

WEBVTT

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Robert Beverly: Part of size.

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00:00:05.430 --> 00:00:18.420

Robert Beverly: So for this webinar today. We have a couple of goals. The first is to introduce the CC program its goals and objectives. The second is to actually detail the solicitation and some of the changes that have been made.

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Robert Beverly: Third, is to help potential proposers ensure the quality of their proposals and make sure that the proposals are aligned with the program and its goals. And then finally answer any questions from potential proposers

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Robert Beverly: I'd like to mention that you're free to ask any questions in the Q AMP a box. During this zoom and at the end we will try to answer these questions as well. Some of the questions, my colleague Kevin may answer asynchronously in the Q AMP a

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Robert Beverly: So let's get started and talk about the CC program and its objectives.

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Robert Beverly: Before we do that, there's a bit of orientation. Let's talk about oh AC so oh I see is the Office of advanced cyber infrastructure.

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Robert Beverly: And we support and coordinate the development acquisition and provisioning of state of the art Cyber Infrastructure resources tools and services essential to the advancement.

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Robert Beverly: And transformation of science and engineering. So when we talk about cyber infrastructure, we're talking about the computation, the data, the software and networking that helps facilitate scientific discovery and innovation.

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Robert Beverly: So, for example, within OTC we help enable a wide and diverse range of science on this slide, you see a couple of pictures of some of the projects that we've helped engage with

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Robert Beverly: Everything ranging from quantum computing

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Robert Beverly: To supercolliders to material science to Arctic exploration and within these different science domains exist significant challenges.

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Robert Beverly: They're often large instruments that may produce very big data that requires big compute for highly collaborative scientists

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Robert Beverly: That are in different specializations across widely distributed infrastructure infrastructure that must be available that must ensure workflow integrity and must still be easy to use. Well, adhering to potential regulatory policy requirements.

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Robert Beverly: And so one of the things that we note is that there are security issues that permeate across all of these challenges. And this is exactly what CC is trying to target, how we can better secure this cyber infrastructure and facilitate scientists

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00:02:34.590 --> 00:02:40.860

Robert Beverly: So within OTC we take a holistic view of how we can secure the research cyber infrastructure.

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Robert Beverly: Everything from ensuring the integrity of the data as well as the provenance of the data as well as potentially the privacy and confidentiality confidentiality concerns.

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00:02:52.050 --> 00:02:57.990

Robert Beverly: As well as things like authentication and availability and of course still thinking about usability.

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00:02:58.680 --> 00:03:18.150

Robert Beverly: So from all of these different aspects of security, we think about how we can ensure and have these goals of having reproducible and trusted science, how we can enable and facilitate collaborative science. And last, how we can ensure that the science infrastructure is production ready

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00:03:20.550 --> 00:03:28.410

Robert Beverly: And again, this is exactly what the cyber security innovation for cyber infrastructure or CC program seeks to promote so we're

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00:03:28.830 --> 00:03:36.270

Robert Beverly: Looking to support applied research to secure science data science workflows and science cyber infrastructure.

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Robert Beverly: And here you'll note that we've emphasized applied research. So here we're trying to emphasize the fact that we would like to focus more on the applied nature of the work rather than trying to support fundamental research in cyber security.

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00:03:51.150 --> 00:03:58.410

Robert Beverly: We're interested in the development, the deployment and ways to integrate solutions that benefit the broader scientific community.

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00:03:59.220 --> 00:04:15.060

Robert Beverly: We're interested in how to operationalize. Some of these emerging cyber security techniques into the science Cyber Infrastructure domain as well as develop new cyber security approaches that may be specific to science CI domains and requirements.

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Robert Beverly: So next with that overview. I'd like to step into some more detail about the solicitation and some of the changes that you may note.

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Robert Beverly: So the NSF

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Robert Beverly: CC solicitation, which is publicly available has experienced some changes since the last CC solicitation, which was in 2019

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Robert Beverly: So after a one year hiatus. We've taken a step back and done a programmatic rethink

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Robert Beverly: And a rethink in consideration, mostly of some of the successes of the program as well as the ways in which the cyber infrastructure has evolved and the needs of the cyber infrastructure ecosystem and the users have changed the users here being the scientists

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00:04:59.760 --> 00:05:11.400

Robert Beverly: Within this solicitation. We've introduced three new exciting program areas you see SS RSS D and Si ve D on the next slide. I'll describe these in some more detail.

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Robert Beverly: Within the program, we will be making small awards up to \$500,000 to enable P eyes to explore these different areas. And these awards will be for up to three years in duration, the due date for CC proposals is January 8 2021 and we anticipate supporting between 10 and 15 awards.

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Robert Beverly: So before I step into the three new program areas. I'd like to give you a bit of background on some of the themes that we liked to try to emphasize when developing these three new program areas.

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Robert Beverly: And so again, I've said this a couple of times, but I'd like to again emphasize the fact that we're very interested in Applied security research that has some tie to science applied security research that can benefit science.

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Robert Beverly: Benefit the domain scientists as well as benefit the scientific Cyber Infrastructure itself.

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Robert Beverly: Second, we recognize and leverage some of the inherent differences that do exist in the science Cyber Infrastructure ecosystem, whether those differences are in the data. The software, the workflows, or the workloads themselves.

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Robert Beverly: Third, we'd like to more explicitly consider the usability, the adoption and ways to actually empower the domain scientists with security.

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Robert Beverly: Fourth, we're interested in ways to discover and also potentially mitigate weaknesses and vulnerabilities and science CI and last interested in gathering quantitative metrics wherever possible.

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Robert Beverly: So on this slide, we have a summary of the three new program areas. The first program area is what we call usable and collaborative security for science.

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Robert Beverly: Here we're interested in applied research that can help facilitate scientific collaboration and help adopt security into scientific workflows in this area we're interested in ways to overcome some of the security and usability obstacles to data and resource sharing

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Robert Beverly: The second program area is the reference scientific security data sets. Here we're giving an explicit nod to some of the work to develop and the importance of developing

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Robert Beverly: Canonical data sets that can actually help improve the science of security itself and the science of security as applied specifically to the scientific

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00:07:41.850 --> 00:08:00.120

Robert Beverly: Cyber Infrastructure domain. So in this particular program area we're interested in capturing science specific workflows and workload behavior as well as gathering and curating canonical science workload data sets that can help facilitate techniques to secure science cyber infrastructure.

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Robert Beverly: In the third program area we've dumped this scientific infrastructure vulnerability discovery.

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Robert Beverly: Here we're seeking research that recognizes the unique ecosystem of scientific cyber infrastructure to proactively discover vulnerabilities and weaknesses.

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Robert Beverly: Of course, in this area, we encourage P eyes to be cognizant of potential ethical and operational concerns as well as think about leveraging existing test beds and frameworks for performing vulnerability discovery.

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Robert Beverly: So I've given the summary of the three new program areas in the solicitation itself or significant is a significant more significant amount of more detail about each of these, and we encourage you to read the solicitation for those details.

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Robert Beverly: So what is in a successful CC proposal, so some rules of thumb here again, there are some science driver. There's some link to the science, the science applications and the science users.

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Robert Beverly: A successful proposal will typically describe the scientific infrastructure or environment that will benefit as a result of the work.

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Robert Beverly: It will talk about some of the unique properties of the scientific domain or cyber infrastructure that influence the desired security functionality design or mechanisms in the proposal.

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Robert Beverly: Further, the threat model will be described that's particular to the science domain. And last, a plan for gathering quantitative metrics that help assess the security benefits of the work.

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Robert Beverly: It's also important to note what CC is not so CC is not generally appropriate as a mechanism for non security infrastructure efforts and, furthermore, it's not intended to support pure infrastructure operation.

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Robert Beverly: It's also not intended to support fundamental or theoretical cyber security or privacy research work in this space, maybe better served by sizes sassy program or the secure and trustworthy cyberspace.

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Robert Beverly: In terms of proposal preparation. We encourage you to look at the PAP G NSF 20 dash one, which is the proposal and award policies and procedures guide.

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Robert Beverly: The proposals should be titled to indicate the fact that they're targeted to CC and which of the three

program areas. So here you would write CC colon, the program, the acronym of the program area, followed by the title. So for example, you might have CC colon RSS de colon and amazing proposal.

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Robert Beverly: In terms of eligibility proposals may only be submitted by universities and colleges as well as nonprofit non academic organizations, we're limiting the number of proposals per PPI KPI or senior personnel member to to

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Robert Beverly: And we again encourage you to read the solicitation for additional details on eligibility.

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Robert Beverly: Okay, next. We'd like to get into how proposals can be aligned with the program as well as some of the CC specific review criteria that will be in place.

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Robert Beverly: So as many of you know

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Robert Beverly: NSF has a set of standard review criteria reviewers and the review panel as well as the reviews themselves the panel discussions and the panel summaries.

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Robert Beverly: Will be asked to consider issues of intellectual merit and broader impact. Again, these are the standard NSF review criteria. However, in addition, there's a set of CC specific review criteria that we'd like to discuss next

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00:11:53.970 --> 00:12:12.270

Robert Beverly: The CC specific review criteria really divided into three areas. The first is the project motivation and impact. The third is cyber infrastructure plans and sorry. The second is cyber infrastructure plans and the third is measurable outcomes. So let's discuss each of these in detail.

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Robert Beverly: So here the first set of CC specific criteria or project motivation and impact and these

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Robert Beverly: These this text is taken verbatim from the solicitation and it is I think worthwhile to repeat it, just so that it's emphasized.

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Robert Beverly: And everyone understands the criteria under which these proposals will be evaluated.

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Robert Beverly: The first is science driven. To what extent is the proposed project science driven. How will the project outcomes. Phil well recognized science and engineering needs of the research community.

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Robert Beverly: What will be the broader impacts of the project, such as its benefits to science and engineering communities beyond its initial targets.

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Robert Beverly: underrepresented communities and Education and Workforce Development, the project description should provide a compelling discussion of the potential to benefit its intended as well as Broader Communities.

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00:13:08.880 --> 00:13:24.510

Robert Beverly: Next is innovation. To what extent is the proposed project innovative what innovative and transformational capabilities. Well, the project brain to its target communities and how will the project integrate innovation and discovery into the project activities.

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00:13:27.180 --> 00:13:40.200

Robert Beverly: The second set of CC specific review criteria involved Cyber Infrastructure plans. So for instance, with project plans and system and process architecture, how will detailed or the project plans.

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00:13:40.680 --> 00:13:53.550

Robert Beverly: And the logical and physical architectures. Does the project plan include user interactions and provide a timeline, including a proof of concept demonstration or prototyping of the proposed system or framework.

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00:13:55.110 --> 00:14:04.230

Robert Beverly: Next is building on existing recognized capabilities. To what extent does the proposed project build on existing recognized capabilities.

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Robert Beverly: How will the project activities build on and leverage existing NSF national an open source cyber infrastructure and cyber security investments as appropriate.

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Robert Beverly: And third is there close collaboration among stakeholders.

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00:14:20.670 --> 00:14:37.260

Robert Beverly: To what extent does the proposed project involve close collaboration among stakeholders, how will the project activities engage Cyber Infrastructure experts specialists and scientists working in concert with the relevant domain scientists who are users of the cyber infrastructure.

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00:14:39.660 --> 00:14:49.140

Robert Beverly: And then the last area of CC specific criteria is sustained and sustainable impacts, which has been an emphasis emphasis area of AC for some time now.

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00:14:49.440 --> 00:14:58.170

Robert Beverly: How will the projects outcomes and its activities have long term impacts and how would these be sustained beyond the lifetime of the award as appropriate.

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00:14:58.860 --> 00:15:11.490

Robert Beverly: Are their sustainability approaches following well established models. So again, these are CC specific criteria that we will ask both the reviewers and the proposers to be responsive to

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Robert Beverly: In terms of the schedule. The deadline for CC is January 8 2021 and for schedule NSF targets a six month dwell time with awards to be made after then

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00:15:28.020 --> 00:15:38.460

Robert Beverly: Okay, so next we would like to take questions from anyone on the webinar this afternoon and see if we can answer any concerns you may have

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00:15:39.390 --> 00:15:49.980

Robert Beverly: So thanks again, we'll take some questions now from the zoo and at any time you can feel free to email either myself or Kevin Thompson at these email addresses.

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00:15:58.770 --> 00:16:01.380

Robert Beverly: Okay, so let's see here.

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00:16:03.630 --> 00:16:11.100

Robert Beverly: So the first question is. Hi, Will the slides be made available and as Kevin said yes they will be made available.

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Robert Beverly: We will absolutely post them it will take us a couple of days, but we'll get that posted along with the solicitation on the websites.

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00:16:20.970 --> 00:16:29.010

Robert Beverly: The next question is, thank you. This is an interesting solicitation. There are several aspects to consider in terms of solutions.

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00:16:29.520 --> 00:16:42.990

Robert Beverly: Are we limited to fresh off the bench technologies or is it safe to assume that applied research extends to several open source efforts that target the enterprise computing environments, but requires significant reengineering to implement them.

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00:16:43.470 --> 00:16:49.320

Robert Beverly: In research CI environments. So this is a great question. And yes, one of the things that we

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00:16:49.770 --> 00:17:04.020

Robert Beverly: Are absolutely interested in are both pieces of work that take existing technologies and adopt them into the CI domain. We're also interested in work that is specific and targets research.

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00:17:04.710 --> 00:17:14.160

Robert Beverly: that's specific to the CI domain. But yes, this notion of extending open source efforts into the CA domain is absolutely in scope.

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00:17:19.170 --> 00:17:22.800

Robert Beverly: Okay, let's see. So the next question.

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Robert Beverly: Okay, I think we can probably take that one off line.

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00:17:39.930 --> 00:18:04.920

Robert Beverly: Okay, so there's a question about FF our deasy's allowed to participate as a sub awardee. So this is a great question. We generally in because of the size of the awards, we generally do recommend this path for FF RTC to participate as a sub already. And yes, that is allowed.

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00:18:06.990 --> 00:18:26.580

Robert Beverly: Okay, let's see. Oh, a whole bunch of questions are pouring in. I will try to get to them. Okay. Does usable security research encapsulate the use an enhancement of privacy enhancing technologies, for instance, searchable encryption for research infrastructures, so

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00:18:27.810 --> 00:18:50.100

Robert Beverly: I think we define usable security research here broadly and we're interested in many different types of of usability solutions. And so, privacy, enhancing technologies where they do have some benefit and tie to science would absolutely be in scope and of interest to the program.

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00:18:52.290 --> 00:19:05.490

Robert Beverly: Okay, next question. What types of existing collaboration. Do you expect to see between the science domain and the applied cybersecurity in a successful proposal. So, this is

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Robert Beverly: This is an excellent question. So again, this is one of the ways in which the proposals are evaluated. And so what we really like to see here is

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00:19:17.640 --> 00:19:27.930

Robert Beverly: Some sort of collaboration where there's an explicit tie to the science domain. So this might mean actually working to prototype, some of the solutions.

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00:19:28.770 --> 00:19:45.720

Robert Beverly: To evaluate some of the solutions or to evaluate some of the solutions for a particular science domain and demonstrate that it's actually benefiting it so the more that you can do to tie it to the science, the better received probably I would anticipate the proposal being

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00:19:48.240 --> 00:20:02.670

Robert Beverly: OK, the next question. Should we consider this as a high risk, high payoff type of project. Again, that's, that's an excellent, excellent question. Um, I think that

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00:20:03.990 --> 00:20:19.830

Robert Beverly: What I would emphasize here on this one, you know, NSF is is largely interested in research proposals and NSF is is definitely interested in in work that you know is innovative and exploratory

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Robert Beverly: That being said, I would also emphasize sort of the applied nature of some of this work. I think that there is ample opportunity to increase

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Robert Beverly: The, the cyber infrastructure cyber security posture of the infrastructure today. And so, you know, yes, we're interested in things that are that are high risk, high payoff. But we're also interested in things that have, you know, direct impact to the cyber infrastructure.

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00:20:50.670 --> 00:20:51.240

Robert Beverly: Okay.

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00:20:52.860 --> 00:20:59.460

Robert Beverly: Alright, so the next question is, what does the threat model indicate in the proposal.

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Robert Beverly: So, so here what we're trying to emphasize is that many different types of science and many different types of supporting cyber infrastructure.

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00:21:09.060 --> 00:21:19.590

Robert Beverly: Will have different risks and different cyber security concerns. And so, for example, whatever solution that's being deployed should have

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00:21:20.460 --> 00:21:42.840

Robert Beverly: Should have a clear sort of impedance match with the actual threat to the organization that is either a user of that infrastructure, a provider of that data or somehow dependent on all of the cyber infrastructure. And so the actual threat model needs to detail ways in which

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00:21:43.860 --> 00:21:45.180

Robert Beverly: Ways in which the

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00:21:46.260 --> 00:21:51.930

Robert Beverly: We might anticipate the attackers going after the scientific cyber infrastructure.

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00:21:56.250 --> 00:22:01.830

Robert Beverly: Okay, the next question. I understand that proposals to emphasize one program area. Correct.

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00:22:02.400 --> 00:22:15.660

Robert Beverly: To what degree may cover other areas too. So yes, that is that is correct. The proposal should focus on one program area. I think what we would say is that it's of course

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00:22:16.260 --> 00:22:26.460

Robert Beverly: We welcome proposals that may hit multiple of these areas, but we'd like the proposal to target one program area overlap is absolutely fine.

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Robert Beverly: Okay.

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00:22:32.670 --> 00:22:45.240

Robert Beverly: So this is a question about the CMC the cybersecurity maturity model certification program to ensure compliance with regulatory controls.

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00:22:46.050 --> 00:22:58.410

Robert Beverly: The technical and financial barriers for small and medium sized institutions will be huge and potentially limits their ability to participate in future solicitations due to an inability to meet a certification.

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00:22:59.220 --> 00:23:07.320

Robert Beverly: What a proposal to develop a customizable tool to streamline and automate the CMC process be acceptable and desirable.

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00:23:08.460 --> 00:23:27.390

Robert Beverly: So for for a question like this. I think it's important to emphasize that such a thing, of course, would be in scope and would be evaluated by the the panel and the program directors to to see how responsive. It is to the needs of the community.

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00:23:29.130 --> 00:23:38.910

Robert Beverly: But as a short answer. Yes, this is a obviously meeting regulatory requirements is something that is is a challenge.

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00:23:42.510 --> 00:23:48.510

Robert Beverly: Okay, next question. And I should emphasize, if I'm not answering the question.

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00:23:49.860 --> 00:23:57.600

Robert Beverly: In the way that you had hoped, please, please say so in the in the Q AMP a sense. Like, I can't interact with folks directly

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00:23:58.860 --> 00:24:05.430

Robert Beverly: Can the budget us to explore additional science collaborators beyond the proposed one

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Robert Beverly: So,

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00:24:10.050 --> 00:24:17.670

Robert Beverly: Here, I will just give it a I'm not entirely sure what you have in mind. But I would say that

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00:24:18.150 --> 00:24:36.240

Robert Beverly: For any of these types of budgeting questions. It would have to be justified in the budget justification and the proposal would be evaluated on whether that justification was sound again relative to the goals of the program and the CC review criteria.

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00:24:39.330 --> 00:24:48.450

Robert Beverly: Okay, so the next question is, do you consider the security of emerging autonomous systems. For instance, self driving cars and or robots.

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00:24:49.140 --> 00:25:01.500

Robert Beverly: So this is a this is a great question. I think if there is a again a tie to science, right. So if there is scientific cyber infrastructure.

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00:25:02.040 --> 00:25:12.840

Robert Beverly: That supports things like the science of self driving cars or the science of robots. This would be in scope, I would mention also that there are

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Robert Beverly: Other programs within NSF that explicitly target research on the security of self driving cars and the security of robots, which would be less of what CC is actually targeting

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00:25:30.990 --> 00:25:45.870

Robert Beverly: Okay, next question. Thank you for all of the questions is research on awareness training and education appropriate for this program. So I would

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00:25:47.400 --> 00:26:08.610

Robert Beverly: So for this one. I think the the answer here is that is two parts. One is that only see is, is as a as a division is very keen on training, education and and workforce development and in the ways that this is important to the broader

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00:26:10.140 --> 00:26:31.110

Robert Beverly: The broader Cyber Infrastructure system and securing it CC is not specifically targeted towards, towards education that said, this could be a broader impact and that said, there are other programs within OTC and NSF that are specifically targeting educational aspects.

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00:26:32.460 --> 00:26:43.560

Robert Beverly: So for details on that or if you need more details on the mix there please reach out by email to either Kevin, or I, and we're happy to give some some additional pointers.

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00:26:46.110 --> 00:26:48.660

Robert Beverly: Okay, next question.

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00:26:49.800 --> 00:27:02.250

Robert Beverly: Usability might explicitly take human factors into account what kinds of human factors do you expect. Um, so, you know, here again we

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00:27:02.850 --> 00:27:12.720

Robert Beverly: Have largely tried to under specify usability on purpose. And we're interested to see what the community would like to propose here.

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00:27:13.230 --> 00:27:24.420

Robert Beverly: But of course human factors are are of interest here. And one of the things that CC is explicitly trying to, to, to recognize is the fact that

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00:27:25.200 --> 00:27:36.690

Robert Beverly: Adding additional security can often be perceived as an impediment to the domain scientists that are just trying to get their work done. And so ways

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00:27:37.200 --> 00:27:58.650

Robert Beverly: That usability can help address this, that can help ease security for the domain scientists and and furthermore better demonstrates that security is a an actual benefit to the research of course are welcome and and would be in scope.

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00:28:01.680 --> 00:28:02.400

Robert Beverly: Okay.

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00:28:03.750 --> 00:28:08.820

Robert Beverly: So some other questions that have percolated in in the chat.

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00:28:10.860 --> 00:28:27.150

Robert Beverly: Okay. The question is, is designing a secure by design edge computing testbed that supports domain scientists from areas such as smart healthcare data science and smart disaster response within the scope of of CC

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Robert Beverly: And so, you know, for, for, for a question like this. We don't like to explicitly say, you know, what's a good proposal or what's a bad proposal.

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Robert Beverly: I think anything that makes an explicit link to the scientists. So this question actually asks about a particular area of domain within science.

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Robert Beverly: And I think anything that has that kind of a link is within the scope of CC if it has a security benefit to the scientists and the scientific cyber infrastructure.

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Robert Beverly: What is your thoughts on incorporating commercial products should I solution be open source only. So again, this is, this is something that that that we

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00:29:21.060 --> 00:29:33.360

Robert Beverly: Are are interested in. It's part of the evaluation criteria we often encourage work to be open sourced, but it's not a requirement.

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00:29:34.290 --> 00:29:44.700

Robert Beverly: And so, you know, I think the solicitation has some additional details on this, but the point here is to sort of motivate the approach, why it would help.

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00:29:45.240 --> 00:29:53.910

Robert Beverly: You know benefit the domain scientists and if a commercial product is part of that solution, then that is you know something the panel will consider

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00:29:58.980 --> 00:29:59.640

Robert Beverly: Okay.

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00:30:00.720 --> 00:30:03.270

Robert Beverly: Have I missed any questions.

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00:30:17.670 --> 00:30:20.010

Robert Beverly: I am not seeing any

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00:30:23.940 --> 00:30:27.690

Robert Beverly: So again, thank you very much for everyone's time

151

00:30:28.950 --> 00:30:40.200

Robert Beverly: These slides will be posted please look for them on one of NSF websites, in particular the CC program page.

152

00:30:41.400 --> 00:30:50.250

Robert Beverly: And if you have any additional questions. I know it's hard to do this in a webinar format. We're happy to engage with you more on a more personal.

153

00:30:51.030 --> 00:31:06.300

Robert Beverly: And specific level please reach out to us and send an email with any questions. With that said, thank you so much for your attendance and we very much look forward to seeing your proposals in this program.

154

00:31:16.410 --> 00:31:17.550

Robert Beverly: Okay. Thanks everyone.

155

00:31:27.030 --> 00:31:29.910

Edgar Huertas: I'll go ahead and end the recording.