

Questions and Answers

Foreign nationals –

Foreign nationals are welcome to apply. However, it is required to fill out a form for DHS (DHS 11055) if your project is selected. It is essentially a background check conducted by DHS. The basic process includes identification information being entered into a form and sent directly to DHS through a secure portal set up at Texas A&M, etc.). Once approved by DHS, the person may then work on the project.

Applying through NBER or CBTS –

If applying through CBTS, then please use the white paper template and follow the guidance at <https://cbts.tamu.edu/proposals> (to include the proposal guide and call for proposals). To apply through NBER, one does need to be an NBER affiliate. Awards through either will have roughly the same amount of funding. Specific questions may be directed to Dr. Heather Manley Lillibridge at heather.manley@tamus.edu for CBTS and to Elisa Pepe at epep@nber.org for submissions through NBER.

Flow-down requirements –

Projects submitted through either CBTS or NBER will be subject to the same flow-down clauses from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which is the sponsor. These are summarized in the proposal guide (<https://cbts.tamu.edu/files/2020/11/CBTS-Proposal-Guide-November-2020-1.pdf>); a copy of the full terms and conditions is available upon request.

Estimated period of performance –

We are hoping to notify offerors in late December or in January if they have been selected, and a virtual workshop will be planned for February 2021. For planning purposes, please use an estimated period of performance, Jan 2021 – December 2021.

Required documents for submission –

At this time, a white paper is required for submission.

- All information for the white paper needs to be included within the five (5) pages to include any tables, figures, bibliographies or references cited. The template will help guide you on required information and all details are in the proposal guide. We do not need a full CV, but the template has a spot to include a short bio.
- Budgets and corresponding budget justifications will be required for all selected projects.
- Please keep in mind that the CBTS awards are limited to \$60k in total costs (including indirect costs), and that needs to cover salary and one trip to the capstone conference in September 2021. This conference may be virtual, but as of right now, we are hoping to hold it in person in Cambridge, MA.

Eligibility –

Applications will be accepted from accredited U.S. higher education institutions, for-profit organizations, or an organization that meets the definition of non-profit in OMB Circular A-122, relocated to 2 CFR Part 230.

Exceptions

- Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.
- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) or laboratories funded by federal agencies are not eligible to apply. FFRDC employees may cooperate or collaborate with eligible applicants within the limits imposed by applicable legislation, regulations, and policies, are not eligible to serve in a principal leadership role, and may not receive salaries or in other ways augment their agency's appropriations through awards made by this program.
- Institution partnerships with foreign institutions are permitted but may require special justification and approval from CBTS and DHS.
- For-Profit organizations intending to apply may not include profit margins in their cost.
- CBTS is unable to fund federal government agencies.

Scope –

- Please see example research topics of interest contained on the CBTS website in the call for proposals. (<https://cbts.tamu.edu/files/2020/11/Call-for-Proposal-Guide.pdf>)
 - Published research topics are of the most interest
 - Broader assessments of resilience in general operations would be of less interest than specific case studies
 - While some offerors may propose identification of critical nodes in a supply chain, it is anticipated that most studies will be of specific concerns on the horizon.
- CBTS cautions against projects that would be considered to be human subjects research (e.g., use of surveys as an instrument). Given the requirement to comply with university and DHS human subjects regulations and approvals, CBTS would be concerned about the ability to complete work involving human subjects research in the condensed timeframe of the overall project.