

Aerospace Testing and Facilities Operations and Maintenance (ATOM-4)  
NNA14443194R (SLS)  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SET 3

1. Sample Task A; The sample tasks while depicting the exact operations at the NASA Ames Center appear to give an unfair advantage to the incumbent as the tasks ask for certain details that only an incumbent would have. With the tasks as written no potential contractor can feel they are in a level playing field the way the sample tasks are presented where only the incumbent would have the intimate knowledge to successfully address all of the areas required. There are other companies that can manage the mission at NASA Ames and having sample task that depict this capability in more general terms would allow a fair competition. Make the technical approach more general so that bidders can show an understanding of the sample task without have to provide the specific steps unique to NASA Ames. For example in task A, language such as "Test team definition (including staffing and rationale for staffing) for onsite model buildup/preparation, model installation and two weeks of double shift test operations and post-test transmittal of the data." is very difficult for anyone but the incumbent to respond to considering that the operations are conducted by teams of both government and contractor personnel handling similar jobs. This appears to be mainly a detail that could discourage competition without demonstrating technical capabilities of the bidders.

Reference: Sample Task A

*The Government has considered the request and has revised Sample Task A to clarify that the test team will be made up of only contractor employees.*

2. Sample Task B; The sample tasks while depicting the exact operations at the NASA Ames Center appear to give an unfair advantage to the incumbent as the tasks ask for certain details that only an incumbent would have. With the tasks as written no potential contractor can feel they are in a level playing field the way the sample tasks are presented where only the incumbent would have the intimate knowledge to successfully address all of the areas required. There are other companies that can manage the mission at NASA Ames and having sample task that depict this capability in more general terms would allow a fair competition. Make the technical approach more general so that bidders can show an understanding of the sample task without have to provide the specific steps unique to NASA Ames. For example in task B, details about assembling the unique Ames Arc Jet heaters is technical detail that our technical staff can address, but it doesn't really provide NASA with understanding of the relevant capabilities of the bidder. It appears to be mainly a technical detail that could discourage competition. Similar to the first sample task, the question "Test team definition (including staffing and rationale for staffing) for re-building the IHF arc heater and another team for continuing AHF operations." required details about staffing that only the incumbent would have considering the integrated nature of the work.

Reference: Sample Task B

*The Government has considered the request and has revised Sample Task B to clarify that the test team will be made up of only contractor employees and has generalized the Arc Heater assembly requirement.*

3. Sample Task C; The sample tasks while depicting the exact operations at the NASA Ames Center appear to give an unfair advantage to the incumbent as the tasks ask for certain details that only an incumbent would have. With the tasks as written no potential contractor can feel they are in a level playing field the way the sample tasks are presented where only the incumbent would have the intimate knowledge to successfully address all of the areas required. There are other companies that can manage the mission at NASA Ames and having sample task that depict this capability in more general terms would allow a fair competition. Make the technical approach more general so that bidders can show an understanding of the sample task without have to provide the specific steps unique to NASA Ames. For example in task C, details about undertaking this testing under the exacting timelines required, while representative or work at NASA Ames, requires very specific knowledge of these unique facilities as well as insight into the capabilities of each individual test team member. While our technical staff can address such scenarios, it doesn't really provide NASA with

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understanding of the relevant capabilities of the bidder. It appears to be mainly a technical detail that could discourage competition.

Reference: Sample Task C

*The Government has considered the request and has revised Sample Task C to clarify that the test team will be made up of only contractor employees and has generalized the Ballistic Range operation requirement.*

4. 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 Government's response posted to question 15 on "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SET 1" is changed as follows: The Offeror is required to submit a Safety and Health Plan with its proposal. The plan will be part of the evaluation for award as an element under Management Approach in written format.*