



National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

October 10, 2008

Memorandum for Prospective Offerors

Subject: Executive Summary Letter for Request for Proposal No. DACS08P2215, Antarctic Support Contract

The National Science Foundation (NSF) invites your organization to submit a proposal for the Antarctic Support Contract (ASC) in support of the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) as set forth in the solicitation, Request for Proposal (RFP) DACS08P2215. The RFP No. of DACS08P2215 shall be used on all correspondences, e-mails and submittals to NSF.

This solicitation is being released on the Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps) website. All RFP sections and attachments will be available for download from the FedBizOpps website. Paper copies will not be mailed. You are reminded to review the FedBizOpps web page on a daily basis for new information or amendments to the ASC solicitation.

Please note that the subject RFP No. DACS08P2215 cannot be used as a search reference within FedBizOpps. The "solicitation reference" called out in the FedBizOpps references the Draft RFP No. "NSF-AIL-DRFP-08-0001" which was originally issued with the Sources Sought Synopsis on April 30, 2008. Unfortunately, this number cannot be updated or changed in FedBizOpps. Therefore, all ASC acquisition information will continue to be searchable through FedBizOpps using the Draft RFP number of "NSF-AIL-DRFP-08-0001", however, correspondence, e-mails and submittals to NSF shall reference RFP # DACS08P2215.

This letter provides additional information and explanation of the RFP approach. The *effort* involves science, operations, maintenance, information technology, communications, engineering and construction support for the USAP. The USAP represents the national *effort* for scientific research in Antarctica. Individuals from various U.S. academic institutions, working under grants awarded by NSF, and personnel from other federal agencies perform research and specialized services in the Antarctic under USAP auspices. The contractor's primary role is to provide the aforementioned support for individuals deploying to Antarctica -- including deploying the researchers and their cargo, ensuring their survival and safety, and enabling the performance of field and laboratory work while deployed. The primary function is performed within the context of sustaining the existing infrastructure, and establishing new support facilities and/or capabilities as required by the NSF. To perform these functions, the Government provides substantial support from its own resources (primarily property, equipment, and transportation). Presently, operations are staged from Port Hueneme, CA; Christchurch, New Zealand; and Punta Arenas, Chile. The USAP maintains three permanent stations in Antarctica: McMurdo Station on Ross Island at 77° 51 'S, 166° 40'E; Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station at 90° S; and Palmer Station on Anvers Island at 64° 46'S, 64° 03'W. Other camps and locations are occupied on a seasonal or temporary basis. Oceanographic research is performed from the Ice Breaking Research Vessels Nathaniel B. Palmer and Laurence M. GOULD.

This acquisition is restricted to U.S. Firms only. This is a full and open competition solicitation with no small business set-asides. Only one award is anticipated for the ASC.

This will be a hybrid contract with the main effort being Cost-Plus-Award-Fee (CPAF), the transition-in being Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP) and other Contract Line Item Numbers (CLINs) being Cost-Reimbursable as set out in Section B of the RFP. Major Construction and Special Projects CLINs will be further developed as necessary after contract award. A Statement of Objectives (SOO) is included in Section C of the RFP which will require offerors to propose a Performance Work Statement (PWS). The SOO will be deleted at contract award and the PWS will be included in the contract at Section J, Attachment 2. Offerors will be required to supplement the surveillance plans (Award Fee Plan for CPAF CLINs and Surveillance Plan for non-CPAF CLINs) which will be located at Section J, Attachments 1 and 8 respectively. Please note that the Government will be providing Section J, Attachments 1 and 8 by RFP amendment. The evaluation criteria for award are set out in Section M of the RFP.

If you submit a proposal, you must: provide information required and complete all required blanks from the Standard Form 33 (Section A) through Section K (including Section J attachments). Fill out and ensure completeness of all applicable blanks for the "Representations, Certifications, and Other Statements of Offerors" in Section K of the RFP. Also, Section L attachments should be carefully reviewed and provided where and when required in the proposal submittal.

For planning purposes, the Government anticipates contract award on or about October 1, 2009. The period of performance will include a transition-in period from contract award to March 31, 2010, a base period from April 1, 2010 through September 2014, and four (4) two-year options which, if exercised, would take the period of performance out to March 31, 2023. There is potential for a total period of performance of 13.5 years.

Questions regarding this effort should be e-mailed exclusively to USAPrecompete@nsf.gov by COB on January 9, 2009. The NSF will respond to questions by posting answers at FedBizOpps and at <http://www.nsf.gov/> (then go to "Contracting Opportunities", then "United States Antarctic Program (USAP) Antarctic Support Contract"). The Government recognizes that proprietary data may be a part of your question(s). If so, clearly mark such restricted or proprietary data and present it as an addendum to the non-restricted/non-proprietary questions and/or comments. Telephoned inquiries, questions and/or comments will not be accepted.

Offerors must comply with two due dates for proposal submittal to NSF:

1. The first due date is associated with early submittal requirements under this solicitation. These requirements include early submittal of Cognizant Federal Agency information (including name of agency, point of contact at agency, telephone number, address, fax number and e-mail address) and Volume III, Past Performance, on or before January 5, 2009, 2:00 p.m. local time.
2. The second due date is for all other volumes (Volumes I, II, IV, and V) which are required to be submitted on or before February 23, 2009, 2:00 p.m. local time.

One-on-ones are anticipated to be held the end of January, 2009. Only offerors meeting the due date of the early submittal of Cognizant Federal Agency information and Volume III, Past Performance, on or before January 5, 2009, 2:00 p.m. local time, will be invited to participate in the one-on-ones.

Clearly mark all proposal submittals with: "RFP Number DACS08P2215" and "Attn: NSF Mailroom: DELIVER DIRECTLY TO ROOM 475" and "DO NOT OPEN." All proposal submittals shall be sent to:

National Science Foundation
Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support (DACCS)
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 475
Arlington, VA 22230
ATrN: Mr. Gunther Imer, Contracting Officer

Your proposal should be unclassified. Classified information will not be accepted. Please be advised that award may be made without discussions. Be sure that your proposal includes all requested information as award may be made based on initial proposal submittals with no opportunity for revisions.

All communication with offerors from RFP release until contract award will be through me, the Contracting Officer for this *effort*. It is requested that comments and questions be e-mailed to USAPrecompete@nsf.gov. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



Gunther Imer
Contracting Officer

Attachment (1):
RFP #DACS08P2215