



September 15, 2020

Dear Valued Supplier,

We, the undersigned Big Ten Academic Alliance member institutions, are committed to actively managing security risks for technology solutions used to carry out our academic missions and to protecting sensitive data used throughout daily operations.

Our information security staff have joined together to develop a shared approach to assessing the security risks of cloud-based software applications. We partnered with Riskconnect to create a collaborative technology platform that will enable you to respond to a standard set of questions designed to clarify how your application mitigates important security risks.

We understand that there are other question sets and approaches to this important compliance function. However, this platform will be used for the independent assessment of technologies being licensed by our institutions. This platform has several important advantages:

- Responses to questions will be shared with key staff at the participating Big Ten universities, thereby reducing redundant questionnaires for your company to complete in order to do business with each of our schools.
- Streamlining the review process leads to a more efficient and economical due diligence effort for everyone involved.
- Information you provide is protected based on a shared confidentiality agreement between participating universities.

It is increasingly important to keep sensitive information secure through best-practice efficient approaches that make it possible to rapidly procure vital technologies. We ask that you join with us in embracing the use of this platform so that we can all realize the benefits of this important collaboration.

Electing not to complete the question set or to address follow up responses may impact our ability to license your product in a timely manner or preclude its procurement altogether.

For more information about this Collaborative Shared Assessment Platform, please visit <https://www.btaa.org/technology/security/collaborative-security-assessment-platform>.

Sincerely,



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Tony Burger  
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