



**a. The following questions and answers are hereby incorporated into the subject solicitation.**

1. QUESTION: Is Specification. 200GT-GE01 based on (derived from the performance of) the existing SSC hardware? Or on available COTS hardware? If so, which model(s)?

**ANSWER:** The specifications were not derived from any existing or vendor specifications. These specifications are what SSC has determined to be required for SSC testing applications.

2. QUESTION: On the bridge supply noise specifications, will low noise dynamic constant current devices (single gages for example) be used with the signal conditioners? If so, the allowed noise levels will affect the dynamic range.

**ANSWER:** The bridge supply (excitation) noise specifications will be used with the supplied signal conditioners. Indeed, the expectation is that they will be integral with the signal conditioners. As far as dynamic range, I do not understand the question.

3. QUESTION: Isolation: Usually the output common, input common, and chassis are linked in standard designs - floating and isolating the earths may be a violation of the safety standards of the Low Voltage Directive - how does NASA suggest we resolve this conflict?

**ANSWER:** Because this system will be composed of many chassis, and our requirement for a single point ground, we require that power, output and input common be isolated. On installation all three will be brought a ground "Mecca" within the signal conditioning building.

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**1)** The statement of work requires a delivery schedule for production hardware. It is not clear if this is for delivery of a 32 channel system following completion of the compliance test at the vendors facility, or for production hardware in quantity sufficient to satisfy the A3 test stand requirements?

*QUESTION: What is the quantity and type of signal conditioning channels required for which a production lead time is to be provided.*

**ANSWER:** Production hardware in quantity sufficient to satisfy the A-3 test stand requirements. Approximately 200 channels of production hardware are anticipated for the A-3 Test Stand.

**2)** Section (B) SCHEDULE item 3. states that all proposals shall provide for equipment fully compliant with NASA Specification 200GT-GE01.

Section (I) ALTERNATE PROPOSALS states that proposals may be submitted which depart from the stated requirements.

*QUESTION: Will proposals which are not fully compliant, yet may offer exceptional value, be considered?*

**ANSWER:** Yes, although there are several specifications which are non-negotiable. Therefore, the alternate proposals will be considered provided the non-negotiable requirements are satisfied. The list of non-negotiable requirements is:

- 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.2.1, 4.2.3, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 6.0, 7.1, 7.3, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4.1, 9.1, 9.2, 10.0, 11.0, 12.0, 13.0, 14.0, 15.1, 15.2.1, 16.0, 17.0 18.0 19.0.

*QUESTION: Will proposals, which are not fully compliant to NASA Specification 200GT-GE01, be disqualified from consideration?*

**ANSWER:** Reference the response to the previous question.

**Technical Questions:**

3) The specification identifies Signal Conditioning requirements for differing types of transducers (vibration/accelerometer, Strain Gage/bridge, dynamic Pressure, etc.), each with unique conditioning requirements.

*QUESTION: Is it anticipated (NASA's intention) that a 32 channel conditioner will be able to handle any mix of transducer types (32 channels of Strain, or 32 channels of IEPE, or 32 channels of Charge, etc.) OR, will transducer type specific modules (within specified limit of up to 4 channels per module) be acceptable?*

*QUESTION: What is the mix of signal conditioning channel transducer types which will be required to meet the initial 32 channel procurement?*

**ANSWER:** Use the following channel mixture (this is a representative percentage of the anticipated 200 channels):

- Twelve (12) bridge completion conditioners (strain gages) – 40%
- Ten (10) IEPE conditioners – 30%
- Ten (10) charge mode devices – 30%

4) Section 5 details Instrumentation Amplifier requirements.

*QUESTION: Does section 5 refer to a separate conditioning channel signal type (voltage input instrumentation amplifier) or are these requirements for the amplifier stage of the transducer conditioning types defined in sections 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4?*

*If Section 5 is further description of section 4 amplifier requirements, then which section shall take precedence when stated requirements are in conflict?*

**ANSWER:** Section 5 is a further description of the amplifier requirements. If conflicts are identified, please inform NASA as a correction to the specifications may be required in these instances to provide consistency between the requirements.

5) The following specific technical questions refer to identified section numbers as referenced to NASA technical requirements document 200GT-GE01.

**Section 4.1** Reference is made to an 8-wire bridge configuration with shield. (EXC+, EXC-, Signal+, Signal-, plus??). It is not clear as to the what the extra wires will be used for (remote sense, remote shunt, dual shunt, etc.)

*QUESTION: What is the desired the 8 wire bridge (full strain gage) configuration with requirements for each wire lead?*

**ANSWER:**

- a) + signal
- b) - signal
- c) + excitation
- d) - excitation
- e) + excitation sense (feedback)
- f) - excitation sense (feedback)
- g) Shunt cal 1
- h) Shunt cal 2

**Section 4.1.2** Voltage and current regulation requirements are specified at 0.005% of setting. At minimum set range of 0.1 Volts (voltage excitation), this equates to a voltage regulation of 5  $\mu$ V. Same question with regards to current regulation.

*QUESTION: Is it correct that the constant voltage stability requirement is 10  $\mu$ V for an excitation voltage selection of 0.1 mV (0.01% of 0.1 volt set value)?*

*QUESTION: Is it correct that the temperature stability requirement is 3  $\mu$ V per deg.C for an excitation voltage selection of 0.1 Volts (0.003% of 0.1 volt set value)?*

**ANSWER:** 0.005% regulation of excitation is not reasonable for high speed signal conditioning. Therefore, 0.1% is perfectly adequate. As to the other part, whether this required accuracy would be required for the minimum value of 0.1 VDC, yes, provided the required accuracy is changed to 0.1%.

**Section 4.2.1** requires a programmable time constant of either "long" of "short" which are not specified.

*QUESTION: What are required "long" and "short" time constants for the charge mode?*

**ANSWER:** Programmable time constant (TC) [long or short, dependent upon range; for example: 10 seconds or less for "short" and 1000 seconds or more for "long" TC in the 50pC full-scale range]

**Section 4.2.2** requires IEPE sensitivity of 1mV/mv to 10,000mV/V while section 4.4 requires IEPE sensitivity of 0.01mV/mV to 9 V/mV. Which is correct? Same question with regards to bandwidth response, programmable current steps, etc.

**ANSWER:** IEPE accelerometers typically have an output of 4 to 8 volts at full scale. The sensitivity is set by the choice of accelerometer. If the accelerometer is properly chosen the range of gains (which is what this specification refers to) needn't be so broad. A gain of unity (1mV/mV) to 10 (10,000mV/V) is reasonable. The section in 4.4 that contradicts this will be removed.

*QUESTION: What is the required IEPE sensitivity?*

**ANSWER:** Two (2) gain settings: unity and 10

*QUESTION: What is required IEPE programmable current step resolution?*

**ANSWER:** We are uncertain as to whether or not we have a requirement for this because all IEPE transducers accept a broad range of current excitation, typically in the 10mA range.

*QUESTION: What is required IEPE amplifier frequency response range lower boundary?*

**ANSWER:** The current specification identifies this as 1 Hz.

**Section 5.1.5** requires step input settling time of 3 usec to within 1% which is typical of 10 MHz bandwidth type amplifier. Section 5.2 requires minimum bandwidth of 100 KHz defined as -3dB signal attenuation.

*QUESTION: Is the bandwidth requirement for a 100 KHz full power amplifier or for an amplifier capable of responding to a step input with no greater than 3 usec settling to 1% of final output?*

**ANSWER:** The latter.