DARPA-BAA-16-32
Next Generation Social Science (NGS2)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
as of 4/28/16

101Q: (a) Are Enabler teams able to work concurrently from month 1 with other ETE teams as part of the preliminary design, and (b) could the concept approach be expanded if the initial proposed capability addresses only one TA, such as TA3, to incorporate TA2 and/or TA1 capabilities after the initial start if seen that it could assist ETE teams perform certain tasks more rapidly?

101A: (a) Per Section I.B.1 and Table 1, Enabler teams will track and discuss development with ETE performers. Per the BAA and question 43, NGS2 envisions that Enablers will remain free to matrix across ETE teams. (b) Decisions regarding scope of proposed efforts after the initial start of the program will be made by DARPA depending on the progress of performers, funding availability, and DARPA priorities. Per the BAA, Enabler teams may propose to more than one TA.

100Q: Is it known which cities (SF and DC) will be visited at which time in the program?

100A: Meeting details will be finalized with performers at a later date.
Proposers need only, "include travel estimates for five two-day NGS2 review meetings over the course of 42 months: three meetings in the Washington, D.C. area and two meetings in the San Francisco, CA area" per Section I.D.1 of the BAA.

99Q: Could I receive more detail in addition to the feedback I received for my abstract?

99A: In accordance with DARPA policy, all proposers must be treated equally, and therefore we are unable to provide you with any additional feedback.

98Q: Would you also be able to send over a sample of the "personnel, qualification, and commitments"?

98A: A sample is not available, however Attachment 4, the "Technical & Management Volume" template details the requirements of this section under Item 6.

97Q: Is foreign travel allowed?

97A: Foreign travel is not prohibited. For required travel budget estimates, please refer to the BAA Section I.D.1 "Meetings and Travel." All travel (foreign or domestic) must be justified.

96Q: Are we allowed to budget for an administrative person?

96A: Proposed personnel and their respective budget breakdowns are at the discretion of the proposer.

95Q: On attachment 5 (the Cost Volume Template) #3 materials and #4 equipment states that you need to provide back up for any item that exceeds $5,000. Say we were to budget for four computers each at around $2,000 which would make a total of $8,000 for computers. Would we need back up to show that because the total line item is $8,000 or is back up not necessary because each computer is under $5,000?

95A: Any single item that exceeds $5,000 must be supported with back-up documentation such as a copy of catalog price lists or quotes prior to purchase.

▲▲▲New Q/A▲▲▲

94Q: Are the funding amounts provided in question 87 for the total award amounts, or the award amounts per year?

94A: The anticipated funding amounts provided in question 87 are total award amounts.

93Q. While the Technical and Management Volume Template (Attachment 4) clearly explains that PowerPoint slides should be combined into a single slide deck and attached as a separate file to the Technical and Management Volume document, it is unclear if those slides should also be included in the Technical and Management Volume document. Can DARPA please clarify if those slides should be in both the Technical and Management Volume document and in the standalone slide deck or if they should be included in only the latter file?

93A: The requested slides need only be provided once, attached as a separate file. The proposer may choose to include a copy of the slides in the Technical and Management Volume document, but this is not required.

92Q: Is a person eligible to apply as Principal Investigator (PI) /Subcontractor PI if he/she does not have a PhD at the time of submission, but will complete his/her PhD shortly after, by the time of the award?

92A: There is no requirement for a PI or Subcontractor to have a PhD.

91Q: Can there be multiple Principal Investigators (PIs) on a project? Would one need to be designated as the lead PI/Institution? If so, would the award funds be made to the Lead Institution and funds to the other PI be subcontracted by the Lead?

91A. A team may propose multiple PIs, but only one person can designated as the technical lead for the purposes of the proposal and funding. The specific teaming approach is left to the discretion of the offeror and their proposed solution.

90Q. Will DARPA consider excluding from page limits the requirement for evidence of a plan for human subject review? This would allow for draft protocols and consent submissions that often are lengthy in page count.

90A. No page limit has been specified for the Administrative and National Policy Requirements document where the evidence of the human subject review plan must be provided. Please see Attachment 6, the Administrative and National Policy Requirements Document Template. Only Volume 1 (Attachment 4, the Technical & Management Volume) is subject to the page limit restrictions as the stated in the BAA and these vary by performer category (End-to-End: 35 pages; Enablers: 25 pages; T&E: 25 pages).

89Q: Are non-defense FFRDC's exempt from the FFRDC restrictions in the NGS2 call?

89A: ALL Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and Government entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) are subject to applicable direct competition limitations and cannot propose to this BAA in any capacity unless they meet the eligibility conditions described in Section III.A.1 of the BAA.

88Q: The solicitation states that "any proposer participating on a T&E proposal—whether as a prime, subcontractor, or in any other capacity from an organizational to individual level—may not propose to, or with a team that is proposing to, either of the two other categories (i.e., ETE team or Enabler)" (p. 20). To confirm, does the above restriction apply to just individuals (e.g., individual faculty member), or are institutions, for example a university, also not able to participate in a T&E proposal if it is also participating in some capacity in an ETE and/or Enabler proposal?

88A: The T&E team will play a substantive role in overseeing NGS2 performers and assisting DARPA in evaluating performer technical and programmatic progress. Therefore, in order to avoid either a real or perceived conflict of interest, no individual or organization may be on a T&E team proposal and an ETE or Enabler proposal as well. However, there may be situations in which an individual who works at an organization (such as a university), which is proposing to be an ETE/Enabler team, may wish to only be part of a T&E proposal in their personal (non-organizational) capacity, and this individual is not part of the organizational ETE/Enabler proposal. In this case, both proposals must identify and disclose this potential conflict of interest, and both proposals should offer strong mitigation plans. Please read the BAA, Section III.B. "Procurement Integrity, Standards of Conduct, Ethical Considerations, and Organizational Conflicts of Interest." Per that section, "If a prospective proposer believes a conflict of interest exists or may exist (whether organizational or otherwise) or has questions on what constitutes a conflict of interest, the proposer should send his/her contact information and a summary of the potential conflict via email to the BAA email address before time and effort are expended in preparing a proposal and mitigation plan."

87Q: Is there an expected size of award for the different research categories?

87A: As stated in the NGS2 BAA, the overarching goal of this program is to enable "a new capability (methods, models, tools, and a community of researchers) to perform rigorous, reproducible experimental research at scales necessary to understand emergent properties of human social systems." While DARPA understands that initial funding levels for early high-risk, high-payoff research may have to be substantive, it would be counter to the spirit of the larger program to create an NGS2 capability that could only be replicated or sustained with large levels of resourcing, and which may be beyond the reach of a large part of a wider research community. Therefore, offerors are encouraged to think creatively about ways to achieve NGS2 program objectives that do not require unsustainable levels of funding as part of their approach to cost realism. While the level of funding for individual awards made under this solicitation has not been predetermined and will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the availability of funds, it is anticipated that any given End-To-End award would be under $5 million, any given

Enabler award would be under $500,000, and a T&E award would be under $2 million. Please see the BAA, Section II for further award information.

86Q: Can the same person be bid on multiple proposals, as long as they are not on a T&E and an ETE/Enabler proposal, and are not cumulatively bid at more than 100% time?

86A: Yes. Per the BAA, Section I.C.2, NGS2 encourages collaboration among teams; thus, personnel sharing causes no conflict. For further information, please consult the BAA. Section III.D outlines who is eligible to submit to the BAA (i.e., proposers may submit multiple proposals in any of three categories described in Section I.B.1, but any proposer participating on a T&E proposal—whether as a prime, subcontractor, or in any other capacity from an organizational to individual level—may not propose to or with a team that is proposing as an ETE team or Enabler).

85Q: We would like to team with someone who provides SETA support to DARPA. Is that possible?

85A: Please see the NGS2 BAA, Section III.B, Procurement Integrity, Standards of Conduct, Ethical Considerations, and Organizational Conflicts of Interest. Per the BAA: "Without prior approval or a waiver from the DARPA Director, in accordance with FAR 9.503, a contractor cannot simultaneously provide scientific, engineering, technical assistance (SETA) or similar support and also be a technical performer."

83Q: Is the "Executive Summary Slide" included or excluded in the 8 page limit for ETE abstracts?

83A: The executive summary slide is excluded from the 8 page limit for abstracts.

82Q: Would the use of an existing dataset or corpora from another Government organization be relevant for NGS2?

82A: This is up to the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA. Please also carefully review the Human Subjects Research requirements in Section VI.B.2 of the BAA.

81Q: Would experiments on learning concepts as part of acculturation be considered as addressing the formation of collective identity? Do experiments on concept learning as part of acculturation qualify as studying the formation and maintenance of collective identity?

81A: This is up to the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

80Q: Can a team put in a proposal for an ETE team that includes an Enabler? Or would it be better to submit two proposals from the same team?

80A: Per the NGS2 BAA Section III.D, proposers may submit multiple proposals to any of the categories. However, proposers must specify the category to which they are applying. Therefore, proposers should keep ETE proposals separate from Enabler proposals and not combine them. Please note that proposers are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract in advance of a full proposal to minimize effort and reduce the potential expense of preparing an out of scope proposal.

79Q: Can teams be formed or changed after abstracts are submitted?

79A: Yes. Per Section IV of the BAA, "Teaming arrangements do not need to be finalized at the time of abstract submission; however, mention of potential teaming/collaboration arrangements is encouraged."

78Q: Are proposals selected on a "fund/do not fund" basis only?

78A: Please refer to Section II.A ("Awards"). The Government reserves the right to select for negotiation all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to the NGS2 solicitation, as well as accept proposals in their entirety or to select only portions of proposals for award.

77Q: Can an enabler team responding to TA1 propose to create a theoretical/computational framework to measure and model emergence of collective identity? The outcome of this can still be used by all the other ETE teams, but the outcome might not be exactly an enabling "Technology" as mentioned in the BAA. In other words, can the weight be on the theoretical/modeling side—rather than a tool/technology—when it comes to TA1 enabler teams?

77A: This is at the discretion of the researcher. Per the BAA, Section I.A, NGS2 welcomes methods, models, tools, and a community of researchers. The discussion further explains that the proposed work must not only be novel but significant: "Specifically excluded is research that primarily results in incremental improvements to the existing state of practice." However, per BAA Section 1.B.1, Enabler proposers should, among other things, "detail the unique enabling technical or methodical approach to be developed in regard to: the next generation research capability made possible by the proposed approach; the feasibility of achieving this goal during Phase 1; and the effort required for maturation, including a risk reducing technical development plan with clear progress milestones. Proposers should also illustrate how they anticipate the enabling approach integrating with, and thereby impacting, Phase 2 research cycles."

76Q: The executive summary slide has red font—must we submit these segments in red, or is that just to draw attention to our need to respond to those components?

76A: The red font used in the executive summary slide should be considered instructional text. You may convert this text to black in your final slide.

75Q: Can I submit an abstract that I have submitted elsewhere? I have recently submitted a white paper to a competition and would like to submit the same one here. I can understand if that practice is frowned upon, but it would also be a shame to receive negative news from that competition after having missed the NGS2 deadline.

75A: Yes, but per the BAA abstract format instructions (Section IV) you must identify any other solicitation(s) to which this concept has been proposed.

74Q: We are working to develop a response as an enabler bringing a front-end design process to ETE providers and instrumenting the plan to enable the work of T&E providers. We do not have a specific ETE or Enabler team in our plan, nor do we have any named T&E providers. We would be speculating with respect to how our approach would fit in with what other potential performers may already have in mind. Is there advice to clarify the approach we should be using (e.g., is it possible to see some prior successful enabler provider submissions for a clearer view of the target that we must hit)?

> 74A: DARPA policy is to treat all submissions as source selection information (see FAR 2.101 and 3.104), and to only disclose their contents to authorized personnel. The best way to determine DARPA's interest and receive feedback on the concept is by submitting a proposal abstract.

73Q: Do we need to use the exact template or may we use what is provided as a guide? For example, may we add additional sub-headings? Use different fonts?

> 73A: Per the BAA, use of these templates is mandatory for all submissions. Fonts may be changed, but proposal text should not use a font size smaller than 12 point. Font sizes of 8 or 10 point may be used for figures, tables, and charts. Additional sub-headings may be added.

72Q: May we add a header and footer? We place our proprietary markings in the footer of our proposals. If we use the exact template without footers, our submission would need to be non-proprietary.

> 72A: Appropriate headers/footers may be added. Per the BAA, "Proposers are responsible for clearly identifying proprietary information. Submissions containing proprietary information must have the cover page and each page containing such information clearly marked with a label such as "Proprietary" or "Company Proprietary." Note: "Confidential" is a classification marking used to control the dissemination of U.S. Government National Security Information as dictated in Executive Order 13526 and should not be used to identify proprietary business information."

71Q: The BAA states that submitted documents should not include un-editable image files. How should we include images – for example, a schedule figure, system architecture, or screenshots of a user interface which would by definition be un-editable – in the body of our technical proposal?

> 71A: Proposals should be in one of the prescribed document file types. It is acceptable for images inserted into one of the acceptable document types to be un-editable.

70Q: It appears that contractor format is acceptable for the abstract submission, except for the executive summary slide. Is that correct?

> 70A: Yes. For the Executive Summary slide, please use the supplied template.

69Q: I understand that one cannot receive an award for T&E as well as an ETE or Enabler research category, and therefore a proposer should not submit a proposal for all of these areas. However, can a proposer submit ***abstracts*** for T&E as well as the ETE or Enabler category?

69A: Yes.

68Q: Does our Institutional Official/Authorized Representative need to make a proposal submission for the proposer on behalf of our Institution?

68A: Please check with your Office of Sponsored Programs. BAAT account creation/maintenance is at the discretion of the prime proposing organization. Prime organizations are responsible for the proposal submission.

67Q: Where is the Next Generation Social Science (NGS2) BAA posted?

67A: The NGS2 BAA can be found at https://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/DARPA-BAA-16-32/listing.html

66Q: Where do I submit questions regarding the NGS2 BAA?

66A: If you can't find the answer to your question in the BAA, please send your question to ngs2@darpa.mil.

65Q: Please provide more details regarding the "Enabler" role.

65A: Please refer to the BAA (Table 1 offers a compact summary) and the following questions and answers in this FAQ: 59, 57, 43, 28, and 4. If you still have inquiries, please send a more detailed question to ngs2@darpa.mil.

64Q: Are there budget guidelines in the BAA?

64A: Yes. All proposers are encouraged to provide cost proposals that are realistic and well justified for the research they propose to perform per the guidance outlined in the BAA. For those submitting a full proposal, the use of Attachment 5: Proposal Template – Cost Volume is mandatory.

63Q: Is there a preference for teams that have worked together in the past vs. newly formed teams?

63A: No.

62Q: Is there a preference for domestic vs. international applications/tests?

62A: There is no preference. Per the NGS2 BAA Section I.B.2., one goal of the NGS2 program is to "test model predictions across at least 3 different and representatively diverse populations, with multiple intervention and control groups in each research cycle

(i.e., a total of 12 different populations over the entire NGS2 program)." DARPA anticipates this could involve a wide range of different research locations and/or populations. Please remember that "proposers should include their rationale for choosing these populations, inclusion/exclusion criteria, etc."

61Q: Drawing causal inference about the basic science of "why" in social behavior depends on controlled experimentation. At the same time, identification of new questions for testing may involve large-scale measurement of human social behavior. Do you see the NGS2 program as being particularly aimed at one or both of these approaches?

61A: DARPA anticipates that reaching the NGS2 goals as outlined in the BAA may require innovative use and combinations of both.

60Q: What are the limitations/constraints on U.S. nationals and foreign nationals participating as primes, sub-primes, individual team members, etc., and how will ITAR concerns be met for these people?

60A: Foreign nationals are welcome to participate in NGS2. Please refer to the BAA, Sections III.A.2 for eligibility guidance and VI.B.4 for export control guidance.

59Q: Is there a mechanism for Enablers to participate in Phase 2, e.g., to support a tool that has been developed and delivered to other performers for their use in Cycles 3 and 4?

59A: Please refer to BAA Table 1 for guidance regarding Enabler participation in Phase 2.

58Q: Should our teaming profiles include which role we would like to take (i.e., ETE, Enabler, T&E)?

58A: Guidance for information to be provided for teaming profiles can be found in the BAA, Section VIII.C. For abstracts and proposals, however, please note that, per the NGS2 BAA, Section I.B.1., "Proposers must specify the category to which they are applying on their submission cover sheet(s)."

57Q: Can a proposer function as both an Enabler and an ETE?

57A: This would depend on the quality and selectability of their respective proposals, should they choose to propose to both the Enabler and the ETE research categories. Per the NGS2 BAA, Section III.D., "Proposers may submit multiple proposals in any of three categories described in Section I.B.1. However, any proposer participating on a T&E proposal—whether as a prime, subcontractor, or in any other capacity from an organizational to individual level—may not propose to, or with a team that is proposing to, either of the two other categories (i.e., ETE team or Enabler). This is to avoid OCI situations between development and testing and to ensure objective evaluation results."

56Q: Is IRB approval required before kicking off a selected project?

56A: All proposers planning to involve HSR should carefully review the HSR requirements in Section VI.B.2 of the BAA. Any required HSR information (including, but not limited to Institutional Review Board (IRB) draft application plans) must be included in the proposal. Furthermore, any task that involves HSR must be clearly identified in the proposed Statement of Work, schedule, and cost details. DoD/DARPA funding cannot be used towards human subjects research until ALL approvals are granted.

Proposals involving HSR that fail to supply evidence of or a plan for review by an IRB may be deemed non-conforming and, as such, will not be reviewed.

55Q: Aside from emergent behavior, what are some other exemplar research domains?

55A: Please refer to the BAA, Section I.

54Q: Must all the data be processed automatically/computationally (e.g., is it necessary to process textual data using a computer algorithm)?

54A: This is up to the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

53Q: How important is computational complexity?

53A: This is up to the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

52Q: Can data relate to something other than collective identity?

52A: This is up to the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

51Q: Is data collection from the web acceptable?

51A: Yes, provided it satisfies the requirements detailed in the NGS2 BAA in Section VI.B.2 (also see 7Q/A).

50Q: Is the use of social media within the context of this BAA?

50A: Potentially, provided the proposer satisfies the requirements detailed in the NGS2 BAA in Section VI.B.2 (also see 7Q/A).

49Q: Are proposers limited to submitting abstracts for one project only, or can they submit two entirely separate project abstracts?

49A: Proposers may submit multiple abstracts and proposals in any of the three performer categories. However, to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest

between development and T&E, proposers participating on a T&E submission may not participate on an Enabler or ETE team submission (see Section III.D for further information).

48Q: Does ETE mean a research footprint that covers policy development and field work?

48A: ETE team roles and responsibilities are covered in the BAA.

47Q: What's DARPA's interest in studying/predicting collective identities of animals under NGS2?

47A: Per the BAA Section I.A, the goal of NGS2 is to build a new capability (methods, models, tools, and a community of researchers) to perform rigorous, reproducible experimental research at scales necessary to understand emergent properties of human social systems. Thus, any proposed research should contribute to this larger goal.

46Q: Can a team develop innovative data tracking technologies as part of this program?

46A: This is up to the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

45Q: For running observations and interviews to inform data-driven research, what type of training and documentation on Human Subjects Research does DARPA require?

45A: Please review the requirements detailed in the NGS2 BAA in Section VI.B.2

44Q: What is the ethical procedure for contacting the NGS2 PM before submitting a proposal?

44A: Communications at this stage of the solicitation are limited. The overarching goal is for DARPA PMs to engage as openly as possible with proposers while preventing actual or appearance of unfair competitive advantages. In general, it is recommended that questions be submitted to ngs2@darpa.mil, and expressions of interest or capabilities related to NGS2 should be submitted as an abstract or proposal per the guidance of the BAA.

43Q: (a) Does NGS2 envision Enablers remaining free to matrix across ETE teams? (b) May Enablers address multiple goals in multiple TAs?

43A: (a) Yes. Please review the goals of the Enabler research category as described in the BAA. (b) Yes. Anticipated challenges in each TA are listed in the BAA.

42Q: Some recent DARPA programs with large collaborative teams have used "fusion centers" to help "force" collaboration. Are there any plans for that with NGS2?

42A: DARPA does not anticipate providing Government Furnished Equipment or Information at this point. Providing a capability to assist with collaboration may depend on a research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals

outlined in the NGS2 BAA. Please review Section I.C.2 for more information on collaboration requirements in NGS2.

41Q: Should proposers propose new social, behavioral theories or focus on existing areas?

41A: As stated in the NGS2 BAA, Section I.B.2, a goal of NGS2 is to enable capabilities to "formalize different variables and parameters from multiple models and theories – including social and behavioral sciences, but also potentially models or theories from epidemiology, biology, ecology, physics, network science, etc., or combinations thereof – in order to compare their accuracy in predicting the direction and size of effects of different experimental interventions." DARPA anticipates that this may include both existing as well as potentially new theories and models.

40Q: Will NGS2 make any effort to obtain data on people from other federal agencies or provide other federal capabilities?

40A: DARPA does not anticipate providing Government Furnished Equipment or Information at this point.

39Q: Does mining online social network profile data constitute Human Subjects Research?

39A: Per the NGS2 BAA, Section VI.B.2, "All research selected for funding involving human subjects, to include use of human biological specimens and human data, must comply with the federal regulations for human subjects protection. Further, research involving human subjects that is conducted or supported by the DoD must comply with 32 CFR 219, Protection of Human Subjects (and DoD Instruction 3216.02, Protection of Human Subjects and Adherence to Ethical Standards in DoD-Supported Research (http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/321602p.pdf)."

38Q: If an organization was unable to participate in Proposers' Day, are they still eligible to submit an abstract and/or proposal?

38A: Yes.

37Q: What populations should ETE teams be using to reproduce results? Are there targeted sizes for these experiments for costing guidance?

37A: See Table 1 in the BAA for guidance regarding when ETE teams are expected to exchange data and collect new data. See 15Q/A for guidance regarding targeted experiment size.

36Q: What is the anticipated/preferred level of "necking down" that proposers should target for Phase 2?

36A: This is up to the research team, their proposed research category, and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

See Table 1 in the NGS2 BAA for information on goals for each research category by Phase.

35Q: Are ETE teams preferred over Enablers? Should a team with an enabling technology seek an ETE team as a preferred bid strategy?

35A: This is up to the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA. DARPA anticipates awards to multiple development teams with the majority of funding reserved for teams with an integrated, end-to-end research approach. Only one award is anticipated for a Testing and Evaluation.

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34Q: What type of feedback can we expect from an abstract (e.g., comments or just a recommendation to bid or not)?

34A: Per the BAA, Section IV.B.1, DARPA will respond to abstracts with a statement as to whether DARPA is interested in the idea. If DARPA does not recommend the proposer submit a full proposal, DARPA will provide detailed feedback to the proposer regarding the rationale for this decision. Regardless of DARPA's response to an abstract, proposers may submit a full proposal.

While it is DARPA policy to attempt to reply to abstracts within thirty calendar days, proposers to this solicitation may anticipate a response within approximately two weeks.

33Q: Should I identify potential proposal partners ahead of time that have the required expertise to fulfill portions of the project?

33A: Yes. Team formation (including communication) is the sole responsibility of the proposer. Per NGS2 BAA Section I.A, DARPA encourages participation from a wide and diverse combination of disciplines and skill sets, to include not only social sciences, but also physics, computer science, biology, game design, mathematics, and others. Teaming arrangements do not need to be finalized at the time of abstract submission; however, mention of potential teaming/collaboration arrangements is encouraged.

32Q: If an FFRDC is proposed as a prime/subcontractor/teammate, will DARPA directly fund the FFRDC or will the funding for the FFRDC flow through the prime contract like any other subcontractor?

32A: Please review the NGS2 BAA, Section III.A.1, "Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and Government Entities." It is up to the proposer to determine the teaming structure that makes the most sense based on the nature of the proposed work. The Government Contracting Officer will determine the appropriate award instrument and funding mechanism depending upon the nature of the work proposed, the required degree of interaction between parties, and other factors.

31Q: Are Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and Government entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) eligible to receive DARPA funding for this opportunity?

31A: Please review the eligibility requirements in Section III.A.1 of the BAA. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and Government entities may propose provided they meet the eligibility requirements outlined therein.

30Q: Might a recruitment system or data management system be an enabler of interest?

30A: This is up to the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

29Q: Will the ETE teams be exchanging their entire platforms and experimental infrastructure to rerun each other's experiments? Does the rerun involve different participants, or is it a reanalysis of the collected data?

29A: Please see details on reproducibility of ETE results and replication of ETE experiments in the NGS2 BAA, Section I.B.3. As defined, DARPA does not anticipate that testing the reproducibility of a given ETE team's results will require exchanging platforms or experimental infrastructure with other ETE performers. Per Table 1, DARPA expects ETE experimental replications to involve new participant populations.

28Q: Will the Enabler teams be delivering intermediate products to the ETE teams during Phase 1, or will their main delivery occur at the end of Phase 1 and start of Phase 2?

28A: Please review the anticipated timeline for each research category in Table 2, Section I.D, in the NGS2 BAA. More specific deliverables and schedules will depend on the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

27Q: For Enablers proposals, what evidence should be provided in the Phase 1 proposal for being able to integrate with one or more ETE teams before Phase 2?

27A: Please refer to Table 1 in the BAA.

26Q: Is there a small business subcontract requirement for proposals above a certain dollar value?

26A: Yes. Please review BAA Attachment 5 (The Cost Volume Template), Section 11.

25Q: Would you be interested in "social constructivist" approaches of collective identity? If so, what does the weight of religion/political view have, and would you be interested in understanding variables influencing identity formation over time?

25A: Per the BAA, a major goal of NGS2 is to enable capabilities to "formalize different variables and parameters from multiple models and theories – including social and behavioral sciences, but also potentially models or theories from epidemiology, biology, ecology, physics, network science, etc., or combinations thereof – in order to compare their accuracy in predicting the direction and size of effects of different experimental interventions." DARPA anticipates that performers focusing on this goal may draw upon a wide range of different theories, which may include social constructivist theories, and the predictions they make about the relationship between different variables and the emergence of collective identity over time.

24Q: Different social science literatures offer somewhat overlapping and contrasting definitions of what collective identities are. What does NGS2 consider the important aspects and phenomena of collective identities?

24A: As noted in the NGS2 BAA, Section I.A., a specific challenge of the NGS2 program is to determine "what matters most" for collective identity formation. Hence a major research goal of the program is to help clarify the important aspects of collective identities.

23Q: Please outline what you would consider to be a major success for this program.

23A: A major success of the NGS2 program would be the demonstration of a new capability (methods, models, tools, and a community of researchers) to perform rigorous, reproducible experimental research at scales necessary to understand emergent properties of human social systems.

22Q: Would it be acceptable to model one "identity" then adapt that model for other identities and interactions or between identities and society?

22A: The specific approach to modeling will depend on the research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

21Q: Is there a specific collective identity for this research (e.g., religion, political affiliation, relation between identity and society)?

21A: No.

20Q: Do the ETEs approach all of TA1, 2, and 3 or exactly one TA?

20A: Per the BAA Section I.B.1, ETE team proposals are expected to address all TAs.

19Q: How would you validate the innovative methods resulting from this research since our current methodologies are actually limited?

19A: Please review the BAA, Section I.C.5, "Validation."

18Q: Can projected budgets be changed between an abstract and the final proposal?

18A: Yes. Abstracts are expected to provide ROM estimates that may be refined for a full proposal.

17Q: Will DARPA or the T&E team provide a mechanism for sharing data and population information, or will this task be up to the teams?

17A: DARPA does not anticipate providing Government Furnished Equipment or Information at this point. Providing a capability to assist with collaboration may depend on a research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA. Please review Section I.C.2 for more information on collaboration requirements in NGS2.

16Q: How will the program protect respondent anonymity in data?

16A: Please review the BAA Section IV.B.2, "Human Subjects Research." DARPA expects all NGS2 performers to understand, respect, and obey the applicable laws and statutes regulating human subjects research, including requirements for the protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and other potentially sensitive data, and as appropriate – per the BAA, Section I.C – expects proposers to describe their approaches to data management.

15Q: (a) Who chooses the "three populations" mentioned in the BAA (i.e., is there a DARPA mandate? (b) What is meant by "three populations": for example, different age groups or different sets of participants drawn from the same pool? (c) How will the populations be chosen? (d) When will the populations be chosen? (e) Since there is a trade-off between data set size and modeling, how large does DARPA expect the data sets to be?

15A: Specifics regarding populations, timing, size, etc., may depend on a research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA. Per the BAA, Section I.B.2, ETE proposers should describe and justify the numbers of participants that a proposer will seek to include, sufficient to test model predictions across at least 3 different and representatively diverse populations, with multiple intervention and control groups in each research cycle (i.e., a total of 12 different populations over the entire NGS2 program). Proposers should include their rationale for choosing these populations, inclusion/exclusion criteria, etc.

14Q: Could an experimental method include waiting for naturally-occurring (i.e., beyond researchers' control) phenomena, such as natural experiments?

14A: Although it seems unlikely that the NGS2 performance period and scope will afford sufficient time to collect enough data to provide meaningful results and replicable outcomes from natural experiments, DARPA is open to the idea if proposers provide

credible justification as to how that approach could support their research and the larger NGS2 goals.

13Q: Can an organization or individual participate on multiple teams (excluding T&E)?

13A: Yes: an organization or individual can participate on multiple teams excluding T&E. Please review the BAA Section III.B.D., "Other Eligibility Requirements."

12Q: Will this BAA restrict the use of data related to U.S. citizens?

12A: Please review the BAA Section VI.B.2, "Human Subjects Research." DARPA expects all NGS2 performers to understand, respect, and obey the applicable laws and statutes regulating human subjects research, including requirements for the protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and other potentially sensitive data, and as appropriate – per the BAA, Section I.C – expects proposers to describe their approaches to data management.

11Q: Can we use existing IRBs?

11A: This will depend on a research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA. Please review the BAA Section VI.B.2., "Human Subjects Research."

10Q: For the purposes of this BAA, will the use of social network data from open accounts be considered human subjects research?

10A: Please review the BAA Section VI.B.2, "Human Subjects Research." Per the NGS2 BAA, Section VI.B.2, "All research selected for funding involving human subjects, to include use of human biological specimens and human data, must comply with the federal regulations for human subjects protection. Further, research involving human subjects that is conducted or supported by the DoD must comply with 32 CFR 219, Protection of Human Subjects (and DoD Instruction 3216.02, Protection of Human Subjects and Adherence to Ethical Standards in DoD-Supported Research (http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/321602p.pdf)."

9Q: NGS2 has an aggressive schedule for executing experiment cycles. This may preclude extensive platform or experimental development prior to the first cycle. Is NGS2 open to phased platform development where some experimental capabilities do not come online until later cycles?

9A: This will depend on a research team and the solution(s) they propose to accomplish the appropriate goals outlined in the NGS2 BAA.

8Q: Can you provide a sense of budgets for each area/phase of the program or an order of magnitude size of award? Is there an approximate number of awards anticipated?

8A: There is no set budget per award. DARPA anticipates awards to multiple development teams with the majority of funding reserved for teams with an integrated, end-to-end research approach. Only one award is anticipated for a Testing and Evaluation.

7Q: Does NGS2 have a preference for data mining and analytics applied to existing forums of human interaction (e.g., online games, virtual communities, Twitter) or custom-designed experimental tasks to test specific hypotheses?

7A: NGS2 welcomes the use of any domain or combination within the continuum that makes sense to reach the research goals.

6Q: Is the project limited to laboratory research only?

6A: No. Per BAA Section I.A, the goal of NGS2 is to build a new capability (methods, models, tools, and a community of researchers) to perform rigorous, reproducible experimental research at scales necessary to understand emergent properties of human social systems. DARPA anticipates that this capability may require research that is not (solely) confined to a laboratory.

5Q: Is an interdisciplinary social science project (e.g., to investigate human conflict systems at regional-global scales in terms of mechanisms and forces of strategic evolution of instability and stability) within the scope of "human systems" as intended in the BAA description section?

5A: Per BAA Section IV, proposers are highly encouraged to submit an abstract in advance of a full proposal to minimize effort and reduce the potential expense of preparing an out of scope proposal. This provides DARPA an opportunity to provide feedback on your specific proposed approach. That said, per BAA Section I.A, the goal of NGS2 is to build a new capability (methods, models, tools, and a community of researchers) to perform rigorous, reproducible experimental research at scales necessary to understand emergent properties of human social systems. Thus, any proposed research should therefore contribute to this larger goal.

4Q: Does DARPA want proposers to develop teams that can address all ETE, Enabler, and T&E requirements?

4A: As detailed in the NGS2 BAA, Section I.B.1, proposer performance is expected to occur in one of the three research categories, and proposers should identify to which research category they are proposing: End-to-End, Enablers, or Test and Evaluation. Proposers may submit abstracts and proposals in any of these three categories. However, to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest between development and T&E, proposers participating on a T&E submission may not participate on an Enabler or ETE team submission (See Section III.D for further information.).

3Q: Do proposers need to comprise teams with multiple partners and organizations? Are you able to offer any guidance on teaming or partnering?

3A: Per NGS2 BAA Section I.A, DARPA encourages participation from a wide and diverse combination of disciplines and skill sets - to include social sciences, but also physics, computer science, biology, game design, mathematics, and others. To that end, teaming is highly encouraged before proposal submissions. However, proposers are not required to comprise teams for certain specific kinds of performer categories such as T&E (see BAA Section I.B.1, "Performer Categories"). Please refer to Section VIII.C of the BAA for more information on teaming. Specific content, communications, networking, and team formation are the sole responsibility of the participants.

2Q: Is NGS2 6.1/basic research?

2A: Yes. Please refer to the BAA, Section II.B, “Fundamental Research” for further details.

1Q: Will DARPA consider social science concepts that do not fit under TA1, TA2 or TA3?

1A: All proposers must describe their approach in ways that reflect and address the TAs and the research process considerations outlined in each TA description.