Amendment 0002
BAA 10-015
Joint Service Explosives Ordinance Disposal

1. The purpose of Amendment 0002 to BAA 10-015 is to answer questions submitted prior to 27 April 2010 and to amend the BAA. Questions received after that time and before the deadline for submissions or questions will be addressed in a subsequent amendment.

2. The following questions have been received and the answers are provided.

Question 1. Is there a more specific need for dual manipulator control that you can share? That is, is a single manipulator unable to lift, grab or manipulate a single object that the warfighter is encountering, or is the goal the ability for a single UGV to be able to operate on multiple IED components simultaneously? Is it envisioned that the dual manipulators are coordinated, independent, or is those desired options with the flip of a switch?

Response 1. The dual manipulator concept is not tied to any one specific capability gap, but rather to increase the overall future capability of the EOD technician to perform a range of more complex, downrange actions with a robot. Dual manipulators are not currently used by EOD, but may be in the future. Novel concepts/technologies for the human machine interface for simultaneous grasping, force feedback for dual manipulators that are still man transportable are areas of interest.

Question 2. Can you shed any light on a specific need for the physics-based robot simulator? Is the simulator to be used as a robot design tool or solely as a trainer? Is the goal to train a new operator in how to drive the system by viewing video feedback over difficult terrain, or is it to understand how the robot will react to the environmental conditions?

Response 2. The BAA announcement describes modeling and simulation technologies than can be used for realistic training and evaluation of new/potential robotic improvements. There is no one specific capability gap sought, but the goal for this area is to increase the efficacy of training, and provide a platform to evaluate new capabilities to assess them prior to possible hardware integration.

Question 3. We are seeking clarification as to whether our approach and solution is responsive to this BAA before proceeding further. We see the best fit under section 2a (IED and Surface Munition Diagnose and Identification - Radiation/Biological/Chemical Detection/Identification). We would like confirmation that this approach is responsive to the topic.

Response 3. ONR is soliciting white papers/proposals to address the areas described in the BAA. Potential technology solutions that may

provide a capability that exists using commercially available tools/equipment should explicitly describe the merits of the proposed new technology, and the potential added contributions/benefit to the JSEOD mission. The proposal will then be evaluated per Section V of the BAA, Evaluation Information.

Question 4. Do you entertain/fund overseas research and is there much precedence for collaborating jointly with foreign defense organizations programs where there is a common interest/goal.

Response 4. ONR will accept proposals from OCONUS organizations with whom there are Department of Defense Information Exchange Agreements (IEA) in place currently. This includes classified information.

Question 5. In the white paper section of the BAA instructions, it states "The subject line shall read ONR BAA 10-105 White Paper Submissions", but there is no subject line on the ONR submission site. Will my proposal be disqualified if I cannot include the subject line?

Response 5.See paragraph 3 (b) below.

Question 6.The file name for white papers is not specified in the BAA instructions. However, when uploading the file to the ONR site, it said to follow the file naming guidelines. It gave examples such as "OEjohnso.doc", but there is no reference to this file naming instructions, it gave a file naming convention of ONRBAAXX-XXX_Topic_LeadPI-Unversity.pdf, so I used that convention for the file that was upload.

Response 7. This is acceptable, as the BAA does not prescribe a naming convention for White Papers.

Question 8. When I uploaded the white paper to the Drop Box link in the BAA, it returned a response (attached) that we had uploaded our "Annual Report" rather than white paper. Is this just a canned message from the website? I followed the link that was in the BAA announcement. If this is just a canned message, I just wanted to make sure that the white paper does get to the right people.

Response 8. This has been fixed. The original coding that sends out the thank you confirmation email was incorrect.

3. The BAA is amended as follows:

(c)   Section IV, paragraph 2.a., page 11, White Paper Content. Add a new final sentence under the paragraph entitled "Technical Section" as follows:

"Potential technology solutions that may provide a capability that exists using commercially available tools/equipment should explicitly describe the merits of the proposed new technology, and the potential added contributions/benefit to the JSEOD mission.

(b)   Section IV, paragraph 2.a. Revise the first Note to read as follows:

Note: The White Paper must be a Microsoft Word or .PDF format no hard copies will be accepted.

(A)   Section III, Eligibility Information, page 8. Insert new second paragraph as follows:

"Proposals from OCONUS organizations with whom there are Department of Defense Information Exchange Agreements (IEA) in place currently may submit proposals under this BAA. This includes classified information.