

**3DEP FY15/16 BAA National Webinar**  
**Overview of Public Acquisition Opportunity - APRIL 2015**  
**Question & Answer Sessions**

**Questions related to FY14 BAA (resulted in FY15 awards):**

1. *Are previous FY BAA proposals carried over into subsequent BAA awards?*

No. BAA Proposals are submitted in response to a specific solicitation. Applicants whose FY14 proposals (submitted in response to G14PS00574) were not selected for award must submit a new proposal in response to Solicitation G15PS00558. The criteria against which proposals are rated as well as the application process may change from year to year

2. *Are the 2015 BAA awarded contracts [with pricing] available for public view?*

USGS releases general information on our 2015 BAA awards ([http://nationalmap.gov/3DEP/3dep\\_fy15projectlist.html](http://nationalmap.gov/3DEP/3dep_fy15projectlist.html)). The contents of applicant's proposals are submitted in confidence. The USGS does compile statistics on both the range as well as the average per square mile cost of 3DEP projects of both projects completed through the USGS Geospatial Products and Services Contracts (GPSC) and those completed by our partners who choose to contract for and manage the acquisition. Once all 2015 projects have gone to award we will be able to compile those statistics.

**3DEP Specifications:**

3. *What if the existing LiDAR data does not meet the Q2 specs? Would the proposed application still be eligible?*

The base product for the 3DEP program is QL2 data (Heidemann, Hans Karl, 2014, Lidar base specification (ver. 1.2, November 2014): U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods, book 11, chap. B4, 67 p. with appendixes, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/tm11B4>.) The program will consider projects for which the applicant is requesting funds to upgrade their acquisition to meet 3DEP QL2 specifications.

4. *If we have a dataset that we would like to contribute to the 3DEP program however it requires some additional work for 3DEP (breaklines, etc) is that suitable for a BAA proposal?*

The 3DEP program is interested in all data that could increase the 3DEP data holdings. So yes we would like to see that proposal. The program would compare the data to the established BAA criteria (location, age of data). The program would assess the quality of the dataset to determine the deficiencies and would need to assess the cost and opportunity to upgrade the data to meet 3DEP standards. These costs would be analyzed to assure that the program was getting good value for the dollar.

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5. *Will any of the BAA forms ask specifically for desired point density? QL2 has a big range, 2ppsm, 4ppsm, 8ppsm, etc. This would be VERY helpful information from state, federal, etc potential partners.*

USGS BAA documentation does not ask for the specific point density, other than asking if it meets the minimum QL2 or QL1 specification. Applicants may use the “additional details” section of the pre-proposal or proposal submission tools to submit and clarify their requirements. We will add this to the list of proposed Seasketch enhancements for FY16.

6. *Would an application proposing a spec above Q1 be eligible, such as 16 points per square meter?*

The BAA will consider proposals for all data that meets the minimum QL2 specification. The applicant should keep in mind that the 3DEP program will cost share on the acquisition of QL2 data, the cost of any upgrades is the responsibility of the applicant

**3DEP Products and Services:**

7. *What data products will be / should be included /required in a BAA 3DEP project proposal? Will there be a list of specific LIDAR layers such as: Buildings with elevations, tree canopy, or last return?*

The 3DEP deliverables are defined in the *Deliverables* section of the Lidar Base Spec (<http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/tm11B4>.) Common data upgrades (to include specific layers) are included in Appendix 1: *Common Data Upgrades*. If proposing to make use of the services of the GPSC, the cost of specific upgrades can be discussed with the GPSC representative when finalizing the award. The 3DEP program provides cost share for standard 3DEP products and services. Upgrade costs are the responsibility of the applicant.

8. *How can I get the Lidar data that have been already collected?*

3DEP Products are available through The National Map Viewer and Download Platform (<http://nationalmap.gov/viewer.html>).

**3DEP BAA (G15PS00558) Criteria:**

9. *What is the maximum size of an area of interest allowed?*

Paragraph VI A 2. *Areal Extent* of the solicitation states that 3DEP prefers project between 1500 and 5000 square miles. However projects outside of this range will be considered to fill in gaps in coverage or for larger projects that represent significant cost share by the applicant.

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*10. Looks like the program focuses on IfSAR for Alaska, will LIDAR proposals for Alaska be considered?*

3DEP coverage for Alaska is primarily focused on completion of state-wide ifsar. However, proposals for QL2 lidar in Alaska will be considered over targeted acquisition areas to include:

- critically targeted geographies identified by multiple agencies in the original NEEA study
- areas that overlap with Federal priorities as noted in attachment C: 3DEP FY16 Consolidated Federal Areas of Interest or Attachment D: 3DEP Funding Partners FY16 High Priority Areas for Lidar Data Acquisition
- Alaska coastlines extending to the 50-foot elevation line
- flat geographies of the Yukon delta including all US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) refuge lands therein, and in north central Alaska surrounding Barrow
- larger municipalities with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulated airport facilities and FAA's identified Alaska Peninsula flight approach area
- the area of the Yukon River basin identified for native Alaskan village flood risk
- drainage areas impacting the proposed Susitna-Watana hydro-electric project north of Anchorage.

*11. Can you please verify whether the criteria “geographic overlap with federal areas of interest” requires overlap or is there any consideration for areas that are in close proximity to an area of interest?*

The criteria “Geographic overlap with areas represented in attachment C: 3DEP FY16 Federal Areas of Interest or geographic overlap with the agency specific FY16 High Priority Areas for Data Acquisition represented in attachment D states that proposed projects are rated on the % of overlap between proposed projects and areas of interest.

3DEP Funding Partners are interested in viewing proposals that overlap with their areas of interest to help with the cost share.

However it should be noted that the Seasketch tool was designed to help interested parties view high priority areas in advance of the BAA to allow modifications to potential project areas as it makes sense to satisfy the needs of multiple stakeholders.

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**3DEP BAA (G15PS00558) Acquisition Contracts and Funding Agreements:**

- 12. Are there available contracts that selected participants can use to acquire the data or will the local governments have to acquire contracts via government's RFP process?*

The USGS National Geospatial Program's preferred method of data acquisition is through the GPSC, a multiple award acquisition vehicle that is designed to utilize the teams of firms on the contract for services needed to accomplish 3DEP data acquisition. The contracts include acquisition, processing, and quality assurance of lidar and other source geographic data. These contracts are already in place and have been awarded through a competitive process, consistent with the Competition in Contracting Act and the Brooks Act. Firms on the GPSC have been selected based on their qualifications and performance in providing the professional services needed for 3DEP. The GPSC is an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract that provides for an indefinite quantity of services for a fixed time, above a specified minimum. IDIQs help streamline the contract process and speed service delivery. To ensure data quality and efficient development of standard products and services, the USGS prefers that partners use the GPSC when possible and practical and expects to allocate approximately 80% or more of the available funding to projects proposing to use the GPSC.

The GPSC is also offered as a service for acquiring elevation data for external organizations who are not seeking additional funding. Information on this service can be found at: ([http://geodatacontracts.er.usgs.gov/gpsc\\_information\\_sheet.html](http://geodatacontracts.er.usgs.gov/gpsc_information_sheet.html))

Alternatively, applicants may propose to use another contracting vehicle that they manage and directly oversee for data acquisition.

- 13. What if a state agency already has a contract, a project and resources and is looking for 3DEP partners?*

3DEP BAA process offers two options to seek funding partners. The 3DEP has made available and encouraged potential applicants to post their areas of interest in the Seasketch Viewer (<http://seasket.ch/hwpR3E-MxO>). This viewer allows interested parties to look to see if others have areas of mutual interest and as appropriate make contact to discuss partnership opportunities. The BAA process is an opportunity for applicants to submit a proposal requesting 3DEP funds to support their project work.

- 14. Who would be responsible for QA/QC? Are partners required to include independent QC as part of acquisition?*

The 3DEP partnership projects must adhere to the specifications as stated in the Lidar Base Specification (Heidemann, Hans Karl, 2014, Lidar base specification (ver. 1.2, November 2014): U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods, book 11, chap. B4, 67 p. with appendixes, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/tm11B4>). The program does not

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require independent QA/QC; the program requires that the data meet the specifications.

For projects proposing to use the GPSC, the QA/QC is built into the process. For those applicants requesting financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement, the applicant is responsible for assuring the data meets spec and must decide the value of an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party QA/QC. The USGS National Geographic Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) performs QA/QC on all data submitted to the USGS for inclusion in the 3DEP Data Holdings. All BAA projects are subject to this final review. Data that does not pass the QA/QC will be returned to the vendor for corrections.

*15. If I want to submit a proposal, can the University partner with a company that will collect the Lidar data and then we process it?*

All applicants are required to provide the USGS with a final set of deliverables as specified in the Lidar Base Specification. Applicants requesting financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement to complete the work must provide the details of how they plan to accomplish this in the *Technical Approach* section of the pre-proposal and proposal submission tools. The USGS will review the approach and access the approach to assure that the process will result in 3DEP quality lidar data.

*16. Can we use a UAV with Lidar equipment to collect data that meets 3DEP specifications?*

All applicants are required to provide the USGS with a final set of deliverables as specified in the Lidar Base Specification. Applicants requesting financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement to complete the work must provide the details of how they plan to accomplish this in the *Technical Approach* section of the pre-proposal and proposal submission tools. The USGS will review the approach and access the approach to assure that the process will result in 3DEP quality lidar data.

**BAA Acquisition Cost:**

*17. How can we get projected cost estimates for BAA projects?*

3DEP uses an average figure of \$335.00 per square mile (QL2) to estimate the cost of lidar collection over the United States. This average cost includes data acquisition, processing, 3DEP quality assurance/quality control as well as project/contract management (including 5% assessment for the use of the USGS GPSC). Collection, processing and contract management costs represent about 85 percent (\$285 per square mile) of the total cost for QL2 data. It is important to note that as this is an average cost, in some geographic areas of the country the price will be higher, and for some the cost to acquire the data will be lower. Applicants may choose to use this \$285 figure to estimate their project acquisition, processing and assessment cost or

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alternately they may provide another cost estimate and provide an explanation of how the cost estimate was derived to enable evaluation of the costs. For applicants proposing to use the services of the USGS GPSC, the final cost of your project will be determined post award during the task order estimation process. However, applicants may contact the USGS GPSC ([gpsc@usgs.gov](mailto:gpsc@usgs.gov)) prior to full proposal submission for a preliminary estimate specific to your proposed AOI. This option is available to all but must be requested no later than 10/01/15 to meet the 10/23/15 deadline for project submission.

*18. Can you clarify that the percentage of the cost that are expecting the partner to cover, I believe I heard that 65% of the cost is to be covered by non-USGS partners?*

The implementation model for 3DEP is based on multi-agency partnership funding for acquisition. Applicants **must** commit to a cost share for their project to be considered for funding. Cost share (funds contributed by applicant) is an evaluation factor against which proposals are rated. The greater the applicant's cost share, the greater the score for this factor. In 2015, the average BAA award covered 36% of the total project cost, resulting in an average cost share of 64% by award recipients. Project awards ranged from \$61,000 to \$1,325,000, with an average award of \$355,000.

**Seasketch:**

*19. Who can update the Seasketch layer of existing data? Some counties acquired in 2014 will be available very soon.*

The existing data layer in Seasketch (<http://seasket.ch/hwpR3E-MxO>) is based on the United States Interagency Elevation Inventory (USIEI). Major updates to the inventory are completed twice a year; selected updates are completed on a continual basis. The next major update is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2015. The existing data layer in Seasketch is provided by the USGS.

**Contributing Data to *The National Map (TNM)*:**

*20. If we already have recently flown LiDAR data is there a way to contribute it to The National Map (TNM)?*

The USGS would be happy to talk with you about contributing data to The National Map (TNM). The contributed data process is facilitated by our National Map Liaisons ([http://liaisons.usgs.gov/geospatial/documents/TNM\\_Partnership\\_User\\_ContactList.pdf](http://liaisons.usgs.gov/geospatial/documents/TNM_Partnership_User_ContactList.pdf)). Our National Map Liaisons are geographically disbursed. Please work with the liaison that has responsibility for the state in which your data exists. You will be asked to provide project metadata and may be asked to provide a small sample dataset so the data can be reviewed.