

DARPA-PA-18-01/DARPA-SN-18-80
Serial Interactions in Imperfect Information Games Applied to Complex Military
Decision-Making (SI3-CMD)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
as of 10/9/2018

5Q: Will this be CUI? If so, how do we bring on an Academic subcontractor if they cannot support CUI?

5A: The determination that a proposed effort may generate controlled unclassified information (CUI) will be made prior to award. If a selected proposal is determined by the Government to potentially generate CUI, the resultant other transaction agreement will contain the appropriate terms and conditions.

At this time the Government expects that program goals as described in DARPA-SN-18-80 may be met by proposed efforts for (1) fundamental research, (2) non-fundamental research, and/or (3) research that may present a high likelihood of disclosing performance characteristics of military systems or manufacturing technologies that are unique and critical to defense. Based on the anticipated type of proposer (e.g., university or industry) and the nature of the proposed work, the Government expects that some awards will include restrictions on the resultant research that will require the awardee to seek DARPA permission before publishing any information or results relative to the program.

Proposers should indicate in their proposal whether they believe the scope of the research included in their proposal is fundamental or not. While proposers should clearly explain the intended results of their research, the Government shall have sole discretion to determine whether the proposed research shall be considered fundamental. Appropriate articles will be included in resultant awards for non-fundamental research to prescribe publication requirements and other restrictions, as appropriate.

For certain research projects, it may be possible that although the research to be performed by a potential awardee is restricted research, their subawardee's effort may be fundamental research. In those cases, it is the awardee's responsibility to explain in their proposal why its subawardee's effort is fundamental research.

4Q: The Special Notice describes the use of AI for imperfect information games applied to military conflict. Does this include conflict that is purely in the cyber domain? Will a proposal focusing on cyber conflict be appropriate for this Special Notice?

4A: Any domain of military conflict is appropriate for SI3-CMD, provided that it has the appropriate characteristics for the technical approach of interest.

3Q: Can we invoice at dates other than the milestone dates, particularly in a cost-plus framework?

3A: All OTs awarded under DARPA-PA-18-01 will have fixed payable milestones. Fixed payable milestones are fixed payments based on successful completion of the milestone accomplishments agreed to in the milestone plan. There will be no cost reimbursement type awards made under this solicitation. Proposers may suggest different dates to complete the milestones; however, the final dates for completion of milestones is ultimately subject to approval by DARPA.

2Q: Question regarding milestone payments as described in the model OT attached to DARPA PA-18-01: Page 18 states the following: “Payments associated with each milestone must reflect the actual comprehensive costs to achieve milestone completion.” Would DARPA accept milestone payments that reflect actual costs incurred to date plus a fraction of a fixed fee, similar to a CPFF contract?

2A: Yes, proposers may propose profit as part of their proposal. The Volume 2: Price Volume Template states this under Price Details.

1Q: The SN calls for unclassified proposal submissions but asks, during the study effort, to evaluate realistic military scenarios, some of which would naturally be classified. If awarded this study effort, will DARPA plan to issue a DD254 to performer(s) to analyze classified military scenarios? Or like the proposal submission, will all work under any award be unclassified?

1A: All initial awards will be unclassified and all proposed work will be unclassified. DARPA believes that there are adequate real and realistic scenarios for initial research purposes. If during the course of the work a need for a DD254 is identified, DARPA will work with the performer to make appropriate modifications.