

SOLICITATION NNL0597759E
QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

1. **QUESTION:** Would NASA please provide duration for the Phase-In Period?
RESPONSE: In accordance with Section F.2 “Period of Performance”, the Phase-In Period is two weeks.
2. **QUESTION:** Pg 10 under Basic Service. Schedule, please clarify the item, "Wash Spot Mop Floors" and how it differs from "Spot Mopping"?
RESPONSE: See Amendment 2, Item A for clarification.
3. **QUESTION:** Can NASA provide a count of floor mats?
RESPONSE: Estimated count is 250. See Amendment 2, Item E for clarification.
4. **QUESTION:** Attach. 2-Historical Data- Identifies floor cleaning and spot mopping requirement as 321,570 sf. Exhibit E identifies 331,570 sf of tiled floor. Exhibit E also identifies 1,239,790 sf of concrete floor. Please clarify the floor cleaning requirement, especially in view of Basic Service Schedule included on pg. 10 if the solicitation.
RESPONSE: There is 331,570 sq. ft. of tiled floor and 1,239,790 of concrete should have been included in the “Floor Cleaning and Spot Mopping” requirement. See Amendment 2, Item E for correction.
5. **QUESTION:** Can NASA clarify the shredding requirement? Volume of material frequency?
RESPONSE: There is no historical data available on the volume of material frequency; however, approximately 150 hours/year are expended with this requirement. See Amendment 2, Item E for clarification.
6. **QUESTION:** How many employees are working under the current contract?
RESPONSE: Currently approx. 47
7. **QUESTION:** B.5 DEDUCTION SCHEDULE FOR BASIC SERVICES (CLIN 1): In order to qualify for either one of these deductions, would the four (4) complaints have to specifically relate to timeliness and/or quality? For example, a customer complaint issued for work not completed as scheduled would fall under timeliness and a customer complaint issued for work completed unsatisfactorily would fall under quality of work?
RESPONSE: Four complaints must be received in each category and not a combination of the two. (For example: 4 complaints pertaining to timeliness in a month = 2% deduction and 4 complaints pertaining to quality in a month = 3% deduction. No combination of the two.) Additionally, it is possible to receive the deduction in both categories in one month (for a total of 5% deduction) if 4 complaints pertaining to timeliness and 4 complaints pertaining to quality are received in one month.
8. **QUESTION:** Section C, paragraph E, “Contractor Furnished Items”: Are there any Proprietary Dispensers or pre-existing agreements with manufacturers to purchase products that are designed to be installed in the paper product and soap dispensers at LARC? If so, provide such information.
RESPONSE: There are no requirements or agreements for product dispensers.
9. **QUESTION:** Page 1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement is missing.
RESPONSE: Page 1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is the cover page entitled "Cover page of Attachment to Exhibit C" and is, therefore, not missing.
10. **QUESTION:** Section C, paragraph G Custodial Service Requirements, c. Basic Services Schedule: In most categories the Frequency is identified followed by “Contractor shall determine”. Please explain.

RESPONSE: The timing of these requirements is at the Contractor's discretion; however, the requirements must be performed during regular working hours.

11. **QUESTION:** Building 1152: Is document shredding in this building only? Historically, how many personnel have been provided and what has been the duration per event?
RESPONSE: Document shredding is only in Building 1152. Currently one (1) person spends 2-3 hours per week. See Amendment 2 Item E for clarification.
12. **QUESTION:** On average, how many documents are shredded per event?
RESPONSE: There is no historical data on the number of documents shredded per event.
13. **QUESTION:** Building 1219 and Building 1222 historically how many times per event is the set-up and/or removal of furniture, temporary floor coverings and audio/visual equipment required?
RESPONSE: There is the requirement to set-up and/or removal of furniture, temporary floor coverings and audio/visual equipment and then the requirement to return everything to the original configuration thereby, totaling two (2) times per event. See Amendment 2 Items B and E for additional clarification.
14. **QUESTION:** Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Work -CLIN 2: For the services already listed in the Basic Services Schedule such as strip/wax, carpet shampoo, rearrange of chairs. Is the IDIQ for over and above what's required in the Basic Services Schedule or in lieu of?
RESPONSE: In accordance with Section C, Item G.2, "IDIQ", work includes those custodial services required on an irregular frequency and those services that exceed the limitations of services identified under Basic Services (those services that exceed the totals of Exhibit E).
15. **QUESTION:** Attachment 2 Historical Data: There is no history of service to the concrete floors surfaces which represent almost 50% of the total net square footage. Please clarify.
RESPONSE: Concrete floors are swept and/or damp mopped on an as-needed basis. See Amendment 2, Item E for clarification.
16. **QUESTION:** L.7 EVALUATION OF PAST PERFORMANCE QUESTIONNAIRE: Is the past performance a pass/fail? How is the government going to evaluate relevance of the past performance? Our concern is if the government is going to evaluate past performance based on comparable square footage, then this will give an unfair competitive advantage to the incumbent and a limited number of 8(a) firms. There are very few facilities that are over 2 million square feet; furthermore the majority of the space at LARC is concrete. Please advise.
RESPONSE: This procurement is a Sealed Bid, and as such award is based on the lowest priced responsive, responsible Bidder. Past performance will be used to assist in determining responsibility.
17. **QUESTION:** Is there a Section M Evaluation for Award? If not, how is the government going to determine the successful offeror?
RESPONSE: This procurement is a Sealed Bid, and as such award is based on the lowest priced responsive, responsible Bidder.
18. **QUESTION:** Response 5: Should offerors assume that all custodial personnel fall under the CBA rates since the CBA states it covers all employees working at LARC performing custodial services? I would assume the Area Wide WD covers the clerical personnel and document shredder. It is important to clarify this matter so that each offeror is bidding from the same base line.
RESPONSE: The job classifications applicable to the CBA are specifically defined in the CBA.
19. (This question is a follow-up to the response provided for Question 7 on Amendment 1 Attachment. The question and response was: **QUESTION:** Does LaRC require that the Contractor have a Facility Clearance

(Secret)? **RESPONSE:** In accordance with Section H.3 Security Classification Requirements (NASA FAR Supplement 1852.204-75, Section I Clause 52.204-2 Security Requirements, and Exhibit B DD Form 254 Block 1.a., the Contractor must have a Secret Facility Clearance.

QUESTION: Does this disqualify offerors that do not presently possess a Secret Facility Clearance from submitting an offer? If not, what be the protocol if a company that does not presently possess a Secret Facility Clearance was awarded the contract?

RESPONSE: A company without a facility clearance of Secret or higher level is not prohibited from submitting an offer; however, the company must be “clearable” to that level. This means that the ownership and management of the company should be able to qualify for a security clearance as specified under National Industrial Security Program guidelines. Should a company be selected that does not have a facility clearance, this Center will sponsor the company for clearance [notify the Defense Security Service (DSS) that the Center has a need for this level of clearance whereby DSS will begin the investigation process]. The DSS may issue an interim clearance until a final clearance is issued.

20. **QUESTION:** As an 8(a) prime contractor, our key personnel has a secret clearance and the company possesses a lower level facility clearance. Secret Facility clearances are not issued unless there is a requirement, will an interim Secret Facility Clearance be issued, or will NASA otherwise allow work to continue, while we obtain the Secret Facility Clearance?

RESPONSE: The DSS issues the facility clearances. It may be that the company already qualifies for issue of a Secret Facility Clearance. Regardless DSS will make the decision to issue an interim or final Facility Clearance. See the Response to Question 19 above.

21. **QUESTION:** If we as an 8A vendor wish to partner with another company, and we act as the prime contractor and they have the required security clearance will this be acceptable.

RESPONSE: The prime contractor must also be cleared.

22. **QUESTION:** Is the 8A prime contractor required to have the security facility clearance?

RESPONSE: The prime contractor must have a facility clearance at the Secret level or above, or be clearable to the Secret level.

23. **QUESTION:** I did notice that the questions and answers mentioned that in order to complete a company must possess a Top Security clearance. I have been trying for some time to obtain such a clearance but I am caught in a catch 22 situation. A company cannot obtain such a clearance unless they are awarded a Top Security clearance contract and a company cannot participate in the solicitation of a Top Security contract unless they possess such a clearance. How does a firm obtain such a clearance? Another contracting officer that I posed this question to suggested I joint venture with a company that currently possesses such a clearance. If an 8(a) firm without Top Security Clearance were to joint venture with a non-8(a) firm with a Top Security Clearance would such an arrangement be acceptable for this solicitation?

RESPONSE: The contract requires the prime contractor to have a Secret Facility Clearance. Should a company be selected that does not hold a Secret Facility Clearance, this Center will sponsor the company for clearance issue. (See Response to Question 19 above)

24. **QUESTION:** Our company has participated on contracts with the Department of Energy where Q and L clearances were required is this type of clearance considered Top Security? If not what specific government agency issues the Top Security clearance mentioned in this solicitation?

RESPONSE: The Defense Security Service will issue interim and final Facility Clearances. A DOE clearance might be transferable to DSS.

25. **QUESTION:** If a vendor is working for a DOD contractor does that count as Secret clearance?

RESPONSE: The Company must have been issued a clearance by the Defense Security Service.