

Aerospace Testing and Facilities Operations and Maintenance (ATOM-4)
NNA14443194R (SLS)
QUESTIONS and ANSWERS SET 1

1. We understand the Government's desire to have the Program Manager and Key Personnel present. Would the Government allow up to 2 additional oral presenters to demonstrate corporate commitment to the success of ATOM-4 and backing for the Key Personnel?

Reference: L.10(c)

*The Government has considered the request and determined the Offeror's Key Personnel to present the oral presentation will be allowed one additional presenter. The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and up to 3 of the Offeror's Key Personnel present the oral presentation (**limit four (4) presenters**). The Final RFP will reflect this change.*

2. For contracts being listed to demonstrate Major Subcontractor past performance, should the personnel numbers reflect only the subcontractor employees, or the total of all prime and subcontractor employees on contract?

Reference: L.11(b)A Past Performance

The Major Subcontractor should address if they were the prime or subcontractor for the contract(s) that are submitted for the Past Performance. If the Major Subcontractor was the Prime, then list how many contractor employees were employed under the reference contract. If the Major Subcontractor was the subcontractor, then list how many contractor employees were employed under the reference contract.

3. As Section L is worded now, a \$2M/year contract with a period of performance of 10 years would qualify as similar size in size to ATOM-4's ~\$33M/year value. The challenges associated with managing a \$2M/year contract are very different than a \$33M/year contract; therefore, should Section L actually say \$20M in *annual* contract value as opposed to *total* contract value?

Reference: L.11(b)(1) / Section M.2.B(2)

Past Performance Proposal shall include, a list of three (3) relevant contracts (including government and industry contracts) each in excess of \$20,000,000 total contract value for the prime and a list of three (3) relevant contracts (including government and industry contracts) each in excess of \$1,000,000 total contract value for the major subcontractor, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort.

4. Who will be serving on the Source Evaluation Board?

Reference: General

Per Ames Procurement Policy, Source Evaluation Board members names are not disclosed.

5. Who will be the Source Selection Authority?

Reference: General

Per Ames Procurement Policy, Source Selection Authority name is not disclosed.

6. Will you update/modify the Industry Day attendees list to show who signed in and actually attended?

Reference: General

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The Industry Day/Pre-Proposal Conference Attendance Sheet by company has been posted. If Company contact information is required, please use the posted Interested Parties List(s), which is updated periodically.

7. “No photography of any kind will be allowed” at the Preproposal/Pre-Bid Conference. As only the incumbent is thoroughly familiar with the facility, suggest the Government permit photography in all non-classified/non-sensitive areas to eliminate any unfair advantage.

Reference: Section L.6 (a)

Modification four (4) was posted on April 24, 2014, which permitted photography in non-classified and non-sensitive areas during the Industry Day/Pre-Proposal Conference walking tour scheduled on April 29, 2014.

8. Section L.7.4 identifies 29 technical reference documents applicable to the NASA ATOM solicitation. However, no location is provided for reviewing those documents. What is the location of this “technical library” and when will it be populated?

Reference: Section L.7.4

Documents addressed in Section L.7.4, Technical Reference Documents were posted on April 28, 2014.

9. The DRFP states “During the clarification period, the Government may request clarification of any of the points presented.” Are clarifications limited to the points presented during the oral presentation, or may the Government also request clarifications on the written portion of the proposal?

Reference: Section L.10(k)

Clarifications can be asked any time after proposals are received.

10. The DRFP states that “The Offeror shall:

- Define a test team ...
- Define preparation and schedule tasks from test planning through model checkout to ...
- Define preparation and schedule tasks for the test execution and post-test data transmittal ...
- Document baseline balance uncertainty and implement balance pressurization tare effects ...
- Explain the approach for achieving high data quality ...
- Describe the plan for implementation of safety ...”

The Section M bulleted list of Sample Task A evaluation criteria does not include the 3rd bullet listed in Section L (“Define preparation and schedule tasks for the test execution and post-test data transmittal phases of the wind tunnel test that meet the customer and facility requirements.”). Does the Government intend to modify Section M evaluation criteria to address all Sample Task A bullets listed in Section L?

Reference: Section L.11(a)B.2 – Sample Task A; Section M.2.B(a)B.2 – Sample Task A

The Government will update Section M to reflect Section L in the Final RFP.

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11. Please clarify. Paragraph I.1 FAR Clauses Incorporated by Reference (Feb 1998), Clause 52.219-9 Page I-2 is stricken through. However, Paragraph I.6 Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Deviation) Alternate II (Oct 2001) Page I-9 distinctly calls out FAR Clause 52.219-9. Question: Does the Government mean for us to reference 52.219-8 or to actually use 52.219-9?

Reference: Section I Contract Clauses

Clause 52.219-9 in Section I.1 Incorporated by Reference will be deleted. Clause 52.219-9 in full text will be located in Section I. Clauses 52.219-8 and 52.219-9 are both in the solicitation. The Final RFP will reflect this change.

12. Paragraph I.6 Page I-9 references FAR Clause 52.219-9 Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Deviation) Alternate II (Oct 2001). However, the latest revision of this clause is dated July 2013. Question: Where did they get the 2001 date?

Reference: Section I Contract Clauses

Clause 52.219-9 will be updated to include the July 2013 date. Alternate II date of OCT 2001 is correct. The date is associated with Alternate II. The Final RFP will reflect this change.

13. Paragraph I.6 (d9) Page I-12, references "subcontracts in excess of \$650,000 (\$1.5 million for construction of any public facility with further subcontracting possibilities). However, Section L, Paragraph C (1v) Page L-16 references "large business subcontracts expected to exceed \$700,000 or \$1,500,000 for construction of a public facility". We haven't been able to identify any FAR clauses that actually reference the \$700,000 value. The latest revision dated July 2013 references a \$650,000 value. Question: Where did the \$700,000 figure come from?

Reference: Section I Contract Clauses

Section L, Paragraph C.1(a)(v) Page L-16 will be revised to reflect the following: "large business subcontracts expected to exceed \$650,000 or \$1,500,000 for construction of a public facility". The Final RFP will reflect this change.

14. Section J.1(a) Attachment 6 of the table, indicates the Contractor's Organizational Conflicts of Interest Avoidance Plan is due at TBD and is "To be completed at time of award...". This conflicts with Section L.11(a)(6) which requires delivery of the plan with the proposal.

Reference: Section J.1(a)

The Organizational Conflicts of Interest Avoidance Plan shall be submitted with the proposal for evaluation. Once an Offeror is selected for award, the plan will be incorporated into the contract at the time of award or by a modification.

15. Section J.1(a) Attachment 7 of the table, indicates the Contractor's Safety and Health Plan is due at TBD and is "To be completed at time of award...". This conflicts with Section L.8(b)(2) which requires delivery of the plan with the proposal as part of the Cover Letter. We assume the Contractor's Safety and Health Plan is due at contract award. Is this correct?

Reference: Section J.1(a)

The Offeror is required to submit a Safety and Health Plan with its proposal. The plan will not be part of the evaluation for award. If updates are required to the plan, it will be discussed with the selected Offeror.

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16. Section J.1(a) Attachment 14 of the table, indicates the Government Property Management Information is due at TBD and is "To be completed at time of award...". This conflicts with Section L.8(b)(2) which requires delivery of the plan with the proposal as part of the Cover Letter. We assume the Government Property Management Information is due at contract award. Is this correct?

Reference: Section J.1(a)

The Offeror is required to submit Government Property Management Information. The plan will not be part of the evaluation for award. If updates are required to the plan, it will be discussed with the selected Offeror.

17. Section L.10(b) requires Offerors to provide their oral presentation in a PDF format and that Offerors "may not use any other media". We believe this does not preclude Offerors to include printed copies of their oral presentation in the Offeror's Presentation Materials, for personal use (i.e., reference, notes, "follow along", etc.) during the presentation. Is this correct?

Reference: Section L.10(b)

The Offeror's proposal should be submitted by the due date. The submitted proposal will be provided to the Offeror for the Oral Presentation. Section L.8 requires 1 Original, 6 Additional, and 2 Electronic versions to be submitted. All copies will be supplied by the Government. Offerors may bring notes to talk to the proposal submitted.

18. Section M.3 identifies the weight for each portion of the Mission Suitability Proposal (Volume II). As the Management Approach and Technical Understanding each include oral and written components, how are the points apportioned among those components?

Reference: Section M.3

The Assigned Weight (Management Approach 425 and Technical Understanding 475) encompasses oral and written elements.

19. An annual award fee evaluation on a two year contract does not provide adequate time for corrective action should it be needed. Would the government consider having a six-month award fee evaluation?

Reference: Section G.2 (b)

The Government has considered the request and determined the award fee evaluation period will be annual.

20. This section states, "The table of contents must list figures and tables separately." Most solicitations permit the Contractor to list tables and figures as they see fit. Is there an overriding reason why tables and figures must be separately identified?

Reference: Section L.8 (4)

The Government has considered the request and determined the table of contents must list figures and tables separately. Where necessary, a cross-reference sheet to other volumes shall be included. Each volume shall contain a more detailed table of contents to delineate the subparagraphs within that volume.

21. The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and up to 2 of the Offeror's Key Personnel present the oral presentation (limit of three (3) presenters). Additional attendees

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beyond the presenters are not allowed. It would seem appropriate to have representatives from each major PWS area. In addition, it would be beneficial to all parties if bidding entities could have one of their senior executives attend the orals for corporate commitment.

Reference: Section L.10 (c)

See Question 1 above.

22. This section states that the Organizational Conflicts of Interest Avoidance Plan "shall address all the requirements identified in Section H, paragraph H.17 (Organizational Conflicts of Interest and Limitation on Future Contracting) and Section I, paragraph I.1 (NFS 1852.237-72, Access to Sensitive Information)...". Paragraph H.17 identifies its associated requirements, but the paragraph I.1 reference does not provide any requirements.

Reference: Section L.11 A.6

Please review NFS 1852.237-72 and 1837.2, which addresses the access of sensitive information. Recommend Offeror read NFS 1837.203-70 through 1837.203-72.

23. CDRL 14 IT security Plan is due 30 days after contract award. This implies that this will be performed during the 30 day phase-in or before.

Reference: J.1(a)2 # 14

An IT Security Plan for Government approval in accordance with NFS 1852.204-76 shall be submitted within 30 days after contract award. The plan will not be submitted before award.

24. Definition of Major subcontractor. The DRFP say "Major Subcontractors are defined as those providing a total contract value of \$1,000,000 for the 5 year inclusive effort. The next paragraph says "any Major Subcontractor with a potential estimated total value in excess of \$1,000,000 for the five year inclusive effort shall submit a cost proposal...." Since a major portion of the contract will be IDIQ and the exact distribution of the IDIQ value among the subcontractors is unknown, would NASA redefine the Major subcontractor?

Reference: L.11 (c) 1. Cost/Price Proposal (Volume III)

The Final RFP will be revised to address the definitions and threshold for Major Subcontractor, for proposal purposes relating to Contract Management (CLINS 02A, 03A, 04A, and 05A) and Testing and General Services (CLINS 02B, 03B, 04B, and 05B). The Final RFP will reflect this change.

25. Will NASA provide current copies of all CDRLs defined in Attachment J.1 (a)2

Reference: Attachment J.1 (a)2

Some of the CDRL's are contractor provided information. You can request CDRL's through the FOIA office.

26. Are contractors allowed to modify direct labor hours provided in either the base year or future years to reflect improved techniques, processes, approaches?

Reference: Exhibit 9

Reference page L-25 of the Draft RFP, instructions for Exhibit 9, Direct Labor Cost Summary – Testing and General Services (CLINS 02B, 03B, 04B, and 05B). As stated in these

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instructions, "Offerors shall (emphasis added) use the Standard Labor Categories and hours provided in Exhibit 9." Please see Final RFP.

27. Section L.8(b)(1) states that the Cover Letter "Includes all information in Section L.6(b)(2)." Should this read as: "Includes all information in Section L.8(b)(2)"

Reference: Section L.8(b)(1)

L.6(b)(2) will be revised to read as L.8(b)(2).

Cover Letter

Includes all information found in Section L.8(b)(2). The Final RFP will reflect this change.

28. Section L.8(b)(2) states: ...As part of that (cover) letter, provide the following information: "If applicable, include a complete description and documentation for teaming or other such business arrangements." Would a copy of the teaming agreement for subcontract partners be adequate documentation, and in the case of a proposed Joint Venture relationship, would a copy of the JV operating agreement satisfy this requirement?

Reference: Section L.8(b)(2)

Offerors should submit their documentation and the Government will review it. If an Offeror is proposing a Joint Venture, adequate documentation should be submitted to support it.

29. Section L.11 (b) (1) Past Performance states the Offeror shall provide, "A list of three (3) relevant contracts (including government and industry contracts), each in excess of \$20,000,000 total contract value for the prime and each in excess of \$1,000,000 total contract value for the major subcontractor, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort."

Reference: Section L.11 (b) (1) Past Performance

Per section L.9(a), the Past Performance Proposal is limited to 20 pages. This limit does not apply to past performance questionnaire responses. Per Section L.11(b)(1), The Prime is required to submit three contracts in excess of \$20,000,000 total contract value. Major Subcontractors is defined as subcontracting dollars. Each Major Subcontractor required to submit three contracts each in excess of \$1,000,000 total contract value. Please Final RFP.

30. H.13 Severance Pay (page H-11) references FAR 31.205-6(g) which is for personal services. This is not a personal services contract as evidenced by H.18 Non-Personal Services (page H-14). Also H.13 is in direct conflict with the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) in that the clause seeks to limit severance to no more than 80 hours while CBA allows up to 120 hours.

As we read this requirement, we are to provide three (3) relevant contracts for the prime meeting the dollar criteria and three (3) relevant contracts meeting the \$1M TCV threshold for each major subcontractor within the 20 page limit. As an example: The JV, Prime 1 provides Citations 1, 2, 3; Prime 2 provides Citations 4, 5, 6; Major Sub 1 provides Citations 7, 8, 9; and Major Sub 2 provides 10, 11, 12; etc. all within 20 pages.

Will government please clarify if the example above is your intent or are we to provide a TOTAL of 3 relevant contracts within the 20 page limit inclusive of Prime and Major Subcontractor(s) relevant contracts?

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If the example above is the Government's intent, given the amount of information to be provided for each contract, the 20 page limit would appear to be inadequate. As such, we would request the Government to establish a page limit of no more than 5 pages for each contract citation to properly and fully respond to the requested past performance information.

Reference: H.13

H.13 ARC 52.231-90 SEVERANCE PAY will be revised as follow:

*In conjunction with FAR 31.205-6(g), the severance pay cost shall not exceed 40 hours pay for each year of employment per eligible employee on the current contract, up to a maximum of 80 hours per eligible employee **unless there is a collective bargain agreement**. In no event shall the Government reimburse the Contractor for severance cost for employees who voluntarily accept employment with a succeeding contractor within ninety (90) days after completion of the current contract. The Final RFP will reflect this change.*

31. What is the intent of Exhibit 16 in the Price volume? Is NASA saying they want bidders to maintain the current salaries of the incumbent workers? How will NASA evaluate this data? While bidders other than the incumbent can make assumptions about the incumbent pay, only the incumbent has the exact details. Requesting such data seems to create an uneven playing field for the procurement and gives an unfair advantage to the incumbent contractor.

Reference: L section C cost, exhibit 16

Reference page L-26 of the Draft RFP, instructions for Exhibit 16, Incumbency Assumptions Template. As stated in these instructions, the Government understands that non-incumbent offerors may only be able to estimate the salaries of incumbent employees, however the Government needs to understand the Offeror's intentions regarding pay for these employees if the Offeror intends to retain them.