

Highlights of NASA Ames Research Center's Request for Proposal (RFP) for Intelligent Systems Research and Development Support (ISRDS)

This RFP is intended to result in the award of a single award Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee (CPFF) contract, with a two-year base period and three one-year priced options. The Government does not intend to acquire a commercial item using FAR Part 12. The NAICS code and Size Standard is 541712 - Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences, with a size standard of 500.

The ARC phase-in effort will begin at the time of contract award (estimated award date is September 15, 2008).

SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THIS RFP

1. SECTION B - SUPPLIES OR SERVICES AND PRICE/COSTS

CHANGE FROM DRAFT RFP. The following change has been made: The Government intends to award ISRDS as a CPFF contract.

During the performance of the resulting contract, the Government plans to issue task orders with clearly defined objectives, thus avoiding open-ended requirements. This approach will allow the Government to more accurately define the risk and costs associated with each task assignment.

The minimum amount of supplies or services that shall be ordered during the effective period of this contract is \$250,000. The maximum amount of supplies or services that may be ordered for the potential 5 year period of the contract is \$300,000,000.00.

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. A performance-based approach does not require that separate CLINs be established for each task order. Task orders under this contract are expected to vary in complexity, risk and duration.

2. SECTION C - DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATION/WORK STATEMENT

CHANGE FROM DRAFT RFP. The following change has been made: The Intelligent Systems Division has restructured the SOW and includes the core research in four technology areas. As the research matures or as projects require, work from these areas can be matrixed to support a single task, project or program.

The SOW is intentionally written describing the overall scope of ISRDS requirement to be accomplished. The task orders will be written in an "outcome/output" manner to allow the successful Contractor to perform the effort on a completion basis. This approach will require greater diligence on the part of the Government, in terms of clearly

stating the objectives of each task order and on the Contractor for deciding how to meet the Government's requirements in a cost effective and timely manner.

3. SECTION D – PACKAGING AND MARKING

No significant features or issues in this section.

4. SECTION E – INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE

No significant features or issues in this section.

5. SECTION F – DELIVERIES OR PERFORMANCE

As each task order is issued and authorized, the task requester will identify the delivery date, reporting requirements, cost and performance objective.

The delivery of reports frequently found in Section F can be found in Section J, Paragraph J.1, Item (a), Attachment 2, *Data Requirements List*.

6. SECTION G – CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION DATA

No significant features or issues in this section.

7. SECTION H - SPECIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

(a) *Task Order Procedure* clause (See Paragraph H.2). As part of the task order negotiations process, the Contracting Officer and the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) will assess the direct labor and indirect rates proposed for the individual task orders, and compare them against the successful offeror's original proposal.

(b) *Small Disadvantaged Business Participation – Contract Targets (Offeror Fill In)* clause (See Paragraph H.12). FAR 19.1202-4(a) requires that SDB subcontracting targets be incorporated in the contract.

(c) **CHANGE FROM DRAFT RFP.** *Performance Assessment* clause (See Paragraph H.13) has been added to the contract.

(d) **CHANGE FROM DRAFT RFP.** *Incorporation of the Contractor's Proposal (Offeror Fill In)* (See Paragraph H.14) requires that the Mission Suitability proposal be incorporated in the contract.

8. SECTION I – CONTRACT CLAUSES

(a) *Personal Identity Verification of Contractor Personnel* clause (See Paragraph I.2) addresses the contractor's compliance agency personal identity verification procedures identified in the contract that implement Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance M-05-24, and Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) Number 201.

9. SECTION J - LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

No significant features or issues in this section.

10. SECTION K - REPRESENTATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND OTHER STATEMENTS OF OFFERORS

No significant features or issues in this section.

11. SECTION L - INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND NOTICES TO OFFERORS

(a) FAR 52.215-1, *Instructions to Offerors-Competitive Acquisition*, ensures that offerors are aware that the Government intends to evaluate proposals and award a contract without discussions with offerors (except clarifications as described in FAR 15.306(a)). Therefore, the offeror's initial proposal should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint. The Government reserves the right to conduct discussions if the Contracting Officer later determines them to be necessary. The Government seeks to maximize the quality of the offeror's initial proposal, improve the efficiency of the selection process, and reduce lead-time.

(b) **CHANGE FROM DRAFT RFP.** Due to the nature of the research and development work to be performed under this contract, the Government cannot pre-specify all of the task orders to be performed. Offerors shall use the Cost Proposal Exhibits and Schedules in Section J.1(b), Attachment E. The proposed costs will be used for evaluation purposes based the Government's estimated pricing model staffing plan (labor category and number of individuals) included as Attachment J.1(b) ATTACHMENT K. This will provide the government with a standard cost model to be used to compare proposals. The cost model is for evaluation purposes and the actual number of individuals needed in the various labor categories will be determined upon negotiation of individual task orders following contract award.

(c) For purposes of proposal submission, an Other Direct Costs (ODCs) chart is provided FOR INFORMATION ONLY. These amounts represent the Government's current best estimate of the contract requirements.

(d) The Mission Suitability (Volume I) consists of an Oral Presentation (see FAR 15.102). The format of the Mission Suitability subfactors can be found at paragraph L.7, *Proposal Preparation—Specific Instructions*.

(e) **CHANGE FROM DRAFT RFP.** The following change has been made: An Organizational Conflicts of Interest Avoidance Plan shall be provided in the proposal and is included under the Management Approach Subfactor under Mission Suitability.

(f) **CHANGE FROM DRAFT RFP.** Changes have been made under the Small Business Utilization Subfactor to ensure the proper evaluation of small business utilization as covered in NASA Procurement Information Circular (PIC) 08-05 Small Business (SB) Utilization Subfactor. In addition to submitting a Small Business Subcontracting Plan in accordance with the Section I FAR clause 52.219-9, Alternate II, Offerors (Large Businesses) shall complete J.1(a), Attachment 9, SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN GOALS, which provides a breakdown of the offeror's proposed goals, by small business category, expressed in terms of both a percent of IDIQ MAXIMUM ORDERING VALUE and a percent of TOTAL PLANNED SUBCONTRACTS. Offerors shall modify the exhibit in J.1(a), Attachment 9 to show the proposed subcontracting goals for the base period and each option separately.

(g) **CHANGE FROM DRAFT RFP.** Under the Past Performance Proposal Volume II a change has been made to state: A list of not more than two (2) relevant government contracts 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.

12. SECTION M – EVALUATION FACTORS AND AWARD

Offerors are advised to review this section carefully. The evaluation approach is outlined in paragraph M.2, *Evaluation Approach*.

CONCLUSION

As a final note, the information provided in these highlights is not intended to be construed differently from the information in the RFP.

This concludes the Highlights for the ISRDS RFP.