

**Questions and Answers
DRAFT RFP 10HQSS0002
TSSC**

1. Question: In the Technical Proposal, Subfactor B-3, Transition Plan, appears to be very similar to the first Representative Task Order (A.3.1, Transition Plan). Moreover, there are no evaluation criteria for Subfactor B-3 in Section M. Does the response to the RTO satisfy the requirements for Subfactor B-3?

Government's Response: B-3 will be removed in the final RFP.

2. Question: Is there a page limit for the Transition Task Plan (Task Order A-3.1)?

Government's Response: Yes, 10 pages.

3. Question: Reference L.16, Factor C: "Relevant for the prime contractor is defined as a contract equal to or exceeding \$25,000,000/year for efforts similar in scope to the requirements of this RFP. Relevant for the significant subcontractor, if proposed, is defined as a contract equal to or exceeding \$5,000,000 for efforts similar in scope to the requirements of this RFP." Later it states: "Although a contract may meet the relevancy requirement of \$25,000,000 (prime) or \$5,000,000 (significant subcontractor) stated above..."

Question: It is clear that the government intends that contract relevance for a significant subcontractor is a total contract value of \$5,000,000. Does the government intend that contract relevance for the prime is a contract value of \$25,000,000 per year, or a total contract value of \$25,000,000?

Government's Response: \$25M per year. This point will be clarified in the final RFP and is subject to change. Monitor the RFP release for any updates.

4. Question: Reference F.5.6 Deliverable Table, where the Transition In Plan is due to the government 30 days after the contract award date.

Also, F.11 TRANSITION PLANS, F.11.1 Transition In – "Phase-in shall begin at contract award. The contractor shall complete all phase-in efforts in accordance with the approved transition plan (to include the Government's validation of the Transition Plan, containing critical events, schedules and approach) and be prepared to begin performance immediately and to be completed no later than thirty (30) calendar days after award."

Question: If the Transition In Plan is due to the government 30 days after contract award, how can the phase-in efforts commence at contract award in accordance with the approved Transition Plan?

Government's Response: The transition plan task order requested in Section L will be used to evaluate how the offeror will transition-in to this contract. F.5.6, Transition-In Plan, will be updated to state this deliverable is due ten days after award. The Transition-In Plan required by F.5.6 is anticipated to be an updated version of the transition plan task order from Section L – this updated version will

include more specific information such as dates that cannot be known at the time of proposal submission.

5. Question: Reference F.11 TRANSITION PLANS, F.11.1 Transition In – “Phase-in shall begin at contract award. The contractor shall complete all phase-in efforts in accordance with the approved transition plan (to include the Government’s validation of the Transition Plan, containing critical events, schedules and approach) and be prepared to begin performance immediately and to be completed no later than thirty (30) calendar days after award.”

Also, L.8 ESTIMATED AWARD DATE: “The estimated award date for this acquisition is February 1, 2010, with a period of performance to begin April 1, 2010.”

Also, L.16, Subfactor B-3: Transition Planning, B-3.3 “USGS anticipates issuing Transition In Task Order for the entire body of work identified in the bidder’s library (Technical Requirements Documents) at the start of the contract for approximately a three-month duration.”

Question 5a: Can the government please clarify that the Transition In period is no later than 30 days after contract award (as specified in F.11), or 2 months after contract award (as implied in L.8), or 3 months after start of contract (as specified in L.16)?

Government’s Response: The transition-in period is from the date of award through March 31, 2010. The period of performance of the transition-in period will depend on the actual award date, which is not known at this time. The Government anticipates award on or about February 1, 2010, but this date is subject to change.

Question 5b: Is the first year of performance of the contract reduced by the Transition In period?

Government’s Response: No. The base year period of performance will be April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011.

Question 5c: For which transition period should we provide a cost proposal in the Business Management Proposal?

Government’s Response: For the transition period from the date of award through March 31, 2010. Reference the answer in 5(a) above.

6. Question: Reference L.16 Technical Proposal, Subfactor B-1.2 “Provide the name and resume for the individuals proposed to fill the Program Manager and Business Manager positions at a minimum. Attach a signed statement of availability for the project. Resumes and signed statements shall be attachments to your proposal.”

L.17, Factor D: Price Proposal, “8. Resumes for key personnel (Program Manager and Chief Engineer) should also be included.”

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Question 6a: For key personnel, does the government expect to see, at a minimum, resumes for the Program Manager, Business Manager, and Chief Engineer?

Government's Response: No, the Government is requesting resumes for key personnel as delineated in B-1.2, L-17 will be clarified in the final RFP release.

Question 6b: Are the resumes for key personnel to be included both as an attachment to the Technical Proposal as well as part of the Business Management proposal?

Government's Response: No, this point will be clarified in the final RFP release.

7. Question: Reference M.2 Evaluation Factors/Basis for Award, Factor A: Technical Approach: (RFP page 66) there is no weighting for Sub-factor A-3.4.

Government's Response: Weighting will be provided in the final RFP release.

8. Question: Will the Government provide labor categories/positions descriptions in the final RFP?

Government's Response: No, this is a performance-based effort and the offeror should identify the labor categories/position descriptions to complete the body of work for all work, which is identified in the bidder's library.

9. Question: The Phase-Out period is indicated by the DRFP to begin 90 days prior to the expiration of the contract period. Will the Phase-Out period cause the final contract year to be shorter than 12 months? **A:** No.

Please clarify the Phase-In and Phase-Out period dates, as well as the dates encompassing the Base Year and each Option Year.

Government's Response: The phase in period (transition in period) will be from the date of award through March 31, 2010. Phase-out will begin January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015. The dates of the base year and all option years will be delineated in Section B of the RFP. All years will begin on April 1 and continue for a 12 month period, unless the contract is otherwise modified.

10. Question: The DRFP references the contract type being a hybrid IDIQ, with task orders varying between Cost Plus Fixed Fee and Firm Fixed Price tasks. How will the contract type for each task order be determined?

Government's Response: When the government provides a statement of work to the contractor for a task order, the contract type will be delineated in the statement of work.

11. Question: Will Section B, Line Item Summary, be filled using only the prices generated by the phase-in and 4 sample tasks included in the DRFP?

Government's Response: The government will establish a total ceiling value for Section B for the base and each option year based upon the government estimate. The government will use the proposed costs in the task orders to make a best value determination.

12. Question: Are the phase-in and 4 sample tasks included in the RFP the only pricing that is to be done?

Government's Response: Yes.

13. Question: How will additional labor categories, necessary for overall performance on TSSC but not required for one of the sample tasks, be included in submissions?

Government's Response: This is a performance based contract and it will be up to the contractor to propose the appropriate labor categories for each task order.

14. Question: Does USGS anticipate providing a standard set of hours by labor category, outside of the sample tasks, for each offeror to price?

Government's Response: No.

15. Question: Will USGS determine the contract type for each sample task order to be priced? It is unclear from the DRFP what contract type to apply to each of the 4 sample task orders.

Government's Response: Yes, see clarification in final RFP.

16. Question: Reference: Line Item Summary: Per our understanding of an IDIQ contract, we assume that the dollar amounts in this schedule will be filled in as Task Orders are approved by the Government after contract start. Please clarify that none of these items are to be completed for the proposal submission.

Government's Response: The line item summary will establish the ceiling for the base and all option years. Offerors do not have to complete this section. Reference question 11 above.

17. Question: Reference: C.4 General Scope; Item b: "The following work is expressly excluded from the scope of this contract: ...b. Support services for USGS components other than EROS."

Question: Would the government consider removing this exclusion? It would seem to be advantageous for USGS to extend this in-place contract for closely related services for other elements of the USGS.

Government's Response: No.

18. Question: Reference: F.5.6 Deliverable Table:

Please clarify that the references regarding Subcontracting Plan Reports should be F.10 and F.10(b), not F.6 and F.6(b).

Please clarify that the reference regarding Transition-In Plan should be F.11.1, not F.7.1.

Please clarify that the reference regarding Transition-Out Plan should be F.11.2, not F.7.2.

Government's Response: See clarification in the final RFP.

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19. Question: Reference: F.14 Earned Value Management; Item (4): Last sentence refers to “the project SON.” Please clarify what SON refers to in this context.

Government’s Response: See clarification in the final RFP.

20. Question: Reference: L.16 Technical Proposal Instructions; A-3.3 Landsat Representative Task: BOEs are requested for the two task plans in the Landsat RTO. Should these supporting files be outside the 10 page limit, as in the case of the LDCM RTO?

Government’s Response: BOEs are included in the 10 page limit.

21. Question: Reference: L.16 Technical Proposal Instructions; B-3 Transition Planning: Please clarify that the reference to Section F.7 should be changed to Section F.11.1.

Government’s Response: See clarification in the final RFP.

22. Question: In order to facilitate introduction to the offeror, we respectfully request that USGS remove the Cover Letter and Introduction Narrative, the SF 33, and Section K from Volume III and placed these sections in their own Volume (as Volume I), and that the remaining volumes be renumbered. For example, Vol. I - Cover Letter, Introduction Narrative, Administrative Material; Volume II- Technical Proposal; Vol. III-Task Order Proposals; Volume IV-Cost Proposal.

Government’s Response: Request denied.

23. Question: Page 50 of the DRFP states that there are no page limits for resumes; Pg. 54 calls for a 2-page limit for each resume for key personnel. Please clarify the page limits for resumes.

Government’s Response: See final RFP for clarification.

24. Question: Page 55 of the DRFP refers to submission instructions for Transition Plans per Section F.7. Should this reference be Section F.11?

Government’s Response: See final RFP for clarification.

25. Question: Can the government provide the current organization chart, job classification titles and staff numbers by classification to effectively produce the skills matrix?

Government’s Response: No, the current organization chart is irrelevant. Offerors should propose their staffing solution as this is a performance based effort.

26. Question: C. 4 There appears to be no specific items in the performance work statement that are directly applicable to the LDCM project. Does this imply that other parts of the PWS cover LDCM?

Government’s Response: No specific project is called out in the performance work statement. However, the PWS does cover all technical support

requirements such as LDCM. LDCM specific information can be found in the task order section of Section L and in the bidder's library.

27. Question: Though significant science support is a part of the scope of this work (Section C.4.1), in the exclusionary statement under General Scope (C.4 - paragraph (a)), "lead scientific research" is listed. Is this intended to explain that the science a contractor is expected to perform will always be in a support role and never in a leadership role? Or does this exclusion refer to leading cutting edge scientific research? Either way, it would seem that such an exclusion would discourage any scientific innovation or creative thinking wherein the contractor might take the lead in proposing new products, new partnerships, or new science applications.

Government's Response: The TSSC provides the technical support for the Science Research and Scientific Operations and Production activities. Over the last several years EROS as significantly increased the number of USGS Scientist in order to ensure proper role of government vs. contractor scientist. The contractor is always encouraged to look for innovation and creative thinking.

28. Question: C.4.4, "Engineering Support", states "A critical EROS requirement is the provision of a full range of computer systems engineering, development, and integration services to EROS projects and programs." Will a list of currently installed operating systems (linux flavors and versions) be made available, and will planned upgrades or operating system migration plans be made available?

Government's Response: Day to day systems support is the responsibility of each Project to obtain from the TSSC. EROS does not have a centralized systems management model. Thus, there are many different types of Windows, Unix, and Linux operating systems currently being employed. This includes several flavors of Linux operating systems. While the Center has initiated dialog with the Projects regarding the possibility of converging on one or two flavors of Linux, there are no specific plans to converge available at this time. Also, due to the decentralized support model in place, the Center does not maintain a centralized list of currently installed operating systems nor their respective planned upgrades or migrations.

29. Question: Landsat Task Order spec, Task_Order_LandsatData_Capture.pdf.: ... Make data available for order within 24 hours of acquisition." - According to sec. D.2 Scope of Work, this task order "... does not include any other components such as the Flight Operations or Archive and Production Scope." Within the response to this task order, how can the contractor ensure that the data is available to order, when producing data products for order is outside task scope? Suggest amending this to read, "Make data available to Archive and Production within X hours of acquisition" or similar.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

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30. Question: Landsat Task Order spec, Task_Order_LandsatData_Capture.pdf.: Maintain and capture success ratio (CSR) greater than 98%." - Meaning is unclear - did the Government mean "Maintain a capture success ratio (CSR) greater than 98%."? If so, over what time period is this required - monthly?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

31. Question: Section H.6 Key Personnel (DRFP p. 24) states that Key Personnel shall be determined at the time of award. Section L.16 (DRFP p. 54) requires "brief position descriptions... for the following key positions... Program Manager, Deputy Program Manager, Business Manager", and up to three additional positions. Section L.17 (DRFP p. 56) states that for Factor D (item 8), "Resumes for key personnel (Program Manager and Chief Engineer) should also be included." Are offerors required to propose specific positions as key per Section L.16 (PM, DPM, BM + 3), per Section L.17 (PM & CE), or will key personnel be determined at the time of award, per Section H.6?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification. Also, the key personnel from the successful offeror's proposal will be inserted into the clause H.6 at time of award.

32. Question: Page 48 of the DRFP, Sections L.10 and L.11 provide instructions regarding hand delivery of proposals which require that hand-delivered proposals will only be considered delivered when they reach room number MS205. Please confirm that a Federal Express driver or delivery person will be able to deliver a proposal all the way to Room No. MS205 or please consider amending the RFP to specify that proposals are considered as delivered upon delivery stamp receipt of proposal at the USGS loading dock, central mailroom, or front lobby desk.

Government's Response: Yes, any delivery service (FedEx, UPS, etc.) can deliver to MS205.

33. Question: L.15 Table - Page Limit for A.3-1: "See A-3.1 narrative below" - The page limit for this subsection appears to be missing from the narrative. Would the Government please specify a page limit for this subsection, as was done for the other A-3 subsections?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

34. Question: Reference DRFP L-15. Will the Government consider increasing page limitations slightly to ensure offerors may present the detailed understanding of the Technical Approach as warranted by the requirements of the contract? We fully understand the importance of developing and delivering a direct and concise proposal response, but are concerned that the current page limits are too constraining, especially with regard to A-2, LDCM Mission Schedule Risk Mitigation.

Government's Response: Request denied.

35. Question: Will USGS consider raising the page limit for the Landsat and Science Support Representative Tasks to 20 pages each in order to allow for response that enables the offeror to adequately provide the requested information? More pages enables the offeror to provide more forward-looking items such as details on staffing, etc.

Government's Response: Request denied.

36. Question: Section L.16, Factor C (DRFP p. 55) states, "...offerors are to provide past performance information for each contract reference cited in Factor A." There is no contract references required in Factor A. Does the Government mean "Attachment A"?

Government's Response: Yes.

37. Question: L.16.A-1 "A-1.1 Define the technical task management "best practices" that your team would utilize at EROS." - Would the Government please provide an idea of what it wants in terms of "best practices", either formal specifications, or an informal narrative? We are not asking for the name of the specific methodology, we are asking for requirements so we can determine the best methodology.

Government's Response: "Best practices" are for the offeror to define, no further detail is warranted by the Government.

38. Question: L.16.A-1 "A-1.3 Describe how your contract team proposes to employ enterprise practices within the contract" - Would the Government please provide an idea of what it wants in terms of "enterprise practices", either formal specifications, or an informal narrative?

Government's Response: "Enterprise practices" are for the offeror to define, no further detail is warranted by the Government.

39. Question: L.16 A-1.4 states "Describe your approach to eliciting requirements from stakeholders and communicating these requirements. Describe your approach to coordinating engineering efforts between hardware engineers, software engineers, business process analysts, and management." Do the "stakeholders" include the scientific community in this context?

Government's Response: No.

40. Question: L.16 subfactor A2 states "Also include in the description how you will approach integrating potential staff members from both existing contracts to obtain the right size and mix of combined skills." Will the current list of staff members (or skill matrix) be made available?

Government's Response: No.

41. Question: Section L.16 A-3.2, second bullet (DRFP p. 53) states, "The page limit for these items is 8 pages." Does this mean that the representative task plan and test case are limited to 8 pages each, or 8 pages in total?

Government's Response: 8 pages total.

42. Question: Section L.16 A-3.3 (DRFP p. 53) states, "(offeror's response to both areas is limited to 10 pages)". Does this mean that the operational task plan and maintenance task plan are limited to 10 pages each, or 10 pages in total?

Government's Response: 10 pages total.

43. Question: L.16, Factor C, subpara (e): Question: The draft RFP defines relevant contracts for prime offerors as a contract equal to or exceeding \$25,000,000/year for efforts similar in scope, and \$5,000,000/year for significant subcontractors. Defining relevancy in terms of a large contract dollar threshold may put smaller companies with smaller value but yet highly relevant past performance projects at a competitive disadvantage compared to larger companies with many large value contracts. Such an approach may lead to receiving higher past performance evaluations for work that is over the contract value threshold, but is not as relevant as much more similar work with a value under the contract value threshold. Would the government consider defining relevancy for past performance as relevancy to the scope requirements, technical excellence, management capability, personnel qualifications and prior experience, with size being one of the factors considered to determine relevancy?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

44. Question: Section L.16, Factor C (DRFP p. 55) states that Past Performance Questionnaires may be faxed or e-mailed to Shirleen Stephens, and provides her mailing address. What are Ms. Stephens's fax number and email address?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

45. Question: For Factor C, Past Performance (Section L.15, DRFP p.50), are offerors required to use Attachment A – Reference Information Sheet as provided by the Government (requiring photocopying and hand entry of each required item plus manipulation to include the appropriate headers/footers), or may offerors incorporate the required information in its entirety within the proposal in a format consistent with the rest of the proposal?

Government's Response: Use of Attachment A is required.

46. Question: L.16 "...comply with all the requirements referenced in ... the performance work statement." - Re: use of the word "all" in this paragraph: The draft RFP requires a detailed response to specific items in Subfactor A, including A-1, A-2, and A-3, and lists page counts for these. Is it the Government's intention that proposals also include a separate section to respond to requirements of the performance work statement that are not included specifically in Subfactor A-1, -2, -3? If so, would the Government please specify page counts for this portion of the response?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

47. Question: Page 56 of the DRFP, Section L.17 #8 requires inclusion of resumes for the PM and the Chief Engineer in Volume III. According to these

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instructions, these two resumes will be included in Volume III and also as part of the total number of resumes that will be submitted as an attachment to the Technical Proposal. Please confirm this.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

48. Question: Section L.17 (DRFP p. 56) Factor D, Item 1) states that the offeror's proposal shall include a "signed and completed solicitation package including all amendments (if any)." Does the Government want a full copy of the entire RFP and all amendments, or only Form SF-33s?

Government's Response: Signed SF 33s only, plus Section K reps and certs.

49. Question: For the Sample Task of the LDCM Ground Readiness Test 4a, the Task Assumptions (Section A.) list that the software will be complete, unit tested, and under configuration control, that connectivity testing will have been completed, and that test data sets for the GRT4a will have been generated and will be ready for use.

The task Description (Section E) and Scope (Section D) state that the contractor is expected to generate test plans, test cases and test procedures for and to execute the functional and performance tests to verify the LDCM Level 3 requirements. The data sets needed to execute functional and performance testing for the software are dependent on the test cases selected and the procedures needed to verify the requirements. The contractor planning and executing the test will need to have input into the construct of the test data sets.

Government's Response: Your point is technically correct. However, this example task order does not include test data definition or generation in its scope. As implied in the assumptions, test datasets have been defined. The additional assumption can be made that test data definition and generation is accomplished in a separate task order.

If the software is assumed to be developed and completed before the test planning starts, does that mean that another group – one other than the testing contractor- is responsible for making any changes to the software?

Government's Response: This is one sample task focused on the systems engineering activities related to Ground Readiness Test 4a and it is assumed that software changes are accomplished through a separate task order.

Or does it mean that there is another task under this contract for LDCM Ground System Development activities? If the answer is the first, then the contractor on this testing task would have no authority or ability to make changes to the software and would be dependent on another group to make corrections to the software. In the case where errors cause the software to fail during testing, the testing contractor would be at risk of not meeting their execution schedule due to no fault of their own.

Government's Response: Imbedded above and clarification provided in the sample task order.

50. Question: Reference DRFP L.23. We highly recommend that the Government reconsider its position regarding a Site Visit and Pre-Proposal Conference for this solicitation. Hosting a Site Survey and Pre-Proposal Conference at the EROS Center in Sioux Falls, SD will enable a fuller and more equitable understanding of the technical and programmatic requirements by ALL bidders, and assure that the USGS receives the best possible proposal responses from qualified sources. The non-provision of a Site Visit and Pre-Proposal Conference for this procurement provides an inequitable advantage to the incumbent contractors.

Government's Response: Request denied.

51. Question: Is the weighting factor for A-3 greater than the sum of the weighting factors for A-1 and A-2? (see page 66 of the DRFP)

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

52. Question: M.2 I "A.3.1 and A.3.2 are weighted equally. A.3.3 is less important than either A.3.1 or A.3.2." - The weighting of A-3.4 is unspecified - will the Government please provide the weighting for A-3.4?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

53. Question: Library - Two versions of TRD-18 are included in the Bidders Library: "TRD 0018 LDCM.pdf" and "TRD 18 LDCM TSSC Recompete_11September 2009.pdf". Would the Government please specify which version is more current?

Government's Response: The most current TRD-18 is posted to the Bidder's Library.

54. Question: LDCM-I&T-002_GS Ground Readiness Test Plan_draft.pdf: Provide the capability to store Mission data, LORa and LORa" - Was this intended to be "LORa and LORp"?

Government's Response: Yes. It was a typographical error. It should read: "Provide the capability to store Mission data, LORa and LORp." The Ground Readiness Test Plan draft document has been updated to fix the error.

55. Question: LDCM-I&T-002_GS Ground Readiness Test Plan_draft.pdf - The link to this document in the text appears to be to a Government internal site. Would the Government please provide this document in the Bidder's Library?

Government's Response: One of the referenced documents (Verification Requirements Matrix) was already in the Bidder's Library. The second one, the LDCM Interface Verification Matrix, will be added to the Bidder's Library. The Ground Readiness Test Plan draft document has been updated to show the filenames of the documents that are located in the Bidder's Library.

56. Question: Ref: Overall procurement. What is the expected RFP release date?

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Government's Response: Monday, October 19, 2009, but this date is subject to change.

57. Question: Ref: Overall procurement. What is the expected time allowed for proposal preparation?

Government's Response: 30 days.

58. Question: Ref: Overall procurement. We respectfully request that USGS include in the Bidders Reference Library copies of the monthly status reports for the current TSSC and LDCC contract in order to allow all bidders to gain a better understanding of the EROS work and requirements.

Government's Response: Request denied.

59. Question: Ref: Sec. B, p. 1. Please provide additional instructions on how to complete Section B. Please indicate which TRDs/Tasks will be FFP and which will be CPFF.

Government's Response: Section B does not need to be completed. Reference answers to other questions in the Q&A on this topic. The contract type will be delineated in the statement of work for each individual task order. The task orders in the RFP have been clarified to add a contract type.

60. Question: Ref: Sec. C.5(2), p. 8. Which tasks will have EVM?

Government's Response: EVM will be delineated in individual task order.

61. Question: Ref: Sec. C.6, p. 8. What facilities and material are expected to be provided by the contractor?

A: The contractor will be provided facilities, equipment, furnishings, and some office supplies (paper, pens, etc.) Cell phone, safety boots, etc. will not be provided. The Government will not provide equipment, furnishings, office supplies, etc. for contractor staff not stationed at EROS.

Section J, Attachment I contains a list of computer equipment, but it is not sufficient for a staff of 300+ contractors. Is this list complete? Or is the contractor expected to provide the computer equipment to complement this list?

Government's Response: Attachment I contain a list of equipment the Government feels is sufficient for contractor staff located at EROS for this contract.

62. Question: Ref: Sec. F.10, p. 16 and F.13, p. 17. These two sections contain the same requirement although they have different titles. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See clarification in final RFP.

63. Question: Ref: Sec. F.11.1, p. 16. Please clarify the transition timetable. Will the contractor be phasing-in while developing simultaneously with the government an overall transition plan in the first 20 days?

Government's Response: Yes.

64. Question: Ref: Sec. F.12(a), pp. 16-17, and Sec. H.8, p. 25. The Clause under H.8 largely duplicates the material contained in F.12(a). Should these requirements be consolidated under a single clause? Please clarify.

Government's Response: A: See clarification in final RFP.

65. Question: Ref: Sec. H.15, p. 27. In accordance with the instructions under H.15, we respectfully request copies of the:

- DOI SDLC Security Integration Guide
- DOI Computer Incident Response Guide
- DOI Contingency Plan Guide

Government's Response: Request denied. These documents are sensitive and not available for general public release.

66. Question: Ref: Sec. H.25, p. 32. We request a copy of the USGS Computer and Network Security Handbook so that all offerors, not only incumbent contractors, have an opportunity to fully understand USGS requirements in this area.

Government's Response: Request denied. These documents are sensitive and not available for general public release.

67. Question: Ref: Sec. J.1, p. 43, contains restrictions on the handling of "exhibits." Please clarify if the Government's intent is for "Attachments" to be considered "exhibits" for purposes of how they are handled.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

68. Question: Ref: Sec. L.3, p. 47. The Type of Contract is described as a "performance based, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity, hybrid Firm Fixed Price, Cost Plus Fixed Fee type contract." Can the Government provide some indication of what portions of the contract, or what task orders, are likely to be issued as FFP and which ones as CPFF?

Government's Response: The contract type will be delineated in the statement of work for individual task orders.

69. Question: Ref: Sec. L.15, p. 50. The table entry for Key Positions under Factor B indicates that there is "No page limit on resumes." However, under Sec. L.16, Factor B, Subfactor B-1, paragraph. B-1.2, p. 54, the DRFP indicates that "Resumes shall be limited to two (2) pages." Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

70. Question: Ref: Sec. L.15, Volume III, p. 51. Please indicate the information that you would like to see in the Introductory Narrative.

Government's Response: Information provided is at the discretion of the offeror, and as detailed in Section L.

71. Question: Ref: Sec. L.16, Subfactor A-3.1, p. 53. What is the page allowance for the Transition Plan Task?

Government's Response: 10 pages.

72. Question: Ref: Sec. L.16, p. 53 and Sec. M.2, p. 67. The 4 Representative Tasks seem to require differing levels of responses. The LDCM and Landsat Representative Tasks specify Task Plans (one and two, respectively) that include staffing by month, basis-of-estimate, and communication plans, with "no page limit" specified for schedule and basis-of-estimate supporting files. In contrast, the Transition Task and Science Support Representative Tasks do not mention these items. Please clarify if the Government's intent is in fact to have such a difference in the level of response. Specifically, do the Transition Task (A-3.1) and Science Support (A-3.4) Representative Tasks require schedule and basis-of-estimate submissions, and are these items included in the page count limitation?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

73. Question: Ref. Sec. L.16, Factor B, Subfactor B-1, p. 54, identifies as Key Positions the following: Program Manager, Deputy Program Manager, Business Manager, and up to three additional upper level management positions of your choice. On the other hand, Sec. L.17, Factor D.8 refers to "Resumes for key personnel (Program Manager and Chief Engineer) should be included." Please clarify the requirements for Key Positions/Key Personnel.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

74. Question: Ref: Sec. L, Subfactor B-3, p. 55 and Sec. M, Factor B, p. 68. Section L includes Subfactor B-3 for Transition Planning (p. 55) as a requirement, but Sec. M does not include evaluation criteria corresponding to this requirement. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

75. Question: Ref: Sec. L.16, Factor C, p. 55. This section indicates that "offerors (prime and subcontractors) are to provide past performance information for each contract reference cited in Factor A." However, Factor A: Technical Approach does not have a requirement to provide past performance information. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

76. Question: Ref: Sec. L.16, Factor C, p. 55. The Government is defining relevancy as contract equal to or exceeding \$25M/year and requiring reference information sheets for no less than three contracts. These restrictive requirements imply that Government is limiting the competition to only large business primes. We request that the Government consider broadening the criteria for relevant past performance citations to include contracts of less than \$25M/year if the work performed under such a contract is highly relevant to the EROS work in terms of scope, complexity, and discipline. We recommend that

contracts of \$10M/year and highly relevant work be allowed in order to allow offers from a broader set of qualified companies.

Government's Response: Request denied. The Government feels the relevancy requirement is justified based upon the anticipated value of this effort.

77. Question: Ref: Sec. L.16, Factor C, p. 55. We respectfully request that the Government consider allowing past performance citations from contracts completed within the last five (5) years if the work performed was highly relevant to EROS requirements.

Government's Response: Request denied. The Government feels experience within the last three years is necessary.

78. Question: Ref: Sec. L.17, Factor D.5, p. 56. We respectfully request that the Government consider eliminating the requirement for a Small Business Subcontracting Plan from proposed subcontractors that are large businesses. Requiring a subcontracting plan from a large business subcontractor would create a scenario with second tier subcontractors and thus multiple G&A costs that is not conducive to providing the best cost to the Government. We recommend limiting subcontracting to only the first tier level in order to maximize the USGS purchasing dollar.

Government's Response: Request denied.

79. Question: Ref: Sec. L.17, Factor D, Item 11, p. 56. What specific "licenses, professional certifications, or permits" are required?

Government's Response: Licenses, professional certification, and permits should be provided as requested within the task orders. Note: Professional certification or permits, if required, will be delineated in individual task orders.

80. Question: Ref: Sec. M.2, p. 66. This section includes discussion of the score weighting factors for A-3.1, A-3.2, and A-3.3, but no mention is made of A-3.4. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

81. Question: Ref: Sec. M.2, p. 66. There is no discussion of how proposal subfactor B-3 (Transition Plan) will be evaluated. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

82. Question: Ref: Sec. M.2, p. 66. This section states that "Evaluation factors (other than cost) are significantly more important than cost." However, Sec. M.3, p. 70 states that "overall technical merit will be approximately equal in importance to evaluated price or cost to the Government." Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

83. Question: Ref: Sec. M, Subfactor A-1, p. 67. The identified evaluation criteria do not address Subfactor A.1.4 required under Sec. L.16. Please clarify.

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Government's Response: The draft RFP does address the weighting for A.1.4. See Section M.2 for further details.

84. Question: Ref: Landsat RTO, p. 7. Please provide documentation on the Control and Schedule Interface System (CSIS), similar to what has been provided for the DCS.

Government's Response: No further documentation is available for release. If an offeror has specific questions about DCS, please provide those to the Government.

85. Question: Ref: Landsat RTO, p. 8. Please identify the requirements for Ground Station Technician certification.

Government's Response: The Ground Station Technicians (GSTs) are required to pass a series of written exams and hands-on demonstrations to become certified. The GSTs are tested on subject areas of the ground station including antenna systems and the Data Capture Systems.

86. Question: Attachment A: Reference Information Sheet – Summary Data includes instructions to “Please use the chart to identify contract references submitted for evaluation under Factor A: Corporate Experience.” However, Factor A is titled Technical Approach and does not include a requirement to reference contracts. The instructions to include references and use Attachment A appear under Factor C: Past Performance. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

87. Question: Section B states the Government will determine best value on the task orders under Section L. Does the Government intend to evaluate best value based on only the representative task orders in Section L.16 Subfactor A.3 or on all the factors in Section M?

Government's Response: Best value will be determined based on all factors in Section M.

88. Question: Section L-16 Subfactor A-3 “Task Orders” identifies four (4) representative EROS task orders (i.e. Transition Plan Task; LDCM Representative Task; Landsat Representative Task; Science Support Representative Task) and states that the offeror shall respond to these four task orders and that detailed task orders (e.g. task orders corresponding to technical requirements document (hereinafter “TRD”)) and supporting documents are located in the bidder's library. Section J-2 lists the four representative task orders and Section J.3 lists twenty one (21) TRD task orders. In order to avoid undesirable variance between various offerors interpretation and response to the RFP requirements, please provide guidance as to how the representative task orders align to the TRD task orders.

a) In order for the government to receive a complete and comprehensive offeror proposal for the EROS activities, does the government desire that offerors

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submit a price offer for the aggregate of all the TRD task orders listed in the reference library?

Government's Response: No.

b) Does the Government intend to evaluate cost based on only the representative task orders in Section L.16 Subfactor A.3 or the total EROS effort outlined in the detailed task orders (TRD0002 to TRD0031) in the Bidder's Library?

Government's Response: A best value determination will be made only on the task orders detailed in Section L.16, Subfactor A.3.

c) In order to avoid wide price variance between offeror proposals that would make best value determination more difficult, does the Government intend to provide additional information as to which representative task orders, TRDs or functions should be fixed price versus cost reimbursement or is that decision left solely to the bidder?

Government's Response: Clarification is provided in the final RFP.

d) In order to avoid wide price variance between offeror proposals, will the government provide normalized travel estimates by TRD?

Government's Response: No. cost/price proposals are not requested for each TRD.

89.Question: Consistent with guidance in L-15, in order to provide a proposal overview will the Government accept an executive summary outside of formal page count limitations?

Government's Response: No.

90. Question: As required by Section F.14(3), is it the Government's intent to require EVM to manage the entire scope of the contract or only for specific task orders?

Government's Response: Only for specific task orders.

91. Question: In order to clarify interpretation of RFP guidance and associated terms performance, will the offeror proposal or identified proposal terms or exceptions be incorporated by reference into the contract?

Government's Response: Yes

92. Question: Is the response required for L.16 Subfactor A3.1 "Transition Plan Task" the same as the response for L.16 Subfactor B-3 "Transition Planning."

Government's Response: Please see the final RFP for clarification.

a) Is the Transition Plan under L.16 Subfactor B-3 included in the 15 page limit for the section?

Government's Response: Please see the final RFP for clarification.

b) What is the page limit for the Transition Plan under L.16 Subfactor A3-1?

Government's Response: 10 page limit.

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93. Question: Section L.16 Factor B Subfactor.B-1.2 indicates resumes are limited to 2 pages. L-15, page limitation table (page 50), column 3 indicates no page limit on resumes. Please clarify.

Government's Response: 2 pages.

94. Question: Section M.2 states "Evaluation factors (other than cost) are significantly more important than cost" Section M.3 b (page 70) states "In determining which proposal offers the greatest value or advantage to the Government, overall technical merit will be approximately equal in importance to evaluated price or cost to the Government". Please clarify the relative importance of cost.

Government's Response: The Government's objective is to obtain the highest technical quality considered necessary to achieve the project objectives, with a realistic and reasonable price. Technical evaluation factors are more important than price. As proposals become technically closer, price will become a major consideration in selecting the successful Offeror.

95. Question: Some FAR clauses utilized for the hybrid type of contract identified in L.3 appear to be missing (e.g. FAR 52.216-7, FAR 52.232-28, FAR 52.232-32, FAR 52.243-7, etc). Are we correct in assuming that the Government's will include all applicable FAR clauses in the final RFP?

Government's Response: Yes.

96. Question: Language within Clause H-16 appears to be more applicable to either a Cost Plus Incentive Fee (CPIF) or a Cost Plus Award Fee (CPAF) contract rather than a Cost Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF) contract. Assuming the government intends to include a CPFF fee reduction clause, does the Government intend to provide objective criteria that will govern any such Government reduction in fixed fee?

Government's Response: H-16 shall remain as-is. This clause governs receipt of fee on re-work. Simply stated, a contractor will not receive fee on costs expended to re-work any given task or portion of a task.

97. Question: Section C.6 and F.4 indicate that the contractor will perform services primarily at USGS EROS facilities using USGS EROS equipment, but also states that the contractor shall provide all facilities, labor, and materials beyond those listed in Attachment I. We believe that the Government intends to provide all facilities and equipment needed during the duration of the contract. Please clarify that contractor shall only be responsible for providing facilities and materials outside of the USGS EROS environment and that the government will provide all equipment, furnishings, materials for performing services within the EROS facility.

Government's Response: Yes, the Government will provide all equipment and furnishings needed for those stationed at EROS. Limited office supplies and materials will also be provided. Cell phones are not provided by the Government.

Reimbursement for cell phone costs will generally not take place, except in justifiable circumstances as delineated in individual task orders.

98. Question: Language in Section L.21 and M4 leave unclear whether the government intends to make a single contract award or multiple contract awards from this solicitation. Please clarify if the Government intends to issue a single award to the offeror evaluated as providing the overall best value in response to the solicitation.

Government's Response: The government intends to issue a single award, but reserves the right to make a multiple award.

99. Question: The acceptance language identified in Section E.2 and within the representative TOs are defined at a high level. Does the Government intend to negotiate detailed acceptance criteria for each individual task order issued under a resulting contract?

Government's Response: No.

100. Question: Page numbering is inconsistent throughout the document and in Section 11 (TOC) of the Cover Sheet.

Government's Response: Noted. However, there are technical difficulties with the procurement system that prevent OAG from correcting the page numbers.

101. Question: Section A (SF33), Page 1 of 176, Section K, Page 44 of 42
Would the Government provide Word documents of the SF33, Section B, and Section K (fill-ins) rather than in PDF format?

Government's Response: No.

102. Question: Section A, Line Item Summary for CLIN ref., Page 2
Should the various CLINs' Unit Price and Total Cost "blanks" be populated with the very limited aggregate Prices/Costs from the four Section L Representative Task Orders, or be annotated "TBD" until all TRDs are planned at "performance start-up?"

Government's Response: Offerors need not complete Section B. Section B will be completed at time of award with the Government established ceiling. Price/cost proposals submitted for the sample task orders will be used for the best value determination. Note: The task orders in the successful offeror's proposal will likely be awarded as the first task orders under the resultant contract.

103. Question: Section C.4.2, Page 5 of 77

Please provide a list of all EROS products and services as required in C.4.2 in the first paragraph. "The Contractor shall provide customer support, which includes providing prompt and professional service for information, assistance with data base searches, and ordering related to all EROS products and services."

Government's Response: Details will be provided in individual task orders.

104. Question: Section C.4.4.1, Page 7 of 77

The section does not list any bulleted work statements. Please clarify if this is the Government's intent or if the scope of work contains support to Satellite Data Reception and Operations.

Government's Response: The PWS contains language in regards to the support required for Satellite Data Reception and Operations.

105. Question: Section C.4.3, Page 6 of 77

The first bullet ends abruptly. Is the list of work activities missing or does it comprise the subsequent bullets.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

106. Question: Section E.2, Page 10 of 77

The General Acceptance criteria are subjective. Please clarify what accepted elements of style are and how it is decided what is clear, concise, and easy to understand.

Government's Response: E.2 provides generic information about acceptance criteria. Detailed information will be provided in individual task orders.

107. Question: Section F.5, Page 12 of 77

Please clarify if all deliverables go through COR or if there are Government points of contract responsible for each task order

Government's Response: The COR and the Government task order manager will see all deliverables.

108. Question: Section F.5.3, Page 13 of 77

For the Offerors to have a better understanding of the level of effort required to satisfy F.5.3, please provide a current listing of the Standard Operating Procedures in use on the TSSC and LDCM contracts.

Government's Response: Request denied.

109. Question: Section F.5.4, Page 13 of 77

The reference to the OCI H-clause appears to be incorrect. Please clarify if the Government meant to refer to H.3 GS1310 (23 of 42) rather than H.7 GS1310.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

110. Question: Section F.5.6, Page 14 of 77

Table F.5.6 reflects Contract Award +30 days for delivery; yet F.11.1 Transition-In (p. 16) states that performance begins immediately upon award and to be "completed" [with Phase-In] no later than 30 days after award. Please clarify when Phase-in Plan is required.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

111. Question: Section F.5.6, Page 14 of 77

Table F.5.6 includes numerous mislabeled references. Reference F.6, Subcontracting Plan Reports, should read F.10: reference F.7.1, Transition-In Plan, should read F.11.1; and reference F.7.2, Transition-Out Plan, should read F.11.2.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

112. Question: Section F.6.1, Page 14 of 77

The Hours of Work section describes shift work. Is there any level of effort data available for the shifts other than regular shift? **A:** NO. Which activities will require shift work?

Government's Response: Shift work will be identified in individual task orders.

113. Question: Section F.6.2, Page 14 of 77

Please clarify on the Productive Labor Hours requirement to ensure clear understanding on how this would be applied to any cost-reimbursement type task orders. For example, does this imply that overhead costs associated with these benefits (i.e., sick, vacation) would be unallowable?

Government's Response: Overhead is an allowable expense. However, only hours used in connection with a task order can be billed to the Government.

114. Question: Sections F.6 and F.8, Pages 14 – 15 of 77

There appears to be a conflict between where F.6.2 specifically excludes charges except for Productive Direct Labor Hours and where F.8 states that unproductive hours are billed at the established contract rates. Please clarify.

Government's Response: In the event the Center is closed for such things as inclement weather, power outages, or other emergencies, the contractor will be allowed to bill the government for planned work. Contractor staff scheduled for leave or off-site and therefore not impacted by the closure will not be allowed to bill.

115. Question: Section F.8, Page 15 of 77

Referring to F.8 a, b, and c, employees are penalized for unexpected closures. Could the Government require all bidders to incorporate three (3) days per year for unexpected closures?

Government's Response: No.

116. Question: Sections F.10 and F.13, Pages 16 – 17 of 77

The sections referencing Subcontracting Plan Reports and Small Business Subcontracting Reports are redundant. Please specify which section should be used.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

117. Question: Sections F.12 and H.8, Pages 16-17 & 25 of 77

The sections referencing Notice to the Government of Delays and Notice to the Government of Delays are redundant in part. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

118. Question: Section F.14, Page 17 of 77

Discussion on EVM requires "Contractor shall utilize a certified Earned Value Management (EVM) System (EVMS) for specifically designated USGS Information Technology acquisitions." Previously, it appeared that EVM was only required for the LDCM project. Please clarify if EVM is to be used on other TRDs as well? If so, which ones?

Government's Response: EVM will be identified in individual task orders.

119. Question: Section F.14, Page 17 of 77

Who is the required certifying authority for the Earned Value Management System?

Government's Response: The contractor. EVM systems must meet the ANSI standard.

120. Question: Section F.14, Page 18 of 77

The terms the terms "CWBS" and "PWBS" are used interchangeably. Please clarify if CWBS and PWBS are the same thing?

Government's Response: Yes.

121. Question: Section H.21, Page 30 of 42

Please clarify if the current employees' background investigations transfer if they are retained by the winning Bidder or if new background investigations are required.

Government's Response: New background investigations are not required.

122. Question: Section H.23, Page 31 of 42

Please clarify if Storage Space for Contractor's Use applies to only supplies required by the PMO.

Government's Response: Storage space is available to the PMO. Additional storage may be made available upon request.

123. Question: Sections I and I.9, Pages 37 & 40 of 42

The Government included the clause at FAR 52.243-1 and 52.243-4 to address Changes (see pages 37 and 40). However, for the cost-reimbursement CLINs. The clause at FAR 52.243-2, Changes-Cost Reimbursement, should also be included. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

124. Question: Task Orders: Transition Plan SOO, 2 of SOO – Contract Transition. Will any USGS/EROS on-site facilities and equipment be available to the incoming Contractor for transition activities leading up to first day of performance on 1 April 2010?

Government's Response: A conference room will be made available at EROS for any transitioning-in contractor. The conference room will have furnishings, phone lines, and internet connectivity. Cell phones, printers, faxes, and computers will not be provided.

125. Question: Section J Attachment H, Page J-9-5

Does the ICD apply to all EROS projects or is it limited to the LDCM as indicated in the document scope?

Government's Response: Just LDCM.

126. Question: Section J Attachment H, Page J-9-7

It appears that Columns 1 and 2 have the Range data swapped. The "WBSnum" seems more appropriately described using 15 numeric characters and the "ElemDesc" seems more appropriately described using 50 alphanumeric characters. Please clarify if these Ranges are correct.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification and correction.

127. Question: Section L.2, Page 46 of 42

Does "cover page" refer to the inside cover, the cover of the volume notebook, or the SF33 when placing the DUNS number on the cover page?

Government's Response: Inside cover.

128. Question: Section L.5, Page 47 of 42

Relative to the three representative tasks (A-3.2, A-3.3, A-3.4), which are FFP vs. CPFF? What is the anticipated breakout of contract type for the approximately 21 TRDs posted in the Bidder's Library?

A: See final RFP for clarification.

The distribution of Task Orders between FFP and CPFF will directly impact a Bidders' return on revenue.

Government's Response: The contract type for individual task orders will be delineated in individual task orders.

129. Question: Section L.8, Page 47 of 42

The estimated award date is slated as 1 February 2010 with a period of performance to begin 1 April 2010. The DRFP also states the Phase-In to begin at contract start and be completed no later than 30 days after award. Please clarify the activities to take place during the other 30 days.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

130. Question: SF33, Section L.10, Page 48 of 42

In Section L-10, the DRFP requires the Offeror to submit an original plus seven copies prior to the closing date/time listed in Block 9 of the SF33. Block 9 of the SF33 requires 0 copies and the closing date is 01/01/2000. Please provide the proposal due date for all proposal materials to be submitted and the amount of hardcopies and electronic copies?

Government's Response: Section L-10 remains in effect. The SF33 will be corrected at release of Request for Proposal.

131. Question: Section L.14, Page 49 of 42

L.14 requires the proposal be on letter-sized paper, with no mention of foldouts (11 x 17s). For easier review of multiple cost forms and detailed graphics, will the Government consider allowing 11 x 17 pages?

Government's Response: No.

132. Question:

Section L.14, Page 49 of 42

If you do allow 11 x 17 pages, will they be counted as one page or two pages? For easier review of multiple 11 x 17 cost forms, will the Government consider allowing Government-provided Cost forms to only count as one page? This will allow the Cost forms to be page numbered directly in the Excel file. Excel does not allow double page numbering (e.g., page 1/2); therefore, if 11 x 17s count as two pages, the electronic version cannot include page numbers.

Government's Response: See answer above.

133. Question: Section L.15, Page 50 of 42

We do not believe the page allocation (30 pages) for Volume I – Technical Proposal shown on the outline is sufficient to address the requirements (Factors) as set forth by this DRFP. A thorough and concise proposal is requested with demonstrated capability by means of a detailed Technical Proposal. In order to provide our approach, validation, and application to EROS, a higher page count is needed. Will the Government increase the page limits for Factor A and Factor B in Volume I to no more than 20 pages for each factor (totaling 40 pages for both factors)?

Government's Response: Request denied.

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134. Question: Section L, Factor D, Cost Proposal for Transition Plan, Page 51 of 42. The cost elements associated with A-3.1 Transition Plan task reflect only a very limited subset of activities/tasks associated with transition. DRFP guidance infers that the Cost Proposal for Transition Plan – associated with File Reference I (p. 51) – is to include only the cost associated with the execution of these limited elements of phase-in. Is it your intention that the remaining cost associated with transition be aggregated and reported in the Transition-In Plan that is due 30 days after Contract Award? For clarification, the Government may consider having Bidder's submitting the full Transition Plan at time of the proposal submittal.

Government's Response: All transition-in costs must be provided in the offeror's proposal. The transition-in task order will be fixed price.

135. Question: Section L, Factor D, Cost Proposal for Task Orders, Page 51 of 42, Page 1, Section B specifies that the Government's best value determination will rest on the evaluation of the four Section L Task Orders, and no planned TRDs (as recently posted in Bidders' library). This will require Bidders to make certain assumptions regarding the staffing for the balance of this contract, as the distributed overhead charges associated with Program Management Staff will need to be applied to the full complement of the contract employee base. Recommend that the Government specifies the total Government Staffing estimate for all Bidders to use to preclude Bidders' gaming in the application of overhead cost. Another option is to "prescribe" the use of the historical staffing for FY08 as presented in the chart on p. 2 as the basis for calculating the individual Bidders' overhead rates.

Government's Response: The government staffing estimate is procurement sensitive and not available for release. Indirect rates will have a ceiling, pursuant to the clause B.1.

136. Question: Section L.15, Page 51 of 42, Section L.21, Page 60 of 42 The note on p. 51 reads: "Files G, H, and I should be provided in an Excel spreadsheet and submitted on a CD to the Contracting Officer with the Offeror's proposal. All Excel files should show formulas, and not be a read-only spreadsheet." Please clarify if the entire proposal (Volumes I, II, and III) needs to be placed on CD or if only Files G, H, and I are required. If more than just Files G, H, and I are required to be submitted on CD, then in what format should they be (i.e., Word 03 or 07, PDF)? **A:** Only Files G, H, and I, as stipulated, are required in Excel format. No other files are required to be electronically submitted.

How many electronic copies (in addition to the paper media copies) are required for this proposal? The DRFP states that unless other methods (e.g., electronic commerce or facsimile) are permitted in the solicitation, proposals and modifications to proposals shall be submitted in paper media in sealed envelopes or packages.

Government's Response: One.

137. Question: Section L.16, Page 52 of 42

The Government requests “No cost or pricing information shall be included in the Technical Proposal, Volumes I and II,” but Subfactor A-1.2 requires that “Communications should include but are not limited to scope, schedule, cost, and technical status.” Please clarify if cost and pricing information should be included in Subfactor A-1.2.

Government’s Response: Cost/price information SHALL NOT be included in the technical proposal. A-1.2 is requesting the offeror’s approach to providing scope, schedule, cost, status, etc. information – not the actual information for the solicitation.

138. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3 Task Orders: A-3.1 Transition Plan Task and Section L. 16 Subfactor B-3 Transition Planning, Pages 53 & 55 of 42

These two subfactor requirements are nearly the same. A-3.1 is focused on the Offeror’s ability to plan for the contract transition regarding the same three elements as required to be addressed in Subfactor B-3 of the Management Plan. B-3 tasking tweaks the A-3.1 requirement slightly by requesting the Bidder’s approach to handling these same aspects of the EROS transition. The nuance of difference is not obvious. Note that Section M Evaluation Criteria are included for the A-3.1 requirement, but the evaluation criteria for Subfactor B-3 are not addressed. Recommend consideration for deleting the redundancy of requirements.

Government’s Response: See final RFP for clarification.

139. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3 Task Order: A-3.2, Page 53 of 42

The Bidders’ Library has recently been updated with 21 TRDs, including TRD 0018 LDCM. This TRD references the Ground Systems Integrated Master Schedule as being included in the Bidders’ Library. It does not appear to be in the Library at this time. Also to support your interest in risk mitigation, request that a copy of the LDCC contract along with full accounting for the number of staff members assigned and the skill mix (as identified in the skills matrix) associated with each of the LDCC tasks be incorporated into the Bidders’ Library.

Government’s Response: Request denied.

140. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Page 53 of 42, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Page 4

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS), Section C – Background, p. 4 states that: “the engineers under this task are expected to work with the vendors to isolate the problem, coordinate repair ...” How frequent are these events? A: Frequency cannot be quantified. Does the on-call engineer often have to make a site visit or can most occurrences be addressed over the phone after normal business hours?

Government’s Response: It is difficult to provide a definite frequency of the events, so we can not quantify the frequency of failures or the impact of the

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specific event. Events that require fixing, patching, or replacement of a piece of hardware are tracked in Hardware Change Requests. Last year (10/1/2008 – 10/1/2009), engineering staff logged about 70 HCRs. These range from plans to install patches to major antenna issues such as loss of S-Band capability.

Typically the on-call engineer will need to make a site visit to address the issue at hand. In some cases, the on-call engineer can interface with the operations personnel to resolve the situation. Remote access is not allowed to most of the antenna system equipment since it is on secure networks and isolated from the internet or dial-up access.

141. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 7

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS) and its references provide no information regarding, on average, how many LGS, DCS, and CSIS change requests there are per month, their priority (e.g., emergency), Class type (e.g., Class 1 Changes), etc. Please clarify.

Government's Response: It is difficult to provide a definite frequency of the number future change requests that that will be needed for this contract. They are created as changes are necessary. Hardware changes are documented in HCRs. Software modifications are documented in CCRs except for LGS equipment in which software changes are modified in HCRs (understanding that LGS equipment is hardware centric). The DCS and CSIS systems are in an operational state and are quite mature. Last year, only 6 CCRs were submitted for the DCS and CSIS. The priority for each of these was routine. There are currently 11 open CCRs for DCS and 6 open CCRs for CSIS. By the time this contract is let, there will be less than 13 CCRs open for these systems. All of these CCRs are at a routine or low priority.

142. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 7

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS) and its references provide no information regarding how many DCS and CSIS software releases there are during per some period of time (e.g., month) as well as a high-level understanding of the typical release content. Please clarify.

Government's Response: The software releases for these systems are maintenance, sustaining engineering releases only. No new development is planned for these systems. Releases are completed as issues arise or scheduled to pickup routine CCRs. Last year we had 3 DCS releases and 1 CSIS release.

143. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 8

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS) and its references provide no information regarding, on average, how many DCS and CSIS Test Discrepancy Reports there are during per some period of time (e.g., month). Please clarify.

Government's Response: Test Discrepancy Reports are completed when testing a sustaining release to go into production. The number of test discrepancies varies.

144. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 7

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS), page 7, Section 7 (Background) states that the COTS software consists of a small Oracle database, QT, and EGFTP libraries. Does that mean that the DCS and CSIS software consist of C++ and/or are there other languages (e.g., Perl)? Please specify what languages must be supported.

Government's Response: DCS and CSIS consist of C, C++ and Perl. It runs on Linux OS. DCS and CSIS consist of about 200,000 SLOC combined.

145. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 8

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS), Task 1 identifies the work item, "Conduct Training and GST Testing as required." No information is provided regarding what LGS, DCS, and CSIS training is conducted, who conducts the training, whether there is a training plan, how often training may be required etc. Also, no information is provided to indicate the nature of the GST Testing (e.g., the frequency testing is conducted, and the average execution time). Please clarify.

Government's Response: This was answered in an earlier question also.

The Ground Station Technicians (GSTs) are required to pass a series of written exams and hands-on demonstrations to become certified. The tests taken to become a certified GST are as follows: 1) Antenna Sub-Systems Certification 2) Data Capture and Transfer Certification . Any of the tests need to be passed above a certain percentage before a GST can be certified. Once a GST has become certified this means that they are capable of operating the ground station with supervision.

At approximately 1 year, a GST is given a Shiftlead Certification test. This is one test and is above and beyond the tests that are taken by the GST's. Like the first set of tests, this test is based on written and hands-on ability. The test must be passed above 85 percent to become Shiftlead certified. Once a GST has become Shiftlead certified, this means that the individual has the ability and knowledge to run the ground station by him/herself.

Training for the GSTs is the responsibility of this contractor and is normally performed by existing individuals who work on the system.

GSTs must re-certify after every year.

146. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 8

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS), Task 1 identifies the work item, “maintain, establish as necessary, and following operational procedures for LGS and DCS.” No information is provided on quantity of operational procedures (page count) that need to be maintained as well as, on average, how many pages are changed per and how frequently (e.g., monthly, quarterly). Please clarify.

Government’s Response: There are currently 140 specific operating procedures and numerous other operational reference documents in our document management system. These cannot be shared due to system names, ip addresses and other information that is proprietary that cannot be shared.

147. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 8

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS), Task 1 identifies the work item, “maintain the ground station technician (GST) certification plan.” No reference information is provided about what is contained in the applicable certification plan, how many pages are in that plan, how much of it needs to be updated, on average, and how frequently (e.g., monthly, quarterly). Please clarify.

Government’s Response: The plan consists of a study guide which is a slide deck (~ 10 slides each) for each test, the actual tests, management guidelines, and a list of users who are certified. It exists as several separate documents at this time. All of them together including, individual slides for each page (study guides) are less than 50 pages.

148. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 8

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS) as well as the Landsat TRD and Landsat Ground Station System User Guide reference documents provide insufficient information of how much monitoring by the GST (Ground Station Technician) is required. Does sufficient automation of the monitoring and controlling of the LGS and DCS system exist so that only one GST staff person per shift is required to monitor it?

Government’s Response: The ground station is not automated at this time. It is up to the contractor to determine how many technicians are necessary to operate the ground station. Key operational checklists will be added to the bidder’s library.

149. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 9

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS), Task 2 and its references provide no information regarding, on average, how many DCS and CSIS lines of code are changed per some period of time (e.g., month). Please clarify.

Government's Response: The government does not have this information for this solicitation. The number of lines of code that would require changing varies depending on the type of bug or change identified. The DCS and CSIS consist of C, C++ and Perl. It runs on Linux OS. DCS and CSIS consist of about 200,000 SLOC combined. Last year we had 3 DCS releases and 1 CSIS release. The government does not have the information of how many lines of code changed for these releases.

150. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 9

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS), Task 2 and its references provide no estimate of how many DCS and CSIS lines of code must be supported and whether there are other middleware products, other than Oracle, that must be supported by this task. Please clarify.

Government's Response: The DCS and CSIS consist of C, C++ and Perl. It runs on Linux OS. DCS and CSIS consist of about 200,000 SLOC combined. COTS software consists of a small Oracle database, QT, and EGFTP libraries.

151. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 9

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS) and its references provide little information of the applicable DCS and CSIS interfaces that will be maintained by the Contractor. Please provide more specific information and clarification.

Government's Response: For this task order, the contractor is responsible for coordinating all interfaces for the DCS and CSIS.

152. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & J.2 Landsat, Pages 53 of 42 & 9

The Landsat Task Order (LS-TO-LGS), Task 2 and its references provide no information regarding, on average, how frequently the software maintenance engineers execute DCS and CSIS test cases, what is their average execution time, how many test cases are modified, and what is the frequency of the modifications (e.g., month)? Please clarify.

Government's Response: Sample test plans for both DCS and CSIS are provided in the bidder's library.

153. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.3 & Early Warning, Environmental Monitoring, and Hazards Mitigation, Page 54 of 42

The Science Support Representative Task does not list requirements to be met from the Offeror. Please clarify.

Government's Response: For this task order the Description of Tasks are the requirements and the schedule is the due date for those tasks.

154. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.4 & Early Warning, Environmental Monitoring, and Hazards Mitigation, Pages 54 of 42 & 2

The Science Support Task Order (SCI-TO-EWEM), B. Scope of Work does not state what is the existing node infrastructure, but it does state that it must be maintained. For example no information is provided regarding the hardware requirements (e.g., quantity of servers, server type, operating system), middleware (e.g., Sybase, Oracle), and/or the software requirements (e.g., coding languages, size of the code, quantity of code changed per year, quantity of test cases, the applicable infrastructure software toolkits), or the existing applications that must be supported. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

155. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.4 & Early Warning, Environmental Monitoring, and Hazards Mitigation, Pages 54 of 42 & 3

The Science Support Task Order (SCI-TO-EWEM), Section C Description of Tasks, Task #11, provides no information of the level of support or labor skill type that may be required to assist the USGS in developing and implementing an experimental design for phenologic metrics intercomparison to ground (flux) data. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

156. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.4 & Early Warning, Environmental Monitoring, and Hazards Mitigation, Pages 54 of 42 & 3

The Science Support Task Order (SCI-TO-EWEM), Section C Description of Tasks, Task #16, provides no information of the USGS requirements to "web enable" through the Drought Monitoring web map service. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

157. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.4 & Early Warning, Environmental Monitoring, and Hazards Mitigation, Pages 54 of 42 & 3

The Science Support Task Order (SCI-TO-EWEM), Section C Description of Tasks, Task #20, provides no information of how many test cases need to be executed, their average execution time, and what are the staffing requirements to execute those tests, etc. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

158. Question: Section L.16 Subfactor A-3, Task Order A-3.4 & Early Warning, Environmental Monitoring, and Hazards Mitigation, Pages 54 of 42 & 3 The Science Support Task Order (SCI-TO-EWEM), Section C Description of Tasks, Task #21, provides no information of what tools are used to provide metrics and whether there is any need to develop/maintain those tools. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

159. Question: Section L.16 Factor C: Past Performance (a), Page 55 of 42 Please clarify if the reference to "Factor A" should be "Attachment" A (Reference Information Sheet).

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

160. Question: Section L.16 B-3, Page 55 of 42

Requirements for Transition Plan submittal are referenced in section F.6, not F.7 as written. Please clarify.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

161. Question: Section L.16, B-3.3 and Contract Transition SOO, Page 55 of 42 Please clarify the reference to "an approximately 3 month duration." Is that the duration over which you anticipate the approximately 50 TOs (Contract Transition SOO – page 2) to be drafted and approved following approval of the Transition-In Plan that is due 30 days after contract award (Table F.5.6)? Is this duration intentionally longer than the 2-month period (1 Feb – 1 Apr) allotted for task order planning for the approx. 50 TOs referenced in the Contract Transition SOO?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

162. Question: Section L.17 Factor D: Price Proposal, #1, Page 56 of 42 Please clarify if the "signed and completed solicitation package" requires just the SF33 page and fill-ins or the entire RFP should be signed and returned as part of the proposal?

Government's Response: The SF 33 (solicitation and any amendments) plus Section K should be submitted.

163. Question: Section L.17 Factor D: Price Proposal, #4, Page 56 of 42

"Note: Proposals containing labor rates less than the applicable Wage Determination/Collective Bargaining Agreement may be found unacceptable and eliminated from competition. Please clarify if there is a Union presence on the current contract and if so, please provide Bidders with information about the current WD/CBA.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

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164. Question: Section L.17 Factor D: Price Proposal, #8, Page 56 of 42
Factor B, Subfactor B-1.2 requires PM and Business Manager Resumes be placed in a Volume I Attachment. This Factor D requirement for PM and Chief Engineer resumes appears redundant. Suggest consolidating all resumes in Volume I Attachment, and deleting this redundancy.

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.

165. Question: Section L, Factor C, Pages 55-56 of 42
Could we include a 1-page Introduction in Factor C in addition to the 15 pages allotted for the five (5) Reference Information Sheets?

Government's Response: No.

166. Question: Section M, Factor E Small Business Subcontracting Plan, Page 70 of 42

Factor E identifies a 20% goal for small business subcontracting for each year of proposed performance. Is that 20% based on total contract value or total subcontracted dollars? **A:** 20% is based on the total contract value.

In a related question, since the requirement identifies that the Plan is to be submitted with the proposal, would it be appropriate to include Alternate II to the clause at FAR 52.219-9 in Section I?

Government's Response: See final RFP for clarification.