

**Source Selection Statement for the U.S. Global Change Research Program
National Coordination Office (USGCRP NCO) Support Services
Acquisition – Solicitation Number NNH14497394R**

On July 14, 2015, I, along with officials from the Headquarters Procurement Office, met with the Integrated Evaluation Team (IET) appointed to evaluate proposals in connection with the U.S. Global Change Research Program National Coordination Office (USGCRP NCO) Support Services acquisition. A briefing of the results of the evaluation conducted by the IET was provided to me, resulting in this source selection decision.

Procurement Description

The purpose of the USGCRP NCO Support Services contract is to provide technical, analytic, and programmatic support services to the USGCRP NCO. Major activities under this contract will include: core contract support for program coordination, facilitation, and operational support; technical and operational expertise to support the end-to-end production of the National Climate Assessment and other domestic and international climate change assessments; technical and operational support for non-assessment strategic documents and technical reports; coordination and support of USGCRP planning and budget activities; communication and stakeholder outreach activities in support of USGCRP objectives; and technical support and development of USGCRP's web presence, public online information resources, and office network and applications. The Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) component of the contract contemplates specialized Task Orders for support of high-profile, term-limited program activities and deliverables of the USGCRP.

The USGCRP NCO Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on October 1, 2014, and three subsequent amendments were issued. Amendment 1 provided revisions to Section L, Attachment B, and Exhibit 2 of the RFP. Amendment 2 changed the time of submission of proposals, and Amendment 3 updated clauses, revised Attachment E and provided general instructions for submitting final proposal revisions.

The resulting contract will be a Cost Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF) Core plus Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract with a total effective period of performance/effective ordering period of 5 years (a 1-year base period from the effective date of the contract plus four 1-year option periods).

This procurement was conducted as a Full and Open Competition under NAICS Code 541611, Administrative Management and General Management Consulting, with a Small Business Size Standard of \$14M.

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Proposals Submitted

By the RFP closing date of October 31, 2014, three offerors submitted proposals in response to the RFP:

Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH)
ICF, Inc. (ICF)
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)

Evaluation Procedures

The IET evaluated proposals in accordance with the source selection procedures identified in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 15.3 “Source Selection,” and NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) 1815.3. The Source Evaluation Board procedures at NFS 1815.370, NASA Source Evaluation Boards, were applied. The RFP listed three evaluation factors, Mission Suitability, Cost, and Past Performance. The RFP specified the relative order of importance of these factors as follows:

The Cost Factor is significantly less important than the combined importance of the Mission Suitability Factor and the Past Performance Factor. As individual Factors, the Cost Factor is less important than the Mission Suitability Factor but more important than the Past Performance Factor.

The Mission Suitability factor was evaluated using the adjectival ratings and definitions at NFS 1815.305(a)(3)(A). The IET reached consensus on its findings, identifying any Significant Strengths, Strengths, Weaknesses, Significant Weaknesses or Deficiencies. The IET then assigned an adjectival rating based on these consensus findings. Subfactor point scoring was not used in the evaluation of proposals for this solicitation.

Regarding the Cost factor, the RFP provided for the evaluation, but not numerical scoring or adjectival rating of cost. The RFP referred Offerors to FAR 2.101(b) for a definition of “cost realism” and to FAR 15.404-1(d) for a discussion of “cost realism analysis” and “probable cost.” The cost evaluation was conducted in accordance with FAR 15.305(a)(1) and NFS 1815.305(a)(1)(A) and (B). The proposed costs for the core contract and the rates proposed in Attachment B, Direct Labor Rates, Indirect Rates and Award Fee Matrices, were assessed to determine reasonableness and cost realism. Both the “proposed cost” and “probable cost”

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reflected the offeror’s proposed fee amount, which was not adjusted in the probable cost assessment.

Past Performance evaluations were based on FAR Part 15 and were conducted in accordance with provision M.5 of the solicitation. As stated in provision L.24, all Past Performance references had to meet the “recent” and minimum average annual cost/fee expenditures criteria provided therein for both prime contractor references and any significant subcontractor references in order to be evaluated. An Offeror’s Past Performance record indicates the relevant quantitative and qualitative aspects of performing services or delivering products similar in size and content to the requirements of this acquisition. An Offeror’s Past Performance was assigned an overall confidence rating that reflects a subjective evaluation of the information contained in the written narrative, Past Performance evaluation input provided through customer questionnaires, and other sources. As set forth and described in Section M.5 of the RFP, the applicable level of confidence ratings were: Very High, High, Moderate, Low, Very Low, and Neutral.

Results of the Evaluation

The IET conducted its analysis of the proposals submitted and established a competitive range that included the Booz Allen Hamilton and ICF proposals. The competitive range notices identified all Mission Suitability findings and Cost Issues from the initial evaluations for each Offeror. Following discussions, each offeror submitted its Final Proposal Revision (FPR) by the closing date of May 29, 2015. The IET then conducted its analysis of the submitted FPRs, utilizing the same evaluation process used for the initial evaluation.

Mission Suitability Factor

The results of the IET’s evaluation under the Mission Suitability Factor are summarized below:

Offeror	Adjectival Rating
BAH	Good
ICF, Inc.	Excellent

BAH

BAH received 0 significant strengths, 5 strengths, 0 weaknesses, and 0 significant weaknesses, resulting in an adjectival rating of Good for the Mission Suitability factor.

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Strength #1

BAH received a strength for its thorough and efficient approach to IT support and the level of detail in its IT plan, which contributed to lowered risk and heightened confidence in the offeror's ability to transition from the old system to a more robust, modern and integrated system.

Strength #2

BAH received a strength for its proposed use of a systems review board, which would review development, design, testing, and debugging of system components in order to strengthen system performance.

Strength #3

BAH received a strength for its detailed description of the Representative Task Order's (RTO) requirements, procedures, and required outcomes, and its thorough analysis of RTO potential risks and possible mitigations.

Strength #4

BAH received a strength for its management staffing plan, which offered mission continuity through the retention of incumbent USGCRP staff, while also allowing for new efficiencies and fresh ideas through reachback to its own expert and that of its partners.

Strength #5

BAH received a strength for its proposed small business utilization plan goals, which met the overall Government's Recommended Goal (GRG) of 10% and either met or exceeded the GRG in each category, demonstrating a strong commitment to small business.

ICF, Inc.

ICF received 3 significant strengths, 1 strength, 0 weaknesses, and 0 significant weaknesses, resulting in an adjectival rating of Excellent for the Mission Suitability Factor.

Significant Strength #1

ICF received a significant strength for its extremely detailed and robust plans for IT, which addressed IT security, an integrative approach to website design, and its proactive IT approach for developing and managing the end-to-end IT and web needs of complex subject matter, including the next National Climate Assessment 4. Additionally, ICF's proposal demonstrated an in-depth

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understanding of the Global Climate Information System, a critical tool, used to convey information derived from USGCRP assessments.

Significant Strength #2

ICF received a significant strength for an exceptionally detailed and comprehensive approach to the RTO, including its discussion of the timeline, dependencies, logistics, risks and possible approaches to mitigation. ICF’s proposal provides substantial detail on the nature of expected risks, as well as extremely clear mitigation strategies and a pro-active approach for managing each risk.

Significant Strength #3

ICF’s proposal received a significant strength for its highly-detailed management approach and staffing plan, including an effective management structure with clearly-defined leadership roles and responsibilities and effective oversight for contract staff. The offeror’s staffing, hiring and retention capabilities and proposed organizational structure significantly enhance the offeror’s ability to effectively manage and accomplish the overall NCO effort.

Strength #1

ICF’s proposal received a strength for its comprehensive phase-in plan, which demonstrates ICF’s awareness of the need to engage and capture knowledge from existing staff, understanding of risk identification and mitigation strategy, and recognition of appropriate engagement of agency and USGCRP leadership during phase-in.

Cost Factor

ICF had the lower total proposed cost. The evaluation team made no cost adjustments to BAH’s total proposed cost. The evaluation team made cost adjustments to ICF’s proposed cost, resulting in a net upward adjustment of ICF’s total proposed cost. After the adjustment was made, ICF had the lowest total probable cost, which was approximately 13% lower than BAH’s total probable cost.

Past Performance Factor

The results of the IET’s evaluation of Past Performance are summarized below:

Offeror	Overall Confidence Rating
BAH	Very High
ICF	Very High

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BAH

BAH was assigned an overall confidence level rating of Very High which is reflective of the IET's subjective evaluation of the information contained in the written narrative; Past Performance evaluation input provided through customer questionnaires; and other sources. BAH received a Very High level of confidence Past Performance rating based on its very highly rated performance on multiple very highly relevant contracts. Based on the Offeror's performance record, there is a Very High level of confidence that the Offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

ICF

ICF was assigned an overall confidence level rating of Very High which is reflective of the IET's subjective evaluation of the information contained in the written narrative; Past Performance evaluation input provided through customer questionnaires; and other sources. ICF received a Very High level of confidence Past Performance rating based on its very highly rated performance on multiple very highly relevant contracts. Based on the Offeror's performance record, there is a Very High level of confidence that the Offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

Source Selection Decision

I carefully reviewed the IET's Mission Suitability, Past Performance and Cost presentation as well as the Cost Report, which were provided to me on July 10, 2015. On July 14, 2015, I, the Source Selection Authority, along with ex-officio advisors and representatives from the NASA HQ Procurement Office, met with the IET to discuss the IET's final evaluation. The findings presented by the IET, as documented in its presentation entitled "U.S. Global Change Research Program National Coordination Office Support Services Procurement Presentation to the Source Selection Authority" and the accompanying "Consolidated USGCRP Cost Report - FPR" were detailed, consistent with the evaluation criteria in the USGCRP NCO Support Services RFP, and provided a clear description of the merits of each proposal. I determined that the findings were reasonable and valid for the purpose of making a selection decision. I agreed with the IET's findings, ratings, and cost analysis results.

In determining which proposal offered the best value to NASA, I referred to the relative order of importance of the three evaluation factors as specified in the RFP.

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Regarding the Mission Suitability Factor, the most important factor, I noted that the proposal submitted by ICF was technically superior to the proposal submitted by BAH based on the content of the findings. I also found that ICF's proposal received the highest overall adjectival rating of "Excellent," which was significantly higher than BAH's adjectival rating of "Good."

I then closely reviewed BAH's and ICF's evaluation findings. ICF received three significant strengths in the areas of: IT processes and requirements; RTO requirements, assumptions, timelines and risks; and overall management approach and staffing. ICF also received a strength for its effective and comprehensive phase-in plan. I was impressed by ICF's integrated approach to managing both the technical components and human resources characteristics of the USGCRP National Coordinating Office. Taken all together, ICF's three significant strengths and one strength that ICF received represent a deep and comprehensive understanding of the requirements, and an effective, efficient, robust approach to providing technical, analytic, and programmatic support services to the USGCRP NCO. In contrast to ICF, BAH received no significant strengths and five discrete strengths for: IT support; access to its internal systems review board; understanding of the RTO; retention of qualified staff; and small business utilization. I concluded that ICF, with their significant strengths noted above resulting in an Excellent adjectival rating had a substantial advantage over BAH's Good adjectival rating in the Mission Suitability factor.

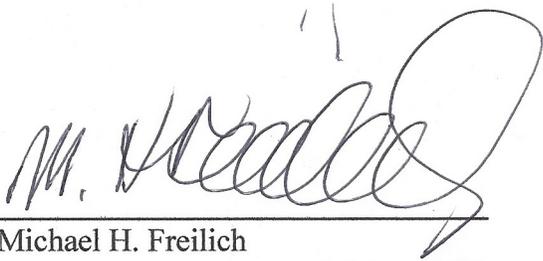
Regarding the cost evaluation, I observed that ICF had the lower proposed and probable total costs. ICF's probable total cost which was notably lower than BAH's gave ICF's proposal a discernable advantage in this Factor.

Regarding the Past Performance evaluation, I noted that BAH and ICF both had Very High Past Performance ratings, and I therefore did not find this Factor to be a discriminator.

In making my best value determination, I looked to the relative importance of the three evaluation factors under the RFP. Because the least important factor—Past Performance—was not a discriminator, my decision rested upon the merits of each offeror's proposal in the context of the Mission Suitability and Cost factors. Regarding these factors, I determined that ICF presented an overall superior proposal that offered the best value to the Government. My determination was based on the substantial advantage offered by ICF's Mission Suitability proposal combined with its lower cost.

Accordingly, based on my analysis of the IET evaluation results and the RFP evaluation criteria, I have determined that the ICF, Inc. proposal offers the best value to the Government and select ICF, Inc. for award of the U.S. Global Change Research Program National Coordination Office (USGCRP NCO) Support Services contract.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Freilich', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael H. Freilich
Director, Earth Science Division, Science Mission Directorate
Source Selection Authority