

GLOBAL COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 3 MAY 2024

1. *QUESTION: Answering the 5 main questions can look quite different if the sponsor needs an answer is 6 weeks, 6 months, or 16 months. These will not only impact time and costs, but also research design as we seek to ensure that research outputs are also useful decision inputs. Moreover, we understand that the first year of the contract will feature 4 questions. Is there an expectation that we would divide resources evenly across all four questions, assume that this sample represents one big study and others may be smaller, or something else?*

We recognize that you may not be able to address these meta issues so we want to know if we can, at least, offer some initial framing and assumptions about these topics so that an actual SOW on this question (if this becomes a live topic) can be adjusted to expectations we may be unaware of.

Also, we have interpreted the 5 pillars of GCA mentioned in the research topic description to refer to the 5 research questions that are organized about the 3 GCA pillars as identified in the Round 1 NFO – Ecosystem, technology, and policy. While intuitive, can you confirm we are making the correct interpretation on this?

ANSWER: Response times may vary once the award is in place. For the purposes of the proposal, assume a response time of 12 months.

For the research topic, the language has been changed to:

“The research plan should describe how the proposers’ approach to competitive analysis, as described in the white paper, would be utilized to address the topic areas across elements 1-5. Those elements being:

1. *GCAT and product flow management*
2. *Deliver Global Competitive Analysis Products*
3. *Subject matter expert outreach*
4. *Engineering Extrapolation and Technology Forecasting*
5. *Process and tradecraft development”*

2. *QUESTION: Biosketch: Is there a preferred Biosketch template for the Researchers to use? In searching the web I have found the ebrap template but it also looks like it’s mostly for the CDMRP program. <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm> under generic forms for application submission (Suggested CDMRP Biographical Sketch) MS word doc. Please note that the form section in the grants.gov application does have a red asterisk so this is a required section.*

ANSWER: No, there is no template required.

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3. *QUESTION: Current & Pending forms: I see under the Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile section that there is an upload field for Current & Pending forms. Are these required? There is not a red asterisk (meaning the system will let us submit without this form) but I want to confirm that this is not a required form from the agency's standpoint?*

ANSWER: Yes, the Research and Related Senior/ Key Person Profile form is required.

4. *QUESTION: Sub-award budgets and budget justifications: There is no location in the grants.gov application to upload sub-award budgets and justifications. Is it ok if I include them with the budget justification as one single document? My concern though is that the document could exceed the size limit.*

ANSWER: Yes, sub-award budgets and justifications can be included in the budget justification as one single document. Please work within the document size limitations.

5. *QUESTION: Research Plan: There is no location in the grants.gov application to upload the 12 page Research Plan. My plan was to upload the Research Plan under the Project Narrative, under Optional Project Narrative Files. Please let me know if this will cause an issue or rejection for our application?*

ANSWER: Yes, that is acceptable.

6. *QUESTION: As to providing a proposal narrative in this second round, there is no mention in the funding opportunity of a page limit, whereas the first round submission had a 10 page limit and the special topic request has a 12 page limit. Could the review panel please clarify whether there is a page limit to the proposal narrative?*

ANSWER: The page limit for the revised proposal narrative should still be 10 pages. The special topic request is a separate document with a page limit of 12 pages.