

OFFICE OF ACQUISITIONS
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER: N02CO67004-02

Amendment No.: 1

Date of Issuance: 4/4/16

The above numbered Request For Proposal (RFP) is amended as set forth below. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offerors remains unchanged: 2:00PM EPT 4/11/16.

Offerors MUST acknowledge receipt of the amendment prior to the hour and the date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by separate letter, telegram, or Electronic Mail which includes a reference to the RFP and Amendment number(s). For your convenience, the Proposal Intent Response Form is provided in SECTION J - List of Attachments of this RFP, for this purpose.

FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERORS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

Amendment #1 provides responses to questions received, as stated below, removes the "flip-up" requirement on the page format under RFP Attachment 8, Additional Technical Proposal Instructions, removes the "Note" on RFP Attachment 1: Packaging and Delivery of Proposals and removes reference of Government Notice for Handling Proposals under RFP Attachment 8, Additional Technical Proposal Instructions.

Inquiry 1 -

Question 1: Are the Cancer Genome Atlas Program and the Clinical Proteomics Tumor Analysis Consortium (CPTAC) Program the same program?

Response 1: Although they are not the same program, they are highly related. The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) Program provides genomic analysis of tumors; whereas, CPTAC provides proteomic and genomic analysis. Much of the CPTAC infrastructure was based on TCGA infrastructure with distinct tweaks specific to proteomic characterization.

Inquiry 2 -

Question 1: List of Items, Schedule of Requirements, Scope of Work, Terms of Reference, Bill of Materials required.

Response1: Items requested, if applicable, are attached to the RFP.

Question 2: Soft Copy of the Tender Document through email.

Response 2: The RFP and applicable attachments are available for download at: <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/HHS/NIH/FCRF2/N02CO67004-02/listing.html>

Question 3: Names of countries that will be eligible to participate in this tender.

Response 3: Please refer to Federal Acquisition Regulations at <https://acquisition.gov/far/>

Question 4: Information about the Tendering Procedure and Guidelines

Response 4: Please refer to the RFP.

Question 5: Estimated Budget for this Purchase

Response 5: Not available.

Question 6: Any Extension of Bidding Deadline?

Response 6: No.

Question 7: Any Addendum or Pre Bid meeting Minutes?

Response 7: No.

Inquiry 3 -

Question 1: Who is the incumbent?

Response 1: Battelle Memorial Institute.

Inquiry 4 -

Question 1: Regarding printed page format: can the Government confirm that the term "flip up" refers to two-sided copies that flip on the short (top) edge and not the long (left) edge? If this is the case, does the government have a preference on whether or how the separate technical and business proposal volumes (as described on RFP page 48) should be bound as individual volumes? Our company's customary binding uses long-edge two-sided copying for binding in a conventional three-ring loose-leaf notebook.

Response 1: The government does not have a preference on the binding style of the proposal. The "flip-up" requirement is also hereby removed.

Question 2: "Government Notice for Handling Proposals" is not found in the solicitation package of 3/11/2016, but the title is listed as a required element in the technical outline. Can the government please provide the form that was intended?

Response 2: The reference to Government Notice for Handling Proposals under RFP Attachment 8, page 1, heading 1.C. is hereby removed.

Question 3: Past Performance is to be included in the Business Proposal, with 3 relevant contracts completed within the past 5 years and any current relevant contracts. However, Page 78, Section 11, Qualifications of the Offeror, at (d) asks for the Business Proposal to contain information on relevant contracts completed within the past 3 years or currently in progress. Can the Government clarify if these required sections should both contain the same information? If not, how are the two sections to differ? If the two sections are to contain the same information, is the past time period to be limited to 3 years or 5 years?

Response 3: Please describe past performance over the past 5 years. Therefore, page 78, RFP **Section 11. Qualifications of the Offeror, d. Pertinent Contracts**, sentence one (1) shall hereby read as follows (change noted in bold text):

*"Pertinent contracts is defined as a listing of each related contract completed within the last **FIVE (5)** years or currently in progress."*

The remainder of paragraph d. remains unchanged.

Question 4: In Section J, Attachment 9: Proposal Summary and Data Record (NIH-2043) is listed as a Business Proposal Attachment. In Attachment 8: Additional Technical Proposal Instructions, the NIH-2043 is listed as item #d in Section 1. Should this attachment be included in the technical volume or the business volume?

Response 4: Attachment 9: Proposal Summary and Data Record should be included in the Business Proposal.

Inquiry 5 -

Question 1: RFP Section M, Evaluation Factors, Evaluation of Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility - Section 508, on Page 83. Self-evaluated Section 508 VPATs need to be completed. We are proposing a QMS/IMS solution that has not been realized. To what extent does the VPAT need to be completed?

Response 1: Section 508 compliance is a requirement of the RFP; therefore, please refer to and complete RFP Attachment 7: HHS Section 508 Product Assessment Template.

Question 2: RFP Attachment 1, Packaging and Delivery of Proposals, page 1 of 1. Please clarify if this form is the "GOVERNMENT NOTICE FOR HANDLING PROPOSALS," listed for inclusion in Technical Proposal Section One in accordance with RFP Attachment 8.

Response 2: The reference to Government Notice for Handling Proposals under RFP Attachment 8, page 1, heading 1.C. is hereby removed.

Question 3: RFP Attachment 3, Statement of Work, Scope/Objective, page Page 1 of 8. Please describe the software, hardware, systems, and number of users for the current QMS.

Response 3: The QMS consists primarily of documents and the Information Management System (IMS). The documents are hosted on an NCI-provided document control system. The IMS is developed on a contractor-owned server and moved to an NCI server for production. Using an NCI server for production simplifies some security aspects of the system.

The IMS is primarily written as a Java web application. The underlying data are stored in a MySQL database. The overall system is designed to be cross-platform, so that it can be transported to a different environment if needed.

The IMS tracks quality indicators from 30 CPTAC institutions (grantees and contractors). Most of this information comes through the BCR and DCC. While there may be eighty (80) user accounts, most of the data are entered by four (4) users at the BCR and DCC. Similarly, all CPTAC users (around 80) will be able to monitor various aspects of the IMS quality data, the program office (5 users) and QMS will likely account for 75% or more of monitoring activity usage.

Question 4: RFP Attachment 3, Statement of Work, Task 6, page Page 4 of 8. "This shall require programmatic integration with the existing informatics infrastructure at the DCC and BCRs." What is the data interface expectation with DCC?

Response 4: NCI expects an application programming interface (API) between the IMS and the DCC to automatically pull data from the DCC into the IMS.

Question 5: RFP Attachment 3, Statement of Work, Task 9 on Page 6 of 8. "A number of metrics regarding clinical meta-data, biospecimen management, and tumor proteomics/- genomics have already been identified, will be shared with the Contractor after contract award, and shall serve as a basis for a portion of the quality management reports." Can you share what those measures are?

Response 5: Here are some examples: percentage of cases qualified, total processing duration per case, ratio of downloaded data vs. publicly available data, and percentage of samples accounted for.

Question 6: RFP Attachment 3, Statement of Work, Place of Performance, Page 8 of 8. Would the government provide laptops for Contractor to work on at the Contractor's facilities? If servers are needed, will they be provided by the Government or does the Contractor need to furnish them?

Response 6: The Government will make available a production server inside the NIH firewall. All other equipment needs should be provided by the Contractor.

Question 7: RFP Attachment 3, Statement of Work, Section 1.1.10 Transition Tasks, page 6-7 of 8. What is the anticipated period of contract overlap during which the current contractor will be available during the transition?

Response 7: The contracts will overlap the last 30 days.

Question 8: RFP Attachment 3, Statement of Work, Section 1.1.12, page 7 of 8. Is Program Management Task 12?

Response 8: Program Management is not considered a "task," but rather provides information in reference to travel expectations, Section 508 standards, applicable IT requirements, etc.

Question 9: RFP Attachment 7, HHS Section 508 Product Assessment Template. For what product are offerors expected to complete the VPAT for submittal with the proposal?

Response 9: Please see page 8 of the SOW, Section 508 Standards. The applicable 508 standards are provided therein.

Question 10: RFP Attachment 8, Additional Technical Proposal Instructions, Page 1 of 6, Format Instructions. Please clarify what is meant by single-spaced "flip-up."

Response 10: The "flip-up" requirement is removed.

Question 11: RFP Attachment 8, Additional Technical Proposal Instructions, Page 1 of 6, Format Instructions. Please clarify if front matter in Section 1: Cover Pages and Table of Contents is excluded from the 120-page limit.

Response 11: Yes, cover pages, tables of contents, appendices and attachments are excluded from the 120 page limit.

Question 12: RFP Attachment 8, Additional Technical Proposal Instructions, Page 4 of 6, Section 3: Sustainable Acquisition. Please clarify what products offerors are expected to purchase as part of this acquisition.

Response 12: You are to report on any products that are deemed environmental products/services to be utilized under the resulting contract. If your organization is proposing none, you shall report as such. A report is required either way. Definitions of sustainable products is provided in RFP Attachment 8: Additional Technical Proposal Instructions.

Question 13: RFP Attachment 20, Information to Offerors, page Page 1 of 3. What software, hardware, and databases are in use for the current QMS?

Response 13: The QMS consists primarily of documents and the Information Management System (IMS). The documents are hosted on an NCI-provided document control system. The IMS is developed on a contractor-owned server and moved to an NCI server for production. Using an NCI server for production simplifies some security aspects of the system.

The IMS tracks quality indicators from 30 CPTAC institutions (grantees and contractors). Most of this information comes through the BCR and DCC. While there may be eighty (80) user accounts, most of the data are entered by four (4) users at the BCR and DCC. Similarly, all CPTAC users (around 80) will be able to monitor various aspects of the IMS quality data, the program office and QMS will likely account for 75% or more of monitoring activity usage.

Question 14: GENERAL: Will NCI consider extending the deadline to allow adequate time for offerors and their subcontractors to respond to the additional information provided in response to questions?

Response 14: The due date for RFPs remains unchanged. No extension is granted at this time.

SECTION J - LIST OF ATTACHMENTS, Attachment 1: Packaging and Delivery of Proposal (Non R&D), the following "Note" is hereby removed in its entirety and is not applicable:

NOTE: Please be aware that the U.S. Postal Service's "Express Mail" DOES NOT deliver to the Rockville, Maryland address AND delivery to the Bethesda, Maryland address will result in a delayed delivery to our office in Rockville, MD (up to 3 - 5 days). If a proposal is not received at the place, date, and time specified herein, it will be considered a "late proposal."