

Acquisition

Presenter: Jennifer Shymansky, Polar Contracts Branch Chief



Acquisition Overview: Welcome

- Welcome to our first Vendor Outreach Session for the follow-on to our current Antarctic Support Contract
- Current Contract:
 - NSFDACS1219442
 - Leidos, Inc.
 - POP 12/11/2011 - 3/31/2025
 - Cost Reimbursement, with Award and Incentive Fee CLINS



Acquisition: Why Now?

- FAR 15.201 promotes early exchanges between industry and the government throughout the early formation stages of an acquisition
- Complexity of requirement and complexity of solicitation process
 - Draft RFP, site visit, resolution of questions, schedule contingencies
- Give Interested Parties time to form strategic partnerships
- The next four years: involvement and excitement about the future of the US Antarctic Program



Acquisition Overview- Notional Milestones

2021
Industry Day and Interested Vendor Feedback
2022
Draft RFP, Industry Day
2023
Release RFP, Site Visits
2024
Receipt of Proposals and Contract Award/begin Transition
2025
March 31, 2025 – Current Contract Expiration Date



Acquisition Overview: Key Messages

- We are looking for a partner in enabling a world class Antarctic science program, with seamless integration between operations and research support.
- We seek innovation that will keep USAP at the cutting edge of working in Antarctica.
- USAP has a complex mission which requires world-class expertise in *information, operations* and *logistics*.
- USAP is in a period of significant upgrades to facility and research infrastructure, a track record of project delivery is a must.
- Safety is paramount.
- Diversity and inclusion is at the forefront of NSF and USAP priorities.



Acquisition: Partnership

- Partnership between NSF and Industry
- *What would attract your interest in partnering with NSF and how can we move forward together?*
 - Common understanding and open communication
 - Draw on industry experience and best practices
 - Regulatory relief, waivers, flexibilities to build stronger partnerships
- Partnership between NSF and Awardee
- Supporting Offeror Partnerships
 - Encourage effective partnerships between science and logistics



Acquisition: Innovation

- Innovative Procurement Methods
 - Streamlining the procurement process
 - How can we reduce the burden of the costly and labor-intensive proposal preparation process through innovative contracting methods?
 - What is the most burdensome aspect of traditional procurements?
 - Down-selects, evaluation criteria, oral presentations?
- Proposing Innovation
 - Innovation in proposals – evaluation and incorporation into successful award



Acquisition: Expertise

- Draw on Industry Experience and Expertise
 - Scope of Work: logical and efficient requirements
 - Incentive Plans: what are useful motivators
 - Contract Type
- Consider and Expand the Range of Potential Solutions
 - Current state of industry capabilities
 - Don't want to limit USAP as capabilities and technology changes over time
 - Reasonable Period of Performance for follow-on?



Acquisition: Project Delivery

- Demonstrated Success in Project Delivery
 - Ensuring Continued Operations Support
 - Facility and Research Infrastructure Upgrades
 - McMurdo, South Pole, and Palmer Station
 - Balancing Scope, Resources, Schedule, Budget, Risk, and Quality
 - Managing staffing and corporate support to ensure resilient team
- Audit Preparedness
 - Management of Government property, FISMA, Business Systems
- Building Appropriate Incentives and Contract Structure



Acquisition: Safety

- Protecting Life, Property and the Environment
 - How to ensure safety across the program: Incentives on Accident Prevention, Culture of Safety, and Protection of Life and Property
 - Strict Environmental Protocols
 - Best ways to build contract incentives to ensure that all work in relation to this contract is conducted safely.



Acquisition: Diversity and Inclusion

- Consider Internal and External Approaches
- How can Industry lead the way?
 - Build upon an inclusive mindset
 - Draw from diverse experiences
- Small Business Subcontracting Plans
 - FAR 52.219-9
 - Meeting and exceeding proposed goals
- Seeking suggestions on incentives to ensure prioritization of this goal
 - Looking to build an acquisition strategy that reflects this priority



Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

- Francine Morris, Deputy Director of the OSDBU
 - NSF OSDBU Contact Information: osdbu@nsf.gov
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) helps increase contract and subcontract awards to small and disadvantaged businesses, and identifies potential businesses to support NSF. To learn more about contracting opportunities through OSDBU, visit: <https://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/osdbu.jsp>.



Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

- Teaming arrangement and Partnership
- NSF Subcontracting Goals
- Advocacy
- Industry Engagement
 - Small business capabilities briefing
 - Small business program questions



Acquisition: Summary

- Requesting Feedback and Open Communication
- Q&A and webinar will remain open during break
 - Pose additional questions in Q&A or to recompete.usap@nsf.gov
- Return by 2 PM for Q&A session



Lunch Break: Topics for Feedback

- What would attract your interest in partnering with NSF and how we can move forward together?
 - Best methods for communication/feedback?
 - Solicitation best practices?
 - Regulatory Relief/Contractual Flexibilities/Waivers
 - How to assist interested vendors make connections, including with non-traditional vendors?
 - Recommended Procurement Approaches? Evaluation Criteria?
 - What is most burdensome in proposal development – how can we ease that?
 - How to incentivize innovation as a shared success?
 - Scope – Incentives – Contract Type – Period of Performance?
 - Construction scope and incentives
 - Properly incentivizing construction project delivery, safety across the program, and utilization of small business concerns
- Email Questions to recompete.USAP@nsf.gov
- Please return by 2:00 PM for Q&A Session



Closing Remarks

Presenter: Quintin Hackshaw, Contracting Officer



Industry Day: Conclusion

- Open forum for feedback
- Additional questions may be submitted through March 5, 2021 at Recompete.USAP@nsf.gov . Responses may be posted to beta.SAM.gov.
- Potential offerors are reminded that all official information regarding the requirement and any resulting RFP will be posted on beta.SAM.gov
- Thank you for attending



Thank you for attending.

Please continue to monitor beta.SAM.gov for updates.

