Questions & Answers – HECTOR IARPA-BAA-17-05

Responses to Questions # (1) to (2)

Q1: Are the following approaches within the requirements of HECTOR Program:

   1- Architectural approaches to support homomorphic encryption on third-party accelerators. [...] investigate how modify programs and OS to offload tasks to third party accelerators, and investigate required code-level directives.

   2- Access Pattern Obfuscation through Homomorphic Encryption: [...] This direction helps reducing the overhead of obfuscating the access pattern compared to conventional ORAM approaches. Finally, [...] to investigate how to communicate such requests to the external disk/memory controller and the required software changes on the OS side, in addition to cross-layer API to enable application-level use of such features.

A1: While IARPA can't comment on specific proposal ideas, we can clarify the BAA requirements. HECTOR system development platforms, and the programs they produce, are expected to operate on consumer-level computing hardware and operating systems (see BAA Section 1.B.1.b). Special purpose hardware is specifically out of scope (see BAA Section 1.A.3), and modification of operating systems does not fit within the stated goals of HECTOR (see also BAA Section 6.B.13). However, the offloading of tasks to non-trusted entities is within the scope of HECTOR, as is the use of code-level directives to automatically invoke such offloading. Please note that, as stated in the BAA section 1.A.1, each offerer's proposal must address all three technical focus areas.

Q2: I am working on an IARPA HECTOR proposal and I notice that the budget template does not include a row for overhead on travel but there are rows for overhead on salaries and materials.

Does this mean we can't charge overhead on travel?

A2: If overhead on travel is part of your disclosed business practices and/or is covered in your rate agreement, then it would be an allowable cost.