Q: Is there a particular focus on confidentiality, integrity, or are both of high relevance?
A: Both are of high relevance.

Q: Are the annotation mechanisms primarily intended to constrain the behavior of the code, the configuration of the operating environment allowed to run the code, or both?
A: The focus is primarily on annotation of code. However, the operating environment is expected to support the intent of the annotations, as discussed in the STTR announcement.

Q: There is mention of applying this to "strictly-typed, memory-safe programming languages". Is it a particular priority to focus on languages currently in use by the defense industrial base (such as Java), or are emerging languages (such as Rust) with more expressive type systems for expressing these concepts in scope?
A: Emerging languages of interest to practical systems programming such as Rust are in scope.

Q: Are the development of novel runtime mechanisms for enforcing policies such as computing on encrypted data or new hardware protections in scope?
A: The primary focus of the STTR is on programming language support. Although novel modifications of state-of-the-art OS runtimes (e.g., the binary toolchain) are expected to enforce the annotations' semantics, it is expected that these modifications will be practical and adaptable to existing systems.

Q: In reference to the Phase 1 milestones provided on page 3 of the BAA (HR001120S0019-01.pdf), are these the only allowed milestones or can additional milestones be added?
A: Additional milestones are fine, so long as they clearly align with the effort's goals and help define progress.

Q: Is it possible to list d33, d31, and e33,f metric values that could be used as a substitute in place of e31,f in the phase 1 and 2 metrics tables?
A: A value for d31 can be converted to an e31,f value. If providing this calculation, please provide what elastic compliance values are used for the calculation. Additional piezoelectric coefficients can be used.
Q: For the metric on number of substrates, does a seed layer on a substrate count as a separate substrate? For example, silicon-on-insulator-on-Si seems to be different from Si. Would, for example, Al on quartz also be different from quartz? Also, would AlGaN-on-Si be considered different than Si?
A: A seed layer for growth of the piezoelectric layer would not be considered a separate substrate.

Q: Are you mostly looking for solutions addressing source code annotation for data isolation policies? Or are innovative approaches for intra-process data isolation itself also in scope and something that must be addressed?
A: Innovative approaches for intra-process isolation are in scope, but are expected to be practical and adaptable to existing systems.

Q: If data isolation solutions are in scope, are solutions that target a specific CPU type (e.g. Intel, ARM) allowed, or must they be applicable across architectures?
A: The STTR does not focus on a specific architecture. Applicability across modern or anticipated architectures is expected.

Q: Is there a specific set of strictly-typed, memory-safe programming languages that you are interested in?
A: Emerging languages of interest to practical systems programming such as Rust are in scope.