

HR001119S0034  
Artificial Social Intelligence for Successful Teams (ASIST)  
Frequently Asked Questions

As of April 11, 2019

**Q23. On page 24 of the BAA, the subsections addressing “Personnel, Qualifications, and Commitments” and “Statement of Work (SOW)” use Phase and Year inconsistently. Please clarify how this information should be provided.**

A23. In both cases, please report the requested information by program phase.

**Q22. What start date should be assumed for costing?**

A22. Use October 1, 2019 as a start date for costing purposes.

**Q21. What size TA2 teams are expected?**

A21. The goal is to have as diverse a range of theoretical perspectives represented on the program as possible. TA2 projects could consist of one PI vs one professor and add lower level employees/graduate students. Larger projects are obviously acceptable if the case is compelling.

As of March 28, 2019

**Q20. What sensors are in/out of scope for monitoring humans? What type of sensors will be allowed?**

A20. The standardized sensing and communication channels will be agreed through a working group led by TA3. As many of the requests of TA1 and TA2 teams as possible will be incorporated. Sensors could include wearables, cameras, software monitoring, typing and mouse, etc. We are open to suggestions but we don't want to fund development of new sensors. TA3 will also create a minimum sensor and communication package mimicking what is likely to be available in a distributed setting. TA1 should explain how their approach will adapt.

**Q19. Can TA2 proposals reference TA1 architecture it would work with?**

A19. TA2 proposals should stand alone. But if the theoretical frameworks and/or hypotheses are specific to a particular class of AI approaches, that is reasonable and should be documented in the proposal.

**Q18. What is the expected interplay between TA1 and TA2 performers? Are there benefits for TA1 performers pairing with TA2 performers as a proposal team?**

A18. TA1 teams may very well need some cognitive science component within the project. TA2 is separate and has a program wide agenda. But collaboration once the program gets going and ideas for how to improve TA1 architectures will be encouraged.

**Q17. Are there specific team structures of interest (e.g., hierarchical, loose collaboration)?**

A17. No

**Q16. Will agents developed by different performers be expected to work together?**

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A16. No

**Q15. Will agents be able to coordinate with or study human teammates before the task starts?**

A15. This is part of the protocol organized by the performer.

**Q14. To what extent is the set of tasks in the Minecraft-analogue open world pre-specified or limited (as opposed to created or selected by team participants)?**

A14. Tasks are pre-specified in the experiment. There could be meta-tasks where the users choose tasks.

**Q13. What is the fundamental difference and targets of TA1 and TA2?**

A13. TA1 and TA2 are very, very different. TA2 is attempting to move forward the theoretical understanding of human and human-machine teaming and social cognition. TA1 is developing architecture that demonstrates social skills and effectiveness in a teaming environment.

**Q12. Is the funding for 4 years? Are there intermediate evaluations for continued funding?**

A12. There is no planned down select. Cooperation and collaboration will be encouraged. As with any government award, contracts can always be terminated if it is deemed necessary. ASIST is a 4 year program.

**Q11. Will the TA3 testbed be available to TA1 and TA2 performers outside of the dry run assessments?**

A11. After each evaluation, the testbed will be made available in that state for further testing and development.

**Q10. Is there a transition partner?**

A10. There is no planned transition at this time. This is pure fundamental research.

**Q9. What is the expected deliverable(s) from TA2?**

A9. Hypotheses verified or disproven, theoretical frameworks, technical status reports/final technical report, papers and data.

**Q8. Is the ASIST agent meant to assist in creating teams or is the ASIST agent only meant to be part of an established team?**

A8. The ASIST agent is meant to be part of an established team. TA2 may investigate methods in how to compose effective teams.

**Q7. Is a single agent or multiple agents envisioned?**

A7. There may be settings where multiple agents are useful.

**Q6. Are confidence intervals desired on the inference?**

A6. When possible, yes.

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**Q5. Does an agent have full view of the environment?**

A5. This is a question of experiment design. Expect that in some cases yes, others no.

**Q4. Is ASIST interested in understanding and modeling adversarial behavior?**

A4. This may be a stretch goal.

**Q3. Teams develop shared models through intensive shared training and perform better because of it. Alternatively, teams that don't practice together don't perform as well even if the individual performers are considered the best. The ASIST vision model doesn't include a training or "alignment" period among team members. Will the TA3 testbed support this?**

A3. This is part of experimental design, but is in scope.

**Q2. For the Abstract we are preparing for the April 2 deadline, does the cover sheet need to be on its own, separate page, or can we begin the Abstract text under the cover sheet content on page 1?**

A2. Abstract text can begin on the cover sheet after all information on that sheet has been provided as required.

**Q1. Is the TA3 team expected to plan and find/have space to host the PI meetings?**

A1. Yes. The Government will have significant input into the agendas of the meetings, but all other aspects of planning and hosting the meetings will be the responsibility of the TA3 performer.