

Deep Exploration and Filtering of Text (DEFT) Question and Answer Session

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Proposers' Day

The BAA and FAQ posted at FBO takes precedence
over any information contained herein





DEFT Q&A (1)

1	Can a TA2 performer also be a TA1 performer?
2	If we are bidding on TA3, can we bid on TA1 or TA2?
3	How many TA1 performers will there be?
4	How much money is there in the program?
5	How much money is available to TA1?
6	How much money is available to TA2?
7	How much money is available to TA3?
8	If we are submitting to more than one technical area, do we submit more than one proposal?
9	Who is the agent?
10	Is international participation allowed?



DEFT Q&A (2)

11	Who are the transition partners?
12	Should subcontractors submit a detailed technical proposal to you?
13	What is the difference between the initial closing and the final closing?
14	How many TA2 performers will there be?
15	Do TA1 proposers need to team with (or subcontract to) a TA2 integrator?
16	Do you expect large teams with big company primes or individual organizations as primes?
17	Should primes be companies or can they be other entities?
18	Will there be a delayed start of other program activities for data collection to take place?
19	Are TA1 performers supposed to deliver hardware, software, or both to NIST?
20	Are TA1 performers supposed to deliver hardware, software, or both to the TA2 performer?



DEFT Q&A (3)

21	Are TA2 performers supposed to deliver hardware, software, or both to transition partners?
22	How comprehensive should proposed implemented algorithms be?
23	How can TA2 integrate such a wide variety of TA1 algorithms that run on different platforms?
24	Can TA1 and TA2 performers use their own data?
25	What access to classified data will be required/allowed?
26	How will you decide the foreign language(s)?
27	Can TA1 and TA2 performers translate the foreign language data themselves if they so desire?
28	What competition will there be? Will there be Go/No-Gos or down-selects?
29	Are TA1 or TA2 performers delivering a piece of hardware to an evaluator?
30	Is there a way to bid on evaluation?



DEFT Q&A (4)

31	Who is the evaluator at the end user sites?
32	What are the target scores at the end user sites?
33	Are TA2 performers supposed to have relationships with possible transition partners? Will those relationships determine the transition partners?
34	To what extent is DEFT interested in algorithms or alert types specifically designed to support better analyst behaviors (e.g. reduction of cognitive bias, integration of sentiment)?
35	Are TA1 performers evaluated in terms of how much they contribute to TA2? If so, how should “contribution” be understood?
36	If something is proposed to TA1 that you didn’t think of, how will data annotation happen?
37	What is the expected team size for TA1 performers? Do you expect multi-institution teams?
38	Is it correct that a single TA1 performer may propose as many as 5 algorithms (but do not need to propose more than 1)?
39	When will the BAA be published?
40	In TA1, can proposals include advanced hardware technology that accelerates a proposed algorithm?



DEFT Q&A (5)

41	Are TA3 proposals considered to be research proposals or a component of testing and evaluation? For example, could an FFRDC or UARC that is prohibited from submitting research proposals to DARPA submit a TA3 proposal?
42	How will pre-report summaries be evaluated?
43	How many foreign languages will there be?
44	How will granularity be addressed? X could cause Y generally, inevitably, or via some other mechanism Z. How should such relations be reported?
45	Is there any seedling money attached to DEFT? If so, how much?
46	How does DEFT relate to current NIST programs such as TAC?
47	Can NIST TAC participants propose to DEFT?
48	Can proposers propose their current NLP system for DEFT?
49	Can proposers propose algorithms without an NLP system?
50	Are neurotechnology solutions using the human as the sensor prior to the alert output of interest (e.g., DARPA's Neurotechnology for Intelligence Analysts (NIA) program)?



DEFT Q&A (6)

51	Does the end-to-end DEFT system have to integrate directly with transition partners' software/applications/systems? Or is the DEFT system a standalone system?
52	Are standards for logical representation set by NIST or the TA2 performer?
53	If a team has an approach that spans HLT elements (e.g., Filtering and Relation Analysis) will the evaluation support "joint evaluation" across elements?
54	Is there a target award date?
55	It looks like algorithm outputs will be consumed directly by humans/analysts. Are you considering any more structured result representations (e.g., databases, RDF, etc.)?
56	If a team proposes to TA1 with less than 5 algorithms focused on a specific area (such as Relational Analysis), will the algorithms be evaluated separately/independently or might they be evaluated jointly?
57	Is the enrichment of the corpus and/or knowledge base purely to be machine derived or are human annotations to be incorporated?
58	Is there an anticipated need for multi-level secure corpus and/or knowledge base?
59	Is the TA2 performer responsible for certification and accreditation on the end-user/transition partner network?
60	Is the capability to reside in theater sites? What are the environments anticipated for end-user sites?



DEFT Q&A (7)

61	Can you restate the number of performers for each TA?
62	Will you be requesting abstracts ahead of proposal submissions?
63	Is there an anticipated Phase 1 down select? If so, what is the weighting of evaluations in that decision?
64	Can TA1 algorithms use accumulated prior knowledge as a systematic component of their performance?
65	Will the TA2-built DEFT system have a structured data component and/or an interface to structured data?
66	For TA1 algorithms are there any assumptions being made or constraints/requirements regarding the data sources over which the algorithms will be executed (e.g., Hadoop, RDB, etc.)?
67	Could you please repeat the annotation categories for the data in TA3?
68	Would there be interest in modeling the emotional tone and dynamics of conversation?
69	Will there be any throughput requirements for TA1 performers (e.g., characters analyzed per second)?
70	Can TA1 proposers propose options?



DEFT Q&A (8)

71	Is there an architectural baseline we should keep in mind when building analytics? For instance, must we be able to interoperate with cloud-based resources?
72	How important will it be that algorithms can scale? Should scalability be built-in from inception or is that secondary?
73	In language, “everything depends on everything else”. Do you imagine TA1 proposals that simultaneously address multiple HLT algorithms in an integrated way (example: semantic engineering and coreference and relational analysis) as opposed to leaving that up to TA2?
74	Do TA1 performers need to be allied with the TA2 performer?
75	Should multiple teams develop or use a common KR&R framework? How would this be coordinated?
76	Does DEFT have anything to do with recent AUKS workshop?
77	Could you clarify the kinds of entities and relations that will be focused on through the program? Is it unlimited or will it be focused?
78	What deliverables do you anticipate from TA3? Is that in terms of words? Or ground truth?
79	Will data be provided for all TAs or is data acquisition required?
80	What format will data be provided in?



DEFT Q&A (9)

81	Will this be a 6.2 or 6.3 program?
82	Will the domain remain in the general IC area?
83	Is the automated pre-report/summary creation task only included in TA2? Can TA1 proposers work on this as well?
84	Can a single team propose several TA1 algorithms in one proposal? And then also to TA3?
85	How will DARPA facilitate relationships with transition partners? Or is TA2 responsible for developing those relationships?
86	Are approaches involving semi-supervised feedback from analysts in scope?
87	Does DARPA have a favored machine translation tool?
88	Will the data conform to a limited set of orthographies (writing style/format)?
89	Linking information requires reasoning either at a language level or at the domain level or both. Would the data be domain-specific?
90	What about the use of reference databases (e.g., dbpedia, Wikipedia, etc.)?



DEFT Q&A (10)

91	Will access to the internet be permitted for the DEFT prototype?
92	Is a subcontractor plan required if the value is greater than \$650k and it will be awarded under a cooperative agreement?
93	Should we assume report and speech text input are authentic (i.e., not deceptive)?
94	Assuming there will be multiple report inputs, do source/origin/author data matter? Will they be available?
95	Is the focus on novel algorithms or upon novel implementations of existing algorithms?
96	Will the end user specify what is of interest to him/her as input to the system?
97	Should the system automatically learn what is of interest to the user?
98	Are entity relations in scope? Is there an interest in group detection and perspective?
99	Does the TA2 performer need to provide graphical or data visualization?
100	Is it the case that TA1 is focused entirely on HLT algorithms, or does it also include other types of algorithms that span additional areas (such as joint inference)?



DEFT Q&A (11)

101	Will there be a program-wide knowledge architecture, formal ontology or other representation to cover the examples from your briefing slides, and will it be developed incrementally during the DEFT program?
102	Does the system require an open source technology solution, or is proprietary okay?