

Questions & Answers provided prior to the Presolicitation Conference

Question: In reviewing the Pre-RFP, no mention is made of physical security requirements (armed and unarmed security guards, escorts, etc.). Will physical security requirements within a PWS be a part of the final RFP when it comes out?

Answer: The physical security requirements can be found in a DOE Directive. Please see Section J, Appendix N, List of Applicable Directives.

Question: Will the NNSA maintain a database/spreadsheet of small businesses interested in teaming with potential Primes? The database/spreadsheet can be relatively simple and show company name, POC, address, telephone number, e-mail, and type of socio-economic, and small business status.

Answer: The NNSA website includes a link to the FedBizOpps announcement page, which provides for an interested vendors list.

Question: One of the specific requests was to address whether "the inclusion of the SRTO (Savannah River Tritium Operations) option is an impediment to bidding on this contract." This question presupposes an inherent bias against any bidder who may be qualified and capable of responding and allows those who are not the opportunity to discard this critical transformation reduction in their response? How do you propose to put the genie back in the bottle: Perhaps by weighting the valuation of the SRTO capability as a critical and sufficient requirement?

Answer: The cover letter was not intended to draw conclusions about bidder qualifications; it was intended to ask bidders about the feasibility of the Savannah River Tritium Operations option in the final RFP.

Question: Wasn't the SRS M&O contractor required by the RFP when the contract was recently recompeted to setup a severable organization to ease the implementation of the option if directed by the DOE/NNSA?

Answer: Yes, the SRNS contract reads:

"C-3.3 NNSA Activities (Amendment 003) (a) Tritium Operations (Defense Programs)

The Contractor shall manage Tritium Operations as a defined, severable work activity within the M&O contract structure so that it will be positioned to be responsive to any future direction within the NNSA Nuclear Weapons Complex.

The Contractor shall conduct the operations of the Tritium Facilities to:

Operate the NNSA Tritium operations and activities as a defined, severable cost center within the M&O contract structure, to include budget, real estate, personnel resources necessary to conduct operations and required maintenance, and support to be obtained from other activities within the M&O contract or from other contractors."

Questions & Answers provided prior to the Presolicitation Conference

Question: Please provide the current labor agreements, their duration, and site stabilization agreements (if any) for Y-12, Pantex and SRS Tritium Sites

Answer: The labor agreements and any site stabilization agreements will be posted on the website under the reading room link.

Question: I was trying to determine what Site Information was available and tried to access the TYSP, which I believe stands for Ten Year Site Plans for the 3 sites. When I tried, said there was an error in getting material. Is it possible to post these plans?

Answer: The link under “site information” for these TYSP’s has been updated and is now working.

Question: For LANL and LLNL, the contractor appraisals were posted on the websites. Is it possible to get the last couple of years of appraisal material for the 3 sites?

Answer: It is NNSA policy that the government will not release contractor appraisals (Performance Evaluation Reports (PER)) to the public until they are no longer useful for past performance evaluation purposes. FAR 42.1503(c) defines this period as three years following completion of the performance evaluation period. For example, a FY-09 PER may not be released until December 2012. Therefore, appraisals for the three years will not be made available.

Question: When is DE-AC05-00OR22800 expected to expire?

Answer: The Y-12 M&O contract number DE-AC05-00OR22800 has been extended for one year, with two three-month options. It will currently expire on 09/30/2011.

Question: When is the Draft Request for Proposal planned for being listed on your website for the combined contracts of the Y-12 National Security Complex and the Pantex Plant Operations?

Answer: The NNSA is finalizing the draft RFP and expects to publish it for comment in the near future. It will be posted on this website when it is published.

Question: Are transcripts of the public meetings in Amarillo, Oak Ridge, and near Aiken meetings available? If so, will the transcripts be posted on the Service Center web site?

Answer: The meetings were video-taped, however transcripts were not prepared and therefore will not be posted on the website.

Question: Will the severability plan being developed for the SRS Tritium Option be released when completed by the SRS M&O contractor?

Answer: The SRNS Severability Plan chronicles how SRNS Tritium Programs will operate as a distinct unit within the larger SRNS M&O corporate and contract structure. As such the Plan is business sensitive/proprietary and there is no current intent for its release.

Questions & Answers provided prior to the Presolicitation Conference

Question: The following information was released by the office of Tennessee Rep. Zach Wamp on April 14

Congressman Zach Wamp showed his strong commitment to Oak Ridge and the future of our nations security by weighing in on a proposed change at the Y-12 National Security Complex. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is considering a new strategy to consolidate the management contracts at Y-12, the Pantex Plant in Texas and the Savannah River Tritium Operations in South Carolina. In a letter to NNSA Administrator Thomas DAgostino, Congressman Wamp requested more time for businesses and communities to weigh in on this plan. NNSA has agreed to extend its original 15-day comment period to allow additional views and analysis to be submitted. Please clarify what specific comment period has been extended.

Answer: The Sources Sought Synopsis for the M&O contract competition requesting expressions of interest from industry was open for 15 calendar days, and it closed on April 12, 2010. Other comments or questions regarding this procurement may be submitted through the website at <http://www.doeal.gov/MOContracts/>. This website will continue to be available throughout the acquisition.

Question: What will be the impact on the federal site office and their functions?

Answer: A special team is being assembled to review the federal organization needs to effectively implement the new contract. Impacts on the federal site office and their functions have not been determined.

Question: The answer to whether this is considered small business set aside previously posted was:

"No, it is not considered a small business set aside. However, it is NNSA's intention to provide the maximum practicable opportunity for small business concerns to participate as subcontractors consistent with efficient contract performance. The resulting contract will require the submission of a small business subcontracting plan, along with associated goals, to facilitate Small Business concerns, Veteran-owned Small Business concerns, Service-disabled Veteran-owned Small Business concerns, HUBZone Small Business concerns, Small Disadvantaged Business concerns, and Women-owned Small Business concerns participation in the contract. All offerors, with the exception of small business concerns, will be required to submit an acceptable subcontracting plan with their proposal."

In this response regarding Question #2 on Small Business, you discussed that a small business subcontracting plan would be required. However, there was no mention of the potential for a small business to be a member of the offeror team and the increased score potential as was included in the LANL and LLNL selection criteria. Is there expected to be additional points for having a small business on the offeror team for this opportunity?

Answer: The inclusion of Small Business concerns, Veteran-owned Small Business concerns, Service-disabled Veteran-owned Small Business concerns, HUBZone Small Business concerns, Small Disadvantaged Business concerns, and Women-owned Small Business concerns in overall contract performance will be considered.

Questions & Answers provided prior to the Presolicitation Conference

Question: I have subscribed twice to receive notification of changes to the M&O Contract completion website. To date I have received no notifications. Please advise as to when this problem will be rectified.

Answer: The subscriber function on the website is experiencing technical issues. This problem is actively being worked, and we will issue a notification on the webpage as soon as it is corrected.

Question: I understand there will be a informational briefing at DOE GTN for the subject procurement. If this is correct, how do I register to attend? I am an independent consultant. Thanks, Ken

Answer: An informational briefing for this procurement is not currently planned. If you are inquiring regarding the IME Construction Management acquisition, please refer to <http://www.doeal.gov/cm/Default.aspx>.

Question: When will NNSA have the draft request for proposal forms available? What is the projected timeline for reviewing the proposals, since the contract for Pantex expires in September?

Answer: A schedule regarding issuance of a draft request for proposal has not been finalized. However, NNSA is very interested in obtaining robust competition and in obtaining suggestions from industry regarding development of a realistic acquisition schedule. Suggestions should be provided through the website at www.doeal.gov/MOContracts/.

Question: I In the fee history document for Pantex, am I correct in reading that the total of the contracts awarded since B&W Pantex has operated the plant is \$4,778,670,975 since 2001, and B&W Pantex has received \$227,493,779 in fees awarded during that time? Is this amount the total compensation for B&W XT, or does the contract contain a provision for paying an operation's fees before the fees awarded are made?

Answer: This is the most current information posted in the fee and cost history document on the website. The total budget for this contract from award through December 2010 is \$4,778,670,975. The total fee earned/received over that same time period is \$227,493,779. This is the total compensation for B&W under this contract.

Question: What is the authority that triggered the study?

Answer: NA-10 chartered the Acquisition Strategy Study subsequent to the Request for Information process to provide a quantitative and qualitative study of the RFI recommendations.

Question: Scope of the study carried out by the acquisition strategy team?

Answer: The Acquisition Strategy Study considered all production work in the NNSA complex as well as some functional area reviews. Please refer to the "NNSA Acquisition Strategy Team Summary" in the "Reading Room", "Other Information" section of the webpage at <http://www.doeal.gov/MOContracts/>

Questions & Answers provided prior to the Presolicitation Conference

Question: Length of public comment period or industry public comment period?

Answer: Consistent with Federal regulations, NNSA is issuing two synopses. One is a "Notice of Intent" synopsis regarding the Kansas City Plant contract extension, and the other is a sources sought, seeking expressions of interest from industry regarding the consolidation competition. Formal synopses of these actions can be found on the FEDBIZOPPs website. Each of these synopses have a response deadline of 5:00 pm MDT, April 12, 2010.

Question: Why has the Department decided to extend the Kansas City Plant contract for a full five years?

Answer: While the NNSA has notified industry through a "Notice of Intent Synopsis" on the FEDBIZOPPs website that it intends to extend the KCP contract, a final decision whether to extend the KCP contract will not be made until all industry responses have been received and considered. The response deadline for this synopsis is 5:00 pm MDT, April 12, 2010.

Question: I didn't see anything on the Service Center site about the KCP extension. It's my understanding that only industry can comment on the proposal via FEDBIZOPPS, right? And that comment period will be open for 30 days?

Answer: The KCP synopsis can be found at FedBizOpps. The link is: <https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=5edbd493ecad1ee569cc09850e9f6a99&tab=core&cvview=0>. The response deadline for this synopsis is April 12, 2010.

Question: Do you know if you will be having an industry day related to the M&O procurement? Have you scheduled one-on-one meetings yet? When do you expect to post a Sources Sought for the IME Construction Management Contract acquisition?

Answer: At this time, no decision has been made regarding an industry day for the M&O procurement. One-on-one meetings have not been scheduled. For questions related to the IME Construction Management Acquisition, please refer to <http://www.doeal.gov/cm/Default.aspx>.

Question: I am preparing an Expression of Interest for the NNSA Nuclear Production Contract Merger and would like to include your address in the opening letter. What address should I list for you?

Answer: Please submit your Expressions of Interest to SEB1@doeal.gov, as instructed in the Sources Sought Synopsis. For purposes of the opening letter, the address is:

*Nuclear Security Administration
Service Center
Attn: Kim M. Gallegos, Contracting Officer
PO Box 5400
Albuquerque NM, 87185-5400*

Questions & Answers provided prior to the Presolicitation Conference

Question: We were just notified that Solicitation Number DE-SOL-0001458 has been cancelled as the incumbent's contract has been extended for five years. Can you verify if this is accurate?

Answer: This information is not correct. A Sources Sought Synopsis notice is currently published in relation to this number DE-SOL-0001458 with a response due date of April 12, 2010.

Question: Would the M&O contractor team members be precluded from bidding on this construction management work?

Answer: At this time, no decision has been made.

Question: The strategy includes language that there is no requirement to retain incumbent employees and no requirement to protect benefits with the new contract. The concern is that with the other DOE contractors in Oak Ridge (particularly ORNL) and the current move to separate the combined employee benefit plans (pension and medical) with ORNL, many of Y-12's best talent will be cherry picked. Is this the intent and, if so, how will this risk be mitigated?

Answer: Thank you for bringing your concern to our attention. The intent of the language is to provide the successor contractor with the flexibility to determine the appropriate blend of employees needed to effectively and efficiently perform under the contract, considering first incumbent employees before hiring from outside sources. With regard to benefits, the contractor will be asked to develop a level of total compensation which, within available funds, attracts, motivates and retains a highly competent workforce and maintains a competitive position in the applicable labor markets.

Question: The paragraph below is language that has never been included in the past. It has always had a successor clause which protects incumbent workers and a clause which requires the contractor to offer substantially equivalent benefits.

"The solicitation will provide offerors with maximum flexibility in terms of their approach to achieving efficiencies. The successor contractor will have the flexibility to restructure its workforce, for example, the solicitation will not contain a provision requiring the hiring of all incumbent employees. Also, the successor contractor will not be restricted from making changes to employee benefits. Although the offerors will have these flexibilities, the Agency is not prescribing a preference to a particular approach to achieving efficiencies. Finally, the Government's estimate should not be taken as an expression of a preferred solution in terms of approach or savings.

Answer: Thank you for bringing your concern to our attention. The intent of the language is to provide the successor contractor with the flexibility to determine the appropriate blend of employees needed to effectively and efficiently perform under the contract, considering first incumbent employees before hiring from outside sources. With regard to benefits, the contractor will be asked to develop a level of total compensation which, within available funds, attracts, motivates and retains a highly competent workforce and maintains a competitive position in the applicable labor markets.

Questions & Answers provided prior to the Presolicitation Conference

Question: Will the scope of the new contract include security forces? Currently YSO has a prime contract with WSI (Wackenhut) to provide trained and qualified security guards.

Answer: At this time, no decision has been made.

Question: Y-12 has approximately 3 dozen contracts that are prime to NNSA. The majority are government to government contracts to support NN work and nuclear material supplies to these other countries. The foreign government contracts would not be impacted, but we have a number of others that could such as IT, personnel security, HRP, etc. What is NNSA's plan for these contracts?

Answer: At this time, no decision has been made.

Question: Will you be publishing the Secretary of Energy's NNSA Acquisition Strategy Decision which was referenced in the FEDBIZOPPS announcement?

Answer: It is important that the focus remains on the decision that has been made. Therefore, the SEB will consider what information is necessary as the solicitation is developed and it is determined which information will be most helpful to offerors. A summary of the decision is available.

Question: Is this considered small business set aside.

Answer: No, it is not considered a small business set aside. However, it is NNSA's intention to provide the maximum practicable opportunity for small business concerns to participate as subcontractors consistent with efficient contract performance. The resulting contract will require the submission of a small business subcontracting plan, along with associated goals, to facilitate Small Business concerns, Veteran-owned Small Business concerns, Service-disabled Veteran-owned Small Business concerns, HUBZone Small Business concerns, Small Disadvantaged Business concerns, and Women-owned Small Business concerns participation in the contract. All offerors, with the exception of small business concerns, will be required to submit an acceptable subcontracting plan with their proposal.

Question: Is there going to be a transcript available from the Press conference on Friday, Mar 26th regarding the NNSA contracting strategy announcement? It would be great to understand exactly what was said.

Answer: A transcript will be made available on the website at www.doeal.gov/MOContracts/ when available.