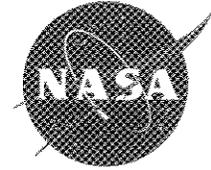


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



March 20, 2012

Reply to Attn of:

Solicitation Number and Title: NNM12ZPS002N, Space Launch System (SLS)
Advanced Development

Release Date: March 20, 2012

Questions/Comments Due: April 10, 2012, 1:00 p.m. CST

Proposals Due: May 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m. CDT

This NASA Research Announcement (NRA) entitled "Space Launch System (SLS) Advanced Development" solicits proposals from both industry and academic institutions for innovative development concepts in key topic areas. These concepts should improve SLS affordability, reliability, or performance within a constrained fiscal schedule. In addition to soliciting innovative proposals from industry, this NRA is also seeking focused proposals from academic institutions. Including academia provides an added benefit of improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

Proposals are solicited by NASA, Human Exploration and Operations Directorate, SLS Advanced Development Office.

The full NRA may be found on: <http://www.fedbizopps.gov>, <http://prod.nais.nasa.gov>, or <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/>. The Offeror should monitor these sites for any amendments issued against this NRA. Additionally, the Offeror is informed that major changes from the Draft NRA to the NRA are minimal. Changes of note are provided as follows:

- Removed SLS-PLAN-020 (Space Launch System Program Concept of Operations Document) from the final solicitation
- Added relevant details and descriptions from SLS-PLAN-020 into Appendix A where appropriate (sections 1.0 – 3.9)
- Inserted the Affordable Upper Stage Engine Program (AUSEP) Technical Requirements Specification into the NRA as Appendix C
- Within Appendix A, added a description for the Affordable Upper Stage Engine (AUSE) (section 2.5), and a reference to the AUSE in the description for the Propulsion Broad Advanced Development Topic (section 5.1)
- Within Appendix A, refined the technical scope of this NRA to clarify and described the expectations of any potential work effort that attempts to associate the AUSE with a CPS (sections 1.0 and 5.0)

- Within Appendix A, clarified the technical scope of this NRA, as it relates to the Non-propulsive Payload Element (NPE), to include the Block 1A fairing but not to include the cargo payload adapter (CPA).
- Added Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (INKSNA) prohibition language to the Executive Summary
- Clarified corporate resource requirements

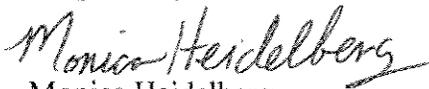
Questions and comments associated with this NRA shall be submitted in writing to NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Attn: Monica Heidelberg, PS42, Marshall Space Flight Center, 35812 or via email at Monica.D.Heidelberg@nasa.gov by 1:00 p.m. CST on April 10, 2012. Questions received after the specified date and time will not be addressed. Questions and responses will be posted on the web at <http://fedbizopps.gov>, <http://prod.nais.nasa.gov>, or <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/> site.

Proposals solicited through this NRA will use a selection and award process. NASA will select proposals that provide best value to NASA in regards to Relevance to NASA Objectives, Intrinsic Merit, and Price with consideration to available funds. Upon selection, the Offeror will be required to provide additional information for negotiation and potential award.

Proposals shall be submitted no later than May 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m. CDT. One original proposal package, plus ten paper copies and two digital copies shall be submitted to: NASA, George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, Attn: Monica Heidelberg/PS42, Building 4202, Room 207, MSFC, AL 35812. Proposals, evaluation of proposals, and communication of the results of its evaluation shall not be performed through NSPIRES or through Grants.gov.

Through this NRA, NASA encourages the participation of industry and academia in its SLS Advanced Development acquisition.

Respectfully,



Monica Heidelberg
Contracting Officer