Q1: Can you tell me if there is a Target Cost or Ceiling Cost for this BAA? I did not see an amounted listed in FedBizOpps.

A1: There is no target cost or cost ceiling for this BAA. Proposed costs should be fair and reasonable and in line with the proposed technical approach.

Q2: Is there a particular cost amount that is being sought for the announcement or is it up to the offerors to determine what is appropriate?

A2: There is no target cost or cost ceiling for this BAA. Proposed costs should be fair and reasonable and in line with the proposed technical approach.

Q3: Are there limits on travel for conferences (such as number per year, international vs domestic, or number of travelers allowed)?

A3: There are no specific limits on travel for conferences for this BAA. Proposed conference travel must have an immediate, direct, and tangible benefit to the Government such as providing a deliverable at the conference (e.g., gives a presentation, presents a paper or research findings that are sponsored in whole or in part by the ODNI and/or IARPA). Travel for personnel to simply attend a conference may not be approved. International conference attendance is allowed, but should be reserved for cases where the international conference is acknowledged in the relevant academic community to be the best venue for presentation of the results.

Q4: The Data Management Plan is instructed to be included in 2 different locations in the proposal: 1) as part of the Detailed Proposal (section L on page 32) and 2) as Attachment 8 (outlined on page 26 and described on page 34). Is it intentional that we should include this Data Management Plan in 2 different locations?

A4: It is not required to provide the Data Management Plan (DMP) in two different places. Attachment 8 refers to the Data Management Template which should be used for providing the information described in Section 4.B.1.c.L page 32 as an attachment. Note that the template states *"The DMP shall comply with the requirements stated in Section 4.B.1.c.L of the BAA."*

Q5: We have a question on the Ithildin BAA, reference Table 6 "High Level Schedule" on page 20 of the BAA: "Would IARPA please confirm the exact nature and dates associated with the "Algorithm Training Set" and the "Training Samples" referenced in the Test section of Table 6 "High Level Schedule" on page 20 of the BAA?"

A5: The inclusion of Lines 6 and 7 in Table 6, the High Level Schedule, is an error. There are no algorithms or training samples associated with the Ithildin program. A corrected High Level Schedule will be published in Amendment 1 of the Ithildin BAA.

Q6: Hello, my question has to do with the Data Management Plan requirement. The BAA instructs us to include a Data Management Plan as Item L in Section 3 (Detailed Proposal Information), which is a page-limited section \(see BAA pg. 32, item L. Data Management Plan). The BAA then instructions us to include a Data Management Plan in Section 4 of the proposal (Attachments section), which is not a page-limited section (see BAA pg. 34, Attachment 8). It seems the BAA is instructing us to place the Data Management Plan both in Section 3 and in Section 4. It this just a mistake in the instructions? Do you actually want it in both sections? If not, which section should it appear in? Note also that the instructions for the Plan in the Attachment section point to a template in Appendix A of the BAA, whereas the instructions for the Plan in Section 3 just give some content guidance, but do not mention using the template in Appendix A.

A6: It is not required to provide the Data Management Plan (DMP) in two different places. Attachment 8 refers to the Data Management Template which should be used for providing the information described in Section 4.B.1.c.L page 32 as an attachment. Note that the template states *"The DMP shall comply with the requirements stated in Section 4.B.1.c.L of the BAA."*

Q7: Considering the 18-month duration of the projects, does this call assume that the sorbents based sensing technology already exists?

A7: As described on page 8 of the Ithildin BAA, "The Ithildin program's focus is on development of the enhanced capabilities described by these four Thrust Areas. Therefore, responsive solutions to the Ithildin opportunity are likely to be based on known classes of broad and/or tailored sorbents (or heterostructures combining sorbents from these classes) versus "from scratch" development of new sorbent chemistries." Advancement of new sorbent technology from a current proof-of-concept stage, or tailoring of a developed class of sorbents to better sorb alternative chemical classes is within the scope of the Ithildin project. The time scale of the program, and emphasis on enhanced capabilities likely preclude wholesale development of new sorbent classes.

Q8: What is the funding level amount individual teams may expect for this project?

A8: There is no target cost or cost ceiling for this BAA. Proposed costs should be fair and reasonable and in line with the proposed technical approach.

Q9: What is expected in terms of deliverables during the 18-month project? Is IARPA looking for potential results as opposed to achieved results? Would demonstrations at molecular level, nanoscale and mesoscale only be acceptable or is demonstration of an optimized materials system at device level application required?

A9: Required deliverables are listed in Table 7 on page 20 of the BAA. For Benchmark Testing and the Final Exam performers will provide the Ithildin Test and Evaluation team with samples of their sorbent, which will be subjected to a battery of characterization and performance assessments. At the end of the program a sample of the sorbent will also be delivered to the Government in a vacuum packed tube for further characterization and performance testing. Therefore, responsive proposals must result in materials systems that can meet the performance specifications of the given Thrust Areas to which they correspond.

Q10: Is the list on page 16 for examples or is IARPA requiring that the researchers develop sorbent systems only for the listed chemicals?

A10: The chemical list on page 16 represents the range of chemicals that IARPA is prepared to test sorbent materials against at the month 14 and 17 testing events. Offerors may propose sorbent systems with additional capabilities, but must at a minimum meet the metrics in their chosen Thrust Areas based on the chemical list on page 16.

Q11: What is meant by "be ready for government benchmark testing"? What are the benchmark tests the materials will be subjected to? Does IARPA have the testing platform? Or, does the research team need to design and construct the platform as a part of the 18-month project?

A11: The Ithildin Test and Evaluation team will host the test bed and conduct both the Benchmark Testing and the Final Exam. The exact test plan will be developed after Source Selection, in order to fairly and comprehensively test all approaches chosen for funding, but will include both a standard battery of sorbent characterization tests, and specific tests designed to measure performance against the enhanced capabilities desired by the Ithildin program.