

1. **Question:** “Will clearances be required to perform this work?”

Response: *FAR Clause 52.204-02 states that this contract involves access to information classified as “Confidential,” “Secret,” or “Top Secret.” Therefore, clearances will be required for those individuals that the Offeror determines need access to this information. Furthermore, H006 states that performance of this contract requires that employees of the Contractor have physical access to DOE-owned or leased facilities. L012- Criterion 2, states, “...Proposed Key Personnel must be United States citizens and must be eligible to receive a DOE “L” or “Q” clearance.”*

2. **Question:** "Please could you provide details of any existing subcontracts which are held by the current incumbent?"

Response: No.

3. **Question:** “Are there any Bargaining Unit personnel currently employed on this contract: (If so, please provide details).”

Response: No.

4. **Question:** “Are we allowed to provide introductory text to the Key Personnel resumes?”

Response: No. We only want information specified on Attachment L-2.

5. **Question:** “Are we allowed to provide introductory text to the Corporate Experience & Performance Self-Assessment forms?”

Response: No. We only want information specified on Attachment L-3.

6. **Question:** “The draft RFP does not include any requirements regarding a transition Plan and the timing, cost, or approach of transition. Since we are not asked to price or time-phase the cost, how will transition be handled?”

Response: *Offerors are required to begin performance on the contract award date. No transition plan is required; therefore, no pre-contract costs are allowed. However, the Offeror may incur any allowable, reasonable and required costs after contract award to enable contract performance.*

7. **Question:** “To avoid excessive fee competition among Offerors that would diminish the impact of both award and incentive fee as a management tool, will the NNSA consider setting a minimum overall fee (e.g., 6%) and a maximum fee of 8%? DOE – EM provided a “cost model” for the recent Mission Support Contract procurement at Hanford. Use of the model was optional, but it reduced proposal development and evaluation effort and illuminated the games of cutting incumbent salaries, benefits and so on. This RFP also established acceptable fee ranges.”

Response: *Fee is discretionary and the anticipated adequate price competition should hold fee amounts to reasonable levels. The Government will not mandate “minimum” or “maximum” fee rates/levels and will instead rely on competitive pressures to drive reasonableness. RFP*

M003, Evaluation Criterion 2 (B) specifically addresses an Offeror's "strategy for attracting and retaining a professional nucleus of employees to successfully perform the PWS." The Government will be evaluating proposals accordingly.

8. Question: "In the list of Pertinent Documents, DOE has provided the 2009-2013 schedules. Is DOE dictating that bidders follow the schedule given, or are bidders free to develop their own approach to meet the FFACO milestones?"

Response: The FFACO milestones are minimum milestones. Offerors may propose an approach to meet or accelerate these milestones consistent with the FFACO approved strategy while balancing the Offeror's proposed approach to avoid or minimize any technical risk.

9. Question: "In order to level the playing field for all companies planning to propose, we request that NNSA establish minimum benefit requirements in the proposal. An example of this would be the most recent Sandia staff augmentation proposal, which included fringe benefit minimums that needed to be met. NNSA also needs to be cognizant of the existing staff and their current salaries in order to maintain continuity. Should a bidder "low-ball" the salaries in their proposal, continuity of staff will not be possible, thereby jeopardizing the quality of work and continuity of knowledge."

Response: The Government does not want to hinder or limit the Offerors by being prescriptive in its approach to this acquisition and therefore will not establish minimums but rather will rely on Offerors to demonstrate best value in accordance with the RFP source selection factors. RFP M003, Evaluation Criterion 2 (B) specifically addresses an Offeror's "strategy for attracting and retaining a professional nucleus of employees to successfully perform the PWS." The Government will be evaluating proposals accordingly.

10. Question: "Section B, CLIN 0006 states that data and reports are not separately priced. However, Attachment L-7 seems to require Offerors to separately price data and reporting under the category "Reports, Data, and Other Deliverables." Because the estimates of the cost for the sub-projects will include much (if not all) of the effort to develop data and deliverables, should the costs of reports data, and deliverables be included in each individual sub-project as indicated by Section B?"

Response: Attachment L-7 is the Staffing Plan Summary for the whole requirement; that is, for performing the entire Performance Work Statement (PWS). No actual cost data, e.g. dollars or rates, are to be included in the completed Staffing Summary. Rather, Offerors are to complete this attachment by filling in the proposed number of total direct productive labor hours (DPLH), by PWS Area, listing the annual DPLH per FTE, and listing the resultant associated full-time equivalents (FTEs). This will highlight the Offeror's staffing approach for completing the entire PWS and the completed Attachment L-7 must reconcile with the proposed DPLHs in the Cost Proposal, Table 1, which requires pricing of the entire PWS. Section 4 of the PWS is titled, "Reports, Data, and Other Deliverables." If an Offeror chooses to matrix out all personnel responsible for generating reports into the respective, other, PWS areas, just acknowledge that in Attachment L-7 and categorize these personnel accordingly within the other PWS area FTEs.

11. **Question:** “Section B006 of the RFP indicates that the base fee is \$0.00. This seems unreasonable for a small business contract and we request that NNSA consider adjusting upwards to at least 3%.”

Response: *The Government desires to reward contractors for successful performance and believes that performance on the ECRS effort will be maximized by placing the entire fee at risk.*

12. **Question:** “It was noticed that no management plan (organizational chart for the overall program, approach to handle peaks and valleys in the work, etc.) were requested. Suggest that inclusion of these requirements will allow the Government to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed approach to the whole program; therefore, suggest adding Management Plan requirement in the RFP.”

Response: *Attachment J-2, “Reporting Requirement Checklist,” will be amended to require submission of a Management Plan within 15 calendar days after contract award.*

13. **Question:** “The draft RFP does not include any requirements regarding a Transition Plan and the timing, cost, or approach of transition. Since we are not asked to price or time-phase the cost, how will transition be handled?”

Response: *Reference Question #6.*

14. **Question:** “H003 requires this contract have its own PAAA program; should Offerors include the cost of developing and administering the PAAA program in the Program Support sub-project?”

Response: *Offerors should follow their standard accounting practices for this type of cost and identify within the cost proposal where these costs are captured.*

15. **Question:** “H016 list the Project Controls Manager as Key. What criteria will be used to evaluate this position? Specifically, did NNSA intend this position to manage only Project Controls, or did NNSA intend this position to manage the Program Support Sub-Project (Inclusive of program integration) function?”

Response: *An amendment will be issued to change the title of “Project Control Manager” to “Program Support Manager” in Section H016.*

16. **Question:** “The use of flow charts and other graphics allows bidders to provide information in a clear and concise manner. The requirement given in L010 (7) that all graphics must have a minimum 12 pt. font using Times New Roman (and select other options listed), makes it prohibitive to provide DOE with these useful graphics given the page restrictions. As long as text within graphics is clearly legible, would DOE consider relaxing the requirement from 12 pt font within the graphics?”

Response: *An amendment to L010 will be issued to allow 8 point (or larger) for spreadsheets, charts, tables, diagrams or drawings, graphs, and illustrations.*

17. **Question:** "Attachment L-3, Item 12 requires that "By the year performed, describe the nature and scope of the work as it relates to your proposed role....." Is it acceptable to describe the activities performed over a number of years in one section (i.e. 2003 - present) or does NNSA require bidders to delineate activities on our contracts by each year?"

Response: *No. NNSA requires the Offerors to describe its activities yearly.*

18. **Question:** "In L012 (b)(1)(A), the requirement for the Soils Sub-Project technical approach is focused on "characterization of radiological contaminated soils over widespread areas greater than a hundred acres." We interpret that requirement to mean that the government is requesting our approach to characterization only? Is it correct that Item A does not include selection of the corrective action strategy and its justification or remediation?"

Response: *"Characterization" for PWS Section 3.1.2.1, Soils, includes 3.1.2.1.2 and 3.1.2.1.3. The RFP and bidders' library (Reading Room on ECRS website) sufficiently describe the requirement for Offerors to propose.*

19. **Question:** "L012, Tab 3, Criterion 3 - If a team has a pre-selected subcontractor performing a very small niche role, is the team required to include contract references for the niche pre-selected subcontractor?"

Response: *The Offeror should determine what subcontractor's experience is considered relevant for the Government to evaluate and assess.*

20. **Question:** "L012, Tab 3, Criterion, requests no more than 3 contracts for each proposed team member and subcontractor. For a Joint Venture or LLC type arrangement, can the Offeror provide three contracts for each parent of the JV or LLC, in addition to three contracts for each subcontractor?"

Response: *Yes. The Offeror may provide three contracts for each parent company if they are a team member.*

21. **Question:** "L012, Tab 1, (c) Project Management. Is this section intended to reflect the technical approach to providing the activities described in the PWS as Program Support, or is this section intended to address the project management approach to perform all the PWS, or is this intended to be the project management approach to perform the two selected areas of the PWS (soils and UGTA)?"

Response: *L012, Tab 1, (C) Project Management is intended to reflect all the activities in the Performance Work Statement.*

22. **Question:** "Page L-12, Section L013 (a) – the first sentence says "The contracting Officer has determined that cost or pricing data is not required for this solicitation." This statement seems to be at odds with the requirement to prepare and submit Volume III Cost Proposal. Is this sentence in RFP by error? If not explain."

Response: *The referenced RFP sections are not at odds with each other. FAR part 2.101 defines cost or pricing data as, “Cost or pricing data are data requiring certification in accordance with 15.406-2.” Section L, provision L013 of the RFP states:*

The Contracting Officer has determined that cost or pricing data is not required for this solicitation. However, in accordance with FAR 15.403-3 and 15.403-5, information other than cost or pricing data is required to determine if your proposed costs are reasonable, realistic, and reflect a clear understanding of the solicitation requirements. If, after receipt of your proposals, the Contracting Officer determines that there is insufficient information available to determine price reasonableness and none of the exceptions in FAR 15.403-1 applies, the Offeror shall provide current, complete and accurate cost or pricing data within 14 days after receipt of the Contracting Officer’s request. FAR Part 2.1.01 defines information other than cost or pricing data as, “any type of information that is not required to be certified in accordance with 15.406-2 and is necessary to determine price reasonableness or cost realism.” Finally, FAR Part 15.305 states, “When contracting on a cost-reimbursement basis, evaluation shall include a cost realism analysis to determine what the Government should realistically expect to pay for the proposed effort, the Offeror’s understanding of the work, and the Offeror’s ability to perform the contract.” The requested information other than cost or pricing data will be used in the Government’s realism analysis as required by FAR for the cost type effort.

23. **Question:** It was noted that L012 requires a technical approach for selected sections of the PWS. It was also noted that Attachment L-7 requires labor estimates for all programs. Finally, M004 states that the staffing plan in the cost proposal must match the technical approach described in Volume II.

- a. Does the Government request Offerors to price the entire PWS, or simply the selected sections for which there is a technical approach?
- b. Assuming the entire PWS is price, how will the Government determine reasonableness of pricing for areas of the SOW for which the Offerors have not provided a technical approach?

Response: *Section M of the RFP, provision M004, paragraph (2) states, “The cost proposal will be evaluated to determine if the estimated proposed cost elements are realistic for the work to be performed, reflect a clear understanding of the PWS requirements, and are consistent with the Staffing Plan Summary submitted by the Offeror.” The Government will evaluate whether the proposed technical approach is consistent with the proposed staffing plan; inconsistencies may adversely impact the Offeror’s rating for Criterion 1, Technical Approach.*

a. Offerors must price the entire PWS for the Base contract period as well as for all Option periods. RFP Attachment L-7, “Staffing Plan Summary,” requires that the total proposed FTEs listed in this attachment must reconcile to the total direct productive labor hours detailed in the cost proposal, as both documents request data for performing the entire PWS.

b. The Government has determined that the key elements for successfully performing the ECRS effort are those source selection criteria listed in the RFP and has therefore requested detailed technical approaches for those specific areas. However, Offerors are required to propose the staffing approach for completing all elements of the PWS for all periods as listed in RFP Attachment L-7, as well as price the entire effort, RFP Attachment L-6, Tables 1-5. In accordance with RFP Section L, provision L013 (Cost Proposal Instructions), paragraph (b)(4), Offerors are required to provide the labor basis of estimates (BOE) to support the proposed hours for completing the entire PWS. The majority of the PWS effort is captured by the RFP technical criteria and the staffing approach is required for all PWS areas. Based upon the reasonableness of the proposed staffing approach as compared with history on similar current and past efforts, along with the fully-priced cost proposal, the Government can determine the reasonableness for those areas not included in the technical criteria, but included in the required staffing and costing information. As stated in Section M of the RFP, provision M004, "The Government may use any of the cost or price analysis techniques specified in FAR 15.404-1 to determine reasonableness."

24. **Question:** "In section L, page 16, you have provided the baseline costs for materials and supplies, travel, and GFP. In order to level the playing field, please set these as fixed costs to be included in all bidders' cost proposals, as they are non fee bearing, and only the incumbent would have a feel for what these numbers really are; or, as an alternative, please provide the past history for these costs by WBS element. This could also be an element of a baseline cost model to facilitate your evaluation."

Response: An excerpt from the RFP, Section L, provision L013, Paragraph (b)(6) states, "...Offerors shall include at a minimum the provided Government baselined amounts and apply company specific burdens as applicable and consistent with normal or disclosed company policy. Proposed amounts in excess of the Government baselined amounts shall include full justifications describing the methodologies, rationale, and detailed supporting calculations." No additional rationale is required if an Offeror proposes the Government baselined amounts as detailed in the RFP. See also the response to question 46.

25. **Question:** "The RFP, L013 (b)(4) requests that we assume certain cost for ODCs, travel, equipment, etc. It also includes Attachment L-6 tables that request the cost of these items to be calculated and shown for costs above baseline. Are we to assume the cost given in the RFP or to estimate our own and fill those tables?"

Response: No additional information is required if an Offeror chooses to use the Government baselined amounts; however and in accordance with RFP, Section L, provision L013, "Proposed amounts in excess of the Government baselined amounts shall include full justifications describing the methodologies, rationale, and detailed supporting calculations." The Attachment L-6, Tables 3-5 shall only be used where there are proposed amounts in excess of the Government baselined amounts. See also the response to question 46.

26. **Question:** "L013 (b) (4) requires "Discuss the basis of estimate to support the proposed hours." Please provide clarification as to what is required. Specifically, does the Government desire the basis of estimate at the sub-project level or at a lower level, such as the individual milestone level?"

Response: The labor basis of estimates should be consistent and aligned with the proposed Staffing Plan Summary amount in Attachment L-7.

27. **Question:** “RFP Section L016 (a) requires the Offeror and any sub-tier contractors to comply with all 10 CFR 851, Worker Safety and Health Program (WSHP) requirements. L016 (d) states that the WSHP submittal requirement can be accomplished by either developing/submitting for approval a 10 CFR 851 compliant WSHP (Option 2) or by attesting to comply with the existing DOE/NNSA implemented site specific worker safety and health program (Option 1). L016 (f)(1) (Option 1) states that DOE/NNSA site's program must address the activities and hazards of your specific contract's statement of work. The contractor's WSHP must address complete integration with the DOE/NNSA site program and include items i-iv.

4a Since the WSHP is required to be submitted with the proposal, how will the Offeror meet the requirements of Option 1 without tailoring a WSHP to address items (f)(1) i through iv?

4b Will NNSA/NSO provide an electronic copy of the DOE/NNSA implemented site-specific worker safety and health program so that it can be tailored by the Offeror to address the required (f)(1) i-iv items?

4c Is simply asserting that the Offeror agrees to comply with the DOE/NNSA implemented site-specific worker safety and health program and address items i through iv adequate to meet the Option 1 requirement to submit a WSHP that is compliant with 10 CFR 851?”

Response: Information regarding development and approval of the plan will be provided at a later date.

28. **Question:** “L016 (d) requires that we submit a WSHP compliant with 10 CFR 851. What volume of the proposal shall this program be submitted in? Would this plan be considered in the evaluation: If we choose Option 1 L016 (f), do the subcontractors have to submit their WSHP too or only the prime?”

Response: TBD

29. **Question:** “Given the importance of compliance with 10 CFR 851 and the PAAA requirements, we suggest that the government include in the RFP a requirement for Offerors to discuss whether they have previously performed a project where they are successfully applying their own 10 CFR 851 compliant WSHP and PAAA program and include review of these discussions as an evaluation criteria. This will allow the Government to ascertain an Offeror's ability to perform the work and comply with these requirements.”

Response: Noted, but the Government will not make a change to the evaluation criteria.

30. **Question:** "In the PWS, Section 3, Specific Requirements, a certain number of milestones have been defined. In particular, the milestones dictate the approach to be taken (CAIP, CADD or CADD/CR) for all the Projects. Can we use our own approach for the milestones that are not FFACO milestones? We respectfully suggest that allowing the bidders to bring their own approach would provide the government with a better understanding of the value that the bidders bring. So, we suggest that for the CAUs where a firm FFACO milestone is not fixed yet, the

government uses as milestones the closure of the CAU by a given date and give the bidders flexibility on the approach to be taken.

Response: *See response to Question 8.*

31. **Question:** “Page 17 of J - Attachment 1, Section 3.2.1.1 discusses the project baseline, in terms of scope, schedule and cost. We have been provided with the scope and schedule. Please could we have a copy of the current project budget?”

Response: *No. The RFP and bidders’ library (Reading Room on ECRS website) sufficiently describe the requirement for Offerors to propose. The Government requires Offerors to price the requirement accurately in accordance with their proposed approach irrespective of any funding or budget profile.*

32. **Question:** “Section J, Attachment 2 “Reporting Requirements Checklist” lists the following Plans as being required to be submitted with the proposal: · Management Plan · Transition Plan · ISM Program Description · Project Milestones · Worker Health and Safety Plan · Quality Assurance Plan · Radiation Protection Plan · Security Plan Please could you confirm that all these plans are needed at the time of the proposal, and if so, should we include them in Volume II Technical and Management Information?”

Response: *The Offeror will not be required to submit these plans as part of its proposal. An amendment to Section J, Attachment 2 “Reporting Requirement Checklist” will be issued.*

33. **Question:** “In Section J, Attachment 2, it is noted that a Transition Plan is required to be submitted at the time of submission of the proposal. Elsewhere in the draft RFP – e.g. page L-14, section L013 (b) (2) it is noted that for pricing purposes, that the contract will commence on October 1, 2008. This suggests that a transition period is not to be planned. Is there a requirement to plan a transition period?”

Response: *See response to question No 6.*

34. **Question:** “The use of flow charts and other graphics allows bidders to provide information in a clear and concise manner. The requirement given in L010 (7) states that all graphics must have a minimum 12pt font using Times New Roman (and select other options listed), makes it prohibitive to provide DOE with these useful graphics given the page restrictions. As long as text within graphics is clearly legible, would DOE consider relaxing the requirement from 12 pt font within the graphics?”

Response: *An amendment to L010 will be issued to allow 8 point (or larger) for spreadsheets, charts, tables, diagrams or drawings, graphs, and illustrations.*

35. **Question:** “Would NNSA please provide the existing baseline and past performance of the baseline so that we may judge the effort needed for each work scope element? We understand that DOE cannot disclose actual cost, but we believe that DOE can meet FAR requirements for pricing, reduce preparation and review effort for the cost proposal and increase the value of the cost proposal in the award decision by making the following changes in the RFP.

- a. DOE can provide cost assumptions (base estimates) for costs that, due to other contract clauses, are not changeable in the initial contract periods or are not significant to the award decision as you have done on Page L-16. These assumptions will be used by all proposers.
- b. Modify the RFP to request specific cost estimates only for items that would be affected by the solutions offered in the technical proposal. Suggest that the base estimates be selected by DOE from the current FY09 Baseline. Specific fixed costs are associated with the following, not including contractor indirect burdens or fee:
 - i. A fixed cost for Other Direct Costs (ODC) for all Offerors to use for each evaluation period.
 - ii. A fixed cost for each evaluation period for incumbent personnel with minimum benefits.
 - iii. A list of all current management and discretionary positions with the direct labor cost estimate for each position.”

Response: No. The RFP and bidders' library (Reading Room on ECRS website) sufficiently describe the requirement for Offerors to propose. The Government requires Offerors to price the requirement accurately in accordance with their proposed approach irrespective of any funding or budget profile. The Government has no other baselined amounts other than the RFP listed amounts in Section L, Provision L013, paragraph (b)(6), and Offerors should propose based upon the RFP requirements and their approach for providing best value.

36. **Question:** "Following Page 19 of Attachment 1 there is an RFP document titled "Reporting Requirements Checklist", with no page or attachment number. Within this 2-page document, there is a series of planning and reporting requirements, with an indicator of frequency and time of submission - many of which are clearly marked to be submitted with "Proposal/Bid/ Application or with Significant Changes." On the second page of this checklist, there is a summary table entitled "Attachment Report Distribution List" that refers to a required "Security Plan", annotated to be submitted "with proposal or significant changes". However, a requirement for "Security Plan" does not appear in Block 4 (first page of checklist) where all requirements are enumerated (and can be found in the box marked "F. Technical – Other," where a variety of required documents (with frequency codes) have been typed. Please clarify if a Security Plan is required to be included with this RFP submittal, as there is an apparent inconsistency between the two requirements lists."

Response: An amendment to Section J, Attachment 2 "Reporting Requirement Checklist" will be issued. The Offeror is not required to submit these plans as part of its proposal.

37. **Question:** "Section L012, Preparation of Volume II, Tab 4, Past Performance. To expedite the questionnaire process, would the Contracting Specialist consider receiving completed questionnaires by e-mail?"

Response: Section L012 provides "the points of contact shall return the completed Past Performance Questionnaires directly to the NNSA Contract Specialist listed in Block 7 of SF 33." The Contract Specialist E-mail address is listed in Block 7.

38. **"Will unexploded ordnance work be included in the scope?"**

Response: *No, the RFP does not have any requirements for unexploded ordnance work.*

39. **Question:** Can subcontractors submit their cost proposal through their own IIPS account?"

Response: *Yes, in accordance with the RFP submission requirements. However, it is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that all subcontract cost proposals are timely submitted.*

40. **Question:** "1. Attachment L-3, Block 11a, Activity Title. Please clarify what "Activity Title" refers to. How does this differ from the "Contract Title?" 2. Attachment L-3, Block 13, Self Assessment of past performance record. Please clarify if this block is included in the 3-page limit, since the form has a note that says there is no page limit for information provided in Block 13. 3. Attachment L-3, Block 13, Self Assessment of past performance record. Please clarify if the information in this block includes a discussion of the Offeror's general self assessment of the project past performance record and problems encountered and corrective actions or just a description of problems encountered and corrective actions?"

Response: *Attachment L-3, Block 11a—Activity Title refers to the name of the effort under which the work was performed. The information to be provided in Blocks 1 – 12 is limited to 3 pages; there is no page limit for the information to be provided in Block 13. Block 13 allows an Offeror to address any unusual circumstances of performance or problems encountered and corrective actions taken and does not include a general self assessment of the project past performance record.*

41. **Question:** "1. Section L010, Instructions for Preparation. When Offerors use 11 x 17 pages, is that considered one page or two? 2. Section L010, Instructions for Preparation. Would the agency consider letting Offerors use a smaller point size (< 12) for graphics and tables? For example, Attachment L-3, Corporate Experience & Performance Self-Assessment Form, presents a template for experience summaries in Arial 11 point font. Can Offerors use Arial 11 point font for tables and for completing this form? 3. Section L010, Instructions for Preparation. Is Arial Narrow or Times Narrow an acceptable text font?"

Response:

1. *An amendment will be issued to indicate that 11 x 17 pages will be considered to be two pages for Volume II. Volumes 1 and 3 have no page limit restrictions.*
2. *An amendment to L010 will be issued to allow 8 point (or larger) for spreadsheets, charts, tables, diagrams or drawings, graphs, and illustrations.*
3. *No, "Narrow" is not specified as allowable in the RFP.*

42. **Question** "1. The RFP has no mention of a loss of fee or other "fine" for removing key staff shortly after contract award. In addition, no letters of commitment are required of those staff. There is no requirement that they be located in Las Vegas or Nevada. There are no minimum educational or experience requirements for these staff. And yet, key personnel are one of the most highly scored evaluation criteria. NNSA needs to reconsider its key personnel requirements or it may receive a number of proposals in which the intention is to propose one set of key staff to win the contract and then supply a secondary set."

Response: *Comment noted. No changes to the RFP are necessary.*

43. **Question:** “The RFP does not discuss offering benefits to staff comparable to those currently being offered. In fact, it leaves out whether benefits are required at all. Does the DOE have any minimum standards for benefits consistent with employee retention?”

Response: *The Government does not want to hinder or limit the Offerors by being prescriptive in its approach to this acquisition and therefore will not establish minimums but rather will rely on Offerors to demonstrate best value in accordance with the RFP source selection factors. RFP M003, Evaluation Criterion 2 (B) specifically addresses an Offeror’s “strategy for attracting and retaining a professional nucleus of employees to successfully perform the PWS.” The Government will be evaluating proposals accordingly.*

44. **Question:** The proposed contract is a “cost plus” contract. While the RFP states that office space is available for 120 staff, each bidder is to propose the DPLH it feels is needed to meet the PWS. This will lead some bidders to purposely and substantially underestimate the DPLH to bring down overall costs in the proposal, recognizing that the contract type limits the risk of underestimating. Would NNSA please consider supplying a table for proposal evaluation purposes only of DPLH by labor category by year and include a statement of whether they will be needed in Las Vegas?

Response: *No. FAR Part 15.305 states, “When contracting on a cost-reimbursement basis, evaluation shall include a cost realism analysis to determine what the Government should realistically expect to pay for the proposed effort, the Offeror’s understanding of the work, and the Offeror’s ability to perform the contract.” RFP Section M, provision M004 states, “An unrealistic, unreasonable, or incomplete cost proposal may be evidence of the Offeror’s lack of or poor understanding of the requirements of the solicitation, and thus may adversely affect the Offeror’s rating on the Technical Proposal criteria.”*

45. **Question:** It is widely known that the current NSTech contract has a clause allowing the NNSA to move remediation and waste management activities to an NNSA remediation contractor. Clause H011 (d) appears to prohibit the NNSA’s ability to transfer these scopes to this contract. Is that the NNSA’s intention?”

Response: *It appears that the question refers to paragraph (e) as opposed to (d). No, it is not NNSA’s intention. An amendment will add the following information to paragraph (e), “without the prior, written approval of the Contracting Officer.”*

46. **Question:** “Please provide details of what is included in the Government’s materials and supplies estimate so that these costs are not also included in Offeror’s ODC estimate. For instance, is off-site laboratory analysis included as a materials and supply or should it be included as an ODC?”

Response: *For purposes of this proposal, assume the Government baselined amounts include all required materials/supplies, travel, equipment as well as all other direct costs. The primary reason for including the baselined amounts in the RFP is for Offerors to apply their company specific indirect rates/burdens to these costs where appropriate. That will enable the Government to derive a more realistic probable cost to the Government for the specific Offeror and approach. Although the Government anticipates that most, if not all, offered proposals will include the baselined amounts, RFP L013 allows Offerors to propose above the baselined*

amounts provided the proposal includes “full justifications describing the methodologies, rationale, and detailed supporting calculations.” This allowance was incorporated into the RFP in the rare case that Offerors determine that baselined amounts do not capture company specific approved or normal business practices for proposing these cost elements. An RFP amendment will reflect that all Offerors should assume that all ODCs are included in the Government baselined amounts.

All efforts that represent substantial subcontracted efforts for services would not normally be classified as a material, supply, or ODC, but rather as a subcontract. Normal commercial type services such as off-site laboratory analysis would be included in the baselined amounts.

47. **Question:** “If materials and supplies, travel, and GFP cannot be estimated in an accurate and meaningful way, as stated on Page L-15, other ODCs cannot be estimated in an accurate and meaningful way, as well. Will the Government consider removing the requirement for the Offeror to estimate all other ODC’s and simply have all Offerors use the “direct materials and supply” numbers on page L-17”?

Response: *See response to question 46.*

48. **Question:** “Is there a not-to-exceed funding profile associated with this solicitation?”

Response: *The Government requires Offerors to price the requirement accurately in accordance with their proposed approach irrespective of any funding profile. The Government budget for this effort is not releasable.*

49. **Question:** “Is there an independent government estimate for the performance work statement included with this RFP?”

Response: *The Independent Government Estimate is not available for release.*

50. **Question:** "Section J-specific requirements such as “Complete Frenchman Flats Transport Model,” and “Begin South Yucca Flat Soils CAU CAIP” encourages Offerors to make overly optimistic assumptions as to the level of effort required for each task in an effort to reduce estimated costs. As this is an award fee type contract, will the Government provide estimated DPLH based on existing program baselines so that proposal costs to the government can be better evaluated based on contractor rates and not overly optimistic labor estimate." ?

Response: *No.*

51. Question H011 (d) States that “Unless an individual design for the site has been prepared by a third party, the Contractor will not provide to NNSA as a prime contractor, subcontractor or consultant any remedial environmental services at sites within the assigned geographical area(s) covered by this contract.” However, Section J, Attachment 1 (1.3) states that “The contractor shall perform environmental characterization and remediation services...” Does this contract implement."

Response: *Yes, SAFER activities include remediation services and SAFER activities are therefore excluded from any restrictions as identified in H011. See also response to question number 45.*

52. Question "Clause H016 lists five key staff: Program Manager, Soils Sub-Project Manager, UGTA Sub-Project Manager, Industrial Sites Sub-Project Manager, and Project Controls Manager. It is clearly stated that these personnel are to be dedicated full-time. Section L under Tab 2 on Page L-11 states, "The same individual may be proposed for more than one functional area." This is confusing. If the same individual can be proposed for more than one key staff position, how can that individual be full-time on two or more jobs simultaneously? Also, from a cost proposal perspective, the cheapest way to supply key staff in this situation is to propose only one, and list that person's resume in all functional areas. How would NNSA score such a proposal? NNSA should consider removing the statement on Page L-11 and therefore require every team to supply the same number of key personnel."

Response: The RFP requirement is that key personnel are dedicated 100% to this contract whether they act in one or multiple functional areas/positions. This is a full-trade off source selection and the onus is on Offerors to demonstrate best value in accordance with the RFP criteria, and the Government will evaluate proposals accordingly.

53. Question: Section L012, Tab-2, Paragraph B concerning attracting and retaining staff refers to retaining "a professional nucleus of employees." What does this mean? Does it mean that NNSA would consider half or more of the staff at work on this program not be fully committed to it, but shared with other programs, as long as there was a "nucleus" of staff committed full-time? Does it mean that staff – such as modeling capability – can be located some place other than in Las Vegas, NV, as long as there is a "nucleus" there in Nevada? Please clarify what is meant by "professional nucleus."

Response: "Professional nucleus of employees" refers to the contractor's workforce essential to the performance of the contract.

54. **Question:** "Clause M004, Item 2, Realism: This section seems to build a relationship between what is proposed in the cost proposal and what is proposed in other proposal volumes. However, there is no place in the technical proposal to discuss anything but the UGTA, Soils, and Project Management programs. There also is no requirement for a management approach in the technical volume. There is no place in the technical volume for discussion of a team organization, reporting requirements, quality programs, human resources, communication, etc., all of which would impact the cost volume. Would NNSA consider expanding the requirements of the technical volume to include discussion of the entire PWS and all technical and management elements that will influence the cost volume?"

Response: No, see the response to question 23.

55. **Question:** "Would DOE consider an extension of 2 weeks for the due date of this proposal to provide sufficient time to respond to the questions?"

Response: No, an extension is not being considered at this time.

56. **Question:** "Will the contractor be required to provide security personnel and systems to protect locations that are not within a DOE property protection area?"

Response: *If the contractor chooses to perform work off-site, it is the contractor's duty to safeguard DOE property in accordance with the RFP requirements including DEAR Clause 952.204-02 in Section I.*

57. Question; "Can we get the location and number of staff per location at on-site NTS offices of the current contractor?"

Response: *No. Offerors should propose according to their technical approach and the RFP requirements including H017, "Government-Furnished Facilities and Services."*

58. Question; "Would it be possible to obtain a Site Users Manual of the NTS?"

Response: *A Site Users Manual is no longer available; however, pertinent information is available in the reading room at the Atomic Testing Museum (see Section L, Provision L010, paragraph (a)(7)).*

59. Question: "Would it be possible to get a list of open task orders on the current contract?"

Response: The current contract is not a task order contract."

60. Question: "Block 13 on the corporate experience and performance self assessment form states that there is no page limit for information provided in this block. However, each experience form shall be limited to three pages. Please confirm the page limit for each self assessment form."

Response: *See response to Question 40.*

61. Question: "Please provide labor category definitions and experience requirements for Levels 1, 2, and 3."

Response: *The Government interprets that this question is referring to RFP Attachment L-7, "Staffing Plan Summary." The listed labor categories are not tied to specific definitions and were only provided as placeholders for the Offerors' proposed labor categories in accordance with RFP Attachment L-8, "Common Occupational Code System."*

62. Question: "Page 11-12, Section 3.1.2.2.5.1: Please describe DOE's process for obtaining core samples, installation of monitoring wells, and the associated deep drilling. Are drillers and equipment for UGTA subproject provided under a separate DOE contract?"

Response: *The Management and Operating Contractor, through a separate contract, provides the drilling services. The process information regarding DOE services is available at the ECRS website, the public reading room at the Atomic Testing Museum and/or through the Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) website.*

63. Question: "The waste transportation, storage, and disposal process is not clear. Please summarize DOE's waste disposal process."

Response: *TBD.*

64. **Question.** "This provision states that, among other items, sick leave, vacation leave and emergency leave "shall not be billable, or payable under this contract". Is it your intent simply that these types of leave not be directly charged, but that they are allowable as part of the fringe benefit or overhead indirect rate, in full compliance with DCAA guidelines and consistent with standard practice in government contracts?"

Response: *Yes.*

65. **Question.** "In proposal sections subject to a page limitation, does an 11x17 inch spreadsheet or other foldout count as one page or two?"

Response: *See response to question 41.*

66. **Question:** "Given that both Navarro and Stoller have access to the current project baseline, will DOE provide the baseline to the rest of the bidders?"

Response: See response to question 31.

67. **Question:** "What is DOE's current funding profile for the next 5 years for the work described in this solicitation?"

Response: *See response to question 48.*

68. **Question:** "Is the information in Section L014, "Cognizant Agency for Indirect Rate Negotiation" required from the Offeror only, or is it required from the Offeror and each team member?"

Response: *L014 is required from the Offeror and all team members.*

69. **Question:** "Is a statement regarding organizational conflicts of interest (OCI) and a plan of action/activities for any actual or significant potential OCI required from the Offeror only, or is it required from the Offeror and team members?"

Response: *A separate statement/plan is required from the Offeror and all team members.*

70. **Question:** "Under TAB – 1: Criterion 1, Technical Approach, the RFP directs the offer to "describe its proposed technical approach for accomplishing the following selected requirements of the Performance Work Statement (PWS)." The third selected PWS requirement that we are to address is "(C) Project Management." In reviewing Attachment J-1, Performance Work Statement, we found that there is no PWS requirement titled "Project Management." Is the selected PWS requirement referred to in TAB 1 paragraph (C) meant to be PWS Section "3.2.1 Project Controls (Scope, Schedule, and Cost Planning, Budgeting, Executing and Reporting)" or is it meant to be the broader PWS Section "3.2 Program Support?"

Response: *See response to question 21.*

71. **Question:** "We have found that sometimes submitting proposals using word causes them to be reformatted for some printers, changing page count when they are a requirement of the RFP. To prevent this problem, will NNSA accept proposals in PDF format?"

Response: *After careful consideration, we determined that no changes will be made.*

72. **Question:** "Section L, Page 16 of 21, the GFP sum is shown as \$3,619,664 and the actual sum calculates to a total of \$3,610,665 based on the sub values shown. Should the Offeror assume a total value of \$3,610,665 rather than the total noted in the RFP?"

Response: *No, the RFP included a transposition error for the GFP listed amount for Contract Year 2 and a rounding \$1 difference for the total. An RFP amendment will change the GFP baselined amount for Contract Year 2 from \$689,625 to \$698,625 and the total from \$3,619,664 to \$3,619,665. To recap, the corrected GFP baselined amounts are as follows:*

<i>Contract Year 1</i>	<i>\$675,000</i>
<i>Contract Year 2</i>	<i>\$698,625</i>
<i>Contract Year 3</i>	<i>\$723,077</i>
<i>Contract Year 4</i>	<i>\$748,385</i>
<i>Contract Year 5</i>	<i><u>\$774,578</u></i>
<i>Total All Years</i>	<i><u>\$3,619,665</u></i>

73. **Question:** "The CLIN 006 and the Performance Work Statement reference Section J, Attachment 2, the 'Reporting Requirements Checklist' which identifies a number of documents (Transition Plan, Security Plan, Quality Assurance Plan, Radiation Protection Plan, Worker Safety and Health Program, et. al.) to be included with the proposal. With the exception of the Worker Safety and Health Program (WSHP) and the ISM Program Description are the other documents referenced in the Reporting Requirements Checklist required to be submitted with the proposal?"

Response: *Attachment J-2, "Reporting Requirement Checklist," will be amended to require submission of these Plans after contract award.*

74. **Question:** "Section L has a number of references to teaming members and subcontractors. Is the respective bidding entity required to submit Section L requested information for niche team members or subcontractors (less than \$1M per annum in projected project related costs)?"

Response: *If an offeror defines an entity as a "team member" including subcontractors, see RFP L010(a)(6), and L013(a)(6).*