

Source Selection Statement
RECOM IV
RFP: NNL12438740R

On November 14, 2012, the Source Evaluation Team (SET) for the RECOM IV procurement presented its findings to me in a formal source selection briefing.

Background

The purpose of the RECOM IV contract is to procure design and/or fabrication of Aerospace Model Systems and Developmental Test Hardware used to support spaceflight, aeronautics, flight and ground-based tests conducted at Langley Research Center and other NASA centers.

Market research was conducted in order to determine the level of existing small business capabilities. A sources-sought synopsis was issued on March 1, 2012 seeking capability statements from potential sources under NAICS code 541712, Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences [Except Biotechnology] (size standard of 1,500 Employees). Based on the responses received, the Contracting Officer, with the concurrence of the Small Business Specialist and the Small Business Administration (SBA) Procurement Center Representative, determined that an adequate number of small business concerns existed to allow the LaRC contract to be conducted as a Total Small Business set aside.

A Procurement Strategy Meeting was held on June 7, 2012 at Langley Research Center and the procurement strategy was subsequently approved. A Draft Request for Proposal (DRFP) was issued on July 12, 2012 for comments from industry and the final RFP was released on August 9, 2012.

The RECOM procurement was solicited as a multiple-award Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) effort with a 5-year period of performance. Delivery orders issued against awarded contracts will be awarded on a Firm-Fixed Price (FFP) or Cost-Plus-Fixed Fee (CPFF) basis. The total maximum cumulative value of the Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts is \$14M.

The following companies responded to the RFP by the due date of September 13, 2012:

- Micro Craft, Inc.
- Advanced Technologies Incorporated (ATI)

Evaluation Factors

The appointed SET conducted an evaluation of proposals received in response to the RFP. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the evaluation factors contained in Section M of the RFP. The RFP set forth the following three evaluation factors:

Factor 1: Technical Considerations

Factor 2: Price/Cost

Factor 3: Past Performance

The RFP stated the contract would be awarded to the offerors whose proposals represent the best value to the Government based on the evaluation of Technical, Price/Cost and Past Performance. The RFP provided for two evaluation approaches. In the primary approach, the RFP stated that a tradeoff process (see FAR 15.101-1) would be performed between past performance and price factors on those proposals determined to be technically acceptable. Past Performance was identified as significantly more important than Price/Cost.

The RFP also allowed for the use of alternate procedures identified in NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) 1815.305-71. According to the NFS, these procedures would apply if “the number of proposals equals the number of awards contemplated”. For RECOM IV, the market research and procurement strategy contemplated up to four awards resulting from this multiple award solicitation.

Therefore, the Contracting Officer determined that the procedures at NFS 1815.305 (a) applied as the number of responsive proposals was no more than the number of awards contemplated. As required by NFS 1815.305-71(a), the Contracting Officer reviewed the solicitation and proposals received and determined that: (1) the solicitation was not flawed or unduly restrictive and (2) adequate price competition (APC) exists based on the receipt of multiple responsive and competitive proposals.

The Contracting Officer’s determination that the solicitation was not flawed or unduly restrictive was based on the multiple offers received and the fact that there were no significant weaknesses in the proposals. Although only two offers were received, the volume of work performed under the previous contract was analyzed and the findings confirmed that solicitation was not flawed.

NFS 1815.305-71(a) also states that the Contracting Officer shall determine if the proposals are acceptable. Accordingly, the NASA Langley SEB Advisor and Contracting Officer instructed the SET to review each proposal to determine acceptability rather than evaluate the proposals using tradeoff procedures. The SET was asked to evaluate and document their findings for each of the three findings (Technical, Price/Cost, Past Performance).

Factor 1 – Technical Considerations

Under Technical Considerations (Section M.2), the four evaluation areas are as follows:

Technical Area 1 – Quality	Demonstration that quality systems were compliant with ISO 9001 and AS9100 standards
Technical Area 2 – Facility and Equipment	Demonstration that offeror has facility/equipment needed to perform the contract
Technical Area 3 – Facility Clearance	Proof that offer has facility clearance at the level identified in the RFP
Technical Area 4 – Staffing Capability	Demonstration that offeror has (or will have) the labor skills as set forth in Attachment 4 to the RFP

Factor 2 – Price/Cost

The RFP does not provide for adjectival ratings or numerical scores under the Price/Cost Factor; however, the RFP provides evaluation language within Section M, as follows:

In accordance with FAR 15.404-1(b), the Government will conduct an analysis of the price/cost proposal to determine completeness, price reasonableness, and cost realism. Specifically, the evaluations will include, but are not limited to, comparing the prices proposed in response to this solicitation and comparing the proposed prices to the independent Government cost estimate. Results of the price/cost analysis may be used in responsibility determinations.

Factor 3 – Past Performance

Under the Past Performance Factor, the SET assessed each offeror's record of performing services that are similar in size, scope and complexity to the requirements of the solicitation. Specifically, the RFP stated that "each of the adjective ratings below has a "performance" component and a "pertinence" component. The offeror must meet the requirements of both components to achieve a particular rating. In assessing pertinence, the Government will consider the degree of similarity in size (in dollars per year), content, and complexity to the requirements in this solicitation, as well as the recency, and duration of the past performance".

Evaluation Procedures and Findings

Proposals were evaluated for acceptability and responsiveness in accordance with the LaRC RECOM IV Evaluation Plan and RFP Section M. Proposals were then evaluated against the Technical, Price/Cost, and Performance Factors.

A Competitive Range Determination was made on October 17, 2012 that included both offerors. Negotiations were conducted with each offeror and the results, to include Final Proposal Revisions, were incorporated in the SET's findings, as presented below.

Factor 1 – Technical

The SET members performed a detailed individual review of each of the offeror's Technical Proposal against the Technical Acceptability requirements defined above to ensure the offeror could satisfy the minimum requirements. SET members rated the proposals as "acceptable," "reasonably susceptible of being made acceptable," or "not acceptable." After completion of the individual evaluations, the SET convened to discuss individual findings and to develop a consensus rating for each technical proposal. The SET rated both offerors' Technical Proposals "Acceptable" based on the Technical Considerations set forth in the solicitation.

Set forth below is a summary of the Technical Acceptability Findings for the Offerors:

Offeror	Overall Technical	Criteria 1 Quality	Criteria 2 Facility & Equipment	Criteria 3 Facility Clearance	Criteria 4 Staffing Capability
Micro Craft	Acceptable	Met	Met	Met	Met
ATI	Acceptable	Met	Met	Met	Met

Factor 2 – Price/Cost

In consultation with the SET, the NASA Price Analyst performed an analysis of the proposed prices to assess price reasonableness, cost realism, and confirm the offerors demonstrated a clear understanding of the requirements and possessed the ability to perform the contract for the stated cost. The price analyst then incorporated the results into a detailed report. Based on initial findings, the analyst concluded that additional information was needed to complete the cost analysis. After completion of discussions, and in accordance with FAR 15.402, the contracting officer has determined that the offerors' proposed prices are fair and reasonable based on the fact that adequate price competition was obtained, the spread from the highest proposed price to the lowest proposed price, and comparison of the proposed prices to the Government estimate.

Factor 3 – Past Performance

The SET evaluated the offerors' past performance records in accordance with provision M.3(b) of the RFP. The SET considered records of performing contracts similar in size, scope and complexity to RECOM IV. Both the performance records and the pertinence of the experience were evaluated. A confidence rating was assigned in accordance with NFS 1815.305.

The SET determined both Micro Craft's and ATI's overall experience to be very highly pertinent to this effort since both firms are incumbents of the current RECOM contract. Based on review of customer evaluations and performance records, the SET also rated Micro Craft and ATI "Very Good" for overall quality of performance. For each offeror, the combined ratings of very highly pertinent experience and very good performance resulted in a consensus Past Performance rating of rating of "High Level of Confidence" (or Acceptable for evaluation purposes).

Set forth below is a summary of the Past Performance Findings for the Offerors:

Offeror	Performance	Pertinence	Level of Confidence
Micro Craft	Very Good	Very Highly Pertinent	High (Acceptable)
ATI	Very Good	Very Highly Pertinent	High (Acceptable)

Basis for Selection

The SET presented its findings to me on November 14, 2012 and I am convinced that the SET conducted a thorough, fair, and objective evaluation of all proposals in accordance with the

established evaluation criteria in the RFP. As documented earlier, the contracting officer determined that the procedures at NFS 1815.305 (a) apply as the number of responsive proposals was no more than the number of awards contemplated. As required by NFS 1815.305-71(a), the contracting officer reviewed the solicitation and the remaining proposals and determined that (1) the solicitation was not flawed or unduly restrictive, and (2) adequate price competition exists based on the receipt of multiple responsive and competitive proposals.

NFS 1815.305-71(a) also requires that the contracting officer determine if the proposal(s) is an acceptable proposal. The contracting officer reviewed the SET findings and determined that each proposal was acceptable. I concur with the findings of the SET and contracting officer. Specifically, in evaluating the two offerors for Factor 1, Technical, I noted that each offeror was determined acceptable for all four technical areas detailed in the RFP: (1) Quality, (2) Facility and Equipment, (3) Facility Clearance, and (4) Staffing Capability. Regarding Factor 2, Price/Cost, I noted that a detailed analysis of the proposed prices was performed and each proposal was determined to be reasonable and realistic and reflects a clear understanding of the requirements. For Factor 3, Past Performance, each proposal was determined to be acceptable based on the offerors receiving High Level of Confidence ratings, as a result of very good performance and very highly pertinent work experience.

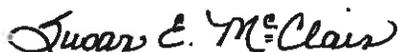
Source Selection Decision

Based on the determinations above, NFS1815.305-71(a) requires that the SSA direct the contracting officer to:

- (1) Award without discussions provided the contracting officer determines that adequate price competition exists;
- (2) Award after negotiating an acceptable contract; or
- (3) Reject the proposal and cancel the solicitation.

As stated above, I find that each offeror was determined acceptable under Factor 1, Technical, and Factor 3, Past Performance. In addition, for Factor 2, Cost/Price, I find that each offeror's proposal was reasonable, realistic, reflective of a clear understanding of the requirements; and consistent with the unique methods of performance and materials described in the Offeror's technical proposal. Last, as noted during the briefing to me on November 14, 2012, the contracting officer determined that both proposals were acceptable after the successful conclusion of discussions on November 2, 2012.

Therefore, as required pursuant to NFS1815.305-71(a), I hereby direct the contracting officer to award to Micro Craft and ATI without further discussions, based on the findings documented.


Susan E. McClain
Source Selection Authority