



Welcome and introduction

- Who we are
- What we do
- How we do it

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02.23.11



Who We Are

- The flagship Open Government initiative for the Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Commitment to transparency, participatory government, and open competitions
- VAI2 creates opportunities for the Department to test new ideas
 - From VA employees, academia, and the private sector.
- Focus is on improving access, increasing quality, driving down cost, and driving up satisfaction throughout the Department.

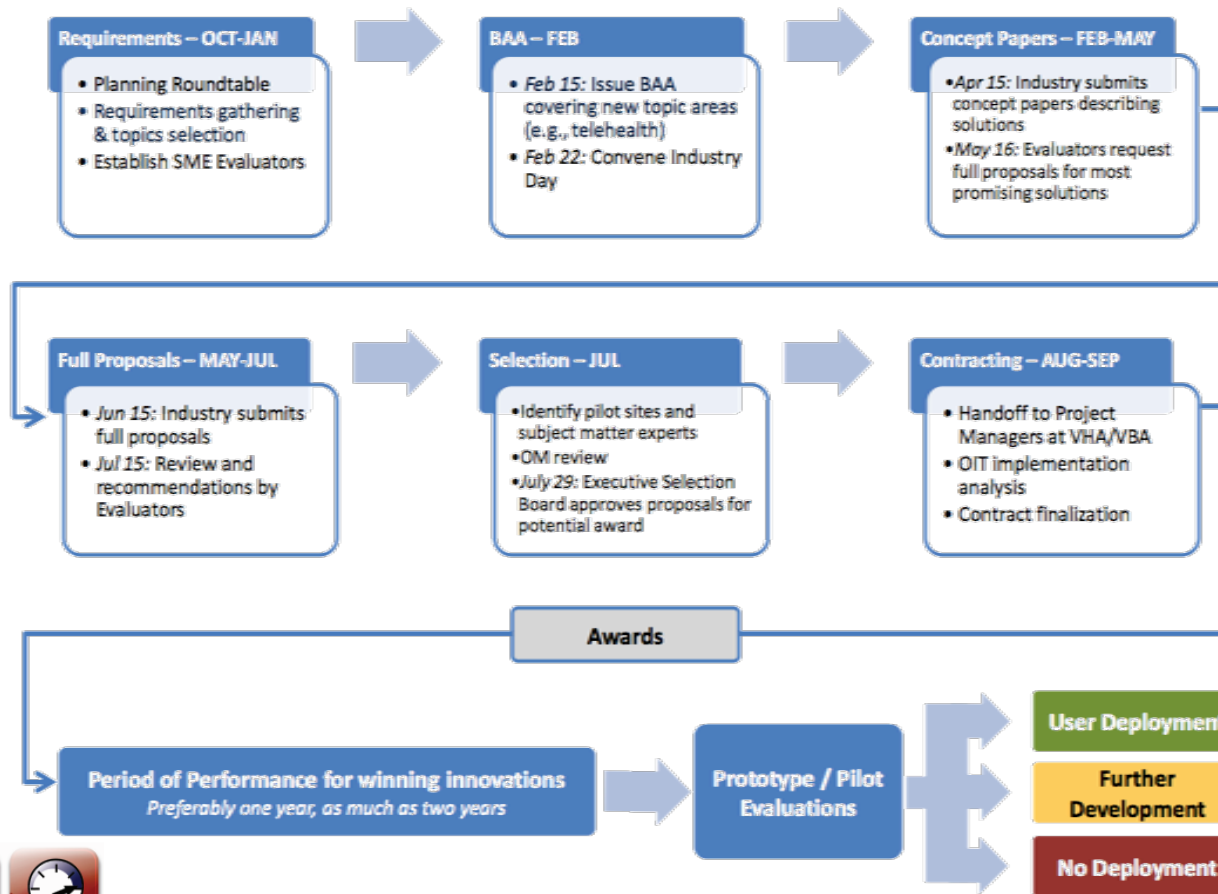


What We Do

- Employee competitions
- Industry competitions
- Special projects
- This design allows us to tap two rich sources of innovation - our workforce and private industry – while remaining flexible to new opportunities.



How We Do It





Contracting Overview

- BAA Process
- General Information
- Concept Paper Instructions
- Evaluation Criteria
- Notification Process

Carol Newcomb
Contracting Officer,
VA Technology Acquisition Center (TAC)

02.23.11



Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Process

- Issued under FAR 35.016 and 6.102(d)(2)(i)
- Full and open competition and fully compliant with PL 98-369, entitled “The Competition in Contracting Act of 1984”
- Not a grant; selected proposals may result in the award of a contract
- Does not commit the Government to make an award or pay concept paper or proposal preparation costs



General Information

- Two stages:
 - Concept paper submission
 - Invitation-only full proposal stage
- Concept papers are due April 15, 2011, no later than noon EDT
- Following a technical review, selected Offerors will be invited to submit full proposals
- Caution: An invitation to submit a full proposal does NOT guarantee a contract award



General Information (con'd)

- Seeking solutions that can be implemented in 12-24 months:
 - *Development*: New/untested ideas or novel customization of existing technologies
 - *Field Test*: Small-scale deployment of products/solutions new to the VA operating environment



General Information (con'd)

- Preference for firm-fixed price contracts
- Offerors must be registered in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR)
- All concept papers/proposals must be submitted electronically to VA's Virtual Office of Acquisition at <https://www.voa.va.gov/default.aspx?PageId=-2>



Differences between a competitive RFP and a BAA

- The primary purpose of a BAA is to advance the state of the art in a particular area of interest
- There is no common SOW/PWS (requirement); each offeror proposes its own unique technical solution under a specific topic
- BAA proposals are for unique solutions and are not evaluated against each other
- Scientific/technical review process; technical competition in the “marketplace of ideas”



Concept Paper Preparation Instructions

- Concept paper shall succinctly describe the innovation in eight (8) pages or less
 - Technical review of this paper will determine VA's interest in receiving a full proposal
 - Must submit a concept paper to be invited to submit full proposal
- In addition, Offerors must submit a single-page summary slide
- Only Offerors who are invited may submit full proposals



Evaluation Criteria

- Concept papers and proposals will be evaluated on their own merit; not compared against each other
- The following criteria will be used to evaluate all concept papers and proposals:
 - The potential impact, benefits, and contributions of the solution to the VA mission areas of interest
 - The quality of the proposed solution design
 - The quality of the proposed implementation plan
 - The scalability of the proposed solution
 - The Offeror's capabilities, related expertise/experience, facilities, techniques, or unique combinations of these that are integral factors for the achievement of proposal objectives
 - The cost-effectiveness of the solution in proportion to its potential impact/benefits



Notification Process

- Offerors whose concept papers lack technical merit or relevance to the areas of interest enumerated in this BAA, and/or whose content is not favorably assessed on the criteria above, and/or whose concept papers may fall in areas wherein funds are not expected to be available, will not be invited to submit a full proposal
- Upon completion of the concept paper evaluation, Offerors will be either:
 - Notified that the concept paper has not been selected (with a brief explanation)
 - Invited to submit a full proposal



Questions?

- All questions with their answers from this webinar will be posted on both FedBizOpps (www.fbo.gov) and the VAI2 website (www.va.gov/vai2)
- All questions regarding this BAA shall be submitted to the Contracting Officer, Carol Newcomb, at carol.newcomb@va.gov; all questions with their answers will be made available publicly

