

Innovative Solutions Canada Program

Challenge EN578-170003/27: Advanced Decision Support for First Responder Command and Control

Attachment 4

Question and Answer #9

This document contains a question and answer related to this challenge.

Question #9:

The Challenge problem Statement is quite clear in explaining that you are seeking a truly advanced (likely AI-based) Decision Support tool that provides/uses a novel form of presentation that goes beyond basic 'situational awareness'.

However, while the Desired Outcomes and Considerations also starts by talking about advanced decision support and visualization tools, the Essential (Mandatory) Outcomes then states that

'Proposed solutions *must*:

1. Position [users] to *leverage some aspect of* [Technology X]....
2. Position [users] to *leverage* [Technology Y]....'

(emphasis ours)

In other words, while the challenge seeks a well-stated functional capability outcome, the Pass/Fail Mandatory criteria is based, not on achieving the stated outcome, but rather on whether the proposed solution 'leverages some aspect of' 2 specific technologies, without offering any citation, documentation, reference or even reason why or how those 2 technologies are absolute pre-requisites to the functional capability described. The entire capability sought is actually fully encapsulated in the fourth Mandatory Outcome ('Improve the probability of making good decisions during high risk events, while reducing the cognitive load of incident command personnel'), but the evaluation criteria make it clear that the proposal will not be considered, even if it fully and completely meets this 4th Mandatory Outcome, if it doesn't 'somehow leverage' Technology X *and* Technology Y.

Can you please explain/clarify what is important here: achieving the functional capability required, or doing something as long as it 'somehow leverages' certain specific technologies?

Response #9:

"Achieving the functional capability required" as stated by the bidder is paramount; captured properly in Essential Outcome 4 and Essential Outcomes 1, 2, and 3 are essential to achieving that. The evaluation criteria requires that proposed solutions address all Essential Outcomes in order to be considered. This does not mean that Bidders are required to develop new technologies per se, rather they are intended to be considered as currently existing inputs into solution development.