Assignment task

Read the situation described on the next page!

You are working in the IT division of AusEngIT, a large Australian-based engineering consultancy group. AusEngIT is considering whether to tender for the work involving the IT systems for AusFlies government security project. Your boss has asked you (a suitably competent engineer and strategic thinker) to complete the go/no-go analysis and then write a summary of your assessment for AusEngIT's Board of Directors.

Note that **your personal views on government surveillance and privacy are not relevant** to this assessment. However, the reasons you hold those personal views may be relevant. Necessarily, we will assume that you do not oppose this proposal to such an extent that you will refuse to work on the task and quit your employment.

This constitutes the first part of this assignment. The second part will be given to you by your tutor during class in week 6 and you will be asked to complete it during that tutorial after handing in the first part. Both parts will contribute directly & equally to your homework mark.

Suggestions

You could (but don't need to) use these headings in your report to the Board of Directors.

a. *Capabilities*, to undertake the project, including directly related experience, qualified staff, IP & technologies, etc.

b. *Potential benefits, both immediate & strategic*, including potential profit, developing capabilities & credentials in a new area, possible strategic alliances, etc.

c. *Market & client relationships*, including knowledge of the client, clear accountabilities for the work, likelihood of client problems.

d. *Unusual risks*: analysis of potential risks and whether & how these could be controlled.

e. *Outcome* of your go/no-go assessment.

We suggest spending about 3 hrs working on go/no-ogo decisions and this pre-tutorial task.

The situation

The increasingly common use of vehicles as weapons has caused governments to panic. Australia's Government has decided on a bold plan. It will have swarms of micro-drones hovering over busy city streets and parks, constantly monitoring vehicle movements. The drones will be equipped with very high resolution video cameras and live-stream their data to the relevant city Control Centre where dedicated data-analytic and AI systems will check for suspicious movement patterns of both vehicles and pedestrians. These swarms of micro-drones will organise into intervention formations when signalled from this Control Centre. What this exactly means has not been disclosed for "opearational reasons.'' As an additonal benefit, this constant, detailed recording of traffic movements is expeceted to be very useful for the engineers managing the city's traffic flow.

The Government has awarded the contract to implement the system to AusFlies, a company set up solely for this purpose. AusFlies has three parent companies. The majority share-holder is Europe's largest operator of street-based cctv systems; second is General Dynamics which brings its expertise in drones; the smallest share is owned by a new, private Australian company rumoured to be linked to the political party currently holding power at the national level. In any one city, the size of this project will extend beyond the bounds of what has been undertaken previously, at least in Australia, so there may be need for some very creative fixes associated with bandwidth congestion and signal priorities.

Given the security-sensitive nature of this project, the Government is concerned about foreign influence & control. Hence, one of AusFlies' contract conditions is that it must engage with and employ local, i.e. Australian-owned, sub-contractors for a prescribed fraction (rumoured to be 2/3) of the total value of the contract. (Such stipulations are common in government contracts.) Consequently, amongst other contracts, AusFlies has requested that Australian companies tender to provide all the IT systems for the secure transmission and storage of the data from the micro-drones, and the various signals sent from the Control Centre to micro-drones.

Your company (AusEngIT) is interested in this IT contract.

key themes: meta-data, data-matching & mining, big data, security, surveillance, privacy

DO NOT ATTACH THIS PAGE TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT.
WE ONLY NEED THE COVER.