RFP clarifications, 2020 October 20:

Will the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii allow for asset identification of vessel IT/OT assets through the use of technologies, i.e., passive scanning?

Yes, passive scanning is acceptable.

Clarifying question. What is meant in paragraph 2, page 11 of 30 by the quote, “The Contractor will provide tools for identifying IT/OT to aid in identifying potential threats that pose risk to ship operations?” Is the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii referring to vulnerability scanning or intrusion detection?

Yes, the sentence is referring to identifying potential threats that pose risk to ship operations, in particular, vulnerability scanning and intrusion detection.

Does The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii expect that tools will combine passive monitoring and active scanning be installed for more than a 30-day period according to the paragraph 2, page 11 of 30 by the quote, “These tools will be installed aboard each vessel to support IT/OT asset identification for cyber risk management assessment for the duration of the agreement for services?”

Yes, the intent is that the tools will combine passive monitoring and active scanning and will be installed for the duration of the agreement for services.

Do any of the 18 vessels have an infrastructure aboard to support a virtual security appliance? If so, how many vessels?

There are a number of ships, in particular the larger vessels, that may support virtual environments but it is not clear that these would be appropriate for installation of a virtual security appliance. For purposes of the RFP, the contractor should assume that such a virtual environment is not available.
If any of the vessels have virtual environments on board, what versions of hypervisor do they have?

Of those vessels that support virtual environments, the versions of hypervisor are not likely to be uniform. For purposes of the RFP, the contractor should assume that such a virtual environment is not available.

If the vessels do not have a virtual environment on board, will the contractor be required to physically attend the vessels to install the asset identification equipment or may the contractor remotely instruct the crew through equipment installation?

The contractor is expected to install the asset identification equipment. However, in light of the current COVID pandemic travel restrictions, individual vessel operators may choose to allow remote equipment installation. For purposes of the RFP, the contractor should assume that physical attendance will be required.