Q1: Will TA1 and TA2 performers collaborate on API definitions?

A1: Probably, if they are selected for TA3.

Q2: Do TA1 performers need to address transactional properties?

A2: That is up to the performer to decide.

Q3: Can TA1 performers assume that some processing steps have hard deadlines?

A3: This is desirable, but is up to the performer to decide whether to provide that capability.

Q4: For untrusted NCPs, should TA1 performers address the correctness of processing steps?

A4: This is not a focus of the program, but is up to the performer to decide.

Q5: Should TA1 be concerned with collusion between NCPs?

A5: This is not a principal focus of the program, but performers are free to propose solutions.

Q6: How will IT&E be handled in this program given that there is no evaluation team?

A6: Each performer will handle their own.

Q7: Is the program seeking sophisticated authentication schemes?

A7: Advanced security features are not a principal focus of this program.

Q8: Are NCPs expected to dynamically generate new logic autonomously?

A8: This is one approach.

Q9: Will the proposers' day slides be published?

A9: Yes, to the DARPA program website.

Q10: Is there a taxonomy or specification of specific computational tasks to address? Or should proposals address all conceivable computational problems?

A10: Proposals should provide specific examples, but indicate the solution's scope of applicability.

Q11: Can you provide some examples as to what the field exercises may look like?

A11: Field exercises are TBD, however they may include Government testbeds.

Q12: Are network discovery technologies part of the scope? Eg – finding new NCPs?

A12: Yes.

Q13: Are there any assumptions about the computational hardware and network hardware?

A13: No, proposals should specify what type of hardware the solutions would require.

Q14: Is hard real time interesting for the program?

A14: Yes.

Q15: What should we assume about the density of NCPs in the WAN when Dispersed Computing is deployed?

A15: The number and density of available NCPs might vary widely. Do not assume that all nodes are NCPs.

Q16: Is the integration plan due during Phase 1 or the TA3 option?

A16: An integration plan is not required.

Q17: Are the two field exercises and range testing milestones part of the base or option? Are they to be included in the estimated effort mentioned in part 1D of the BAA?

A17: It is part of the field exercise option. See page 11 of the BAA.

Q18: Will performers participate in single or multiple TA3 teams? Should options be sized to support work with a single or multiple projects?

A18: Initially assume a single team and project.

Q19: To support access to secret data on the TA3 activity, can we propose to sponsor staff eligible for clearances who do not otherwise have clearances?

A19: Clearances may be required only for field exercise and not TA3. It is acceptable to propose staff who are eligible for clearances. Refer to page 17 of the BAA.

Q20: Can you clarify which TA has primary responsibility of coordinating and controlling NCP actions.

A20: All projects should incorporate control and coordination of NCPs for what they are trying to do.

Q21: Why a daemon, why not distributed control?

A21: Solutions that offer distributed control are desirable. See Pages 8 and 9 of the BAA.

Q22: Whose hardware? Ours or an adversary's?

A: Assume that hardware is owned and installed by a known, trusted entity.

Q23: How is software installed? Physical contact or over the network?

A23: Over the network via channels established for the purpose. See Page 10 of the BAA.

Q24: There are few mentions of security in the BAA and in your presentation. Could you elaborate on the security aspects that we will need to take into account?

A24: The extent to which security is to be addressed in proposed systems is up to the proposer. Node and system security are not intended to be major focal points of research efforts in this program.

Q25: Would a proposed solution that aim to solve part of the problem, either for TA1 or TA2 be considered?

A25: No.