AGO LABS BRIEFING WEBINAR | FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020

Q&A SESSION

Q: Have any of last years' projects gone beyond the proof-of-concept stage to the operational testing stage?

A: Not at this point. The first iteration of the AGO Labs program (2019) only funded proof-of-concept projects, not operational testing. A key learning from the 2019 Labs program was that there was scope to extend to operational testing for successful projects. As part of the 2020 AGO Labs program an additional $50,000 and 3 months (in addition to the initial $100,000 and 6 months) may be provided to undertake limited operational testing.

Q: What data sources and resolution will be provided?

A: Participants are encouraged to bring their own data if possible. AGO has access to commercial products that can be provided for Challenge Topic 1 (WHERE THE STREETS HAVE NO NAME) and Challenge Topic 2 (I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT NADIR!). If requested, AGO will work with the successful vendors to determine the volumes, resolution and geographic areas of data that can be provided. Note that due to the approval process accessing data through AGO may be time consuming and participants are encouraged to bring their own data if possible. There is also a possibility that commercial data providers will be able to provide data free-of-charge to successful vendors, this will be communicated once successful projects have been identified.

Q: Can you provide information on how IP is handled?

A: Project Intellectual Property (Project IP) in the capability demonstrators produced during the Project will be owned by the participating partners. The Commonwealth through the AGO are granted a perpetual non-exclusive, royalty-free world-wide, sub-licensable licence to use the participating partners' IP created in the capability demonstrators for Defence Purposes generally (other than Commercialisation) including internal research, development, education and training.

If you have any further questions regarding IP or wish to obtain a full extract of the project IP agreement please email: agolabs@frontiersi.com.au

Q: What level of Defence Clearance is required to be involved?

A: These are unclassified challenges. No Defence clearances are required to participate in the 2020 AGO Labs program.

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Q: Could you please give some more information about the Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)?

A: Further information regarding TRLs can be found on the FrontierSI website: https://frontiersi.com.au/trl/

The proposal form requires a current TRL of the proposed solution as well as whether the TRL is expected to be improved over the course of the project.

Q: Do challenges apply to just to satellite imagery, or also to aerial imagery?

A: Both aerial and satellite imagery can be used although satellite imagery is of greater interest to AGO. As part of the 2019 AGO Labs program aerial imagery was used by some challenge participants. AGO is keen to see demonstrations of capability with aerial imagery but if so, wants applicability to satellite data to be highlighted in the proposal.

Q: How will other government agencies access the resulting datasets (if any are developed)? Will they be made public?

A: AGO would ideally like to share the outcomes of AGO Labs with other Commonwealth agencies, particularly the Australian intelligence community. However, if you do not want findings to be shared with other Commonwealth agencies please identify this in your proposal.

Q: Could you please elaborate on intended budgeting? Specifically, the following extract from the proposal template: 'As this activity will help companies pilot technology with AGO for potential future deployment, it is expected that applicants will not operate with full commercial rates, but instead will budget the project at-cost plus 30% overheads'

A: The AGO Labs program provides a unique opportunity to showcase capability to AGO and will give participants valuable insight into working with Defence. This program is not delivering a standard commercial service or operational product however does provide an opportunity to develop a relationship with AGO. Funding is intended to cover what it costs participants to demonstrate their capability plus a 30% overhead.

Q: What is the preferred implementation and technology platform for proposed solutions? (e.g. AWS, Azure, other)

A: There is no preferred platform. We are interested in you demonstrating your capability and are happy for you to use whichever platform best showcases it.

Q: Can we respond to more than one challenge?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it monthly or milestone invoicing?

A: Contracts are generally milestone based – generally a kick-off payment, mid-term review payment and a final payment.

Q: If we already have extensive capability in one of the challenge topic areas is this a benefit? or are you only looking at proof-of-concept/early development projects?

A: AGO is keen to learn about advanced capability related to these challenge topics. Any demonstration of new technology is welcomed (note that the technology doesn't necessarily have to be new, just new to AGO).

Q: If we already have an existing relationship with AGO how does that affect our involvement in AGO Labs?

A: AGO is interested in novel approaches to the challenge topics as well as broadening AGO's understanding of what Australia's industry and academia has to offer. If you have an existing commercial relationship with AGO you can apply to demonstrate new capability through AGO Labs (however this may already be part of your standard commercial business development cycle).

Q: Has the second round of challenge topics been defined yet?

A: A call for proposals is currently open for Round 1 of the 2020 AGO Labs program. Round 2 challenge topics are currently being defined by AGO and have not yet been published. The second round of challenge topics will be released as part of the second call for proposals in March/April 2021.

CHALLENGE TOPIC ONE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
(WHERE THE STREETS HAVE NO NAME)

Q: Is there a geographical area of focus for Challenge Topic 1?

A: This will be discussed further with shortlisted applicants. The challenge is not expected to look at any classified areas, therefore Australian or allied geographies is where AGO is expecting this challenge to focus (but AGO is not prescriptive about this). Applicants are invited to propose a particular area or event if it is the best demonstration of the capability required for the challenge. In preparing a proposal application it would be useful to highlight what size of investigation area or number of investigation areas you plan to focus on.

Q: Is road classification such as highway vs easements part of Challenge Topic 1?

A: Road classifications are a lower priority than autonomous generation of road transport networks for this challenge topic.

Q: What sort of objects are you interested in for Challenge Topic 2?

A: In AGO Labs 2019, AGO asked Australian industry to investigate ways of producing low-cost object detection models. AGO would like to continue investigating object detection models, this time incorporating images captured off-nadir. During the 2019 round of challenge topics the objects that were used were cranes and planes but AGO is open to other types of objects being proposed. Objects should be mobile and not too small. AGO is aware of work done by Spacenet focusing on buildings, AGO is more interested in objects that are not as complex as buildings but also not impossibly small.