

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) FOR WINCH SYSTEM

Introduction

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) invites potential offerors to submit a response to this RFI to find interested and qualified sources and planning information for the design, development, and manufacture of a winch/cable management system. The winch will be utilized on Ground Support Equipment for the Constellation Program to retract a ground side umbilical plate to the Mobile Launch Tower at T-0.

Two complete systems will be needed within the next year for testing and validation.

The Government will provide in its Request for Proposal a performance specification with Government Furnished Drawings. It will be incumbent upon each respondent to determine the drawings suitability for use.

The intent of this Request for Information (RFI) is to obtain information from industry to assist Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in its acquisition development. NASA reserves the right to share all information received in response to this RFI throughout NASA and to use all information submitted in response to this RFI in NASA's formulation of a solicitation seeking competitive proposals. However, any competition sensitive data should be clearly marked. Although information contained herein represents current program content and acquisition planning, it is subject to change. Response to this RFI is requested within the context of the general approach described in the following paragraphs.

WINCH SYSTEM OVERALL DESCRIPTION

The winch system shall be easily mounted horizontally or vertically. The system will be operating in a Class 1, Division 2, Group B environment (hydrogen present). The motor shall be totally enclosed, sealed from an outdoor environment, and shall be made from a non-corrosive material.

The system shall be used to retract a 0.25 inch diameter stainless steel cable. It shall retract from 0 to 180 inches of cable during a 1.5 second operating time at near constant acceleration. The cable will be pulling against a 50 lb load. The retraction speed should start at 0 and be back to 0 within the operating time. A brake is required with a 500 lb breaking load. The brake shall be fail-safe, normally open.

The drum should be grooved and shall have the capacity to reel in 37 feet of cable. A level winding mechanism will be required. An encoder for line take up measurement will be included. Speed control will be required. Output from the encoder will be used as a system stop signal.

The winch system shall be designed to withstand a 4 psi (blast or acoustic) launch environment.

Because of the critical nature of the separation of the umbilical plates at liftoff, high reliability of the winch system is a primary concern.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION SOLICITED

Responders to this RFI are encouraged to comment on any of the foregoing and to express their interest in this proposed acquisition by submitting the following information:

1. Organization name, address, describe principle activity, primary point of contact and business size.
2. Cost – Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) for each prototype, each production unit and estimated total program cost.
3. Lead Times – Describe lead times required for prototypes and production units.
4. Reliability – Provide reliability data for similar type of devices.
5. Experience – Describe your experience in developing and producing NEA.

RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS

The requested responses are for information and planning purposes only. NASA does not intend to post information or questions received to any website or public access location. NASA does not plan to respond to the individual responses. Feedback to this RFI may be utilized in formulating the Government's acquisition strategy and documents.

All responses should be provided in MS Word document format, both hard and electronic media. Font should be Times New Roman, size 12. Responses should not exceed 15 pages and should reference "RFI-KSC-WINCH." Please submit responses no later than **June 30, 2008** to NASA/KSC Procurement Office, ATTN: OP-ES/Erik Whitehill, Contracting Officer, Kennedy Space Flight Center, FL 32899, EMAIL erik.c.whitehill@nasa.gov.

This preliminary information is being made available for planning purposes only, subject to FAR Clause 52.215-3, entitled "Solicitation for Information and Planning Purposes". It does not constitute a Request for Proposal, Invitation for Bid, or Request for Quotation, and it is not to be construed as a commitment by the Government to enter into a contract. Moreover, the Government will not pay for the information submitted in response to this

RFI, nor will the Government reimburse an Offeror for costs incurred to prepare responses to this RFI.

No solicitation exists at this time; therefore, do not request a copy of the solicitation. If a solicitation is released it will be synopsized in the FedBizOpps and on the NASA Acquisition Internet Services (NAIS). Firms that respond to this RFI will be placed on any future mailing list for this acquisition. However, it is the potential offeror's responsibility to monitor these sites for the release of any solicitation or synopsis.