

3DEP FY15/16 BAA National Webinar
Public Acquisition Opportunity Application Process - JULY 2015
Frequently Asked Questions

3DEP Products and Services: Deliverables

1. *What are the 3DEP BAA deliverables?*

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.

The USGS generates additional products and services. 3DEP Products are available through *The National Map (TNM) Viewer and Download Platform* (<http://nationalmap.gov/viewer.html>).

2. *We are considering acquiring QL1 data, would our product deliverables need to include QL2 Digital Elevation Model (DEM)s in addition to the QL1 DEMs?*

NO. You would only be required to deliver the QL1 DEMs. The USGS would generate the 3DEP standard 1 meter DEMs.

However the original DEM would be made available. The QL1 DEM would be considered the “source resolution DEM”, defined as the original bare earth DEMs derived from lidar point cloud source. Source DEM’s are provided as a 3DEP product and service when the original DEM horizontal resolution or projection differ from the 3DEP standard DEM datasets. For additional information on 3DEP source data products please refer to: http://nationalmap.gov/3dep_prodserv.html.

3. *How soon would the deliverables be available for projects acquired in 2016?*

The Lidar Acquisition cycle (Acquisition to Product Delivery) takes from 12 months to 24 months. Projects flown in the spring of 2016 may be available by the end of calendar year 2016. For projects being acquired during the Fall and/or Winter of 2016, the products may not be available until the Fall / Winter of 2017.

4. *Can you order hydro-conditioned data?*

A Hydro-conditioned DEM is not a standard 3DEP product. On-going research and development may lead to methods that would allow routine generation of this product.

For clarity, the USGS Base Lidar Specification defines hydro-conditioned as: **“hydrologically conditioned (hydro-conditioned)** Processing of a DEM or TIN so that the flow of water is continuous across the entire terrain surface, including the removal of all isolated sinks or pits. The only sinks that are retained are the real ones on the landscape. Whereas hydrologically enforced is relevant to drainage features that generally are mapped, hydrologically conditioned is relevant to the entire land surface and is done so that water flow is continuous across the surface, whether that flow is in a stream channel or not. The purpose for continuous flow is so that relations and (or) links among basins and (or) catchments can be known for large areas.”

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This should not be confused with hydro-enforced or hydro-flattened DEMs. For additional information please refer to the USGS 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>.

3DEP BAA Financial Assistance - Cooperative Agreement

5. Does proposing to work under a cooperative agreement seem to be at a disadvantage?

All proposals are rated against the full set of criteria included in the BAA. The contract mechanism is a consideration.

The BAA states that 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. 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. Applicants requesting financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement must define their technical approach within their submission. This approach will be evaluated to assure that the proposed process will result in 3DEP quality lidar data.

6. If the applicant chooses to use a cooperative agreement will the USGS consider providing QA/QC services as part of the award?

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>).

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 the specifications. While the USGS National Geographic Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) performs a final QA/QC on all data submitted to the USGS for inclusion in the 3DEP Data Holdings, the USGS no longer has the resource to provide the initial QA/QC inherent to data acquisitions. All BAA projects are subject to a final review by the USGS. Data that does not pass the QA/QC will be returned to the vendor for corrections.

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7. *If co-op partner's vendor gets full tech points will proposal be equal to a GPSC proposal during competition?*

All proposals are rated against the full set of criteria included in the BAA. The technical evaluation is one of the evaluation criteria. It is possible for an applicant requesting financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement to receive the full set of points for the technical evaluation.

8. *We previously used a cooperative agreement for a USGS LiDAR acquisition, and did much of our own processing and QA/QC. Would proposing this type of an agreement be discouraged as only 20% of these types of agreements will be funded?*

The USGS encourages all types of proposals and will be looking for overall value of the proposed project to the 3DEP program. As stated in the BAA, the goal of the program is to award approximately 80% of the project funds to those proposals requesting to make use of the GPSC and 20% of the project funds to those proposals requesting financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement. This is a goal not an absolute. All proposals are rated against the full set of criteria included in the BAA. Applicants proposing financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement are encouraged to review the full set of criteria including: Project Location, Areal Extent, Geographic Overlap with Federal Areas of Interest and Agency Specific FY16 High Priority areas for Data Acquisition, Project Cost and Cost Share, Maturity of Applicant's proposal and maturity of Designated Funding Sources, Technical Approach and Past Performance. Projects that rank high on multiple evaluation criteria have a stronger chance of being chosen for award.

9. *For partners in states that have their own active lidar contracts and programs that meet 3DEP requirements, are there any limits for 3DEP matching funds using the co-op path that would not apply if using GPSC?*

As stated in Paragraph (IV).ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION, (B) Cost Share, Minimum non-Federal match for Cooperative Agreements, Project Scope, (2) Cooperative Agreements: Requirement for Non-Federal Match:

"For applicants proposing Cooperative Agreements: Pursuant to CFR § 200.306, State and local applicants requesting an award in the form of a cooperative agreement must commit non-federal sources as their minimum required match. The USGS has set this minimum non-federal match at 25%. Other federal sources may be partners in the application but may not be used to satisfy the minimum 25% state or local match. "Match" should not be confused with "Cost Share". Federal and Non-Federal Contributions are specified in the grants.gov application package"

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3DEP BAA Funding Partners

10. *Can a Partner provide in-kind services vs dollars and be counted towards the funding partners?*

Description of proposed in-kind services must be detailed in the Technical Approach. In-kind services must be directly related to the acquisition and processing of 3DEP quality lidar data.

11. *One of the challenges we had last year was with the instability of funding, such as the change in match from less than 50% up to 75%. Do you expect it to be more stable this time and if so, what is the expected cost share?*

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

12. *Are full points awarded for "guaranteed" funding partners? Similarly, how many points are deducted if a partner's funds are listed as "pending?"*

There is no direct correlation between the point system and the identification as funds as either "guaranteed" or "pending". The USGS reserves the right to verify the proposed contributions of partners listed as pending before final award decisions are made. The presence or absence of large partner contributions may have an impact on project size and scope, funds requested from 3DEP and cost share, all of which impact the score and ranking of a given proposal.

13. *What is meant by Maturity of Funding Source?*

This criteria is intended to evaluate whether the funding is in place to meet the acquisition deadlines outlined in a proposal. For applicants proposing a spring acquisition, funding sources should already be secured. The USGS invests significant funding into the BAA; program growth is dependent on successful BAA projects.

14. *If your proposal lists an average cost figure per sq mile, receives an award, but then when contracted the cost is actually higher than it is possible the proposal score would be affected and possibly not be receive an award*

The BAA evaluation team members have sufficient expertise and knowledge to determine if the proposed costs for a given AOI are realistic. For applicants proposing to use the services of the USGS Geospatial Products and Services Contract (GPSC), the BAA states that the final cost of the project will be determined post award during the task order estimation process; it is assumed the cost will vary slightly from the average cost. The applicant is welcome to contact the USGS GPSC prior to the submission of a full proposal for a preliminary estimate specific to the proposed AOI.

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For those applicants requesting financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement, your full proposal must state the project costs and the amount of funds you are requesting. Award decisions will be based on the figures included in your submission and will not change. In the case of a cooperative agreement the applicant is responsible for any increases in project costs.

15. *Because NRCS nationally contributes to 3DEP funding, is NRCS state money still considered a cost-share?*

Federal, state and local partners may individually or collectively submit a proposal to the USGS requesting 3DEP funds. Federal agencies (and their proposed funds) listed as a contribution to a specific project will only be considered as input to that specific project and will be considered as a cost share for that project. Federal agencies also have the ability to provide funds to the USGS to apply to any number of projects that overlap with their areas of interest. In the end a project may have both state (regional) and national money from the same agency applied to the project.

16. *Where do you put the funding partners if there is not enough space on the form? (e.g. more than 10 partners)*

Please use one line in the Proposed Funding Table to list “additional partners”; detail these funding partners in the Additional Project Details or Clarifications section that follows.

17. *If representing a consortium, informally, should the proposal come from the consortium or one of the agencies in the consortium?*

The proposal should be submitted by the individual or organization assuming responsibility for the management and oversight of the proposal. Communication about the proposal submission will be made using the POC information provided on the submission forms.

18. *Is the 80% going to GPSC contracts just an estimate or a funding criteria? What about other quality-based IDIQ Federal contracts such as COE Center of Expertise?*

The USGS encourages all types of proposals and will be looking for overall value of the proposed project to the 3DEP program. As stated in the BAA, the goal of the program is to award approximately 80% of the project funds to those proposals requesting to make use of the GPSC and 20% of the project funds to those proposals requesting financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement. This is a goal not an absolute. All proposals are rated against the full set of criteria included in the BAA. Applicants proposing to manage their own data acquisition must apply for financial assistance in the form of a cooperative agreement. The acquisition strategy must be clearly defined in the Technical Approach portion of the submission templates.

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3DEP Specifications

19. *Which funding table should we make use of if the specifications we are pursuing fall between the QL1 and QL2(4ppsm with same accuracy standards) standards.*

For a standard QL2 project use the QL2 project cost table, FOR ALL OTHER PROJECTS please make use of the QL1 Project cost table. This table can be used for any non-standard acquisition. Please provide additional information in the Additional Project Details or Clarification Sections of the form. 3DEP requires that projects adhere to the minimum QL2 specification. It is understood that some partners may have a requirement for higher quality data. Our technical evaluation will evaluate an applicant's adherence to the base specification as defined 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>).

20. *If using GPSC, and we request upgrades to the base specification or require additional products and services, how should we include this information in the proposal? How do we estimate these costs?*

Please refer to the Data Deliverables section of the Pre-proposal and Proposal submission tools. This section states: " For those applicants proposing to use the Geospatial Products and Services contracts, additional products may be selected after award during the task order estimation process. The costs of the products will be identified at that time and if the applicant requires these products, the cost of the products will be added to their funding agreement. For applicants proposing to manage their own contract for data acquisition, the cost of these products should not be included in your 3DEP funding request".

Additional details or clarifications may be added in as appropriate to clarify requirements.

21. *We are considering 'non' traditional linear LIDAR collection, such as Geiger mode. How to we indicate this on the proposal/ estimates?*

The USGS does not dictate the acquisition platform. All applicants are required to provide the USGS with a final set of deliverables as specified 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>). 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.

22. *Would you consider a proposal for Q3 data, with USGS 3DEP contribution being cost to upgrade to Q2?*

Yes. In this case you would propose a QL2 project, and note the upgrade costs as the requested 3DEP cost share.

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23. *What would drive up the cost estimate of a LiDAR collection? Strong topography? Distance from base?*

There are a number of costs which influence the cost of a lidar acquisition: Project size, Deployment costs, Flight lines, Topography, Dense vegetation , Wetlands. For project specific costs the program recommends that the applicant contact the USGS GPSC (gpsc@usgs.gov) prior to full submission for a preliminary estimate specific to a proposed AOI.

FY15 FY16 BAA Submission

24. *We are planning acquisition in 2017, should I apply now?*

The FY15 (FY16 project awards) BAA is designed for applicants who are planning to acquire data in the Spring or Fall of 2016. The USGS will not consider awards for projects that cannot meet the USGS FY16 contracting deadlines.

25. *Will the GPSC LIDAR form be updated? it is dated 2012*

The USGS Commercial Partnerships Team is working on revising the form to better reflect the information needed to accurately define the requirements and estimate the cost of a lidar acquisition.

26. *We've learned the pre-proposal is optional and the purpose is to give you an idea of how strong of a proposal it is. What type of feedback is given for pre-proposals?*

Each pre-proposal will be evaluated against the full suite of BAA Criteria. The feedback will include a series of relative rankings related to how your proposal ranks against each of the criteria. For those projects proposing to use the GPSC we will also make a note of whether the cost estimate you have chosen to use is within reason. For those projects where the project cost may be either considerably higher or considerably lower we may suggest that you contact the GPSC for an estimate specific to your AOI. Having a true estimate of the costs will allow you to determine the cost share you wish to propose.

27. *Both FedBizOpps & FedConnect require logins - How does one get a copy of the Broad Agency Announcement Document as this download does not appear to be available on the Broad Agency Announcement Reference Materials page*

Both FedBizOpps and FedConnect are open access sites. There is no login required for general access to either of these sites. We would suggest you review slides 10 -16 of our July Informational webinar (<https://www.geoplatform.gov/elevation/3DEP/PublicMeetings>) on how to access and download the Solicitation and the attachments.

28. *For the shapefile submission, a ".prj" file is required. What projection should this be? Web Mercator?*

3DEP uses the National Atlas Projection, but as long as you define your projection, 3DEP should be able to reproject.