

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Strengthening Effective CTF Compliance – SFOP0005795
Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT)
U.S. Department of State

Please refer to the questions below for answers regarding the RSOIC. If you do not see a question/answer below, you may reach out to Natalie Balents: BalentsNM@state.gov.

The RSOIC announcement document indicates that the SOIC should be three pages, while the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document indicates that the SOIC should not exceed four pages. Could you please confirm whether the SOIC page limit is three or four pages? **The SOIC should be no more than four [4] pages.**

Noting that there is a limit of one application per organization, could you advise on whether an organization's SOIC can contain multiple project proposals, or if an organization can only propose one project in its SOIC? **CT's preference is that an organization submit one project per proposal, but a project can have multiple activities, objectives and lines of effort as appropriate.**

If an organization's SOIC is deemed eligible by the CT Bureau panel review and then participates in the co-creation workshop, would that organization be required to submit a proposal building on the SOIC it submitted or would there be scope to substitute and/or substantially revise the final proposal(s)? **The scope of the proposal, while it should reflect the strengths and expertise of the organization, can evolve during the co-creation process due to the exercises and discussions that will take place. However, it should not be a major departure from your original thesis and solution to the problem set.**

Following the co-creation workshop, will the SOICs be formulated into NOFOs and released in an open solicitation process, or will there be a closed tender process for organizations that participated in the co-creation workshop? **A NOFO will be formulated immediately following the co-creation workshop, and it will be posted in a limited/ directed solicitation for those who were present and participated in the co-creation workshop.**

Are there specific priorities of illicit financial flows DoS/CT is looking to combat? Our priority is counter-terrorism finance and how high treat countries can reduce or mitigate this impact by implementing FATF standards and recommendations. The origin of the financial flow is inconsequential as long as it aims to finance terrorism and/or terrorist networks.

Can applicants use graphics, images, and/or callouts in their responses? If so, are there restrictions on their use? You can include whatever visual element in your SOIC as long as it stays within the page limit (4 pages).

The RSOIC states: "the proposal clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of primary staff under this project." Are "primary staff" considered "key personnel" and does the Bureau of Counterterrorism consider these terms interchangeable? Yes, "primary staff" is a term that we consider interchangeable with "key personnel."

The RSOIC states: “organizations submitting SOICs must meet the following criteria.” Should applicants meet all or just some of the criteria listed? If some, which criteria must be met by applicant organizations? Applicants must meet the criteria listed.

What type of award does the government intend to make (contract, cooperative agreement, grant, etc.?) This is yet to be determined, but will be a cooperative agreement or grant.

How will government evaluate price and cost effectiveness of the submissions received? A panel will convene to evaluate proposal submissions in coordination with the awarding office in compliance with department standards and regulations.

What does “pre-established” and “an overseas non-governmental organization” mean? Pre-established presence under the eligibility information category refers to the presence of staff, offices or some physical presence that demonstrates your organization’s involvement prior to the issuance of the RSOIC. An overseas non-governmental organization refers to either a NGO, non-profit, charity or foundation that falls into the category of non-governmental and not for profit.

The PSI states that applicants should use the provided budget template for their budgets. Will the government provide applicants with the appropriate budget template? CT will provide applicants with the appropriate budget template for the directed NOFO, which may follow the RSOIC. You can create a general budget using your own template at this time.

How does the government define “civilian law enforcement”? Civilian law enforcement refers to police law enforcement units such as units under the MoI. Department policy prohibits personnel assigned to an intelligence agency or military unit from participating in any NADR funded activities.