



**National Science Foundation**  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22230

June 18, 2008

Memorandum for all Prospective Offerors

Subject: Draft Request for Proposal #DACS08P2160, Antarctic Support Contract (ASC)

The National Science Foundation invites your organization to submit questions and provide comments on the Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the ASC in support of the United States Antarctic Program (USAP). This Draft RFP is not a Request for Quotation (RFQ), Request for Proposal or an Invitation for Bid (IFB), nor does it restrict the Government's acquisition approach. Proposals are not requested at this time.

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 researchers and their cargo while ensuring their survival and safety, and enabling the performance of field and laboratory work. 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*.

A draft Statement of Objectives is included in the Draft RFP to provide a better understanding of the needs of the USAP. A tentative milestone schedule for the USAP competition along with other USAP information can be located at the USAP website at [http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support\\_ant/index.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp). As mentioned above, the purpose of issuing this Draft RFP is to receive comments and questions regarding this effort. Please e-mail all comments and questions to: [USAPrecompete@nsf.gov](mailto:USAPrecompete@nsf.gov) by COB on July 11, 2008. The NSF will respond to appropriate questions by posting answers at [http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support\\_ant/index.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp).

The Government will neither award a contract solely on the basis of this Draft RFP nor will it provide for reimbursement for any costs associated with preparing or submitting comments or questions in response to the Draft RFP. Nor will the Government pay for any ideas incorporated into the final RFP as a result of recommendation, questions or comments submitted in response to the Draft RFP.

The Government reserves the right to reject in whole or in part any recommendation made in response to the Draft RFP. The Government recognizes that proprietary data may be a part of your questions and/or comments. 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.

All questions and comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration for informational purposes. Although e-mail is the preferred method of transmitting all questions and comments, written questions and comments may be submitted to: National Science Foundation, Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support, ATTN: Ms. Karen Millisor, Contracting Officer, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephoned inquiries, questions and/or comments will not be accepted.

Please e-mail your comments and questions exclusively to [USAPrecompete@nsf.gov](mailto:USAPrecompete@nsf.gov). Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

  
Karen Millisor  
Contracting Officer

Attachment (1):  
DRFP #DACSO8P2160