

**Space Launch System (SLS)
Advanced Booster Engineering Demonstration and/or Risk Reduction (ABEDRR)
NASA Research Announcement (NRA)
Questions and Answers (Q&As)**

Note: Some questions have been edited for clarity. Additionally, not all questions have been addressed at this time.

Question 1: In reviewing the Draft NRA, it is made clear in several places that this type of work at a NASA Center in support of a commercial team proposing against this NRA would be executed under a reimbursable Space Act Agreement (SAA) between the center and the commercial prime. If an ABEDRR proposal is selected for award that includes activities that are to be completed at a NASA center, does the funding identified to accomplish the work at the NASA center come directly from the program or from the commercial prime as part of their contract with NASA? Can NASA provide any insight into how it anticipates that the funds will be managed that would go directly to the center? Also, is a reimbursable SAA still the appropriate mechanism for the NASA – Commercial venture if the commercial prime will not be directly reimbursing the center for the services provided?

Answer 1: The method of transferring the funds to NASA Centers performing SAAs will be delineated after selection and in consultation with the appropriate NASA Chief Financial Officer. Management of funds by a NASA Center under an SAA will be governed by internal NASA procedures. A reimbursable SAA is the appropriate mechanism for NASA participation in this NRA.

Question 2: Data Requirements Document (DRD) MA-002 and MA-004 both require submission 30 calendar days after completion of contract. What is “completion of contract” to be considered. Is completion of contract the completion of “hands-on” work (i.e., Milestone 11 per Model Contract Section B.3) or completion of all work including reports (i.e., Milestone 12 per Model Contract Section B.3)?

Answer 2: The term “completion of contract” is synonymous to the end date that will be proposed by the Offeror in the Model Contract under F-2, Period of Performance. A change to the DRD terminology may be proposed by the Offeror for DRDs MA-002 and MA-004.

Question 3: Would it be possible to get the word version of the ABEDRR #NNM12ZPS001N NRA documents that were released 9 Feb 12?

Answer 3: All documents associated with the NRA have been provided through FedBizOpps, NAIS, and NSIPRES. Documents have been provided in “.pdf” format. Additionally, to assist the Offeror in preparing its proposal, select documents have been provided in Microsoft Word or Excel format. No additional Microsoft Word documents will be provided.

Question 4: When does the blackout period end?

Answer 4: The blackout period of communication with industry will continue until proposals

have been received, evaluated, selected, awarded, and the NRA Evaluation Board is released from its responsibilities. Please note that discussions regarding Space Act Agreements (SAAs) sought by the Offeror may continue to be coordinated only with the NASA Partnership Offices and NASA Engine Test Stand points of contact.

Question 5: While pulling the ABEDRR data from the NSCKN website this morning, I noticed a new folder named “OBE Data.” It appears that the data contained in this folder is an archive from the Draft data that was previously released. Can NASA confirm if this is the case or if there is another intended purpose for the data contained in this folder on the NSCKN website?

Answer 5: The data contained in the OBE Data folder is an archive from the Draft NRA data that was previously released. There is no other intended purpose. The OBE Data folder does contain older data, or “data overcome by events.” Though the data is no longer applicable, the Government purposely left the draft information on the website for reference purposes.

Question 6: The revised Appendix B states that “Offeror shall not exceed allocated cell format and dimensions;” however, NRA submittal directions require Appendix B data sheets to be included as part of Volume 2 (Microsoft Word Format). Is it NASA’s intention for the Offeror to fill out Appendix B in Excel and paste the tables as pictures into the Word? Concerned about compliance with NRA instructions and the revised Appendix B callout for format.

Answer 6: No, it is not NASA’s intent for the Offeror to fill out Appendix B in Excel and paste the tables as pictures into its Volume 2 Microsoft Word document. The Offeror shall fill out the appropriate Excel worksheets as applicable to its specific reference vehicle and Advanced Booster concept. The Offeror’s printed proposal takes precedence over the electronic submission for page counting purposes.

Question 7: Reference Appendix B, Sheets 1.1 through 1.6 and Sheets 2, 3, and 4.

Part 1: Based on the updated language in section 4.2.5.1.2 and due to the fact that the Appendix B spreadsheets are locked, we interpret NASA to be requiring the Offeror to submit all Appendix B sheets “as is” (i.e., printed directly from Excel, without any changes to locked formats, and pasted page-for-page into the proposal), which would require 17 pages for an LRB and 19 pages for an SRB or HRB. Is this a correct interpretation? If this is not a correct interpretation, is the Offeror allowed to format the tables to make the best use of the limited pages (e.g., convert to portrait, eliminate white space, delete columns not used for SRB/HRB/LRB responses)?

Part 2: NASA had previously allocated 35 pages for the “Advanced Booster Concept Description” and had not specified how the Appendix B sheets were to be formatted and displayed within the proposal, so the Offeror had the flexibility to format them as needed to fit and therefore could eliminate empty spaces and squeeze the impact of these tables. With the changes noted in Part 1 above, NASA is specifying how 17-19 pages of material must be used. Therefore, the Offeror now has 16-18 pages left to describe its booster, whereas before, the Offeror might have had 25 or more.

Request NASA make one of the following changes to allow the Offeror to fully describe its Advanced Booster Concept and the required Concept Risks and Proposed Engineering Demonstration and/or Risk Reduction Summary information: 1) Keep the Appendix B sheets as part of the page-limited section but increase the page limit from 35 to at least 40 pages; or 2) Move the Appendix B sheets to the back of Volume 1 (as an unlimited page attachment) and make the total allocated to the Advanced Booster Concept Description (without these sheets) 25 pages.

Answer 7: Part 1: The Offeror shall not make changes to locked cells/formats. The Offeror shall submit only information that is pertinent to its Advanced Booster concept. NASA reference information as contained in the worksheets is not required to be submitted.

Part 2: The page count will not be adjusted.

Question 8: Who is the point of contact for rent free non-interference use of Government property for the Intergraph building 23a facility (Avionics Integration Lab and cube space for employees)?

Answer 8: Please reference NRA section 8.2 NASA Partnership Offices.

Question 9: If an Offeror is selected for award, is there any additional information which the Offeror will be asked to provide?

Answer 9: The Offeror is referred to NRA sections 4.2.5.3.5, 4.2.5.4, 4.2.5.4.2, and 5.2. Additional information may be requested as necessary to support negotiations and any subsequent award, such as a Government Property Management Plan.

Question 10: Can NASA provide a list of companies that attended the SLS Advanced Booster Industry Day in early December?

Answer 10: The Industry Day list of attendees was posted to the web on December 19, 2011. Please refer to Government Point of Entry (FedBizOpps), NASA Acquisition Internet Service (NAIS), and the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES).