

DARPA HR001118S0010
Configuration Security (ConSec)
Frequently Asked Questions

As of November 17, 2017

Q27: Will TA3 be given TA1 and TA2 solution documentation?

A27: Yes.

Q26: Can configuration change for platform to platform to mission to mission?

A26: Yes, this is encapsulated in operational contexts.

Q25: What examples of documents that gives an operational context?

A25: System design documents, mission statements, SOPs, training manuals, etc. (also anticipated is human interactions with the system operators to refine assumptions).

Q24: Is human SOP in scope and if so, what level of complexity is a good example of the TA1 goals?

A24: Human SOPs are in scope for knowledge extraction.

Q23: You mentioned “compositional analysis”, do you interpret this to be a composition of multiple analyses or can this also include a single analysis of a composed system?

A23: The term “compositional analysis” can refer to both.

Q21: What devices do you see in scope?

A22: Embedded devices common in CPS, IoT, and industrial systems; Phase 1 – scale of vehicle/commercial system, Phase 2 – CPS plant/heavy industry, Phase 3 – DoD systems.

Q20: What kind of human specifications will be available?

A20: All human readable Standard Operating Procedures and training documentation.

Q19: What platforms do you have in mind? UNCLASSIFIED vs. CLASSIFIED?

A19: UNCLASSIFIED non-DoD for Phase 1 & 2, and DoD for Phase 3, classified based on target platform SCG.

Q18: Is the program 6.2?

A18: Funding will be appropriate to proposed projects.

Q17: Are Service Labs considered for all or part of TA4?

A17: Anyone who is eligible will be considered.

Q16: How would "risk" for risk reduction be defined for TA2?

A16: Functionality not needed; Comparison to industry best practices for reducing vulnerability.

Q15: Can we expect to do natural language understanding to extract configuration semantics from component documentation?

A15: Natural Language Processing is in scope, if alternative methods to provide similar capabilities are proposed, they are in scope as well.

Q14: Can we choose our domain, e.g. is networking enough?

A14: Domains will be set by TA4/DARPA.

Q13: Should existing default configurations be taken into account when generalizing secure configurations or can we assume a clean slate (non-running system)?

A13: Evaluations will take into account default configurations.

Q12: Did you mean that TA1 has to analyze the source code/binary and develop models for understanding inputs of configuration?

A12: Yes.

Q11: What is the overall security classification of this effort? There are complementary efforts being done by other gov't security agencies, however, many of these technologies and R&D initiatives are at the TS-level or above?

A11: The overall classification of the program is UNCLASSIFIED, however, in later phases of the program when military systems are examined, the information will be classified in accordance with the target system's Security Classification Guide (SCG).

Q10: Are web logs, chat rooms, discussion board threads in scope for the knowledge extraction component of TA1 or is the focus limited to vendor-provided documentation?

A10: It should not be assumed that web logs, chat rooms, or discussion board threads will be available for all systems.

Q9: Can one organization prime multiple TAs?

A9: Yes, one organization can perform as Prime for multiple TAs.

Q8: Is device compatibility only determined from supplied docs, or is device code analysis in scope?

A8: Code/binary analysis is in scope.

Q7: Will there be a concept paper requirement?

A7: Not a requirement, but we do have an optional abstract phase.

Q6: How long is the proposal process, i.e., what is the deadline (# days)?

A6: FAR requires a minimum of 45 days and the BAA will indicate the specific time and deadline.

Q5: Are multiple (separate) proposals to the same TA allowed?

A5: Submission restrictions will be identified in the BAA

Q4: Will there be any planned down-selects during the program?

A4: No formal down-select are anticipated.

Q3: When will Proposers Day slides be distributed?

A3: They will be published when the BAA and FAQs are published.

Q2: Will the proposers of TA1/TA2 be able to propose a configuration of hardware/systems for evaluation or will it be fixed and defined by DARPA?

A2: The target platform will be defined by TA4 to facilitate rapid testing, and defined by DARPA for exercises and later phases.

Q1: Will Abstracts be accepted?

A1: Yes.