

22 November 2002

The following Questions and Answers have been posted for public viewing and are provided for informational purposes only to keep all offerors on equal footing. If the solicitation specifications need to be revised as a result of the Questions and Answers, a formal written amendment will be issued to that effect. The solicitation specifications, terms and conditions will remain as written unless a formal formal written amendment is issued.

ANSWERS TO CONTRACTORS' QUESTIONS:

Questions regarding Solicitation Number DACW63-02-R-0009:

QUESTION: Ref RFP 00010, page 16, paragraph 2, states the labor categories reflected in the bid schedule are prime contractor rates....that shall be considered maximum rates and subject to negotiated reductions. Reference 00010, page 18, paragraph 18, states CLINS 1 thru 4(are) firm fixed unit price(s). Please clarify.

ANSWER: *The firm fixed bid schedule unit prices are the maximum the contractor can charge the Government for work on a task order when using those CLINS. The Government also realizes these prices were proposed with a considerable amount of uncertainty in mind given the general nature of Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts and no specific project identified. In order to give the contractor the freedom to be more competitive on task orders during the life of the contract, as specific task orders are identified and the elements of uncertainty are reduced, the Government will accept a negotiated unit price that is lower than the one proposed in the Bid Schedule, so long as it is determined to be reasonable and commensurate with the scope, complexity, and risk of the task order.*

QUESTION:

Reference Section 00120, paragraph 5.2.3

1. SDB participation in the proposal and contract.

- a. (Name of Firm) is an 8(a) SDB.
- b. We cannot determine who our SDB lower tear subs will be until a Task Order is received since they will be different companies from place to place.
- c. We plan to set aside X% of subcontracting revenue for SDBs.
- d. Ref Targets expressed in dollars & percentages 2nd bullet.
- e. Percentages & dollars for each SDB sub is not possible since we have not identified SDB subs until task orders are received and the SDB subs will be lower tear subcontractors.
- f. Question: Does a through e above satisfy the second bullet in Para 5.2.3 since (Name of Firm) is an 8(a) SDB?

2. I'm not asking if this information is inclusive or exactly what the Fort Worth Corps is looking for. (Name of Firm) SDB will receive at least X% of the total contract. Sub SDB will also receive X% of the total contract. What I'm asking is: Since we are an SDB, is it ok to not identify lower tear SDBs but put a total percentage and dollars in Para 5.2.3 second bullet?

22 November 2002

ANSWER: *The solicitation specification reference that pertains to the SDB Utilization Plan is Section 00120, page 00120-10, paragraph 5.2.4 Volume I SUBFACTOR IV – Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) Utilization Plan. The Government cannot tell you how to write your SDB Utilization Plan, and we do understand the difficulty you face in citing specific SDB firms with which you plan to do business since this is a nationwide IDIQ type contract and no specific project (task order) has been identified. Do the best you can - be as specific as possible when identifying the SDB firms and describing the work they will perform. We know that your projected list of SDB firms may change due to a variety of reasons (location of task order, SDB no longer in business, etc.). Do show your “targets” in percentages and dollars representing each SDB’s participation as it relates to the total contract capacity as well as you can. The Government will look to see not only what your targeted percentages and dollars are, what kind of work you plan to give to SDB firms, also how well you understand the scope, complexity and rapid response required by this contract. We will also look to see how you plan to respond to one or more task orders being given to you simultaneously. We want to see how you will go about locating SDB firms to fill those task order requirements, and how long that process will take. We will look to see that you have thought through the process of utilizing SDB firms on this IDIQ contract, the extent you plan to use them, and to see your plan of action on how you will locate and utilize SDB firms in the performance of the required services, when you are given one or multiple task orders after the contract is awarded.*

QUESTION:

Reference section 00120-6, 5.1.1: The RFP states, "Offeror shall obtain firm written commitments to work for the Offeror on any contract that results from this RFP, from all of his/her key employees. Offeror shall provide the firm written commitments with the proposal." We respectfully request that the letters of commitment not be included as part of the page count, as they occupy a number of pages we could utilize in the defining of our qualifications.

ANSWER. *Your request is respectfully denied. Proposal requirements will remain as stated in the solicitation. Years of evaluating proposals has resulted in the Government’s need to set a “reasonable” page limitation on the proposals we receive. More pages in a proposal does not necessarily make it a better proposal. Be succinct, and choose your words carefully -- you will be able give us the necessary information within the page limitation, and we will have time to evaluate all of the proposals fairly, equally, and within a reasonable amount of time. GAO cases fully support the Government’s limiting the number of pages.*

QUESTION. Reference section 00120-9, 5.1.3: Through Amendment 2, the RFP states, "Joint Ventures: If offeror represents the combining of two or more companies for the purpose of this RFP, the proposal shall indicate whether the firms have experience working together in design/build and construction ventures, how long and how many projects. In addition, each company of this joint venture shall list their individual Government contract experiences and their joint-venture experiences." Does the Government want Joint Ventures firms to format their experience the same way as single entity firms, with a two page limit per contract? And if so, will the Government consider expanding the page limitation of the proposal to accommodate this request for Joint Venture organizations?

ANSWER: *Yes, format Joint Venture firms’ experience the same way as single entity firms, with a two-page limit per contract. Respectfully “No”, the Government will not expand the page limitation of the proposal. Please see answer to above question regarding the Government’s setting page limitations in their Request for Proposals.*