SSP Questions and Answers

1) Page 28 of 43, L.21 (c), 2nd paragraph appears to be out of place in the Past Performance Volume. Should it be located in a different location in the RFP, eg, in M3 as a Technical Capability evaluation factor, or positioned in L20 Volume 1? Same paragraph, item "2)" contains the wording ".. provide explanation as to why this statement is included". Does that wording apply, and if so, plz clarify significance?

Answer: The paragraph below will be moved to L.20 Volume 1 Technical and Management Capability, paragraph d. The statement that says provide explanation as to why this statement is included was in error and will be removed. See paragraph below.

The offeror shall also address the following: 1) written procedures to promptly process routine and urgent RFPs, 2) procedures to determine daily rates to be paid scientific professionals 3) procedures to reimburse subcontractor costs, 4) procedures to evaluate subcontractor performance, and 5) procedures to document subcontractor selection (competition).

2) Industry Day Question & Answer #33: "Small Business targets are applicable to both CLIN 0001 and CLIN 0002 activities". Does the target apply to CLIN 0001 and CLIN 0002 separately, or to the combined total of CLIN 0001 and CLIN 0002 taken together?

Answer: The Small Business targets apply to the combined total for CLIN 0001 and CLIN 0002. More than likely the majority of the small business targets will fall under CLIN 0002 but there could be instances where a small business could perform duties under CLIN 0001.

3) Page 39 of 43: SSP Proposal Cover Sheet. Block 1 and Block 2 call for submitting different number of copies of the proposal. Should Block 1 also read 6 copies?

Answer: Block 1 should read 6 copies.

4) Pg 2 of 43. ITEM NO 0001, 1st sentence states "This CLIN includes the costs to manage and administer ..."; 2nd sentence reads " The unit price is the price to manage a single .". Will the Fixed Price include both, the cost to manage and the cost to administer a STAS?

Answer: CLIN 0001 will include the cost to administer and manage the STAS orders.

5) Pg 9 of 43, Section F.1 states" . a task order period of performance could go beyond the performance period of the basic contract; and Pgs 31 & 32 of 43, Section L.22 Volume 3 Price, k Total Contract Cost Summary, calls for using the specified cost table format for a 2 year program. However, since 18 month tasks can be awarded at or near the end of the 2 year program, they will have to be managed and administered up to 18 months plus an allowable 12 months for close-out. Where should the costs associated with the time to administer and manage tasks (up to 30 months) beyond the 2 year period be shown?

Answer: The costs to administer and manage tasks beyond the 2 year period should be proposed under CLIN 0001.

6) Pg 2 of 43. ITEM NO 1, states "MAX QUANTITY 500 task orders", whereas, Section C.2, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence states ".. approximately 300 RFPs will be issued annually." Which number is correct?

Answer: The correct answer is 250 RFPs is estimated to be issued annually. The Max Quantity of 500 task orders is correct.

7) Section H.4, para 3: Does the limitation (PL 111-118) only apply to FY10 6.1 funds? How about FY11 and beyond?

Answer: Currently the limitation applies to FY10 6.1 funds. However, the limitation will be determined by legislation enacted for fiscal years beyond 2010.

8) Industry Day Question and Answer #3: "Basic Research funds (6.1) will be used to pay CLIN 0001 costs." Does this mean that CLIN 0001 will be paid entirely with 6.1 funds, or with a combination of funds including some 6.1? In either case, will indirect costs be limited to 35%?

Answer: CLIN 0001 will be paid with 6.1 basic research funds as long as the legislation is effective.

9) What "indirect costs" are included in the limitation of 35%? Are Fringe Benefits included in the 35% limitation?

Answer: G&A, Overhead, and any other costs that DCAA has approved for your organization as an indirect cost. Fringe Benefits can be direct or indirect depending on how it was approved by DCAA.

10) Question: Is the system that houses the SSP Database (referred to in section C.3) considered Government Furnished Equipment (GFE).

Answer: Yes the database is considered Government Furnished Equipment.

11) Section L.12.b states, "The proposal shall not contain elaborate brochures or documentation, binding, detailed artwork, or other embellishments." Could you clarify what you mean by "detailed artwork" and "other embellishments" in this restriction? Are there limits to the number or size of figures in a volume, the number of colors in a figure, et cetera?

Answer: There are no limitations to the size of figures or the number of colors in a volume. However, your proposal should not contain elaborate drawings and pictures as this is not a technical proposal.

12) Question: Does funding provided to first-tier, organic subcontractors for performing as part of the ARO Scientific Services Program (under CLIN 2) count towards the 35% contractor performance requirement described in RFP section C.1?

Answer: Funding for first-tier organic subcontractors does not count towards the 35% contractor performance requirement.
The solicitation states that the offeror must demonstrate that its company or corporate affiliates employs technical personnel covering a broad enough range of specialties as those listed in paragraph C.1 of the Statement of Work so the offeror can execute 35% of the SSP task orders that may be placed in a typical year.

13) Paragraph M.3(a) of the RFP states, "Research and Development Performance Capability: The offeror must demonstrate that its corporate affiliates employs technical personnel covering a broad enough range of specialties as those listed in paragraph C.1 of the Statement of Work so the offeror can execute 35% of the SSP task orders .". Generally the term corporate affiliate means that a company has a vested interest in another company (parent companies, subsidiaries, etc). Does the term "corporate affiliates" in paragraph M.3(a) include a joint venture?

Answer: The term corporate affiliate does include a joint venture.

14) Will the past performance of these same joint venture affiliated companies satisfy the requirement of the M3 past performance evaluation factors?

Answer: Past Performance factors will be reviewed for all companies involved in the joint venture in accordance with Section M3 of the solicitation.

15) Will the Government consider extending the due date of the procurement?

Answer: The Government is not expecting to extend the due date of the proposal. This is a firm submission date.