Question	Answer
How will prize placement be determined?	Prize payments will be determined based on the overall performance of the proposed solution against the technical requirements and capabilities outlined in the solicitation.
Will there be a procurement based on this Prize Challenge?	There is no follow-on contract specifically designated for this prize challenge. However, the competitive process does allow for the possibility of a participant advancing to additional contract opportunities based on their performance and alignment with mission needs
Will this program interact with other DIU projects (Blue sUAS)?	People may have noticed two closely timed postings from DIU. The first, Counter-UAS Low Collateral Defeat, was released on Monday, the 5th, followed by the Low-Cost Sensing challenge on the 6th. While these efforts are complementary in nature, they are separate initiatives with no direct linkage between them
Are proposals disqualified if the prototype used for demonstration purposes has foreign components?	It depends. The NDA includes legal language that addresses critical components. For example, if your solution includes a UAS platform, and we were to move forward with a prototyping effort after the challenge, we would need to evaluate those components more closely—particularly as we work beyond counter-UAS efforts to support broader supply chain resiliency. This is something we would likely explore further during the interview phase. If you have concerns about a specific component, you're encouraged to note it in your proposal. That said, unless the test team advises otherwise, it's not expected to be a critical factor for progressing through the challenge itself
Are you open to proposals from companies based in other countries outside the U.S.?	Per the eligibility criteria, the challenge is open to both U.S. and international companies. However, all participants must have an active SAM.gov registration by the time of the Falcon Peak demonstrations. Additionally, all submissions will undergo a due diligence review. While international companies are welcome to apply, we reserve the right to determine which companies advance based on the outcome of that review and alignment with program requirements.
Will vendors get the final judging data?	We are committed to providing as much data back to vendors as possible. That said, there may be limitations on the type and amount of data we can share, which could vary depending on the vendor and the nature of the data. While we will make every effort to ensure meaningful feedback, certain restrictions may limit the full scope of what can be provided.
In regard to DIU's CUAS Low Cost Sensing Solution Challenge, is this a separate initiative from Falcon Peak, or is it combined? If we are already participating in Falcon Peak, do we also need to apply to the challenge?	Yes, if you want to be considered for a prize award, you must submit through the prize challenge. While the challenge and other activities are taking place concurrently as part of the overall Falcon Peak event, the prize challenge is a distinct process. You would not be eligible for a prize award without formally submitting to and participating in the challenge.
Are large businesses, including non-profit research institutions, eligible to bid?	Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria, you are eligible to participate.
We are asked to reduce false positives and false negatives below current best-in class; are we expected to pull these values from the literature or will they be provided for our modalities of interest (e. g. EO)	In your proposal, you should reference relevant literature or your own subject matter expertise to support your approach.
The proposal seems geared towards fixed site solutions. Are airborne solutions acceptable or preferred?	We're seeking a range of low-cost sensing solution sets across various modalities that can augment our existing point defense capabilities. There is no specific preference, we're open to air-based solutions, distributed ground systems, or other innovative approaches that align with the challenge objective.
What are the specific drone models used in the test? (Group 1 and Group 2 UAS is very wide	It is very wide. We'll say the specific threats that will be flow are not going to be shared with any of the participants of Falcon Peak ahead of time. There may be some data on specific subcategories as the test plan for Falcon Peak gets refined.
Will the drones employ the radio standards usually employed by Groups 1 & 2 UAVs	As part of the test plan, you can expect the opportunity to sense a wide variety of UAS using multiple approaches. While exact threat details won't be shared in advance, participants in the Low-Cost Sensing Challenge—as well as those involved in other Falcon Peak efforts—may receive some data on general subcategories as the test plan is refined. To address recent questions broadly: you'll receive a rough understanding of the types of systems involved, but not specific models or exact quantities prior to the event
Scenario density: will there be more than one drone penetrating the area at once? If so, what threat density?	For information regarding density, please see the response to the previous question.

Question	Answer
We are trying to align on the level of functionality desired for the ultimate production sensors. Is there any guidance regarding the target price point and volume anticipated so that we can dial in expectations accordingly? Even rough ballpark would be super helpful to steer our efforts.	To return to the question about cost estimates: you should provide a breakdown of your projected costs and include a comparison to what you consider the current best-in-class sensor within your modality. As mentioned earlier, there is potential for follow-on opportunities, but nothing is confirmed or guaranteed at this time, it's still too early to commit to any future figures.
How will the drones will appear in the scenario? Coming from a specific sector/direction? Or should we present a 360° solution?	Your proposal should clearly outline any limitations associated with your sensor, particularly those that may affect the planned test scenarios. The current test plan includes multiple approach vectors; however, we understand that there may be constraints—such as range limitations—that could restrict which vectors are viable. These limitations will not necessarily disqualify your solution, even if full 360-degree coverage is not available, but it is important that they are transparently addressed in your submission.
Is there any multi-domain/sensor dataset concerning the drones we're talking about available in your organisation or partners?	If the question is whether there will be pre-existing sensing data available for training an algorithm or similar use, the answer is no. That type of dataset will not be provided in advance. This challenge is intended to assess your current capabilities. However, if you're selected as a finalist, the demonstration may offer an opportunity to gather data that could inform any follow-on development you're pursuing.
If the technology is scalable and affordable enough, would DOD want to monitor other locations in addition to DOD bases? E.g., critical infrastructure, key cities	This effort is governed by a specific Department of Defense legal authority—Title 10 U.S. Code § 130i, which defines what the DoD is permitted to do and the mission areas it can support. I mention this because when it comes to interagency coordination, such as with local law enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or the Department of Energy. Those organizations operate under different legal authorities. So, while we may share information and coordinate with interagency partners, the DoD is not responsible for providing counter-UAS defense for critical infrastructure that falls outside of its jurisdiction.
Will the UAV's we plan on tracking for the demonstration be known to us before the day? Will we be given access to a representative transmitter before the event?	No, you will not be provided with a representative transmitter in advance. This reflects the core challenge we're facing, which is unpredictability. In real-world scenarios, we don't know what types of drones will be used against our installations. Some may not use commercial protocols, may lack an RF footprint, or could navigate using GPS waypoints or entirely novel methods that don't rely on RF or GPS at all. These are exactly the kinds of emerging threats we're looking to address through this challenge, and such scenarios may be represented in the test environment.
Will we need to incorporate any ITAR controlled components? (either Software, Hardware or data)?	No, that is not anticipated.
What frequency range are you expecting the UAV's to be transmitting?	We anticipate exposing you to a wide range of threat types. These may include rotary-wing or fixed-wing systems, some using standard commercial protocols and others using nontraditional or unknown methods. The intent is to simulate real-world conditions, where you won't have prior knowledge of the threat's command and control frequencies or techniques. This challenge is designed to reflect the uncertainty and variability faced in operational environments
End User Feedback: Can testimonials from previous deployments be included in our evaluation? Will feedback be collected exclusively from demonstration operators or can we bring existing users?	We will not permit external feedback outside of the official challenge event. We'll have designated representatives present, and it's important to maintain a level playing field for all participants. Allowing separate access or the ability to bring your own DoD stakeholders would create an unfair advantage, so that will not be allowed.
Will the government provide connectivity at the demonstration site, or must participants supply their own? Please clarify what constitutes 'custom/unique communications' in the flexibility requirement.	This ties back to the broader guidance we gave at the beginning. For those who may be less familiar with DIU solicitations, it's important that you clearly specify your system's power and communication requirements in your proposal. We included that instruction to ensure transparency, particularly if your solution requires something beyond the standard infrastructure typically found at a DoD facility or test range. Unique or nonstandard requirements may be considered as part of the evaluation criteria, so please be explicit in detailing what your system needs. We also want to specify that we are not set up to provide an open commercial internet. If you're requiring like a Wi-Fi mesh network or radiocoms between your sensors, that should be part of the solution that you bring and should be part of your proposal.
Please clarify 'detect' in the data export.	Detect in this context means identifying "is a UAS there or not."
What is the expected/required/tolerated latency of the detection (and tracking)?	Latency is not one of the specified solution requirements at this time. However, if latency is a key consideration for your solution, whether it represents a performance benefit or a potential trade off, you should clearly address that in your proposal.

Question	Answer
Can you identify anything about the geography/topology of the demo site at Eglin AFB?	To give you a general sense, you can use tools like Google Maps or Google Earth to get a visual overview of Eglin. If you're unfamiliar with the weather in Florida during that time of year, be aware that afternoon thunderstorms are common and could limit testing windows. In terms of terrain, expect rolling hills, some tree lines, and occasional obstructions. Eglin is located in an increasingly urbanized area, so you may also encounter both human infrastructure and local wildlife throughout the site. Additional details regarding the demonstration event will be shared ahead of time with selected finalists.
Is there a definition of "low-cost" or a target per unit price?	Given the broad scope of this challenge and the variety of sensor modalities involved, there isn't a single cost benchmark we can provide. Proposers should familiarize themselves with the typical costs of existing systems within their specific modality and demonstrate how their solution offers a cost advantage, ideally presented on an annual, per-area-covered basis. It's important to go beyond just listing a 'sticker price.' You should consider the overall cost effectiveness of your solution. For example, if your system costs one-tenth as much but only delivers one-tenth the capability, the cost per area covered would be equivalent. We encourage you to compare your solution to what is currently considered best-in-class within your modality and clearly explain how your approach delivers better value or performance.
Is there a limit to the number of systems we can bring/deploy? Minimum or maximum?	The minimum requirement is two sensors, to demonstrate scalability and multi-sensor capability. Beyond that, you should specify in your proposal how many sensors you plan to deploy. While the range is not unlimited, if there are key inflection points in your system's performance based on sensor quantity or placement, be sure to clearly outline that in your submission.
Why is this not 100% Made in the USA solution for USA companies only ?	We recognize the significant contributions to Counter UAS work being made by NATO allies and other international partners. For that reason, we intentionally keep the aperture wide to ensure we're identifying and considering the best possible solutions, regardless of origin.
Will any fixed wing LAWS UAV's be part of the testing specifically those that have Anti GPS tech ?	I realize this may be a familiar answer for some, but the final test plan is still under development, so we're not able to provide specific details at this time. As with real world scenarios, participants should not expect full clarity in advance,just as our installations often do not have full visibility into the threats they may face. Regarding the specific question about GPS: at this time, we do not anticipate the use of anti-GPS technologies during the challenge, given the operational environment.
How does DIU envision integrating this sensing solution with solutions submitted through the separate C-UAS CSO?	I believe this question refers to the Low Collateral Defeat CSO, which was released the day before this prize challenge, as mentioned earlier. While the two efforts are complementary in nature, there is no direct linkage between them. There is no requirement for solutions submitted to this challenge to integrate with those from the CSO or vice versa.
For Jason Mayes, what is the "DV Day"? Is this an Industry Day? What is the procedure to participate? Thanks	DV Day unfolds in two parts. It begins with a classified threat brief for Distinguished Visitors—typically three-star and above, though two-stars may be included given the travel commitment. General Guo then selects which capabilities will be demonstrated live; he has full authority over the demo lineup. Additional systems, such as GFEs or specialized capabilities, may be showcased in the DV tent during walkthroughs, but only at his discretion. After live demos, we move into a 1.5–2 hour informal "petting zoo" where all participating vendors engage directly with DVs and attendees to present and discuss their systems. Participation: Companies may be invited to DV Day in two ways: 1. As part of the Falcon Peak exercise 2. As a finalist in the Low-Cost Sensing (LCS) Challenge There is no separate registration—DV Day is fully integrated into Falcon Peak.
We have a prototype which needs some work to elevate the power and the software of the system. Would there any funding to help with these tasks before the demo of September?	Unfortunately, there is no funding available to help with prototyping in advance of the prize challenge.
The challenge states "amortized cost of sensor purchase and all operations and maintenance expenses" but there is no mention of which term to amortize it over. Can you please clarify the number of years for the term to be used?	As mentioned earlier, the key metric we're looking at is the annual cost per area of sensor coverage. This should be calculated by amortizing the total cost of the sensor,including manufacturing and procurement ver its expected operational lifetime. We understand that the sensor lifespan may vary depending on the technology, but it's important to reflect that in your cost model to provide a realistic annualized figure.
Will we get a recording of this AMA session, Q&A document, and the slides? Thank you.	The recording, Q&A Document, and the slides of the Low-Cost Sensing Challenge AMA will be available within 48 hours from the session.

Question	Answer
Is there a need for this set of end users to detect/track/identify RF silent targets?	If your system depends on the UAS broadcasting to be able to detect, you should lay that out in your proposal.
Where is the challenge site?	Please find the solicitation and our website located here:
Should Anduril Pulsar, Sentry, and Wisp be considered baselines for competitive performance?	We are not prescribing a specific benchmark for comparison in your proposal. Instead, you should identify what you consider to be the best in class solution within your modality and use that as the basis for your comparison.
What is the size of the threat area to be covered with the sensors?	The final test plan will specify the overall area of operations. There are several ranges under consideration as part of the Falcon Peak event. While I don’ t have the exact dimensions of the selected site at this time, that information will be shared with the finalists once confirmed.
Would a software solution that performs improved detection, classification/ID, and localization be responsive to this challenge?	Yes, your solution must be connected to a sensor. If you're submitting an algorithm that processes data from existing sensors, it would need to be integrated in partnership with a sensor provider. We won’t have the capacity to ingest datasets and run external algorithms ourselves. So if your solution depends on existing sensor data, you’ll need to coordinate with a partner who can provide that sensing capability as part of your submission.
Is this challenge detect only sensor or can it include low cost detect/defeat sensor?	The key takeaway for proposers is to clearly outline both the capabilities of your solution and any known limitations within your proposal. Transparency in these areas is essential for a thorough evaluation.
When will prize money for finalists be distributed? (at the time of finalist selection or after final demo?)	If you are selected as a finalist, an initial award will begin processing at that stage. Following Falcon Peak, if you are selected as one of the winners, a separate award will be initiated based on your performance at the event.
Will you accept a submission that combines two companies?	Yes, teaming is permitted. Proposals that combine solutions from multiple vendors will be evaluated as a single, integrated submission.
At what height targets may exist?	The sensing solutions should be capable of detecting targets at a variety of altitudes relevant to Group 1 and 2 UAS operations
Do you have a specific way you want to view the uav's? IE virtual geo mapping or heatmap	The primary requirement is to provide the raw data exports. Visualization, such as virtual geo-mapping or a heatmap, is not mandated but could be something vendors choose to present to showcase their solutions during the DV day.
What is the information distribution statement/confidentiality rights regarding the submission. The NSIN terms of use seem to state that a user of the website should never submit any proprietary information to the site. What is the policy here?	Not specifically answered, however, please consider the following: Refer to the official solicitation documents and any provided agreements related to the "Low Cost Sensing Challenge." Seek legal counsel for advice regarding your specific concerns about proprietary information. Clearly mark any information you consider proprietary or confidential within your submission.
What is the expected coverage area of sensing for the Falcon Peak event? (1km2? or something different)	The final test plan will provide the overall area. There are a couple of different ranges as part of Falcon Peak that are under consideration. The exact area of the specific site is not provided in the document but will be shared with the finalists. However, when discussing cost estimates, the document mentions scenarios for sensor coverage areas of:One square kilometer (roughly a given asset) 100 square kilometers (small to medium-sized installation) 1,000 square kilometers (large geographical area) So while the exact coverage for the Falcon Peak event is not defined, these example areas provide a range to consider.
How sensor detection should be visualized?	Participants should plan to provide their own graphical interface to display their sensor output.
For amortizing sensor costs is there a desired period of time for amortization?	The sensor costs should be amortized over the **lifetime of that sensor**. There is no specific desired period of time given; it depends on the sensor's expected lifespan.
For the actual testing, will there be a requirement for any security clearances on the test range? Will foreign nationals be allowed to attend testing?	Foreign nationals may apply, but are subject to screening.

Question	Answer
Can you describe the systems that are in use to monitor airspace today and thoughts for future integration points to support a tiered defense approach?	While there are existing "exquisite" systems, it primarily focuses on integrating new, low-cost sensing solutions to enhance existing capabilities and create a more robust, tiered defense approach. It does not provide specifics on current systems or direct "thoughts for future integration points" other than adding low cost sensors in a distributed manner.
Can we expect independent analysis/testing, or will simultaneous competing systems also have outputs affecting other participant systems?	USG expects that systems will have to operate simultaneously. DD1494s will be required as we coordinate with local spectrum management and refine the evaluation plan to mitigate spectrum conflicts.
Is there any funding available to advance our current Technology before the Sept testing or is all the funding after the testing to the winners?	Unfortunately, there is no funding available to advance current technology.
what the policy is on taking pictures / video of the event. If selected to attend, would we be allowed to take photos and video while we are there? Is media allowed to attend? Etc. Any direction you could provide on this would be greatly appreciated.	Do not expect that video or pictures will be authorized. Any video will be done by DoD Agencies.
Although the challenge rules mention the ownership of IP regarding a submission, it does not state the information distribution statement/confidentiality rights regarding the submission. The NSIN terms of use seem to state that a user of the website should never submit any proprietary information to the site. Further, there does not seem to be any rules regarding marking the submission as proprietary according to DoDI 5230.24. What is the policy here?	The submission form is hosted on an external site separate from the NSIN website. Applications are captured via Smartsheet Gov, a FEDRAMP compliant platform with IL4 authorization. Smartsheet can capture and store proprietary information. All submissions should not contain data designated higher than "Controlled Unclassified Information" (CUI). Submissions with CUI and "FOUO" material are accepted and should be appropriately marked.
Are multiple entries are allowed per company?	Yes, multiple entries are allowed per company as long as they are distinct solutions.
What type of contract is expected to be awarded to support this challenge? Could the contract awarded for this challenge directly support follow-on OTA prototype and/or production contracts? or would an additional contract with a new contracting office be required to be written? How long would the contract awarded be valid for follow-on OTA contracts? Could the contract awarded for this challenge support multiple follow-on OTA prototype and/or production customers?	There is no follow-on contract currently lined up on the backend of this challenge. 10 USC 4025 ("Prize Authority) allows the department to use the competition to satisfy competition requirements for other follow-on contracts, either OTA or FAR based contracts. However, the challenge itself includes a $1M prize pool in funding, and participation through the competitive process does create potential pathways to future opportunities. Solutions that participate and are selected through the challenge process will be eligible for follow-on OTA prototype and/or production contracts, should they become available.