents the total funding available for this Call. The total number of award(s) will be based on the quality of proposals received. Please refer to Section 6 (Anticipated Ceiling) of the Call 19 Announcement.
10	General OBAA 14-003/Call0019	Do we utilize the White Paper template beginning on Page 32, in BAA 14-003, Solicitation No. HSHQDC-14-R-B0009 for this BAA?	Yes. See attached.
11	General OBAA 14-003/Call0019	The White Paper does not have page limitations; however, it must conform to number of words specified in the template beginning on Page 32, in BAA 14-003, Solicitation No. HSHQDC-14-R-B0009, correct?	Yes.
12	General OBAA 14-003/Call0019	If we do not utilize the White Paper shown in BAA 14-003, where do I locate the White Paper template for OBAA 14-003/Call0019?	Attachment A must be followed when submitting a White Paper. See attached.
13	OBAA 14-003, Section 6.2	Is a Company to Company Agreement required for this Call	Yes. See attached Form. Offerors must complete and submit with their White Paper. A fully signed copy of the Agreement will be

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			provided to the offeror before the commencement of evaluations.
14	General	Is this effort intended to be a full and open competition, small business set aside, or other contract type?	This effort is being acquired using full and open competition procedures IAW FAR 35.016. This is not a small business set aside.
15	General	Do submissions need to have a detailed cost proposal included for the initial 12-months of work and cost estimates for work in follow-on years? Is a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) cost estimate acceptable if cost estimates are required?	No. Detailed cost proposals will be required for full proposals only. At this time, only the cost fields in Attachment A are required to be completed however an ROM attachment which supplements the cost figures in Attachment A may be submitted with the White Paper.
16	OBAA14-003, page 2, Section, 4.1.1, first paragraph, fifth sentence	What is meant by “methods/technology?” What type of technology support is S&T seeking?	<p>“Technology” is intended to mean constructed solutions, involving hardware and/or software, to the problems of poor situational awareness, escalating consequences, and slow response times. These technologies may be stand-alone or incorporated into a larger system, or be the system itself, or any combination of those.</p> <p>“Methods” is a more general term intended to encompass both technological as well as non-technological solutions such as analytical techniques. With the use of this term, the government encourages Offerors not to limit themselves to solutions that are strictly plug-and-play technology solutions.</p>
17	OBAA14-003, page 2, Section, 4.1.1, first paragraph, first sentence	What is meant by ‘operational centers’ and who is the intended users of the developed capability? Do users include DHS and/or interagency partners, and/or state, local, tribal, territorial entities?	“Operations centers” are those places established to handle bioevent responses, through such means as improving situational awareness, establishing command and control capabilities, or fusing incoming data to provide accurate reporting. These centers may be established, such as the DHS National Operations Center (NOC), or be temporary field

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			<p>headquarters at an outbreak location.</p> <p>Primary intended users of the capabilities sought include analysts and decision-makers at analytical units seeking to improve understanding in advance of potential bioevents; individuals and decision-makers at operations centers may also be users but are not the primary focus of this BAA.</p> <p>Users include DHS and interagency partners, at the federal, state, local, tribal, territorial levels.</p>
18	OBAA14-003, page 2, Section, 4.1.2, first paragraph, second sentence	Are the desired algorithms intended to provide outputs on animal health, plant health, environmental health threats that may impact human health, or only focus on direct human health threats? If multiple domains are to be addressed by the algorithms, what domains are of relevance?	Responses may incorporate all domains that impact human health. Determination of which domains are relevant is left to the Offeror.
19	OBAA14-003, page 3, Section, 4.1.2, second paragraph, third sentence	Will S&T provide the performer real or synthetic data to integrate or test the developed solution(s)? What other datasets are considered relevant to S&T for this effort?	<p>The Government considers relevant any and all data sets that lead to results mentioned in the BAA (increase situational awareness, reduce potential consequences, and quicken appropriate responses), and places no restrictions on what those data may be.</p> <p>The Government will not provide data or data sets expressly intended for development and testing of systems or capabilities.</p> <p>However, performers are permitted to use information and data found in the DoD Global Biosurveillance Portal (GBSP) or the DoD Biosurveillance</p>

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			Ecosystem (BSVE), which will be made available to performers.
20	OBAA 14-003/Call 0019 Page 2, Section 4.1.1, paragraph 2 (bioevent definition towards the bottom of the paragraph)	The two different event types (i.e., natural outbreaks and engineered events) have different indications for emergence, and thus call for different modeling and simulation approaches. Is it sufficient for a solution to focus on very accurately predicting one class of events while still attempting to predict the other, or must every successful proposer provide strategies for both natural and engineered events at the same level of fidelity?	The Government imposes no restrictions on offerors' approaches: Solutions may focus on predicting events with engineered and/or natural causes, at whichever level of accuracy or fidelity is desired for each.
21	General	Does DHS plan to do any Ph II or III as a new contract or as a continuation of the Ph I following the first 12 months?	The Government cannot guarantee availability of funds beyond the current requirements of Call 19, and will consider White Papers strictly against the requirements of Call 19. Information for background or regarding follow on efforts may be included for context, but any work proposed beyond the current scope of Call 19 will not be considered pertinent for funding decisions.

Questions for OBAA 14-003/Call 0019

