Q42: On page 16 of the BAA, it states that proposers should: "Assume for costing purposes that each of the last four exercises will require at least three technical team members to be onsite at the exercise location for three weeks, and assume that the location will alternate between San Diego and the Washington DC metro area." Does this mean that the PI or other senior team members must be present for the entire three-week period?

A42: Each team should plan to staff each exercise with sufficient team members who have the expertise to debug and run their systems. Exercises often involve long days and may span weekends; while it is not a requirement that each team have three people present at all times, a single individual may be insufficient, particularly for debugging complex systems. Proposers should consider rotating staff over the course of the exercise to reduce the demands on particular individuals, and plan for at least a day of overlap between incoming and outgoing staff for technical hand-off. Exercises often take place in cramped conditions, so while Principal Investigators should plan to attend on particular days in order to understand how their system is responding to the demands of the exercise, team staffing should minimize the number of people who lack in-depth understanding of the actual system code.

Q41: Will there be a common set of criteria for evaluation of TA-1, TA-2 & TA-3 or will custom metrics be developed based upon specifics of the proposed technologies?

A41: Each TA-1, TA-2 and TA-3 proposer should propose their own metrics to measure their technical approach for achieving RADICS objectives. After award, each performer will provide input to TA-5 and the Government team to support the development of evaluation metrics for their individual Test Plan.

Q40: “Government will provide power grid modeling expertise” – How and when will this be available?

A40: Expertise in power grid modeling and simulation will be made available as part of the Government team starting at the kickoff meeting. If you anticipate using this expertise, state assumptions regarding the nature and extent required in your proposal.
Q39: Can you please comment on typical size of award in Areas 1, 2 and 3?
A39: There is no preconceived notion of the typical size of an award in any of these technical areas.

Q38: Can you “finalize” proposals in the DARPA portal multiple times?
A38: No. However, after finalizing a proposal you can submit a ‘new’ amended version with a comment that it takes precedence over the previously submitted version as long as it is uploaded prior to the due date.

Q37: When will notifications of awards be made?
A37: Notifications of selection will be made following the DARPA proposal selection process. Award depends on successful negotiation of a contract. Award synopsis to FBO will be made on completion of all awards. At this time there is no set date for such notification.

Q36: Can organizations propose to TA-3 & TA-4 and is it encouraged?
A36: Yes, organizations may proposed to both TA-3 and TA-4 (but must do so in separate proposals). The Government neither encourages nor discourages such an approach, as its merits would depend on the technical details of the proposals. Please follow the guidance provided in the BAA, in section III.D Other Eligibility Requirements.

Q35: Wholesale markets are diverse, what kind of market data will be provided to TA-1?
A35: Explicitly state in your proposal what wholesale market data your approach would require. TA-1 approaches should have the potential to detect anomalies at any location in the United States.

Q34: The SOW asks for task breakdown on an annual basis (“Each year of the project should be separately defined.”). However, the level of effort summary table is by Phase. Is this an inconsistency?
A34: Yes. This should have been defined as ‘by Phase’, so each phase of the project should be separately defined in the SOW. See Amendment 1 for clarification.
Q33: The BAA asserts that “approaches should not depend on utility deployment of the proposed technologies prior to attack.” For TA-2, what portions of the proposed SEN can we assume are available prior to the attack? (Networking? Hardware? Control Software? Configurations?)

A33: Proposals to TA-2 should focus on proof of the proposed concept, and should state assumptions regarding required equipment and/or data.

Q32: Are the slides from these Proposer Day sessions going to be made available?

A32: The Proposers Day briefing summarized the key aspects of the BAA. As the BAA is published, the briefing will not be made available.

Q31: How about including proprietary information in Vol 1 App. C (only classified info was mentioned)?

A31: Proprietary information should not be treated as classified material and should therefore be included in the proposal (not in the SOW). The purpose of Appendix C is for proposers to submit highly relevant and substantial past performance information that is classified.

Q30: How do we get data into the TA-4 testbed?

A30: That will depend on the particular TA-4 solution selected for award. Make explicit assumptions about how your proposed approach would interoperate with the TA-4 testbed.

Q29: TA-3 seems to be related to threat characterization. Does mitigation fit into that area?

A29: Mitigation of discovered threats is in scope.

Q28: What is the vision/expectation for TA-2 & TA-3 interfaces?

A28: TA-2 and TA-3 systems may exchange data, but will not be integrated. Proposers may wish to discuss how such data would be of use in their proposed approach.

Q27: Is TA-3 to develop mitigation/recovery technologies?

A27: Mitigation/recovery techniques are in scope for TA-3.

Q26: Will there be an opportunity to use high fidelity power system simulations for TA-1 and TA-3?

A26: Yes, access to high-fidelity simulators will be provided by the Government.
Q25: Is there a TRL level expectation on TA-1 and TA-3?
A25: There is no specific TRL level expectation. However, the objective of this program is to produce technologies that may be effectively transitioned and deployed in the field.

Q24: What is the source of the GFE modeling and simulation expertise?
A24: TBD. If you anticipate using this expertise, state assumptions regarding the nature and extent required in your proposal.

Q23: (TA-2) Can equipment be pre-positioned to enable rapid SEN deployment?
A23: The TA-2 approach should describe all requirements for equipment, and the resulting costs for a deployed system. Approaches that minimize such costs are of interest to the Government.

Q22: (TA-4) How many devices are sufficient? 10? 100? 1000? Order of magnitude size?
A22: The TA-4 testbed should be sufficient to support multiple TA-3 teams concurrently, and to enable realistic testing and evaluation.

Q21: What is the best way for software vendors to work with interested participants?
A21: Refer to the RADICS teaming website at:

Q20: Please provide more detail on the power system modeling expertise that will be provided to TA-1. Expertise? Working models?
A20: TBD. If you anticipate using this expertise, state assumptions regarding the nature and extent required in your proposal.

Q19: Can you say more about the structure of the USG – supplied grid model?
A19: TBD. If you anticipate using this expertise, state assumptions regarding the nature and extent required in your proposal.

Q18: For TA-1: Where can we learn the specifics of the power grid modeling capability the Government will provide? capabilities, API, structure of data?
A18: TBD. If you anticipate using this expertise, state assumptions regarding the nature and extent required in your proposal.
Q17: For TA-3, must proposals address all elements (localization, device forensics, etc) or can proposers focus on one area? For example, can a proposer just propose innovative ideas for device forensics?

A17: Yes, focused solutions to TA-3 will be acceptable. Solutions with the greatest potential to reduce time to recovery are preferred.

Q16: Does DARPA prefer Procurement or Cooperative Agreement contracts?

A16: The goal of the program is to facilitate technology transition. Certain aspects of procurement contracts, such as well-defined deliverables provide that flexibility. However, each proposal will be evaluated according to the criteria outlined in the BAA.

Q15: Please clarify the expected experimentation in section D. The section discusses demonstrations and exercises. What kind of experimentation is expected? What are the expectations of the 6-month demonstration?

A15: Experiments will focus primarily on the suitability of each RADICS software system to its intended purpose, and will be conducted in the context of exercises.

The focus of the 6-month demonstration will be to address any technical issues that arise between each performer developing software and the TA-5 system evaluator.

Q14: Is there an estimate of the number of awards for TA-1-3? Is there an estimate of the award amount available for each TA?

A14: No. Anticipated total funding available for award under RADICS is $77 million.

Q13: TA-1 and TA-3 seem to have overlap. Can you comment?

A13: These areas are defined to have no overlap; please refer to their descriptions in the BAA.

Q12: If a Task 1 proposal will use Task 2 services, what form of prior teaming agreements should be included in the proposal? For example, if I am hoping to use the Secure Internet 2, but won’t budget them in my Task 1 effort?

A12: Please state assumptions regarding required resources in your proposal.

Q11: Does a proposal for TA-2 need to address all of the listed challenges, or can it target a specific part of the problem?

A11: For TA-2, DARPA is seeking complete approaches that address all three challenges described in the BAA.
Q10: Do you prefer University or Industry to award TA-4?
A10: DARPA has no preference.

Q9: Is the TA-2 focused more on protection/isolation capabilities based upon detection/characterization from TA-3?
A9: TA-2 is focused on network isolation and should be capable of operating independently; however, ways in which TA-3 information could make TA-2 approaches more effective are in scope.

Q8: Besides government grid models, will the reliability and maintenance information be provided for TA-1 and TA-2?
A8: Proposals should state what information is required to realize the proposed approach. The Government will attempt to provide requested information, but in some cases may be unable to do so (e.g., if requested information would come from private organizations that consider it proprietary and are unwilling to share).

Q7: How long will the teaming website be open?

Q6: Would the government provide names of possible utility company partners?
A6: Refer to the RADICS teaming website at: https://www.schafertmd.com/DARPA/I2O/RADICS/PD/Teaming/tiki-index.php

Q5: Is there a candidate initial power grid that is the base for the study?
A5: No.

Q4: What data is classified in your opinion – power grid? Existing vulnerabilities.
A4: The focus is on unclassified data sources only.

Q3: Can you clarify what access to a SCIF means? Does this mean you must have an approved SCIF to Prime?
A3: Please see Amendment 1 to DARPA-BAA-16-14 for clarification.
Q2: Can you elaborate on the requirement for Top Secret security clearance? Is the requirement for site TS access or just for someone who can travel to TS briefings?

A2: Please see Amendment 1 to DARPA-BAA-16-14 for clarification.

Q1: Can a sub meet the requirement for TS clearance of personnel or does this individual have to be a member of the Prime?

A1: Please see Amendment 1 to DARPA-BAA-16-14 for clarification.