

Q 12: The announcement is expressed only in terms of the cortex. We are studying these same questions about neural information processing, but in the zebrafish, which offers many experimental advantages over mammalian systems. However, since zebrafish don't have a cortex are we still eligible to apply for this program?

A: No. Experimental studies of non-mammalian systems are out of scope, as specified in BAA Section 1.C.5.

Q 13: Is there any acceptable mechanism to include a video in a proposal? One possible option, as not to circumvent the page count and keep the proposal printable, is to have a image/frame capture of the video as a figure in the proposal, and a citation/link to the full video in the caption. Is this acceptable or would this still be considered circumventing the formatting requirements?

A: Unfortunately, there is currently no acceptable mechanism for including videos in a proposal. If this option becomes available in the future, we will post an amendment to the BAA.

Q 14: Is there a page limit for Section I of the Technical and Management Proposal?

A: No, there is no page limit for Section 1.

Q 15: Is the page limit for Section II of the Technical and Management Proposal 2-5 pages plus 6 slides (for a total of 8 to 11 pages) OR 2-5 pages plus 1 slide (for a total of 3-6 pages)?

A: Six (6) slides must be included in Section II of the Technical and Management Proposal. These slides do not count toward the page limit for the written executive summary. The written Executive Summary must be uploaded separately from the slides during proposal submission.

Q 16: Can you clarify what counts as "Abstract, non-sensory data"?

A: Abstract, non-sensory data is defined as any data that would not commonly be associated with normal human sensory experience (seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, or feeling). Examples include measurements from a weather balloon, price history for a financial instrument, radiofrequency signals, etc.

Q 17: The description of the "Detailed Proposal" (BAA Section 4.B.1.c) lists several proposal elements. Is there any expectation that these elements would be presented in the order in which they are listed?

A: It is not necessary to present these elements in the order in which they are listed.

Q 18: I have some studies that include an apparent anatomical component, though the point of that research is really functional. I think that this is essentially another type of ancillary physiological study that would fit under TA1 (and not TA2 or TA3), because it does not address questions of connectivity or neuroanatomy. Could you confirm whether this approach could be part of a TA1-only proposal (recognizing that it would constitute a supplementary form of data under Section 1.C.1.b(iii)).

A: Yes, an offeror to TA1 may propose any supplementary acquisitions so long as they are not out of scope, as defined in BAA Section 1.C.5. Note that proposals must provide a justification for each proposed supplementary data collection exercise that specifically describes how the offeror will use the results to inform the development and implementation of the machine learning algorithm and why this data is essential for achieving the goals of the program (BAA Section 1.C.1.b(iii)).

Q 19: Can I send you a draft proposal to seek your feedback if my proposed research would be appropriate for your program?

A: No, unfortunately we can only accept full proposals and we are not able to provide any feedback until after proposals are reviewed.

Q 20: Are non-US citizens are eligible to apply for the MICrONS program?

A: Yes, see Question 11.