

**Intelligent Systems Research and Development Support (ISRDS) requirement –Questions and Answers #2**

ISRDS Questions and Answers in response to the Draft Request for Proposal are below.

**Question 1:**

The Cover Letter specifies the NAICS code as 541712. However, Section K.1 specifies 541710. Which code applies to this procurement?

**Government Response 1:**

**The North American Industry Classification System Codes (NAICS) Code for this ISRDS requirement was originally NAICS code 541710- Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences, with a size standard of 500. However, due to an update of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Table of Small Business Size Standards Matched to NAICS codes, which is effective October 1, 2007, the ISRDS NAICS code is now 541712 - Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences, with a size standard of 500.**

**The reference to 541710 in Section K will be changed to 541712 in the final Request for Proposal (RFP).**

**Question 2:**

Line item no. \*01A states “Phase-In Period set forth in Section F, paragraph F.2(a)”. However, paragraph F.2(a) does not specify the Phase-In Period and seems to indicate it may be part of the 2-year Base Period. Please clarify.

**Government Response 2:**

**The 30-day Phase-In Period will be added to the Final RFP.**

**Question 3:**

In the past, the Government has generally provided property (e.g. GFE) to the Contractor for use in performance under the contract for on-site staff. In the RFP, Clause G.6 (NFS 1852.245-70), it states that: “The Contractor shall provide all property required for the performance of this contract.” However, under both Clauses G.8 & G.9 (NFS 1852.245-76 & 1852.245-77), the Government indicates that “for performance work under this contract, the Government will make available property identified below or in Section J, paragraph J.1 (a), Attachment 3, of the contract on a no-charge-for-use basis . . .” Is it the Government’s intent that the Contractor must provide the property that is required for performance under contract unless it is otherwise available from the Government?

**Government Response 3:**

**The Government will make available property identified below or in Section J, paragraph J.1 (a), Attachment 3, of the contract on a no-charge-for-use basis. The Government property clauses will be revised in the final RFP.**

**Question 4:**

If the Contracting Officer authorizes the Contractor to acquire property for performance, not as a deliverable, under the contract can the cost be a direct charged to the contract?

**Government Response 4:**

**This depends. Under a Fixed Price it would be charged as a direct cost to the contract, but would be listed as a deliverable.**

**Under a Cost Reimbursement Type:**

- 1. The CO may direct the contractor to charge it as an indirect cost or charge us only for use (direct cost). In both cases, contractor takes title. This would be tracked by the contractor's vouchers and quarterly report**
- 2. If charged as Direct Cost, title vests in government, but CO's written consent to purchase is required.**

**Question 5:**

This paragraph requires submission of a Monthly Progress Report by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month of performance. Is this requirement in addition to the Monthly Progress Report at the CTO level required to be submitted 10 after the end of the month as specified in Section J.1(a), Line Item No. 1?

**Government Response 5:**

**There is only one Monthly Progress Report deliverable that covers the ADDITIONAL REPORTS OF WORK – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NFS 1852.235-74) (FEB 2003) and will be included in J.1(a)(Attachment 5). See the final RFP for clarification.**

**Question 6:**

There is no Award Fee Plan published with the Draft RFP. The table of contents for Section J indicates it will be included as Attachment 7. Will the Award Fee Plan be made available only in the Final RFP?

**Government Response 6:**

**An Award Fee Plan will not be made available in the Final RFP. The Government anticipates a change in the ISRDS contract type from Cost-Plus Award-Fee (CPAF) to Cost-Plus Fixed-Fee (CPFF). See the final solicitation.**

**Question 7:**

Both paragraphs contain language that requires certification through the NASA System Administration Certification Program. However, it is our understanding that the current program has been discontinued and that a follow-on program has yet to be announced. Without the follow-on program along with its schedule of rates per certification, how should ISRDS bidders price the cost of obtaining and maintaining this certification?

**Government Response 7:**

**Under the previous NASA System Administration Certification Program and under any likely potential replacements, the Government bore the cost of obtaining and maintaining certifications. Therefore, the ISRDS bidders do not need to price the cost of obtaining and maintaining this certification.**

**Question 8:**

The Data Requirements List, Line Item No. 21 states that an OCI Avoidance Plan is “required upon proposal submission.” However, Section L has no instruction for providing an OCI Avoidance Plan with the proposal submission. Please clarify.

**Government Response 8:**

**The Organizational Conflicts of Interest Avoidance Plan will be required with submission of the proposal. See final RFP for clarification.**

**Question 9:**

Is it acceptable to submit as part of the Mission Suitability Volume an Executive Summary that summarizes the highlights of a bidder’s offer?

**Government Response 9:**

**An executive summary can be provided as long as it is within the page limits of the mission suitability volume.**

**Question 10:**

This paragraph requires that a cover letter with a series of business-proprietary attachments be submitted. However, no instructions are provided as to how the cover letter with its attachments are to be provided, specifically into which of the three proposal volumes it should be inserted. Into which proposal volume should the cover letter and its attachments be inserted?

**Government Response 10:**

**The cover letter with a series of business-proprietary attachments is a separate proposal component and not part of the three proposal volumes.**

**Question 11:**

Should the cover letter be packaged separately from any of the three proposal volumes, should it be included on its own CD?

**Government Response 11:**

**The cover letter with a series of business-proprietary attachments should be provided on its own CD.**

**Question 12:**

This paragraph instructs that “The table of contents must list figures and tables separately.” Please clarify if this means that a list of graphics must be separately presented from the numbered section headings or if the government wants one list that includes only figures and a separate, second list, that includes only tables.

**Government Response 12:**

**The Government wants a “Table of Contents” which consists of separate sections for the written headings, tables and figures. See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 13:**

Paragraph L.4(b) indicates that the Presenter/Attendee List be presented as part of the Cover Letter. However, paragraph L.5 seems to indicate that it is a one-page part of Volume I – Mission Suitability Proposal. Is this list to be presented in both of these locations or only in a single place?

**Government Response 13:**

**See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 14:**

This paragraph indicates that the Mission Suitability Volume contains the following components:

- Oral Presentation
- Presenter/attendee List
- A. Management Approach
- Written Subfactors
- B. Technical Approach
- C. Safety and Health Plan
- D. Key Personnel
- E. Total Compensation Plan
- F. Small Business Utilization Subcontracting Plan

However, paragraph L.7 specifies the components differently:

- A. Management Approach
  - 1. Organizational Structure/Partnering Approach
  - 2. Response to Case Study A
  - 3. Response to Case Study B
  - 4. Key Personnel
  - 5. 5 Staffing, Recruitment, Retention and Training
  - 6. Phase-in Plan
  - 7. Key Personnel
  - 8. Total Compensation Plan
- B. Technical Understanding
- C. Safety and Health Plan
- D. Small Business Utilization Plan

Which set of components and labeling should be used?

**Government Response 14:**

**See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 15:**

Regarding page limits, it is unclear what page limits exist for the A. Management Approach and B Technical Approach. Please clarify.

**Government Response 15:**

**See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 16:**

The ISRDS contract is a substantial contract that entailed complex work requirements. Please consider extending the number of presenters from the current limit of 3 to a maximum limit of 5 so that the full range and complexity of an offer can be presented.

**Government Response 16:**

**The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and up to 2 of Offeror's Key Personnel present the oral presentation (limit three (3) presenters). Additional attendees beyond the presenters are not allowed. See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 17:**

In the requirements for responding to Case Study A, there is a requirement to provide a "fully costed proposal in response to the case study"? Is this an actual cost estimate, or a description of our process for doing one? If an actual cost estimate is required, there appears to be insufficient information presented in the Case Study upon which to base a detailed cost estimate

**Government Response 17:**

**See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 18:**

Please clarify the evaluation statement in this paragraph. It states "Additionally, NASA will evaluate other information as follows: The information below will only be evaluated to the extent that it pertains to SDBs in the authorized NAICS Industry Subsectors. NAICS code: 541712 – Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences, with a size standard of 500." It appears to be in conflict with paragraph Section L.7(a)2.D.3(a) where bidders are instructed that the target "only include subcontracts with SDB concerns in those industries that the Department of Commerce has designated as under-represented areas within NAICS Industry Subsector. The General Services Administration has posted this Department of Commerce determination and additional information at: <http://www.arnet.gov/References/sdbadjustments.htm>."

**Government Response 18:**

**See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 19:**

We have not had success at linking to the GSA posted Department of Commerce determination and additional information site at: <http://www.arnet.gov/References/sdbadjustments.htm>. Please verify that the address is correct.

**Government Response 19:**

The URL is correct. <http://www.arnet.gov/References/sdbadjustments.htm>

**Question 20:**

The language in L.7(b)(1) appears to indicate that the list of contracts pertains only to the offeror, and not the major subcontractor(s). However, paragraph L.7(b)(8)B.2 indicates that major subcontractors should send questionnaires to officers of contracts drawn from the (b)(1) list. Should L.7(b)(1) be expanded to "A list of not more than three (3) relevant government and three (3) industry contracts **from the offeror and all major subcontractors...**"? Additionally, if a "major subcontractor" does not have a contract/subcontract equal to or greater than \$5M, can a contract/subcontract be submitted for past performance that is less than \$5M?

**Government Response 20:**

**(b) Past Performance Proposal (Volume II). The goal of this factor is to obtain information regarding the Offeror and major subcontractors' relevant past performance specifically in the areas of...**

**Question 21:**

This paragraph instructs bidders to present "not more than three (3) relevant government and three (3) industry contracts..." We understand the requirement for references for government contracts. However, since there is no commercial or industry work included in the ISRDS contract, can bidders replace the three industry contracts with government contracts instead?

**Government Response 21:**

**The bidders cannot replace industry contracts with government contracts. See final solicitation for clarification on this area.**

**Question 22:**

This paragraph requires that "Each Offeror and major subcontractor shall provide NASA Ames Research Center Contracting Officer a list of contracts from whom Offerors have requested past performance information 20 days prior to proposal due date." Will the government provide the format (email, fax) for the lists and the person to whom the lists should be sent?

**Government Response 22:**

**See final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 23:**

NASA Request for Information about potential sources for Intelligent Systems Research and Development Support (ISRDS), issued on March 22, 2007, included a requirement for the following capability:

“Access to multiple universities and other research organizations for their skills and expertise in areas needed to support the Agency needs”

Work being currently pursued under the ISRDS contract strongly reinforces this need. In order to ensure that the program has access to vital university resources, we suggest that this requirement and language be added to the final ISRDS RFP.

**Government Response 23:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 24:**

Section L.7, “Proposal Preparation – Specific Instructions”, (b) Past Performance Proposal (Volume II), paragraph (1) specifies that, at a minimum, the Past Performance Proposal shall include:

“A list of not more than three (3) relevant government and three (3) industry contracts, each in excess of \$5M, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort.”

Does this requirement mean that the prime and major subcontractors may submit up to 6 past performance references **each**, or is it expected that each team, **as a whole**, will submit no more than 6 past performance references? Please clarify.

**Government Response 24:**

**This applies to each. The numbers of references will be modified in the final solicitation to state:**

**“(1) A list of not more than two (2) relevant government and one (1) industry contract, each in excess of \$5M, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort. These contracts shall demonstrate the Offeror's capabilities to perform this requirement. Include the contract numbers; Government agency or industry placing the contract; Contracting Officer, telephone number, and email address; and a brief description of Offeror's part of the work and the total dollar value of the Offeror's portion. Industry contracts involving subcontracting to another company that may have a prime contract with some area of the government are acceptable.”**

**For example, if a team is comprised of the offeror (Prime) and one major subcontractor then a list of three (3) contracts can be received for the offeror (Prime) and three (3) contracts can be received for its one subcontractor for a total of six (6).**

**Question 25:**

Section L.6, "Instructions for Mission Suitability Oral Presentations", paragraph (a) specifies that:

"Offerors must submit their oral presentation materials together with their offers."

The development of a strong Oral Presentation at the same time as the development of a written proposal can constitute an effort equaling the simultaneous development of a second proposal. The requirement for this overlapping development effort strongly favors larger companies with existing, well-staffed Proposal Shops and could place an undue burden on and cause additional expense to smaller businesses that often rely on consultants for proposal work. In order to ensure fairness to smaller companies who may be bidding, we suggest changing this requirement to allow for submission of oral presentations 14 days after submission of the written proposal.

**Government Response 25:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 26:**

Section L.6, "Instructions for Mission Suitability Oral Presentations", paragraph (c) specifies that "The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and Key Personnel present [at] the oral presentation (limit three (3) presenters). Additional attendees beyond the presenters are not allowed."

- a) In order to provide the government with a clear idea regarding the proposed program management organization and in order to allow for opportunities to question Executive Sponsors from the prime and critical subcontractors, we suggest that the list of participants allowed be expanded to four (4) participants and an Executive Sponsor to bind the contractor.
- b) In order to ensure the presence of project personnel able to respond authoritatively to all government questions, we suggest that this requirement be amended to allow for a certain number of non-participants to attend the oral presentation. These non-participants will be available to respond to government questions.

**Government Response 26:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 27:**

In section L7(c)(2), Cost/Price Proposal, Exhibit 2 is not included in the Excel spreadsheet file. The first spreadsheet provided is Exhibit 2A. Please provide a copy of Exhibit 2.

**Government Response 27:**

**See final solicitation.**

**Question 28:**

Highlights of the DRFP – 1. Section B- Supplies or Services and Price/Costs specifies:  
“The Government envisions that approximately 30 task orders may be authorized within the first 90 days of the contract; however, the number of task orders could increase based on the Government requirements.”

Does the Government expect that staffing levels for the 30 task orders anticipated within the first 90 days of the contract will be equivalent to the estimated staffing for the contract (i.e. 113)? These numbers may affect the proposed phase-in plan.

**Government Response 28:**

**Any support required for the estimated number of tasks will need to be phased in during the beginning of the contract. The numbers quoted are historical estimates.**

**Question 29:**

Section L.5, Proposal Page Limitations, paragraph (a), table providing information on Proposal Components and corresponding page limits:

At the bottom of the page (pg 58), following the entry for Proposal Component “Written Subfactors”, there is an entry indicating a 50 page limit with no associated Proposal Component. Please specify which Proposal Component this 50 page limit applies to.

On the top of the following page (pg 59) an entry appears for the Proposal Component “B. Technical Approach” with no associated page limit. Is there a page limit for this component? If so please specify what that page limit is.

**Government Response 29:**

**See final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 30:**

Section L.7.(b)(1), Past Performance Proposal, requires a “list of not more than three (3) relevant government and three (3) industry contracts...” (DRFP at page 69).

Later, in L.7.(b)(8)(B)2., blank Past Performance Questionnaires are to be sent to “not more than three (3) relevant completed [...] or active [...] contracts, of which at least one (1) must be a relevant [...] government contract” (DRFP at page 72).

Question 1a: Does this mean you wish to receive not more than three government and not more than three industry (up to six, but must include both types), not more than three government and three industry (4-6 total, three of which are industry) or up to three of either type?

Question 1b: It appears that the blank questionnaires can be sent to 1-3 entities (one of which must be relevant government). Is this correct?

Assuming it is your intent for offerors to submit three past performance contract summaries, the 50-page limit seems excessive when compared to similar NASA services contract Past Performance requirements. With three contracts and a 50-page limit, average past performance contract summaries will be 16-17 pages long ... significantly more than the typical 2-5 page per contract limit typically required. We and presumably other offerors certainly will have a sufficient

**NASA Ames Research Center  
NNA08205346R-NRL**

amount of information each of our contracts to submit past performance summaries of this magnitude, but we wanted to confirm that it is your intent for offerors to submit summaries of this length. Could you confirm that it is your intent to maintain a 50-page limit on your Past Performance volume, and it is your intent to limit the number of Past Performance contract summaries to three?

**Government Response 30:**

**Part I**

**Question 1a. See Government response 24 above.**

**Question 1b. Each Offeror and any proposed major subcontractor shall send a blank Past Performance Questionnaire to the cognizant Contracting Officer or the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative of no more than three (3) relevant completed (completed within the last *five* years) or active (underway at least one year) contracts, of which at least one (1) must be a relevant (NASA, other federal, state, or local) government contract.**

**Part II**

**It is the Government's intent to maintain a 50-page limit on the Past Performance volume, and to limit the number of Past Performance Questionnaires to three each for the Offeror and each Major subcontractor.**

**Question 31:**

Reference Response to Case Study A -- Oral Presentation (DRFP page 63). Could you clarify that in response to this sample task, offerors are required to propose the program management infrastructure for the ISRDS contract? Also, where are offerors to provide the cost information associated with this sample task? Offerors are instructed in Section L not to provide cost/price information in the oral presentation, but the instructions for Case Study A do not address how/where in offerors' proposals the cost/price information is to be provided.

Will you provide labor category minimum requirements and category descriptions, or will offerors be asked to define their own requirements/descriptions?

**Government Response 31:**

**See the final solicitation for clarification on Case Study A.**

**Question 32:**

Does this mean that there could be 30 or more task orders with a period of performance beginning at contract award?

**Government Response 32:**

**The Government envisions that approximately 30 task orders may be authorized within the first 90 days of the contract; however, the number of task orders could increase based on the Government requirements.**

**Question 33:**

What is the expected turn around time for the TO proposals? We recommend a minimum of ten days from receipt of requirements.

**Government Response 33:**

**Task order responses are due within 15 calendar days as per H.2 TASK ORDER PROCEDURE.**

**Question 34:**

What level of basis of estimate is required by the government for individual task order proposals/estimates?

**Government Response 34:**

**The Government does not understand this question.**

**Question 35:**

In order to propose reliable staffing levels and skill mixes, we recommend that the Government provide a list and description of TOs performed in the past to enable analysis of the staffing requirements. We request the TO logs from the current contracts, along with the individual TO documents in the technical library.

**Government Response 35:**

**Government has provided a sample staffing plan on which to base Offerors' estimates. The Government will issue a skill mix description as part of the final solicitation.**

**Question 36:**

Please establish if this is a Full and Open Competition as there is contradiction between "Highlights of DRFP" and "Info to Offerors or Quoters".

**Government Response 36:**

**The JA-009 Rev May 05 (Information to Offerors or Quoters) states that this is a Full and Open Competition. The Government does not find a contradiction to this in the "Highlights of DRFP".**

**Question 37:**

Case Study A requires a "Fully Costed Proposal" (in Orals). Please clarify whether or not Cost data should be included in the Case Study A.

**Government Response 37:**

**Please see final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 38:**

Will the Government allow the use of colors for logos?

**Government Response 38:**

**Do not apply color to logos.**

**Offerors may use colors other than black and white/clear on graphical slides (e.g. bar charts, pie charts, graphs, figures, tables, etc.) when color is useful in conveying information.**

**Question 39:**

L.6. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MISSION SUITABILITY ORAL PRESENTATIONS

(b) Oral Presentation Media 60 (c) The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and Key Personnel present the oral presentation (limit three (3) presenters). Does this sentence mean that there can be only three (3) key personnel on this contract?

**Government Response 39:**

**The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and up to 2 of Offeror's Key Personnel present the oral presentation (limit three (3) presenters). Additional attendees beyond the presenters are not allowed.**

**Question 40:**

The waiver, if elected, makes the particular SDB offeror INELIGIBLE for the price evaluation factor adjustment but ELIGIBLE for the "evaluation credit" (points) associated with the SDB participation described in Section M. What are "evaluation credit (points)" associated with the SDB Participation described in Section M"? We did not find such a reference in Section M. Does this apply to SDB subcontractors?

**Government Response 40:**

**The "evaluation credit" associated with the SDB Participation will be provided in Section M of the final solicitation.**

**The SDB offeror can waive the price evaluation adjustment factor by completing paragraph (c) of FAR clause 52.219-23, *Notice of Price Evaluation Adjustment for Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns* in Section I of this solicitation. The waiver, if elected, makes the particular SDB offeror INELIGIBLE for the price evaluation factor adjustment, but still ELIGIBLE for the "evaluation credit points" associated with the SDB participation.**

**Question 41:**

1.b. The total small business goal, expressed as a percent of total contract value, is 20%, including options. We recommend that the Government define targets, if any, for each type of small business (e.g. Veteran Owned, Service Disabled, Woman Owned, SDB, HubZone).

**Government Response 41:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 42:**

The total small business goal, expressed as a percent of total contract value, is 20%, including options. Are all SBs in this goal required to be classified as NAICS 541712?

**Government Response 42:**

**This will be clarified in the final solicitation.**

**Question 43:**

2.a....2. If appropriate, discuss any plans to phase in contracting to Small Business concerns explaining the rationale for the phase in plan. We suggest that the Government identify which companies are performing which work today so we can clearly understand who is working for large and small business concerns today.

**Government Response 43:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 44:**

How does the government intend to monitor SDB utilization and adherence to the plan?

**Government Response 44:**

**The Government will monitor through Line Item 5 of the Contract Data Requirements List.**

**Question 45:**

We recommend that the Government require both large and small business bidders to address their actual performance against subcontracting goals in their past performance citations.

**Government Response 45:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 46:**

Information to Offerors or Quoters L.7. PROPOSAL PREPARATION—SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS -(b) Past Performance Proposal (Volume II) We recommend that the Government require submission of the Past Performance Volume no later than 21 days after the RFP release. This will allow the Government to begin evaluation earlier if so desired.

**Government Response 46:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 47:**

A list of not more than three (3) relevant government and three (3) industry contracts, each in excess of \$5M.- We recommend modifying the wording as follows: "A list of not more than six (6) relevant government and/or commercial contracts, each in excess of \$5M...."

**Government Response 47:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 48:**

We recommend that the Government require a DCAA approved "Supply Chain" system.

**Government Response 48:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 49:**

Exhibit 3 asks for the cost separated by Material/Supplies, Travel and Training. We recommend that the Government break out the costs consistent with the requirement in Exhibit 3.

**Government Response 49:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 50:**

Can fee be applied to these ODC costs, or are they viewed as pass through costs?

**Government Response 50:**

**Fee applied to ODC costs must be addressed in J.1(b) Attachment E.**

**Question 51:**

Definition of Adjectival Ratings -Excellent -  
Consistent record of exceptional past performance by the Offeror and any proposed major subcontractors on work identical or very similar to the work requirements.... We recommend removing "identical" as this could favor incumbency by current primes and subcontractors.

**Government Response 51:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 52:**

We recommend adding a requirement to discuss existing university relations programs from which key talent will be identified and recruited.

**Government Response 52:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 53:**

We recommend that the Government include mandatory requirements for: a. CMMI L3 b. ISO 9000

**Government Response 53:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 54:**

Statement of Work Technology Area 1: Research Infrastructure  
Does NASA Ames ISRDS want/require System Administrators with knowledge of grid computing, cluster control, distributed processing?

**Government Response 54:**

**See statement of work in final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 55:**

Draft Statement of Work Technology Area 2: Program Support 9 Does NASA Ames have a requirement for CMMI rating for Web site development?

**Government Response 55:**

**The Government does not anticipate the requirement of CMMI rating for website development.**

**Question 56:**

Draft Statement of Work Technology Area 6: Robust Software Engineering - This area appears to regard primarily advanced software tools. Will there be a requirement added for advanced processes or advanced design tools?

**Government Response 56:**

**These requirements will be addressed at the task order level.**

**Question 57:**

Draft Statement of Work Technology Area 7: Software Systems Engineering and Software Project Management - We recommend that CMMI, Best Practices, IPT methodologies be included as ISRDS requirements.

**Government Response 57:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 58:**

Draft Statement of Work Technology Areas 6 and 7 - Is there a need for 3D visualization for better analysis?

**Government Response 58:**

**These requirements will be addressed at the task order level.**

**Question 59:**

Sample Staffing Plan Attachment K 1 Tech Area 7 column - empty For the management and cost plans, we ask that the Government estimate the number of FTE's within Tech Area 7 at any given time.

**Government Response 59:**

**See final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 60:**

General N/A Are there any requirements for "Contractor-Site" Facilities. If so what are they?

**Government Response 60:**

**The Government anticipates 99% of the work will be performed on-site.**

**Question 61:**

General N/A In addition to the NASA Standard 533M and 533Q financial reporting requirements, we suggest a requirement for EVMS on large tasks.

**Government Response 61:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 62:**

Section F.2(a) and Section L.7(c)(2)a. indicate that the base period of two years includes phase-in. Exhibit 2A has phase-in priced separately from Year 1, so it is assumed that Year 1

**NASA Ames Research Center  
NNA08205346R-NRL**

hours/cost would be less than a full man-year based on the amount of time allocated for phase-in. Is this correct?

**Government Response 62:**

**Year 1 includes the phase-in period.**

**Question 63:**

Section L.7(c)(2)a. discusses Exhibit 2, however, this Exhibit is not included in the Draft RFP Attachment E Cost Exhibits. Please clarify.

**Government Response 63:**

**See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 64:**

Section L.7(c) states that "Cost/price proposals shall, as a minimum, include the following information for the prime contractor as well as any subcontract valued at \$1M or more." Below this statement are descriptions of Exhibit 1, Exhibits 2 and 2A, Schedule D and Fee Schedule. All of these exhibits and schedules seem to be prime contractor schedules only. Please clarify.

**Government Response 64:**

**Cost/price proposals shall, as a minimum, include the following information for the prime contractor as well as any subcontract valued at \$1M or more.**

**Question 65:**

The Exhibit 4, Summary of Rates only includes overhead and G&A and the explanation states that other burdens such as fringe benefits, etc, must be shown separately. Also, Schedule B is a breakdown of overhead expenses and Schedule C is a breakdown of G&A expenses. How does the Government want the offeror to show the breakdown of the other burdens (create a Schedule B1 for fringe benefits for example?) and is this information to be added as a separate column in Exhibit 4?

**Government Response 65:**

**To show the breakdown of the other burdens create a Schedule/s (Example: B1, B2, B3) for fringe benefits add the information as a separate column in Exhibit 4.**

**Question 66:**

Does NASA anticipate staffing for Intergovernmental Personnel Act positions under the final ISRDS SOW? If so, what special provisions for a NASA IPA are required of the contractor to address this need?

**Government Response 66:**

**The Government does not anticipate staffing for Intergovernmental Personnel Act positions under the final ISRDS contract.**

**Question 67:**

NASA ARC answered in previous Q&A indicated that the new ISRDS contract will replace the current ISRDS & RIACS contracts for Code TI support. Does NASA ARC anticipate the conversion of any other staff, for example, staff currently under the UARC vehicle?

**Government Response 67:**

**The Government does not anticipate conversion of staff from the UARC. ISRDS Q&A 1 stated that ISRDS is a combination of work performed under the following NASA Ames contract vehicles:**

- **Research Institute for Advanced Computer Science (RIACS) contract number NNA07BB97C performed by Universities Space Research Association (USRA), which expires 9/30/08**
- **Computational Sciences Research and Development Support contract number NAS2-00065D performed by QSS Group Inc. which expired 9/30/05**

**A sample staffing plan and labor categories will be provided in the solicitation and are based on current contract staff in the Intelligent Systems Division, and projected requirements. This is provided by the Government FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**

**Question 68:**

Section L.7, "Proposal Preparation – Specific Instructions", (b) Past Performance Proposal (Volume II), paragraph (1) specifies that, at a minimum, the Past Performance Proposal shall include: "each in excess of \$5M, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort." Based on the labor distribution within the draft SOW there are several research and development efforts that might typically be performed within smaller contracts. Would the government consider lowering the \$5 million size minimum for the past performance references? This limit restricts the use of small disadvantaged partners, required for compliance with the small disadvantage plan requirements of the draft RFP, for niche areas of support where their past performance would demonstrate related types of efforts that are the same size, scope, and complexity in respect to the draft SOW.

**Government Response 68:**

**(b) Past Performance Proposal (Volume II). The goal of this factor is to obtain information regarding the Offeror and major subcontractors' relevant past performance...**

**"Major subcontractors," for purposes of this solicitation, is defined as subcontracting dollars of \$5M or more covering a performance period of five (5) years.**

**The \$5M in Past Performance for "major subcontractors" is directly related to the potential requirements of the ISRDS contract. The definition of "Major subcontractor"**

**under the past performance proposal does not restrict the use of small disadvantaged partners.**

**Question 69:**

Section L.7, "Proposal Preparation – Specific Instructions", (b) Past Performance Proposal (Volume II), paragraph (1) specifies that, at a minimum, the Past Performance Proposal shall include: "A list of not more than three (3) relevant government and three (3) industry contracts...". Would the government consider the option to supply 6 past performance contracts, regardless of government verse industry contracts? Or would the government allow an indiscriminate balance of government verse industry contracts totaling 6 contracts?

**Government Response 69:**

**See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 70:**

Section L.7, "Proposal Preparation – Specific Instructions", (c) Cost/Price Proposal (Volume III), paragraph (1) specifies that "Cost/price proposals shall, as a minimum, include the following information for the prime contractor as well as any subcontract valued at \$1M or more." Is this \$1 million limit based on the entire contract or only the base period of performance?

**Government Response 70:**

**The limit is based on the entire 5-year period of performance of the contract.**

**Question 71:**

Section "A. Management Approach – (Subfactor)" statement (8) Total Compensation Plan – Written Proposal specifies that "the Offeror shall require all service subcontractors (1) with proposed cost reimbursement or non-competitive fixed-price type subcontracts having a total potential value in excess of \$500,000 and (2) the cumulative value of all their service subcontracts under the proposed prime contract in excess of 10 percent of the prime contract's total potential value, provide as part of their proposals the information identified in (a) through (c) of NFS provision 1852.231-71. Would the government consider moving this \$500,000 value and 10 percent of the total contract value to \$1 million as specified as a major subcontractor within section L.7, "Proposal Preparation – Specific Instructions", (c) Cost/Price Proposal (Volume III), paragraph (1)?"

**Government Response 71:**

**The suggestion will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 72:**

Section L.6, "Instructions for Mission Suitability Oral Presentations", paragraph (c) specifies that "The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and Key Personnel present [at] the oral presentation (limit three (3) presenters). Additional attendees beyond the presenters are not allowed." In order to provide the government. Would the government consider increasing the

**NASA Ames Research Center  
NNA08205346R-NRL**

presenters and attendees to five (5) to include executives that can official bind the statements made within orals for the contract from the prime and critical subcontractors?

**Government Response 72:**

**The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and up to 2 of Offeror's Key Personnel present the oral presentation (limit three (3) presenters). Additional attendees beyond the presenters are not allowed.**

**Question 73:**

Highlights of the DRFP – 1. Section B- "Supplies or Services and Price/Costs" specifies: "The Government envisions that approximately 30 task orders may be authorized within the first 90 days of the contract; however, the number of task orders could increase based on the Government requirements". What does the Government anticipate that staffing levels and number of task orders that will be transitioned within the 30 day phase-in period of the contract?

**Government Response 73:**

**Any support required for the estimated number of tasks will need to be phased in during the beginning of the contract. The numbers quoted are historical estimates.**

**Question 74:**

Section H.10. ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, statement (b) The nature of the potential organizational conflict of interest in this acquisition is described below: TBD". Does the government intend to provide these details in the final RFP or upon award? It appears as though the areas listed in technical area 7 of the draft SOW has some inherent organizational conflicts of interest.

**Government Response 74:**

**See final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 75:**

Our comments encompass the Small Business goals and plan.

Overall:

- We encourage the government to establish more significant goals for proposers to meet and suggest that those goals align with current or recent agency and national goals.
- We ask the government to clearly state goals for each subcategory.
- We encourage the government to evaluate proposals using a scoring methodology that significantly rewards offerors who propose those goals.
- We ask the government to more firmly develop and state in the RFP an Award Fee evaluation methodology that rewards the contractor who continues to meet the goals during contract performance.

**Government Response 75:**

**The suggestions will be taken into consideration.**

**Question 76:**

In Section L.4.(c), for the Mission Suitability volume the statement is made that “No cost/price data shall be included except for a schedule of wages, salaries, and benefits.” However, in L.7.(2) A.2, Response to Case Study A – Oral Presentation the last bullet states the response to the case study shall address a “Fully costed proposal in response to the case study.

Will NASA please clarify exactly what level of cost data is expected to be briefed in the Mission Suitability proposal?

**Government Response 76:**

**See final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 77:**

In Section L.7.(b) Past Performance, subparagraph (1) asks for “...not more than three (3) relevant government contracts and three (3) industry contracts...” from the prime and each major subcontractor.

Many “industry contracts” involve subcontracting to another company which may have a prime contract with some area of the government. We assume this definition of “industry contract” is acceptable for this requirement. Is this assumption correct?

**Government Response 77:**

**See Government Response #24 above.**

**Question 78:**

Will NASA provide a more detailed staffing plan with brief descriptions of responsibilities and levels of responsibility, education, and approximate years of experience to permit a more competitive costing environment?

**Government Response 78:**

**The Government will provide descriptions to support the staffing plan. See final solicitation.**

**Question 79:**

It doesn't look like there is any small-business set-aside. This will make it difficult for small businesses to even staff such a large effort or to focus on any of the technology areas. Many of the RFI responses you received from small companies probably focused on the 'piece' of the contract they believed they could help with. Could a small business set-aside be allocated (set amount or per technology area)?

**Government Response 79:**

**The draft RFP has an overall small business goal of 20% of total contract value. See the final solicitation for clarification.**

**Question 80:**

Can a single task order span multiple technology areas?

**Government Response 80:**

**The ISRDS core research areas form the basis for the contract tasks that are developed. The very nature of this research requires cross-utilization of skill sets. A single task could incorporate one or more technology areas.**