

Hidden Signals Challenge

*Questions & Answers from the Informational Webinar
(Wednesday, November 1, 2017)*

Questions and answers from the Hidden Signals Challenge informational webinar hosted on November 1, 2017 are now available here, including responses to a number of questions which were not answered during the webinar.

As a reminder, there is less than one month left to enter the Challenge. Help us uncover emerging biothreats with concepts for novel uses of existing data by submitting [here](#) before 4:59 PM ET on Monday, December 4th!

SUBMISSION

Q: Where are the data sources coming from?

A: Several data sources can be found on the [Additional Resources](#) page of the Challenge site, however you are encouraged to think creatively about where you source your data. Keep in mind that *originality* is part of the Stage 1 [selection criteria](#).

Q: Is leveraging existing DHS data in scope?

A: Yes. Entrants must have sufficient intellectual property and/or data rights to the DHS data.

Q: Is nih.gov data in scope?

A: Yes, you are welcome to use data from www.nih.gov, or any other available data sets you feel will meet the Stage 1 [selection criteria](#). Entrants must have sufficient intellectual property and/or data rights to the data.

Q: What are the requirements for a submission for Stage 1? A concept paper, prototype, something else?

A: In Stage 1, we are looking for concepts. We encourage you to review the [submission form](#) for more details on specific submission requirements.

Q: Can an existing patent be included as part of the conceptual frame?

A: Yes, but only if entrants have sufficient rights in the invention covered under the patent to grant the license to DHS as provided for in the [Intellectual Property section of the Rules, Terms & Conditions, which may include the](#) invention covered under that patent. Please carefully review the Rules, Terms & Conditions [Eligibility section](#) for clarification on use of marks, treatment of third-party content or open source code, and required legal standing of submissions.

RULES, TERMS & CONDITIONS

Q: Are academic institutions eligible to apply?

A: Yes, academic institutions are eligible to apply if they are properly incorporated in the U.S. and maintaining a primary place of business in the U.S.

If the prize is to be received by the university, we recommend you check with your institution's administration to clarify how the funding will be distributed to avoid future misunderstandings.

Q: Can a faculty member at a public university, who is not a US citizen, be a Team Lead?

A: If you are applying on behalf of a group of individuals, the Team Lead must be either a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident to be eligible to receive funds. A foreign citizen may serve as Team Lead only when applying on behalf of an entity (in this case, the university). The entity must be incorporated in the U.S. and maintain a primary place of business in the U.S. Please review the [Rules, Terms & Conditions](#) for the full list of eligibility requirements.

Q: What is a "worldwide license"?

A: As outlined in the [Intellectual Property of Submissions](#) section of the Rules, Terms & Conditions, the license that each Stage 1 Finalist grants to DHS and its designees represents: "a worldwide, non-exclusive, sub-licensable, transferable, fully paid-up, royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable right to use, reproduce, distribute, modify, create derivative works, publicly perform, publicly display, digitally perform, make, have made, distribute and import their Stage 1 submission and other data submitted, in any media now known or hereafter developed, for any purpose whatsoever, commercial or otherwise, without further approval by or payment to the Finalist, and represents that he/she/it has the unrestricted right to grant that license." Further, as described in the Submission License section of the Rules, Terms & Conditions, each Stage 1 entrant grants to DHS and Luminary Labs a paid-up, non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to store, access modify, reproduce, and distribute their Stage 1 submission.

Q: Is the license in conflict with more permissive open source licenses (BSD, MIT)?

A: More permissive open source licenses, such as the MIT open source license, are based on retaining ownership and granting unrestricted rights with as few restrictions as possible. With this Challenge, DHS requests a permissive, unrestricted license from the owner for unrestricted usage rights to the selected submissions, however DHS does not seek ownership of the submission.

Q: Can teams change between Stage 1 and Stage 2?

A: Team changes are permissible as long as the Team Lead remains consistent. Depending on the makeup of your team in Stage 1, you may seek to add new areas of expertise to your team during Stage 2.

Q: Could you please review the IP requirements?

A: Please review the [Intellectual Property of Submissions](#) section of the Rules, Terms & Conditions for full details.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Q: How will teams be judged if they have been put together to address the challenge?

A: We encourage you to review the Stage 1 [selection criteria](#) to see how judges will evaluate Stage 1 submissions. In the [submission form](#), you will have the opportunity to describe your team's expertise and experience in detail.

Q: Would the Twitter or Sickweather APIs be considered reliable long term?

A: Sustainability is one of the Stage 1 [selection criteria](#). In the submission form, solvers will have the opportunity to provide evidence of the reliability of their data sources.

Q: Cities charge for data, and some of that data is valuable for this exercise. What's the limit on the pay for fee?

A: We encourage you to reference the Stage 1 [selection criteria](#). While open source, free data will result in highly sustainable solutions, *sustainability* is not the sole criteria to consider. If a data source is not free, we encourage you to carefully consider how much this data source contributes across other criteria.

CHALLENGE FORMAT

Q: When will Stage 1 results be known?

A: Stage 1 Finalists will be announced in Winter 2018. Please [subscribe to the Challenge newsletter](#) to be the first to know.

Q: Is there a way to dialogue with program managers to determine whether a project idea meets the intended scope of this Challenge?

A: We encourage you to review the [Hidden Signals Challenge](#) site in detail for information on the intended scope of the Challenge. You may email hello@hiddensignals.com with further questions—however, please note that we cannot offer specific consultation on your submission.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

Q: Any technology limitations?

A: There are no explicit technology limitations at this time. We encourage you to reference the Stage 1 [selection criteria](#).

MISCELLANEOUS

Q: Are there copies of your slides from the informational webinar?

A: The archived webinar is available on the Challenge blog [here](#).