

IARPA-BAA-15-08 Mercury Program Questions and Answers- Round 1

Question 1: Sections 8.A and 1.A of the BAA together imply that offerors must have staff who passed a full scope polygraph before starting to put together a proposal. Is it also possible for offerors to bid without staff with a full scope polygraph, provided that, at execution time, they pass a full scope polygraph prior to working with the data?

Answer 1: The requirement for staff to have an existing TS/SCI with full scope polygraph only applies to those individuals that will require access to the SIGINT data described in Section 1.A. For staff participating in other aspects of performance and the proposal writing effort, the personnel security requirements are dependent on the level of classification required for this BAA and any specific requirements of the Government agency sponsoring the facility where the work is to be performed. Offerors should address personnel and facility security, including individual personnel clearance requirements in their proposal Security Plan (See Section 8.C.) as well as other relevant sections of the proposal (Effectiveness of Work Plan, Key Management and Personnel Listing, Attachment 7.). While IARPA is able to process personnel for clearances and polygraphs, this will create considerable performance delays and will need to be reflected in your program milestones.

Question 2: Our current plan apportions the responsibility so that we, as Prime-contractor, would lead the technical development while our partner would be responsible for the security aspect. The primary location of classified work would be at the partner's SCIF. Would this arrangement be acceptable per the terms of the BAA? If so, would you please confirm which security documents listed in Section 8.B you would need from us, as the Prime, and which you would need from the subcontractor?

Answer 2: The prime contractor must meet the highest security classification level required for contract performance. The documents requested in section 8.B. must be submitted for the location (organization- prime or subcontractor) where the classified proposal is to be written, AND also for the location (organization- prime or subcontractor) where the work is to be performed if different than the proposal location. The Security Plan submitted under 8.C. should specify the classified performance location.

Question 3: Are there alternate email addresses (either classified or unclassified) that offerors can send requested security information if they do not have access to JWICS email?

Answer 3: Email communication is not dependent upon the offeror having a JWICS system; however, the offeror must have a system that communicates with the email address provided. The BAA will be amended to remove the reference to JWICS in Section 8.B.

Question 4: I need to understand what we as the Prime (for the subcontractor) or the subcontractor themselves needs to provide so they are authorized to support this proposal given the parameters above? Do they need also need to provide the items listed in Section 8 of the BAA? Do we submit those items with our package? If all work for the proposal will be conducted at our facility, are co-use/joint use forms required?

Answer: See Answer 2 above.

