



SBIR 23.4-001 Q&A Telecon Transcript

22 February 2023

1. Should we account for audio, video, and text?

Yes, you would want to be able to capture as much information or data as possible to do that analysis.

2. is the intent to track narratives and their evolution across multiple social domains

Yes, we do want to be able to do it across multiple social domains and our social media platforms as well. We definitely don't want to be kind of stove-piped into just one area.

3. Are there any specific narrative frameworks, schemas, or ontologies that are of interest for consideration or evaluation?

We did not want to overly specify that kind of solution for what we're looking for, because we don't want to limit anybody in the types of frameworks, schemas, or ontologies, that they may be able to find in the solution that they're developing for looking at these. So, we wanted to shy away from directing anyone towards a specific narrative framework, schema or ontology. And allow the proposers to have a little bit more creative freedom.

4. What dataset size and scale should the Phase I solutions focus on?

Phase I is really a feasibility study. And so, with that in mind the data, size, and scale, it should be representative of what we're trying to achieve with our objective based on the scope of the reach that we're trying to get. So, across multiple social media platforms and tracking a narrative across different target audiences. We don't need to see it happening multiple times. It's just a feasibility study. But there does need to be at least enough reliability in terms of how representative that initial population set, or that initial data set is that represents a population and a narrative, and I would expect any group who's working on that, that they would already know how to do the analysis to determine whether or not they're getting that representative data set.

5. Are there specific social platforms that are of interest for SOCOM?

We don't want to be limiting. But you know some of the major ones that are out there, kind of across the global landscape that I will name are obviously Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Reddit, Telegram, OK, VK, Instagram, TikTok. Those are some of the major ones that that would be of interest. Anywhere where there is a large population of people and potential target audiences gathering in one place, and where those narratives may kind of evolve and take on a bigger kind of picture across those audiences.

6. How many Phase 1 proposals do you expect to select for award?

The purpose of this Q&A is to answer technical clarifying questions to help you understand what our requirement is. It's not so much to get into the programmatic, and how many phase one contracts are going to be awarded, or how many proposals that we're expecting.

7. Do you envision transition to any specific program of record?

So, all I can say there is that one of the benefits of the SBIR program is that as things move along, if things are going well, that option eventually of a Phase III SBIR allows for the creation of a program of record, or bringing the company onto that program of





record. Anytime we set out to do work like this, obviously, the end goal is that we want to find something that is useful, we want it to be successful, and we'd like to continue to use it.

8. Are you looking for visual representations of narrative evolution in the network?

Yes. The more that we can have this information visualized not only for easy digestibility by people who aren't analysts, but also to be able to get this in front of senior leaders for decision making, that would be ideal.

9. How does the capability you want to develop relate to PSYOP doctrine and training?

So probably the biggest relationship here is that we are looking at target audiences. We would want people to consider target audience analysis. So all of that coming straight out of the doctrine related to how we conduct psychological operations, and I would say that with many things in this space where we're evolving in kind of new territory and how we see influence happening online when you get into the training piece, you know you look at this space is evolving more rapidly than sometimes we're able to kind of train to. And so, just with that in mind. It's. It's one of those things where a new tool or capability in the space can sometimes influence the kind of training that we end up doing because of how much more rapidly this space is changing.

10. What does SOCOM consider a reasonable feasibility study? Should competing approaches be developed and considered all in the Phase I?

So in the Phase I topic itself, it gives you an explanation of what SOCOM expects in a feasibility study. I won't read the whole thing, but I'll read just a couple of sentences that will answer the question. So, "the objective of this USSOCOM Phase I SBIR effort is to conduct and document the results of a thorough feasibility study to investigate what is in the art of the possible within the given trade space that will satisfy a needed a technology. The feasibility study should investigate all options that need to exceed the minimum performance parameters specified in this write-up." and then it continues. So, the bottom line is the whole purpose of a Phase I Feasibility Study is what's in the art of the possible, and we're hoping that what is in the art of the possible is going to be a solution that satisfies Steve's technology need.

11. Is SOCOM looking for a solution to monitor domestic and international narrative?

So I would say our major areas of concern usually revolve around a kind of global competition issues. And so, from that perspective, the international narratives are going to be what we're looking at a little bit more just based on our focus.

12. Does this need to be real-time or near real-time?

I don't want to dissuade anybody from trying to achieve real time. I think that would be amazing. But I think realistically near real time is probably more feasible in terms of actually collecting the data that needs to be part of the analysis, conducting that analysis, and then having it visually represented on something. From all past experiences I've seen trying to collect data from social media platforms, they usually involve some kind of lag time in that. And so yes, getting near real time is ideal.

13. Does SOCOM have a preference as to how an industry solution should be deployed (e.g., cloud, on-premise, edge deployment)?

We don't want to put too many constraints on a vendor, and what their solution looks like. We've worked with different types of solutions before. The end goal for us is to be



able to have something that – the more local the better. Whether we have it on a cloud or whether we have it on-premise. But there are certainly plenty of solutions out there where we still go and access a vendor system to be able to get the information or data. So, again, I'm not going to constrain anybody in that environment as long as we're getting the required capability. That's what we care about.

14. Can you explain the granularity of time (i.e., Days, hours, minutes) solution needs to meet?

I'm going to assume that that means how quickly do we want the analysis from the data? Similar to that real time vs. near real time question. I'm not expecting that anybody is going to be able to achieve completely real time analysis. That would be fantastic if you could do that. Though I would say that what I have seen kind of from industry in the past is that people can reproduce this within hours. And so, I would say, that's kind of an expectation that I think has been able to be set by others in this space. If you mean granularity of time in relation to the narrative analysis, then I would say that I don't necessarily want to set a constraint on the time window, for what we're gathering. With that, there are many narratives that exist for a much longer time across the information environment, and there are many narratives that come and go very rapidly, and so I don't want to constrain that window of time of how much it looks at the narrative

15. Are there any specific narratives and/or geographical areas of interest?

This phase I SBIR is about demonstrating a capability. For our purposes. I just mentioned global power competition. Every geographical area is of interest. In terms of specific narratives, the guidance I would give you is that, whatever you're doing, it must be replicable. It must be, in a sense, generalizable to other data sets or other populations. I'll give you an example: a lot of people took the 2016 election data set from Twitter, and did a lot of analyses on that, to show all sorts of examples of things that they could do. A lot of those demonstrations did not necessarily generalize or carry over or were replicable in many other circumstances. And so, we want to avoid that. I would just say, choose specific narratives for your um demonstration that are going to be replicable in generalizable.

16. Is the vision to track narratives in public posts only?

This is a matter frankly of data collection, and how difficult it is to get the kind of data that we would want. To answer this question, I'll just say what is feasible, and I understand that public posts are going to be more feasible to collect that kind of data, but also to get after what kind of narratives are actually appearing in different types of social media platforms or information environments. There are certainly cases where you want to be able to get into channels that are not necessarily public. And what I mean, Telegram is a perfect example where a lot of those channels are kind of stove-piped, if you will. And so it's not necessarily that you're pulling from a large public file of information for that.

17. Is there an existing analytics layer that will need to be interfaced with?

Ideally, we would like to be able to incorporate it with some of the analytical layers that we already run here. However, that is not a constraint or limitation that we want to put on anybody. If you are producing something that is a fantastic data graphical



representation of the analysis that's being performed to show what it is that we're looking for with narrative evolution, and if it exists on your system, that's how we have to access it, then so be it. We can talk about integration later. We certainly don't need to solve that during a Phase I.

18. Tracking all narratives would very challenging. Are there further delineations such as tracking specific disinformation? Is there criteria for tracking?

So, again, this is a Phase I, a demonstration of capability. So I'm certainly not asking you to go out and track all narratives across time and space. And I'm not going to specifically tell you which narratives you need to go out and track. I think it's a matter of which ones do you feel can provide a good representation of the capability? And, like I said, can it be replicable and generalizable? Disinformation is one of the big things that we track. And it is one of the things that is important to us. So, it's certainly a consideration. But, like I said, I don't want to put anybody into a box, if you will, on what it is that they have to demonstrate for this.

19. Often narratives start in other digital spaces. Does the customer wish to track the migration and growth of stories across mediums other than social?

I think that's a great question in terms of often we do look at social media platforms as really building those social networks, and how we see these kind of conversations and narratives shift. But whoever wrote this in that's a great point that yes, they may start in other forums or areas that we're not necessarily looking at. And so, if you can demonstrate how they change across those different mediums, then yes, that would be value added absolutely.

20. Are you looking for a market report of possible technical solutions or a proposed approach with some amount of comparative alternatives research included?

No, I do not want on a market report, and as far as proposed approach, this Phase I is really a demonstration. It's a feasibility study to show that somebody can actually perform this work, and that it can be built on and that's something that can be generalizable across all of our areas of interest and across the information environment.

21. Are we expected to propose costs for access to data from these platforms? Or will SOCOM provide access?

No, SOCOM will not provide access to data. So, what is the cost for you to be able to access the data from these platforms? Build on that assumption that there is not some kind of existing data lake to draw this information from.

22. What is SOCOM's specific use case for an industry solution? Will an industry solution selected for Phase II (or a Phase III) be used solely by analysts?

It would not be used solely by analysts. In fact, in the case of what we do, we're trying to get further away from solutions that are built for analysts, in particular. We're specifically trying to get solutions that make information easily accessible and digestible by operators, by planners, and by the people who are putting information in front of decision-makers to quickly make decisions. And so in terms of a specific use case, you know there's a number of people within SOCOM that is working within the information environment space, or, has operations in the information environment as part of their mission. That's the potential use case.



23. Is there an interest in an emerging platform like Mastodon where data and API access may be more available for a Phase I feasibility study?

To answer that question, I'll just say that if it fits into the objective of the SBIR which is to show us "is it feasible?" and can you demonstrate the capability? And that's the route in which you're demonstrating that this capability can be done, then yes. But again, I'm not trying to tell anybody which tools they need to use or constrain anybody in their approach.

24. who will be responsible of acquiring API access from the different vendors?

I'm assuming that by "vendors," you mean social media companies. Whoever is building these proposals, it is your job right to figure out how to get the data that you need to do this analysis. Part of this whole effort is that collecting this kind of data is a challenge, and that challenge is built into the SBIR.

25. Twitter research licenses preclude the use of data in certain ways and sponsors. Can we focus on other sources such as Telegram, Mastodon, and other sources?

That is up to each submitter. Certainly, that can be part of the proposal or part of the feasibility study is what are the constraints surrounding, how you are collecting that data or getting that data. And also, how do you build the interface for your data analysis and visualization based on your customer base

26. What techniques has SOCOM tried to solve this problem in the past?

There are many different companies out there that provide some kind of data analysis interface based on doing like either social network analysis or trying to understand pieces of the information environment. And our experience is that we just we haven't really found something that provides us with the amount of detail and information that we need in a timely manner at this point. All of that to say there's been a number of efforts to identify. Where are we getting the data from? How do we collect that data? And then how do we aggregate, analyze, and visualize that data? And the reason that we're doing this SBIR is because none of those have panned out so far.

27. Can UK firms participate?

So, the Congress is really the answer to this question. They use this small business set aside program for U.S. companies, small businesses incorporated in the United States, and so only U.S. Small Businesses are eligible to participate in the SBIR program

28. Can awardees anticipate having direct access to potential end users, including operators and analysts?

Yes, but it is metered. We try as best as possible to gather and articulate requirements from the end users to make sure that it's being represented with you well, and we then try to protect those end users time as much as humanly possible. Now, to build a good product, we understand that, you know you do need to interface with them at some point. So, yes, but don't expect completely open and direct access to them. You'll have that access to get information that you need to do some kind of feedback with them, but it's not going to be all the time.

29. You've mentioned demonstration - are you expecting a working prototype or demonstrating in the sense of a text document.

The actual demonstration of a prototype happens during Phase II. During Phase I, what we're needing to do is discover what's in the art of the possible, and by simple scientific

experimentation, and other lower level demonstrations from an engineering perspective. That would be appropriate to help determine what's in the art of possible. But for actually demonstrating a hard prototype at the end, that really is what should be reserved for phase II, and will depend on what SOCOM determines, would be the best solution to help satisfy the problem.

30. Please confirm: it is understood that no data relating to U.S. citizens should be used for demonstration and experimentation?

That's correct. SOCOM is part of the DoD, and the DoD is interested in international issues and definitely does not want to have U.S. citizen data. In terms of legal concerns that you may have in terms of just rolling up large amounts of data, just know that if you're, for instance, pulling a ton of data from, let's call it Ukraine, and there happens to have been a U.S. Citizen who is on a message board, and their information got pulled up in your large data pull, that's not going to cause any issues that people understand that on the internet, anybody can be anywhere. But yes, we would never target or intentionally want to have U.S. citizen data.

31. How interested are you in long term narrative projection? How long term is "long term"? In regards to " project long-term narratives among social networks".

Long-term narratives, again, I didn't want to set a specific parameter just because of how long narratives can exist within the information environment, or really important narratives might pop up and not exist for very long. Now, regarding long-term narrative projection, that is one of those cases where, if something has shown, I would say it should be comparable to the maybe historical trends of how long that particular narrative has existed in space. And so, for a much longer-term narrative, I would expect that you would be able to project out more information about that narrative over time versus a narrative that's only kind of come into existence over the course of a day or two, we would expect there the projection to be a lot more limited.

32. How would a user interact with narratives? Can you give an example interaction?

So, if somebody was handed information about how a narrative is being how it is evolving over time, what that provides is utility in understanding what else can be done in the information space. So, if we know what the target audience is, how they're reacting to certain narratives, or where we think those narratives are going, there are opportunities for other players in the information space to identify what other actions might be needed to make sure that the right kind of behaviors are projected, or are being influenced, based on the types of objectives that are planned for

33. Can the work split between teammates be more even or do we need to stick to the listed 2/3 work by Prime?

This is again dictated by Congress that during a phase I, the prime on the phase I contract has to do 2/3 of the work, and they could subcontract out a 1/3 of the work to another small business, potentially I even think a large business is eligible to participate, but the minimum amount of work for a phase I SBIR topic is 2/3. The Prime has to do 2/3 of the work.

34. Is there a minimum number of social media platforms we must incorporate into our proposal?



I'm not trying to establish a minimum. However, as I've said before, it needs to be replicable and generalizable across different platforms. I don't want to give you guys a specific number, but we don't want anything that is only tailored to one specific platform.

35. Is SOCOM looking for industry solutions that will be tuned for specific meaning in narrative content that has been created in languages other than English?

Yes, we definitely have an interest in that, again, internationally, is our is our scope. Really kind of any language is potentially on the table. We would be looking at capability that is able to make sense of narratives, regardless of the language that it's in.

36. Exactly what problem is SOCOM trying to solve?

To reiterate kind of what was put forward in the SBIR, the information space has evolved dramatically, and the way that things such as narratives dictate how people think and therefore behave has really grown both in terms of what we can now observe and see in the way that it's shaping people's behaviors, and also in the way that it is changing the way that you know people act in geographic spaces. All of it all of this just growing tremendously in the last twenty years and so what we're trying to do is get ahead of this problem, or at least catch up with this problem in terms of better understanding of how to measure what's happening in the space, and therefore be able to do something, either preemptively or if maybe reactively, but most importantly just understand how we can track things in the space and better be prepared for how to action it as needed.

37. Can you define a narrative?

The reflection of a sequence of events associated with a synthesis of voices, exchange of information which conveys a story or concept that captures collective experiences and relationships across connected social engagements.

38. What are the license expectations for the IP developed or demonstrated in this SBIR?

We're not tracking license expectations. The SBIR program has embedded in it SBIR data rights for proprietary information that is developed under the SBIR program, which is good for 20 years. But that has to do with SBIR data rights. I'm not so sure that answers the question about license expectations.

Perhaps if you mean like the company, and what they're providing as a service to the Government, then, certainly in the past, what we've seen is that a company develops a solution, and the government still has to license that solution. You've seen that happen before, there's no constraint on that. If that is your solution, I'm not saying one way or the other which way you have to go with that.

39. If we already have this capability built out and in production, is it possible to move straight to Phase III?

We do these Phase I feasibility studies to see everything that is out there. We don't go straight to Phase III with this. In the solicitation, we're specifically asking for Phase I feasibility studies and the purpose is to canvas industry, not maybe just for stuff that already exists, but it's to continue to develop what is in the art of the possible so we can select the best solution that's going to satisfy Steve's technology requirements. So no, we would not be going direct, we would not be looking for a Phase III as the result of this advertisement.





40. Can a university be a sub? Can this be submitted as a STTR?

Yes, the University can submit it. The University can be a sub, but this is an SBIR. What that means is that the University input could only be 1/3 of the total Phase I work effort. We are advertising this as an SBIR, so it has to be submitted as an SBIR solution. That goes and answers the question that we would not be able to consider an STTR. The rules for those two different programs are very much different.

41. Do we want to track narrative and attribute it to the user? Or do we see narrative as separate from user and therefore attribution tracking is not important?

The thing that matters the most is the narrative. Yes, however, where there is benefit in being able to attribute certain things to users is, take the case of who is creating influence within a space and how are other people connected to that one person who is creating that influence. I think, while the bigger question is, can we identify what the narratives are in these spaces. It is very relevant and could be very useful to know who those users are within that as well.

42. Does the business if it is a small business, need to be registered with SBA as a small business?

The simple answer is, yes. You can submit a proposal without yet being a small business. But if the proposal that you are submitting is one that SOCOM would like to fund, you would have to be incorporated as a small business in the United States in order to receive a Phase I.

43. Can you give examples of types of clustering you would be interested in seeing on a narrative?

There's a couple of things at play here. There are clusters that may be associated with the type of target audience that you're observing in terms of where this narrative is coming from, and so things may cluster based on demographic variables that may cluster based on values or interests. Then you also have that you don't want to fully constrain something either, in terms of its exploratory. It's like, you're doing an exploratory factor analysis, you have an idea of what you're looking for, but you want to let the data speak for itself sometimes as well. In terms of clustering, that's where I would just say, don't force clusters per se, but certainly clusters can be revealing of segmentation of target audiences.

44. Is SOCOM looking for a solution that can be used for both Defense (internal) as well as capable of being commercialized?

We're always looking for something that the Government can plug and play with. The ideal solutions out there are the ones where the government owns, at least a part of the solution, whether it's code or something like that we can continue to use. And certainly, there's the case for you to continue to do business with a company that builds and develops those types of things. But a real win for government uses being able to own part of this solution. As far as capability for being commercialized, I think there is an understanding that as part of the SBIR program that you're developing something, you are a small business, you are providing a commercial capability, and so certainly you know the Government is not trying to stop you from being able to continue to utilize what you've built. As I've mentioned before, there are many cases where the solution is





still something that ends up being licensed through a provider anyway. You've got both of those lanes there in terms of expectations for how that solution is implemented.

45. Are you interested in AI solutions which address translations to English from OCONUS AoRs?

Yes, absolutely. We are really interested in worldwide, so we would say every language, but it really you can break it down to a lot of the more of the languages that tend to be more predominant across geographic areas and kind of influential online. Absolutely looking for the more automation or kind of machine intelligence that can be built into something where our people are not having to do translations, or, just do any of the button pushing themselves the better that is.

46. Are you interested in capabilities that can add to or combat the narratives?

The idea of identifying the narratives is to look at what are some options that we have to work with in that space. How do we respond to these? How do we track these? What's important? What do we need to do with the information that we have about these narratives? That's not within the scope of this SBIR is looking at capabilities for adding to or combating the narratives. There may be suggestions built in somehow but no additional capability.

47. Will an industry solution be used widely by SOCOM, or by a specific group comprising operators within SOCOM?

That answer depends on how well that solution fills the need of a number of different groups within SOCOM that might use the tool. The more that it can provide actionable information and the more far-reaching it could be in terms of being applicable across the SOCOM enterprise. I can't give you a definitive answer on that other than to say that it could be far or if the capability becomes too niche, then it would be a much smaller group.

48. Can you provide information on the types of narratives you are interested in? For example, are civil unrest, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction of interest?

I don't want to constrain anybody in terms of the types of narratives that you are providing that you are using to demonstrate the capability or be able to determine what the feasibility is of doing this. Now, certainly within your question, you are touching on things that are of interest to us. SOCOM is definitely interested in things like civil unrest, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, so you are on track with the types of narratives that we certainly are interested in, pertaining to military type of objectives that are related to security and stability. However, I do want to reiterate that I am not trying to constrain anybody into a particular type of narrative that you need to demonstrate in terms of this feasibility study.

49. Please Confirm: You are exclusively interested in narratives, and not personas.

That could be read a couple of different ways and so, for the sake of this conversation here, I am going to say - Yes, we are exclusively interested in narratives. To the point, though of a similar question that somebody had about attribution - what I assume is they meant, "who are the users who are a part of this larger narrative?" Yes, we're still interested in "Who are the users? Who are the people that are part of this narrative?" I do want to create that delineation.





50. Is there a direct link to the sample / template tech volume that was mentioned in the initial documentation?

The tech volume information that is required to be described in the USSOCOM specific instructions are more detailed in the DOD instructions and the 23.4 broad agency announcement.

51. If there is a solution that is at Prototype maturity, will SOCOM consider going right to a phase II SBIR?

No. This is a Phase I.

52. Should the proposed solution address data access/collection, or should the solution start post-data collection?

I would say that ideally your solution should address data access and collection, because the concept is to get it across multiple social network platforms, so there needs to be a demonstration of how data is gathered across that space.

53. Will SOCOM accept a D2P2 proposal if a task-capable prototype already exists?

No, this is a Phase I.

54. If we are ready for phase 2 when does it begin?

There will be an evaluation process after phase one of the phase one firms and how their technology provides a solution and based upon that evaluation process SOCOM will make a determination on which phase two proposal and firm has the best chance of satisfying their needs.

55. You stated "demonstrate capability". At the same time, you stated "prototype to be set aside for Phase II". Can you differentiate?

If you take a look at the phase one topic write up, I understand the word demonstration sometimes is used in in the Phase one as well. It may be better stated that what we're looking for in Phase one is what is the art of the possible and how in that simple scientific experiments and laboratory studies would be the ways of determining what is in the art of possible. As opposed to Phase two, when we would typically look for something that is a deliverable prototype or a software that the Government could actually test.

56. Will there be sample data provided upon Phase I selection for industry to prove their solution feasible within the bounds that SOCOM requires?

As I mentioned before - No, the data should be provided through whatever means it is that you're demonstrating the capability.

57. It appears this is set up for submissions for Phase 1 proposals only and not direct to Phase 2, can you please confirm?

Yes, this is Phase I only.

58. When does SOCOM anticipate award of this Phase I SBIR?

Within 3 weeks after the close of the proposal suspense date.

59. It appears this is set up for submissions for Phase 1 proposals only and not direct to Phase 2, can you please confirm?

This is a phase 1 only. NOT direct to Phase 2.

60. Would a team of national security and language specialists (Ph.D. International Relations) who identify key terms to assist AI development fit this SBIR?





It sounds like that expertise and effort aligns with the SBIR, so long as the proposing team is capable of achieving the rest of the objectives laid out in the proposal.

61. What is SOCOMs current view on work for hire from foreign companies to provide data?

Congress created the SBIR Program as a small business set aside program for U.S. incorporated firms only. Foreign companies are excluded from participating in the SBIR Program.

62. Is there any support to smaller organizations that have never filed a SBIR proposal?

You may find assistance with the Small Business Development Centers, SOFWERX and webinars that many of the participating DoD Components have. Also search www.sbir.gov and google for preparing SBIR proposals.

63. Are there publication restrictions from work on this sbir?

Before any SOCOM SBIR topic publication can be released to the public, the publication must be approved by the SOCOM SBIR Contracting Officer after a operational security review is conducted.

64. What sort of access can we expect to have during the Phase I execution to talk to potential SOCOM users? Industry customer discovery typically seeks interviews

Access to end users will be available, but will be limited based on the information needs and the preparedness of the contracted company to engage with users.

65. Is SOCOM/SBIR enabling partnering opportunity for interested parties?

The decision to partner remains with the participating SBIR firms.

66. Is there a fundamental research carveout?

No, this effort is a feasibility study to determine what is in the art of the possible. The focus of the feasibility study is to develop an innovative technology that will eventually transition to satisfy a technology need.

67. Should the solution be social media platform agnostic, or should the solution be specific to a certain social media platform?

The solution should generalize and be replicable across many social media platforms, ideally platform agnostic if possible.

68. Will user community be available for collaboration during the SBIR period of performance?

Yes on a case-by-case basis. We provide access to end users but also want to respect their time as much as possible. Any user community interaction will be vetted and rehearsed prior to engagement.

69. For phase 2. For commercial solutions... is there funding available?

Funding for commercial applications would have to be provided by the commercial entities interested in transitioning the technologies.

70. can awardees anticipate having direct access to potential end users?

Yes, on a case-by-case basis. We provide access to end users but also want to respect their time as much as possible. Any user community interaction will be vetted and rehearsed prior to engagement.

71. Should a solution have its own socmint connections, or can it hook up (API) to an existing defense socmint aggregator?

The solution should provide its own data.





72. Can a small business partner with a larger business if the application is submitted and driven by the small business?

Yes, but the small business must be the prime contractor and must do 2/3 of the work.

73. Are there any other avenues to demonstrate a solution to this challenge developed by UK SME's?

Unfortunately not.

74. Would participation of a foreign national student from some countries automatically disqualify or reduce the chances of being funded?

Yes. Foreign Nationals are generally disqualified from participating in the SBIR

Program unless they have green cards. Otherwise, each case would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

