

Question	Responses
Question 1 --The due dates were amended on the website. Is the proposal now also due on January 27 th , the day the white paper is due?	Answer 1 --No, the white paper is due on January 27, 2012 and the proposal is due on March 30, 2012
Question 2 --What are the relative roles that the Contractor vs. the Government will have in organizing the working group? (i.e., should most members of the working group come from people that are receiving funding through the prime contractors, or will this be mostly a mixture of Government staff along with a few Contractor-invited subject matter experts?	Answer 2 --The composition of the working group will be determined through discussions between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) and the prime Contractor. The prime Contractor will have the responsibility for organizing the meeting. It is anticipated that the group will consist of Contractors funded under the TFA, members of the Government agencies that are stakeholders in the project, and possible outside Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).
Question 3 --Will the Government or the Contractor be responsible for identifying and paying for meeting venues for the working group? Also, will the Contractor be expected to pay for attendance by SMEs who are not part of the Contractor's team?	Answer 3 --The working group sessions will be held at a Government facility in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, so there will be no cost for the venue. The DHS COTR will identify the facility at a later date. Any potential outside SMEs invited participate in the working group will be covered by Government funding.
Question 4 --During Phase 1, will the Contractor be populating databases (Government- or Contractor-provided) with genome data? Or will this phase be devoted to just identifying what genomic data are available? Will all building and populating of the database be NCBI's responsibilities?	Answer 4 --The database for the genomes will be developed and hosted by NCI. The Contractor will be expected to identify genomic data and populate the database if they are able to collect the genome data.
Question 5 —In TFA3, is this a call for bioinformatic analysis of whole genome sequences that are already sequenced or is it a call to provide and sequence new strains?	Answer 5 —This call has multiple tasks. The first task is to determine and collect what has already been sequenced for the bacterial species listed in the Broad Agency Announcement and deposit these sequences into a database at NCBI. The second task is to perform a gap analysis to determine what strains need to be sequenced for each of the bacterial species in Phase 2.

Question	Responses
<p>Question 6—For TFA 3, since Phase 2 doesn't have a defined scope, duration, or funds available, should the white paper have costing for Phase 2? Or would it be acceptable to describe the general approach to meet the objectives of Phase 2 and state that costs remain to be determined. Alternatively, should we provide a notional level of effort for Phase 2 and cost accordingly.</p>	<p>Answer 6—Since cost is an evaluation criteria for selection, prospective offerors should provide a notional level of effort and cost accordingly for Phase 2. The prospective offeror should include a cost analysis for a high quality draft sequence of a microbial genome. The DHS does realize that sequencing costs continue to decrease with technology improvement but please provide your best estimate.</p>
<p>Question 7—I am inquiring about the possible funding for TFA1 and TFA 3. Your Broad Agency Announcement suggests that there is \$2.5M for the whole call, and that you will fund 3 proposals. Is this 1 in each TFA? In addition, is there an upper limit for each TFA? I assume that TFA3 will be biggest which would mean limiting TFA1 and TFA2 to a smaller budget?</p>	<p>Answer 7—The Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) does not identify what the exact combination of awards will be. The Government has the flexibility to determine how it will award procurement and/or financial assistance instruments under this BAA. The only funding limitation identified in the BAA is the anticipated funding amount (\$2.5M).</p>
<p>Question 8—I work in a Research Grants & Projects Office in a foreign country. My initial review of the funding opportunity found that it was not clear as to whether foreign entities or organizations are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity?</p>	<p>Answer 8—Foreign entities or organizations are eligible to apply for this Broad Agency Announcement. However, it is strongly recommended that these organizations have a U.S. partner.</p>
<p>Question 9—TFA-3 specifies bacteria, virus, and fungi. Does DHS have a particular fungal threat list in mind to focus on?</p>	<p>Answer 9—The fungal threats are located in the plant pathogen column in Appendix E</p>
<p>Question 10—Regarding TFA-2: Development of a procedure to support the transfer of viral cDNA generated in a BSL-3/4 laboratory to BSL-2 laboratory for genomic analysis, would it be acceptable to submit a proposal for the development of a system that would simplify sample preparation, library preparation, and next-gen sequencing in containment, rather than transporting cDNA out of containment sequencing? Such a system would serve to reduce the sample to sequence time without having to deal with the issues of handling positive stranded RNAs outside of containment?</p>	<p>Answer 10—The Government would consider the submission of a proposal for the development of a system that would simplify sample preparation, library preparation, and next-generation sequencing in containment, rather than transporting cDNA out of containment sequencing to be a non-responsive proposal.</p>

Question	Responses
<p>Question 11--After Phase 1, will the working group be disbanded or should the contractor plan on continue to participate in working group meetings.</p>	<p>Answer 11--The answer is that the working group will continue for the duration of the project.</p>
<p>Question 12--I am very keen to know what the budget restrictions will be for the TFA1 and TFA3 proposals within this call.</p>	<p>Answer 12—As previously addressed in the Government’s response to Question 7 of this set, The Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) does not identify what the exact combination of awards will be. The Government has the flexibility to determine how it will award procurement and/or financial assistance instruments under this BAA. The only funding limitation identified in the BAA is the anticipated funding amount (\$2.5M).</p>
<p>Question 13--in TFA-2, is it permissible to develop virus specific strategies (i.e. one for togaviridae, one for flaviviridae, etc), or must it be a general technique applicable for any +-strand RNA viruses? The approach would be quite different depending on what your vision is.</p>	<p>Answer 13—the Department of Homeland Security needs a generalized procedure that covers all of the families as well as unknowns, a family-specific approach isn't going to be sustainable in the long term.</p>