

ASIS Foundation

Request for Proposals to Conduct a Study on *Autonomous Vehicles: Threats, Risks & Opportunities for Security*

June 2023

The ASIS Foundation is seeking researchers to conduct a study on an important topic related to the security profession and industry to provide an engaging, informative, and actionable report. The work's audience consists of (1) practitioners in the corporate, organizational, and private security fields and (2) those who are interested in security, such as suppliers, investors, academics, organizational executives, and government policy makers, among others.

Key Details

- Proposals are due June 20, 2023
 - Submission questions by June 15, 2023
- Awardee announced July 11, 2023
- Draft Report due December 12, 2023 (five months)
- Final Report due February 20, 2024
- Maximum budget US\$40,000
- Questions and proposals should be directed to the Project Manager:
 - Polly Karpowicz, polly@karpstrategy.com

Background

ASIS International is a global community of 32,000 security professionals representing all aspects of security, from security risk management, physical security, cybersecurity, and business continuity. ASIS members represent virtually every industry in the public and private sectors, and organizations of all sizes. Association members may be entry-level managers, chief security officers, security managers, chief executive officers, consultants, product or service suppliers, or law enforcement or military.

The **ASIS Foundation** is a not-for-profit affiliation of ASIS International, which serves the security industry by supporting education and research. The Foundation conducts evidence-based research to help maintain ASIS as a thought leader and to build knowledge. Research is non-biased and conducted by third-party professional research institutions, available free to all ASIS members and paid content for non-ASIS members. Foundation information: <https://www.asisonline.org/get-involved/asis-foundation/>

The Project

Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) are becoming far more common in the built environment, operated by the military, industry, commercial, and recreational users. Vehicles include but are not limited to, Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Uncrewed Ground Vehicles (UGV), Uncrewed Water Vehicles (UWV), Robotics, and Autonomous Passenger Vehicles.

As AVs become more common, smarter, and powerful, they are more likely to be harnessed by criminals and terrorist actors. In contrast, security will use AVs in their day-to-day operations. Consequently, AVs pose a physical, procedural, response, legal, and social threat. Therefore, how can a security practitioner better understand, manage, use, and counter the threats, risks, and opportunities of AVs?

The project will explore how security practitioners can better understand and manage the threats, risks, and opportunities of AVs, directed by evidence-based findings. The specific topic and methodology may be suggested by the grant applicant, but should:

- Investigate the research problem background, such as current systems, regulations, frameworks, standards and guides, and application relevant to AV technologies
- Consider the current and likely future strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and other associated implications of AVs, including counter-AV systems within the context of the security professional
- Review current and emerging treatment models, frameworks, and technologies, and their efficacy
- Provide actionable recommendations to security professionals on how security could more effectively manage the threats and risks of current and emerging AV within their organization

The expected outcome will be an evidence-based guidance or strategy report on how organizations may better design, develop, apply, and manage AVs.

The report will be a work for hire, meaning copyright will belong to the ASIS Foundation. The Foundation plans to publish the report, likely providing the executive summary for free, and the report to ASIS members for free but for a fee to the public. The research organization will be given permission to post and disseminate the executive summary only, but may use the report's methodology, analysis, and findings to publish in academic peer-reviewed journals.

It is expected that the report will be approximately 30 pages long. It should be engaging, informative, professionally presented, and actionable for its target audience. The report should include at least the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Background of the study
- Literature review
- Methodology
- Analysis of the data

- Findings and interpretations
- Recommendations, including further research

In addition, the Foundation anticipates the researcher will present their research results to the industry through the following means:

- Live webinar presentation on report findings, facilitated by ASIS International media
- Interview with representative of ASIS media outlet for article or blog post
- Recorded podcast interview on the report, facilitated by ASIS International media
- Presentations (at least two) to an ASIS audience, such as a conference, a chapter, an ASIS community, or similar
- A PowerPoint slide deck of 8-10 slides (but less than 15) containing key findings and data visualizations derived from the report, which ASIS can use or share at its discretion.
- Other means as mutually agreed upon by the ASIS Foundation and the researcher.

The report and associated outcomes should present new and original information.

The Research

The project should undertake a robust literature review and provide findings from the review.

Methodology may be based on a combination of critical literature review, meta-analysis, online surveys, telephone or in-person interviews, site visits, experiments, and other suitable processes.

The researchers should explain the theoretical framework underlying the research and its method: the concepts, definitions, assumptions, hypotheses, models, explanatory power, or other factors that help the researcher choose methods and variables.

The researchers should, where appropriate, engage and seek data from outside the security profession to ensure an external perspective and understanding. ASIS International cannot necessarily provide the population sample or associated data.

Proposal Elements

Proposals should include the following sections, and the main body of the proposal (sections 1-6) should not exceed approximately 15 pages. *Shorter is fine.*

1. Cover Page

- Proposed project title, submission date, and amount of funding requested (maximum budget US\$40,000)
- Researcher information: name, organization, mailing address, email address, and telephone number

- Abstract of the proposed research (maximum 100 words), summarizing (a) the main research question/s, (b) the value of the research to security practitioners, and (c) the design and methods of the proposed research

2. Research Description

- Main purpose of the research project
- What it will examine (research question), and what it hopes to discover
- What is new, original, and useful about the proposed research

3. Need and Benefits of the Research

- Why the topic is important
- Overview of existing literature on the research topic
- Why the research is needed (e.g., lack of similar studies in the past or gaps in the literature)
- Anticipated or possible findings
- Practical implications of findings: how they might affect current or future security practice

5. Methodology

- Explanation of, and rationale for, proposed research approach and implementation plans
- General methods to be used, such as surveys, in-person or remote interviews, focus groups, site visits, experiments, literature review, etc.
- Summary of anticipated sample frame, sampling strategy, expected size of population sample, and proposed strategies for respondent recruitment and any response incentives, if applicable
- Information sources and interview subjects: ASIS members, other security professionals, allied industry members, management consultants, product or service providers, etc.
- Any theories or conceptual frameworks that will guide the research
- Analytical approach that will be used to respond to the research question/s

6. Budget

The amount requested should be appropriate to the scope of the research, and within the maximum budget of US\$40,000. The budget should address the following items and explain why each included expense is needed:

- Personnel (researchers, assistants, analysts, etc.), specifying anticipated hours and rates
- Travel
- Overhead (when required by the researcher's institution)
- Other (data costs, other needs)

7. Researcher Qualifications, Capacity, and References

- Resumes or vitas of all researchers

- Statement of the researcher's or organization's capacity to perform the project (experience, staffing, access to necessary expertise, etc.)
- A few examples of prior work (in the form of pdf files or URLs)
- References (names and contact information of people who can discuss the researcher's past work)

Proposal Submission & Timeline

Please submit the proposal containing all elements requested above as a **SINGLE PDF file** to Polly Karpowicz, Project Manager, polly@karpstrategy.com, by June 20, 2023. Direct any submission questions to Polly Karpowicz, polly@karpstrategy.com, by June 15, 2023.

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