

USAP-Industry-Day-Q&A

#	Question	Response
1	Can the Government identify the primary challenges for the follow-on contract from both acquisition and science/mission standpoints?	<p>This is a complex requirement. Some of the primary challenges facing the National Science Foundation (NSF) from a contract formation and administration standpoint include timing, service quality, contractor selection and contract pricing approaches, contract type approaches, project delivery, and promoting a culture of ensuring safety, diversity, and inclusion for the United States Antarctic Program (USAP). In addition, NSF is concerned with the best way to meet the challenges of long-term and complex services acquisition, including contract formation and administration approaches that emphasize the need to establish a solid working relationship between NSF and its contractor(s) and that will allow the parties to engage in ad hoc specification and adjustment of expectations throughout the life of the contract.</p> <p>Key challenges from a science and mission standpoint would be accomplishing world-class science in the difficult Antarctic environment while implementing new innovative strategies to keep the USAP on the cutting-edge.</p>
2	Can the Government also share preliminary details on the acquisition strategy (e.g., period of performance, base/option/award periods, contract type(s), full and open competition, best value evaluation, intent to establish a competitive range/down select)?	<p>NSF is at a very early stage in our planning efforts. Nevertheless, NSF's initial Industry Day provided the opportunity to discuss key program objectives and themes. Additionally, NSF shared pre-decisional thoughts regarding several elements of the plan for a follow-on contract.</p> <p>NSF hopes that these early exchanges with industry will foster partnerships that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) capture industry feedback about market capabilities and methods to fulfill requirements in innovative and possibly non-traditional ways; (ii) improve requirements planning and definition; and (iii) otherwise refine NSF's contract formation process.

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		<p>NSF invites and welcomes industry feedback regarding industry capabilities and any and all aspects of NSF's planning for the follow-on contract.</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov</p>
3	<p>Does the Government plan to release an independent Government cost estimate (IGCE) or resource/staffing estimate as part of the solicitation?</p>	<p>At this time, the Government has not made any decisions regarding the preparation or release of an IGCE or a resource/staffing estimate.</p> <p>To the extent interested parties would like to submit feedback regarding how such matters might be addressed in the solicitation or related cost or pricing matters, NSF expects to review the feedback as a part of its planning process.</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov.</p>
4	<p>When does the current ASC end?</p>	<p>NSF expects that the current Antarctic Support Contract (ASC) will expire under its own terms on March 31, 2025.</p>
5	<p>Will a URL link to the full slide pack be available to participants at today's Industry Day, please?</p>	<p>Please visit http://beta.SAM.gov for the Virtual Industry Day, under Notice ID: USAP-IndustryDay-01 and view the links and attachment.</p>
6	<p>Is the presentation available somewhere online or via download such that it can be reviewed as needed? If so, where?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 5.</p>
7	<p>Are there any specific dates for future informational offerings such as the [one] today? If so, when? If not, how can I stay informed as they become available?</p>	<p>NSF anticipates holding additional vendor outreach sessions, potentially including one-on-one sessions, and posting additional information to the public via http://beta.SAM.gov during the planning phase.</p>
8	<p>When and where will the list of companies participating in Industry Day be posted?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 5.</p>

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9	<p>What was the website mentioned for the list of attendees who wanted their info made public?</p>	<p>The website is http://beta.SAM.gov. The information for this Virtual Industry Day is under Notice ID: USAP-IndustryDay-01.</p>
10	<p>Could you share the information for the Small Business Office?</p>	<p>Please contact the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) Deputy, Francine Morris, at fmorris@nsf.gov, referencing “USAP Recompete” in the email subject line.</p>
11	<p>How can small 8(a) firms participate in this procurement?</p>	<p>NSF is exploring all possible strategies to meet the needs of the program mission and its small business priorities.</p> <p>As FAR 19.201 states, it is the general policy of the Government to provide maximum practicable opportunities in its procurement acquisitions to small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business concerns. That said, NSF has not settled on any particular approach at this early stage in its contract planning. NSF welcomes ideas from industry to address small business questions.</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov</p>
12	<p>Will the solicitation cite treaties and U.S. policies governing the environmental stewardship for all aspects of the USAP?</p>	<p>To the extent appropriate and as needed, NSF expects to provide citations to treaties and U.S. policies and other applicable laws and regulations in its solicitation.</p>
13	<p>Does the Government intend to include a PWS or require offerors to develop their own as part of the proposal?</p> <p>If using the existing PWS, does the Government anticipate incorporating any new scope areas or expanding existing scope areas beyond those in the current PWS?</p>	<p>NSF has received a number of questions about whether NSF intends to rely on a Performance Work Statement prepared by the Government or a Statement of Objectives where the offeror proposes the Performance Work Statement, or what structure the contract design may eventually take.</p> <p>To be sure, no final decisions have been made regarding the content of proposals and/or the content of NSF’s solicitation document, including the</p>

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	<p>Conversely, does the Government anticipate removing or reducing existing current PWS scope areas?</p>	<p>extent to which NSF might or might not prepare a Performance Work Statement or a Statement of Objectives where the offeror proposes the Performance Work Statement.</p> <p>NSF is seeking feedback on all aspects of the contract design, including structure and eventual work scope. The design of the future contract, or contracts, will be informed by the feedback received.</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov</p>
14	<p>Will there be a turnover period between current and new contractor? If so how long?</p>	<p>To the extent phase-in, phase-out transition services are required, NSF is interested in industry feedback regarding an appropriate duration for the transition and the nature and extent and phase-in, phase-out services that may be required.</p> <p>NSF also invites industry input regarding features within a solicitation that may facilitate an orderly transition. When formulating input, please note the complexities of transitioning operations and logistics support services in a remote location with unpredictable and difficult conditions with limited physical access during austral winter (June – Sept).</p> <p>As a point of reference, NSF notes that the transition period that occurred for purposes of the incumbent contract was 180 days.</p>
15	<p>Are there any requirements for co-location of staff in Washington, D.C. or requirements to keep the USAP office/data center in the Denver area?</p>	<p>NSF has not finalized its requirements at this time. Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov.</p>
16	<p>Staffing needs under CoVID restrictions</p>	<p>To the extent this statement is intended to inquire about possible COVID-related staffing constraints regarding the follow-on contract, NSF does not anticipate the need for any such constraints given the anticipated expiration</p>

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		<p>of the incumbent contract on March 31, 2025. That said, NSF will continue to monitor the situation and update its follow-on contract planning as needed.</p> <p>Please send any further feedback on this topic to recompete.usap@nsf.gov</p>
17	<p>Is there support for a contractor to provide Enhanced Use Leasing to provide increased infrastructure for the USAP?</p>	<p>Not at this time. NSF will review feedback on this topic as provided by industry.</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov.</p>
18	<p>Will modernization of the three stations be an integral part of the recompete scope or will services be procured separately?</p> <p>Can the Government provide information on AIMS construction, such as anticipated completion date and/or the progress of AIMS construction (phase or percent complete) to be expected at contract start?</p>	<p>Please see response to Question 13.</p>
19	<p>Thank you for providing the current performance work statement. Does NSF anticipate requiring bidders to write their own performance work statement (the approach used in the 2010 bid)?</p> <p>Or, will NSF include a performance work statement in the request for proposal (the approach used in bids prior to 2010)?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 13.</p>
20	<p>Does the Government anticipate directing continuation for any existing ASC teammates or relationships, such as Parsons (McMurdo modernization) or UTMB (medical)? If so, can the Government provide general details surrounding these arrangements?</p>	<p>While NSF welcomes industry feedback on whether its solicitation should or should not include provisions that direct or designate subcontracting, direct or designate sourcing, and/or direct or designate sole-sourcing, NSF intends to substantively address such questions at a later stage in its</p>

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		<p>planning process following review of any industry input. Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov.</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>Will the solicitation define the protocols that govern partnerships between the prime contractor and academic/logistics stakeholders?</p>	<p>We received a number of questions about teaming arrangements. At this stage, NSF invites industry feedback regarding proposed or appropriate teaming constraints for the follow-on contract. We are open to recommendations on how we can assist in match making sessions.</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov.</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>Can a better definition of attracting non-traditional teaming partners with a strong focus on science be defined? Does this mean investment, Universities and/or non-profits?</p>	<p>NSF invites feedback on innovative strategies for creating a problem-solving mindset to meet the logistical and science mission of the USAP, including ideas about how the contracting process might be used to encourage the best sources to become involved in the program within an environment in which the work can be pursued with reasonable flexibility and minimum administrative burden. Teaming arrangements can build on the strengths of each partner.</p> <p>Feedback can be sent to the Government via: recompete.usap@nsf.gov.</p> <p>To ensure communications are received and considered, interested parties should utilize this email address.</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>What is the role seen for Universities within the contract? Can a University make an exclusive teaming arrangement?</p>	<p>Please see response to Question 22.</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>In addition to industry partners, will a prime offer be permitted to team with foreign, academic, and non-profit organizations? If so, are there any restrictions that might be imposed on non-industry partners?</p>	<p>No final decisions have been made although NSF anticipates that its solicitation will address teaming constraints consistent with applicable law. At this stage, NSF invites industry feedback regarding proposed or appropriate teaming constraints for this requirement.</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov.</p>

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25	Timing of the acquisition given that the existing option period goes until March 2025.	Please see current anticipated timeline as presented.
26	Will NSF please provide details on the planned procurement schedule and process during the virtual industry day?	Please see current anticipated timeline as presented.
27	Can the Government provide general details regarding the acquisition schedule (rough dates for additional industry days, site visits, draft RFP release(s), final RFP release, contract award, etc.)?	Please see current anticipated timeline as presented.
28	For this Industry Day, (REDACTED) would like to gain a forecasted timeline of the RFP issuance and anticipated solicitation requirements.	Please see current anticipated timeline as presented.
29	What is NSF’s anticipated acquisition schedule?	Please see current anticipated timeline as presented.
30	When will the RFP be put out?	No schedule has been established at this time, but NSF anticipates that a solicitation may be released sometime in 2023.
31	Questions I would like answered center on what upcoming projects will require pre-engineered metal building systems and appropriate contacts among prime contractors and subcontractors for same.	NSF welcomes industry feedback regarding this topic. Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov .
32	Can the Government generally describe high level objectives/goals for the follow-on contract?	NSF is seeking a partner in enabling a world class Antarctic science program with seamless integration between operations and research support; innovation that will keep the USAP at the cutting edge of working on the continent; world class expertise in information, operations, and logistics to meet the complex mission; a proven track record of project

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		<p>delivery; diversity and inclusion; and a focus on safety. See also response to Question 1.</p>
<p>33</p>	<p>Does the Government intend to establish and maintain a virtual bidder’s library?</p>	<p>NSF anticipates that an online repository of documents necessary for proposal development will be made available to potential offerors at the time the solicitation is released.</p> <p>Please continue to monitor http://beta.SAM.gov for any updates.</p>
<p>34</p>	<p>Diversity and Inclusion - Which Diversity and Inclusion requirements beyond FAR 52.219 will the Government establish on the contract? How will performance be incentivized?</p>	<p>NSF anticipates that the solicitation will address requirements and incentives consistent with applicable laws and agency-wide goals. At this stage, NSF invites industry feedback for appropriate measures and methods to incentivize diversity and inclusion.</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov.</p>
<p>35</p>	<p>Has NSF reconsidered the use of a contract to support USAP, or would at least consider moving some components of USAP support (such as direct research support) to a separate Cooperative Agreement?</p>	<p>NSF expects that its follow-on transaction(s) will be contractually-based. To the extent interested parties would like to comment on NSF’s possible use of non-procurement contracts, NSF welcomes industry feedback. NSF has not made any final decisions regarding which form of contracting to embrace for purposes of the follow-on transaction(s).</p> <p>Please send feedback to recompete.usap@nsf.gov</p>
<p>36</p>	<p>Can the Government provide information on current contract types and incentives for construction efforts?</p> <p>This will enable offerors to assess the current situation and better prepare recommendations for potential new incentives.</p>	<p>NSF has no comment on current contract types and incentives for construction efforts at this time. NSF anticipates the use of site visits after release of the solicitation.</p> <p>While NSF welcomes industry input or suggestions regarding construction efforts (or other modernization efforts) as it relates to NSF's follow-on</p>

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		<p>contract, it does not anticipate substantively addressing such questions until at a later stage in its planning process.</p>
37	<p>Is the NSF going to issue separate TOs under the new contract or IT will be a subsection of the overall contract?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 13.</p>
38	<p>What is the availability of space on the annual vessel for construction materials and equipment?</p>	<p>Interested parties can learn more about Logistics in the Antarctic at the following website: https://www.usap.gov/logistics/</p> <p>Determination of allocation of cargo space to construction materials and equipment would be a logistical consideration for the contractor based upon the specific cargo vessel used and other on-ice project and sustaining activities.</p>
39	<p>Will NSF please describe the anticipated contractual relationship between the successful bidder and Parsons, the general contractor for AIMS design, engineering, and construction management?</p>	<p>Interested parties can learn more about AIMS at the following website: https://future.usap.gov/what-is-aims/ .</p> <p>While NSF welcomes industry feedback on whether its solicitation should or should not include provisions that direct or designate subcontracting, direct or designate sourcing, and/or direct or designate sole-sourcing, NSF intends to substantively address such questions at a later stage in its planning process following review of any industry input.</p>
40	<p>Lastly can you please comment if [USAP Managed Security Services/Managed Detection and Response] requirements would be part of the new contract or this is a procurement forecasted in 2021 under the current Leidos' contract?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 13.</p>

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41	Is there a link somewhere to the current contract requirements and/or the current contract details	As provided in NSF’s announcement for the Virtual Industry Day, links to information on the current contract requirement and/or details may be found at: https://www.nsf.gov/policies/foia.jsp
42	Why is this industry day being conducted now, as the current Leidos contract is not scheduled to expire until April 2025?	Please see response to Question 2.
43	<p>During the Industry Day presentation, NSF requested feedback on the solicitation process. What is NSF’s desired timing and vehicle for addressing solicitation topics?</p> <p>NSF’s Industry Day notice stated that “questions, comments, and feedback on all aspects of the information provided during the meeting” was due March 5. Since, other than general dates, Industry Day did not provide information about the solicitation process, we were unsure if the feedback NSF requested on solicitation topics was due on March 5 or on a future date.</p>	Please see responses to Questions 2 and 51.
44	Will you be providing a vendor list for interested parties?	Please see the response for Question 5.
45	<p>Will NSF distribute the industry day slides and recording?</p> <p>Also, will NSF distribute a list of the attendees who registered?</p>	Please see the response for Question 5.
46	In the Industry Day reminder sent out this morning there was a note specifically stating, “the presenters and NSF officials will not be available for discussion, so please do not attempt to contact them”. During the briefing, many references were made to highlight the importance of industry engagement with	<p>NSF is committed to providing clear understanding of the requirements to assist potential offerors in developing meaningful solutions.</p> <p>Program officials will not respond directly to questions but will only direct you back to recompete.USAP@nsf.gov.</p>

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	<p>NSF. We recommend allowing industry to reach out and communicate with these individuals to ensure clear understanding of requirements and enable all offerors to develop solutions that are meaningful to NSF and USAP missions.</p> <p>Please confirm the Government will allow industry to engage these individuals in the coming months/years up to Final RFP release.</p>	<p>Please direct all communication and feedback to recompete.USAP@nsf.gov</p>
47	<p>Can NSF please post company/persons names, emails, telnos of persons attending the first industry day for Antarctic recompetition?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 5</p>
48	<p>Is the presentation available to download?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 5</p>
49	<p>Will a recording be made available?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 5</p>
50	<p>Would NSF please post the slides presented on industry day (and any recorded material) as soon as possible?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 5</p>
51	<p>What are NSF's expectations for the content and format of the feedback due on March 5? Is this general feedback or response to the request for feedback?</p>	<p>NSF envisions additional opportunities for feedback beyond the March 5 cutoff, both general and specific.</p> <p>Please continue to monitor http://beta.SAM.gov for updates and additional requests for specific information.</p>
52	<p>Does NSF anticipate issuing a formal request for feedback/information in response to these issues? If so, will this be due on March 5, 2021 as well?</p>	<p>Please see the response to Question 51.</p>

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53	The topics where feedback is requested are broad and some touch on complex issues. We believe that the March 5, 2021 deadline provides inadequate time to fully address some important discussion items that could beneficially inform NSF’s acquisition planning process. Will NSF consider extending to deadline to allow time for more maturation of bidder thoughts on these important acquisition issues?	Please see the response to Question 51.
54	Will there be other opportunities to provide feedback prior to finalization of the acquisition strategy? If so, what are the opportunities, and do you have a potential schedule for those activities?	Please see the response to Question 51.
55	Can the Government address anticipated Small Business requirements?	Please see the response to Question 11.
56	Are there any small business set asides for this work?	Please see the response to Question 11.
57	What are the objectives for small business participation/ prime opportunity on the contract?	Please see the responses to Questions 1 and 11.
58	Will contractor be required to only hire US nationals other than Punta Arenas and Christchurch facilities?	Please see the response to Question 2.
59	Is NSF interested in proposals that include managing the USAP research program, such as investigator outreach, investigator training, peer review of proposals, etc.?	Please see the response to Question 13.
60	Is NSF interested in opportunities to involve researchers or STEM outreach in countries like Chile that assist with logistics on the US program?	Please see the response to Question 13.

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61	Has NSF thought about soliciting the IT/Communications requirements separate from the Operations and Science Support Contract?	Please see the response to Question 13
62	Does NSF have plans to replace the Gould and Palmer vessels?	No additional information is available to the public at this time.
63	Can someone re-post the agenda/schedule for the day again? Thanks.	Please see response to Question 5.
64	Transition Period - Does the Government anticipate the need for a 180-day transition period from ASC to the successor contract?	Please see the response to Question 14.
65	Are there any special constraints or requirements around IT and cyber data management systems and associated data center(s) for the follow-on contract?	<p>Interested parties can learn more about Information Technology and Communication Services (IT&C) for USAP at the following webpage: https://www.usap.gov/technology/</p> <p>While NSF welcomes industry input or suggestions regarding technological modernization efforts as it relates to NSF's follow-on contract, it does not anticipate substantively addressing such questions until at a later stage in its requirements development.</p>
66	Want to know more about the cybersecurity framework you build around the program	Please see response to Question 65.
67	Can you please elaborate if the new contract will require IT support scope as the previous one?	Please see response to Question 65.

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68	Also can you provide specific planning for cybersecurity services under the new contract? Are those separate requirements or part of the overall contract?	Please see response to Question 65.
69	Do you foresee a Tech refresh under the new contract? If yes can you please provide specific information? When was last one?	Please see response to Question 65.
70	Do you have an idea of when a more detailed scope will be posted?	Please see response to Question 2.
71	Is 2 pm Eastern Standard Time?	Times listed in the Industry Day agenda utilize the Eastern Standard Time (EST) zone. Time zone will be listed in future communications for coordination purposes.