HR0011SB20254-15
Unbiased Behavioral Discovery Platforms
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is it allowable for the system to use local wireless communication, such as a private mesh network of bluetooth- or WiFi-connected devices?
   A: Yes, a private network of wireless-connected devices would be an allowable component of a system.

2. Does the behavior have to be categorized (e.g. licking, grooming, etc.) or is it sufficient to identify anomalous behavior?
   A: Although it is ideal to have a categorized behavior for comparative purposes minimally, the detectable behaviors in an automated system could be anomalous, provided that they enable accurate identification and satisfy the objectives for a given Phase.

3. Does the behavioral identification need to be able to identify which agent/contagion/etc. is infecting the subject(s).
   A: Strictly, no. The goal of the SBIR is to develop unguided behavioral discovery technologies for unappreciated or novel behaviors.

4. Dose sensitivity (Phase I objectives) is more clear for chemical exposure, but what would be meant for diseases? e.g. disease load, disease progression, initial dose, etc.?
   A: For disease behavior detection, all of those listed in the question could be options, depending on the condition. The behaviors simply need to be detectable singularly and/or in aggregate, and ideally disease onset, severity, and/or progression would provide a spectrum of behavioral responses to delineate disease stages or progression reliably.

5. For dose estimation is the chemical exposure/disease known?
   A: This question presumably refers to the Phase 1 demonstration. In that case yes, the chemical exposure and/or disease could represent a known.

6. Will behavioral profiling systems for non-rodent animal models be considered under this announcement?
   A: This solicitation is inclusive of any potential animal model provided its implementation and behaviors are well justified and relevant to human health.