

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Contracts and Procurement, DMA-30, Room 7104, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20590

Multimodal Cargo Container Transportation and Security

DTRS56-02-BAA-0002, OPEN ANNOUNCEMENT, POC Cynthia Barzey, (202) 366-6986

CONTRACT INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Special Programs Administration is soliciting information and descriptions (white papers), not to exceed five pages per project, on a technical or project activity addressing areas of interest described in this Broad Agency Announcement (BAA). White papers must include the offeror's contact information: point of contact, telephone number, fax number, and email address. Please include in a cover letter the contact information and a synopsis stating the concept, anticipated results and potential payoff to container security. The cover letter is not included as part of the five- page limit.

SPECIAL NOTE: This announcement will be open for twelve months and closes on March 12, 2003, unless otherwise amended. The purpose of this BAA is to solicit white papers on innovative concepts or new applications of proven technology, methods or processes for reducing the risk and vulnerability of cargo container transportation systems to terrorist actions or mechanisms that may endanger the security of container transportation systems and ensure the security of end-to-end movement of cargo containers. The objective is to achieve cargo container security on a global basis from the point of origin to the final destination in the United States via marine vessels and inter-modal systems, such as: ports, rail, truck, and highway systems.

SCOPE: This announcement is soliciting white papers on new or innovative methods, processes, and technologies that could be applied to container security through products, information systems, business practices and systems management. Some examples of white paper topics could include:

- Real time risk management systems that can be scaled to address vulnerabilities and different levels of security threats.
- Comprehensive risk profiling systems for container traffic including assessment of patterns, trends and performance of security systems.
- Advanced systems for tracking container shipments from the point of loading and unloading at ports, conveyance and transportation in inter-modal systems and delivery to a customer.
- Approaches for interlinking data on container information and cargo status including manifest information into a centralized national or global database.
- Systems for identifying critical gaps in flow of container cargo information, processing, analysis and fusion of information for tracking containers and cargo between foreign ports and U.S. ports.
- Technologies for remote or non-intrusive and timely detection of contraband materials including

high energy release materials, explosives and weapons of mass destruction (WMD), chemical and biological agents, radiological materials or other hazardous materials or destruction mechanisms present in and around containers in single mode and multiple mode methods of cargo shipments.

- Automated tracking and communication systems to report the status of container movements in transportation with capabilities to detect intrusions, anomalies or any attempts that compromise container integrity and sealing.
- Advanced and tamper resistant sealing technologies including electronic seals for loaded and empty containers that produce a high level of sustained sealing integrity and performance, regardless of the mode of shipment and handling of the cargo.
- Automated methods and tests to rapidly validate container sealing, integrity and sealing performance.
- Concepts for advanced and self-contained design of containers with built in capabilities for communication, intrusion detection and cargo status.
- Low cost and disposable electronic seals with electronic ID's that record container designation and continuously record status and provide tampering alerts.
- Long life battery technologies incorporated in containers to power electronic seals and self-contained communication capabilities.
- Rapid and systematic inspection techniques for timely detection of potential anomalies in container sealing at any stage of the container handling process.

WHITE PAPERS: DOT is soliciting white papers from state and local governments, consortia, industry and academia on their activities dealing with the topics described above. The concepts should address one of the following two types of Research and Development (R&D) and product implementation: **Type 1** - Innovative application of proven products methods or systems that are potentially deployable to container security practice within six (6) months or **Type 2:** - New concepts for products, which, if proven successful, could be developed and deployed for application to container security practice in the near term, within eighteen (18) months. The proposal should clearly indicate the type of proposed investigation. Each white paper, not to exceed five pages, must include sufficient information for the panel to evaluate against the evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria are listed below.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- 1) Technical merit of the innovation for application to container security practice,
- 2) Potential payoff for improving the security of container transportation,
- 3) Time scale for developing and/or implementing products and results to practice,
- 4) Cost for completing the development and/or implementation and cost sharing, and
- 5) Technical background and institutional resources available to perform the project.

All of the above factors are of equal importance.

TECHNICAL REVIEW/EVALUATION: A panel will meet monthly to review the white papers submitted in response to this announcement. The panel will consist of experts from modal

administrations within the Department of Transportation (DOT) and from other agencies. The panel will use the stated evaluation criteria. Offerors will be advised of the panel's recommendations.

RSPA intends to present the white papers selected by the panel to the appropriate administrations and program offices within the Department of Transportation for further consideration. The applicable DOT office will then contact the offeror about the disposition of its white paper. The offeror will also be provided guidelines for preparing and submitting full proposals for evaluation and negotiation, and for subsequent award of contracts or agreements.

GENERAL INFORMATION: This Broad Agency Announcement can be downloaded via the Internet at: <http://www.rspa.dot.gov> under Procurement Opportunities. In all correspondence to the RSPA Office of Contracts and Procurement, please reference the BAA No. DTRS56-02-BAA-0002. All white papers must be submitted to Cynthia D. Barzey, Research and Special Programs Administration, ATTN: DMA-30, 400 Seventh Street SW, Room 7104, Washington, D.C., 20590.

BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT: This FedBizOps notice, in conjunction with further announcement details available from the RSPA procurement Internet site address identified above, constitutes the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) as contemplated by FAR 6.102(d)(2). A formal Request for Proposals (RFP) or other type of solicitation regarding this announcement will not be issued. **AT THIS TIME FUNDS HAVE NOT BEEN APPROPRIATED FOR THIS REQUIREMENT. NOTHING IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE CONSTRUED AS A COMMITMENT BY DOT/RSPA TO AWARD ANY OF THE PROJECT AREAS IDENTIFIED ABOVE.** Evaluation panels will periodically review all white papers for responsiveness to the evaluation areas stated in this BAA. Offerors providing white papers selected for further consideration and meeting the criteria of this BAA will be notified with possible suggestions for change in scope and detailed guidelines for submitting full proposals. No discussions will be held between an offeror and the Government's technical staff after submission of a white paper without the Contracting Officer's prior approval. It is DOT/RSPA's desire to encourage the widest participation, including the involvement of individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations, small and small disadvantaged businesses, educational institutions, state or local governments, and/or other entities.