

**FULLY INTEGRATED LIFECYCLE MISSION SUPPORT SERVICES (FILMSS)**

**NNA12412481R**

**Questions and Answers: SET 5**

**December 4, 2012**

**Question 1** – Innovation is mentioned several times in the SOW and DRFP document, but there is no information on how it might be measured or evaluated.

Do you intend for contractors to contractually commit to measurable outcomes regarding their proposed technological and process innovations? How do you expect to see innovation addressed in cost model?

**Answer 1** – Any proposed technological or process innovation that is proposed and considered a strength in the evaluation will be followed by a commitment to capturing that process in the model contract with that contractor. If an offeror thinks their innovation would affect their proposed cost it should be addressed in their proposal.

**Question 2** – Regarding key personnel, would the Government consider keeping the number of key personnel open (not limited) to gauge the understanding of the required positions and their functions by each contractor team?

**Answer 2** – The TBD in the Key Personnel Clause in Paragraph H.3 was a placeholder. We will clarify in the final RFP that this is a contractor supplied number.

**Question 3** - How would core management scale with IDIQ?

**Answer 3** - We understand the confusion caused by our term core management for CLIN 02A and we will rename this in the final RFP to Contract Management. We expect the Offerors to propose how they intend to manage the IDIQ task elements.

**Question 4** – Will you be using a Technical library to include such items as ISS utilization specs, NPR?

**Answer 4** – Yes, the Technical Library links will be listed in the final RFP.

**Question 5** – Reference Section E.1.1, FAR 52.246-11. This provision has a fill-in-the-blank (which currently is blank) to specify a higher-level contract quality requirement. Do you anticipate that a quality requirement will be specified?

**Answer 5** – We have reviewed the clause and will delete it in the final RFP.

**Question 6** – Does AMES provide Software licenses, program management tools, computers, test equipment infrastructure?

**Answer 6** – The plan is to provide computers and software via the ACES contract.

**Question 7** - If there is an OCI conflict, can contractor just decline to do that work?

**Answer 7** – Your OCI plan shall address how you will handle each OCI conflict to perform the requirements of the contract.

**Question 8** – Organizational structure (oral) – what assumptions should the offeror make about the amount of IDIQ tasking?

**Answer 8** – Per Paragraph B.3 of the DRFP, the minimum IDIQ quantity is \$500,000 and the potential maximum quantity over the five year period is \$215,000,000.

**Question 9** – Phase in Plan (oral) Does the current P&P contract include support to their phase out and FILMSS phase-in?

**Answer 9** – Yes, the P&P contract includes phase out to FILMSS, if applicable.

**Question 10**- L.9.(a).C.5, p. 81 - RFP Section L.9.(a).C.5 requires offerors to submit a detailed written safety and health plan required by NPR 8715.3A and APR 1700.1. NPR 8715.3A has been superseded by NPR 8715.C and we understand APR 1700.1 is in the process of being replaced with APR 8715.1. Would the Government please clarify which version offerors should use?

**Answer 10** – We will clarify the correct specifications, however we have decided to require the submittal of this plan after the award is made rather than with proposals. This change will be reflected in the final RFP.

**Question 11** - Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements, 13 – Space Science Support, Section B.1; Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements, 13 – Space Science Support, Section B.1 provides staffing for all subtasks outlined in the Space Science and Astrobiology Support core requirement with the exception of subtask 4 Neutron Sensor Support. Will the Government please provide staffing for subtask 4?

**Answer 11** – Thank you, we will clarify the staffing in the final RFP.

**Question 12** - Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements - Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements outlines a large number of technical programs/projects that the FILMSS contractor will be responsible for providing support. Unfortunately, little detailed documentation is offered to industry to allow offerors an opportunity to understand these efforts and develop robust solutions. Will the Government please provide a technical library at its earliest convenience consisting of all technical and program documentation applicable to those program/projects referenced in Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements?

**Answer 12** – All information that a potential Offeror requires in order to respond to the RFP is contained in the Core Requests. Additional information about NASA programs can be found on the NASA website, <http://www.NASA.gov> .

**Question 13** - Attachment J(b)3 – Pricing Template, Exhibit 16; L.9.(c).2 Exhibit 16, p. 94; M.2.A.3, p.99; Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model On page 94, the DRFP requires offerors to indicate the percentage of the incumbent workforce and seniority rights it expects to retain for the FILMSS contract. Further, on page 99, the DRFP states a cost realism analysis will be performed to assess the reasonableness of the

proposed costs. While the preponderance of the incumbent workforce is resident on the current Programs and Projects Contract, NAS2-02090, which has been active for approximately 10 years, the education and experience for a majority of the positions listed in Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model reflect a largely junior workforce. In the absence of additional information on the incumbent workforce, the requirements listed in Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model will be the standard to which offerors may propose. In order for offerors who choose to retain a portion or all of the incumbent workforce and/or their seniority rights to propose realistic rates commensurate with the incumbent workforces' experience and education, recommend the Government release the incumbent workforce's education, experience, and seniority rights.

**Answer 13** – The information requested is proprietary to the incumbent and cannot be provided. The education and experience listed in Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model are minimum standards for the positions. The Government is aware that non-incumbents do not have complete information regarding incumbent staff compensation, experience and education. As long as offerors proposing to retain incumbent staff make a good faith effort to propose adequate and reasonable compensation for such staff, it may be necessary for the Government to make Probable Cost adjustments in assessing cost realism, however offerors would not be penalized in the Mission Suitability evaluation for lack of cost realism.

**Question 14** - L.9.(c).2 Exhibit 9, p. 92; Attachment J(b)3 – Pricing Template, Exhibit 9; Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model - On page 92, Exhibit 9, the DRFP requires offerors to “use the Standard Labor Categories and hours provided in the Exhibit”. However, the hours provided in Attachment J(b)3 – Pricing Template, Exhibit 9 account for approximately 10% of the total hours provided in Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model. Recommend the Government account for all hours and labor categories provided in Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model in Attachment J(b)3 – Pricing Template, Exhibit 9. This will ensure the Government evaluates each offeror's complete proposed total cost to support the prescribed Core Requirement staffing.

**Answer 14**- This exhibit will be updated to correspond to the cost model in the final RFP.

**Question 15** - Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model, L.9.(a).A.2, p. 74; L.9.(a).A.3, p. 75; L.9.(a).A.4, p. 77; Over 40% of the prescribed contract staffing provided in Attachment J(b)1 – Cost Model is dedicated to ISS Utilization and another 21% is dedicated to Space Biology (17%) and Space Biosciences Division (4%) support. On the other hand, support for the National Astrobiology Institute and the National Lunar Science Institute (Core Elements 5 and 6) account for less than 15% of the total prescribed staffing, and positions explicitly allocated to education and public outreach account for approximately 3% of the total prescribed staffing. The DRFP disproportionately reflects the anticipated contract staffing by requiring offerors to respond to two case studies centered on virtualization and educational outreach. These two case studies account for 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the total required written case study responses. While virtualization and educational outreach are important components of the FILMSS contract, as indicated at the FILMSS Pre-Proposal Conference and is evident in Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements, will the Government consider either removing Case Study 2 or Case Study 3, or consolidate these case studies into a single case study with a subset of the existing response requirements? These solutions would allow the Government the ability to assess each offeror's understanding and approaches more proportionally to the prescribed contract staffing.

**Answer 15**– Thank you for your comment, we have considered your recommendation, however all the case studies are important and will be judged equally.

**Question 16** - L.8.(a), p. 72; The DRFP requires offerors to address Case Studies 1 – 3, the Phase-in/Phase-out Plan, Safety and Health Plan, Small Business Plan, Small Business Subcontracting Plan, and Commitment to Small Business within 50 pages. The response requirements of NPR 8715.3A and APR 1700.1 for Safety and Health Plan, and of FAR 52.219-8 and 52.219-9 for Small Business Utilization/Small Business Subcontracting Plan are fairly robust and nominally represent up to half of the Volume I page count. Further, the detail and number of requirements for each of the Case Studies is significant. As such, recommend the Government consider removing the Safety and Health Plan, Small Business Plan, Small Business Subcontracting Plan, and Commitment to Small Business requirements from page count or increase the page count to 75 pages.

**Answer 16** – We have considered your request and have decided to eliminate the Safety and Health Plan from the proposal requirement (It will be required after award). We have also decided to identify separate page count requirements for the Small Business Subcontracting Plan (25 pages) and Commitment to Small Business (5 pages) and to reduce the page count for the remaining Mission Suitability requirements to 30 pages.

**Question 17** - L.9.(a).A.3, p. 75 – 76; Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements, 5 – NAI Support; Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements, 5 – NSLI Support - The preponderance of the collaborative tool support requirements outlined in Attachment J(b)9 – Core Requirements, 5 – NAI Support and 6 – NSLI Support focus on virtual meeting and collaboration support, such as knowledge management, real-time/online meeting support, technology sustainment, and data sharing. The real-time data stream management requirements supporting remote field operating outlined in Case Study 2, particularly requirements a) and b), appear to expand the scope of the referenced Core Requirements. Will the Government please provide additional details of the anticipated real-time virtual mission support operations in the Core Requirements as reflected in Case Study 2? If such real-time virtual mission operations support is currently being provided, will the Government please provide additional details on the types of tools being employed?

**Answer 17** – The case study is a hypothetical case of a type of requirement that might arise in the future but is not currently part of the core requirement.

**Question 18** - L.9.(c).2 Exhibits 8 and 9, p. 92 - On page 92, the DRFP requires offerors to address their policies for overtime eligibility and premiums. While these requirements clearly demand that offerors articulate their policies on traditional overtime, it is less explicit in requiring offerors to address their policies on uncompensated overtime.

Will NASA clarify its view on uncompensated overtime similar to what we have seen in recent RFPs? For example, a recent NASA RFP included the following language: “In accordance with FAR Provision 52.237-10, Identification of Uncompensated Overtime, the Offeror shall identify any uncompensated overtime included in the direct labor rates and the contract management overhead pool. The Offeror’s policy on uncompensated overtime shall be provided in Attachment L-5a, Tab I, Fringe Policy Questionnaire. Offerors shall clearly describe the impact of uncompensated overtime on the direct labor rates included in the cost forms (Attachment L-5a, Tabs A and B) and shall quantify the impact of the use of

uncompensated overtime on the direct labor rates (clearly identify the amount by which each labor category direct labor rate is reduced as a result of the Offeror's uncompensated overtime policy). Offerors are reminded that use of uncompensated overtime is not encouraged. The proposed use of uncompensated overtime for professional employees that reduces direct labor rates may result in probable cost adjustments, lower cost confidence, and be considered a lack of cost realism in the Mission Suitability evaluation."

**Answer 18-** Because this is a task order contract, 52.237-10 is not included in the solicitation (see FAR 37.115-3 and 37.115-2(b)) therefore the Government is not requesting information on uncompensated overtime. However, potential offerors are reminded that per FAR 37.115-2(a) use of uncompensated overtime is not encouraged.

**Question 19 -** Section M, Technical Approach (a) A. 1. b) The Pricing Template provided is a well constructed document. We have just a few clarifying questions regarding this pricing model:

- The file starts from tab 'Exhibit 2'. What and where is Exhibit 1?
- We understand based on the instructions in section L, that we are not to link any external workbooks, however in the event we need to:
  1. Can we add additional columns?
  2. Can we add additional lines?
  3. Can we add additional worksheets to the pricing template?
- Should we add additional worksheets and/or files to better detail material, travel, and ODCs? Or will detailed tables in the cost volume be sufficient?

**Answer 19-** As stated on page 90 of the DRFP, Exhibit 1 is the Proposal Cover Sheet JA Form 038 which is included as Attachment J.1(b)2 and is not a part of the Cost Template Workbook as stated on page 89 of the DRFP.

Offerors may add columns, lines or worksheets as necessary to the cost template and may also provide additional worksheets and/or files to supplement their proposals. However, Offerors must fully complete all required cost templates and may not delete any columns, lines or worksheets.

**Question 20 –** Does SOW 4.2.2 refer to ISS or other biosciences?

**Answer 20 –** We have changed SOW paragraph 4.2.2 to read: "The primary focus of this area is biosciences research."

**Question 21 –** The page count of 50 includes both the Safety and Health plan and Subcontracting Plan. Please consider including page count for these separately.

**Answer 21 –** See answer to Question 16.

**Question 22 -** You've provided a lot of insight into what level of effort you believe is required. Do we have the flexibility to propose alternate levels of effort?

**Answer 22** – As stated in Exhibit 9, Offerors shall use the Standard Labor Categories and hours provided in Exhibit 6 to compute the cost of the Core Technical Elements.