

**Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation (T4 NextGen)  
Request for Information (RFI) Questions and Answers  
VA118-14-I-0558  
October 3, 2014**

Notes:

1. For efficiency purposes, the Government removed duplicative questions.
2. T4 NextGen is an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order (MATO) contract.

Number	Reference	Questions	Answers
1.	Certs	Will ISO 9001 and CMMI certifications be required for the Prime contract holder? If there is a requirement for ISO 9001 and CMMI certifications, can major subcontractors on Prime contractors team address this requirement?	No; however, these certifications may be required at the task order level. If required at the task order level, these certifications can be provided either by the prime or its subcontractors.
2.	Certs	Will final RFP require respondents to have certifications like ISO 9001:2008, ISO 20000:2011 ITIL "Service Management" be interchangeable for the purposes of meeting Task Order requirement?	No; however, these certifications may be required at the task order level. If required at the task order level, these certifications can be provided either by the Prime or its subcontractors.
3.	General	FFP portions will require "frequent delivery milestones." Will the government provide detailed definitions, or explanations as to what these milestones are or will be? And at what level (contract, or task order)?	Delivery milestones will be identified at the task order level and will be defined at that time as they are specific to the effort.
4.	General	Will VA provide a "mid-sized" business track or will the structure be the same as VAT4?	There will be no "mid-sized" business track.
5.	General	How many awards does VA anticipate? How many large business awards? Will there be set asides for Small Businesses, specifically Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses? Is the VA open having an 8(a) set aside section for this work? Are there planned reserve awards for small business other than SDVOSB and VOSB?	The current planned number of awards is up to 20. There will be reserves for SDVOSBs, VOSBs, and a pool of woman-owned and HUBZone small businesses. There will be no 8(a) set aside section.
6.	General	How will VA structure the awards categories?	The current planned reserves are for four SDVOSBs, four VOSBs,

			and four WOSBs and/or Hubzone SBs.
7.	General	Does the VA publish technology roadmaps by Functional Areas that map to VA's IT strategy? Where are these documents published? If they are not publicly available, will they be included with the solicitation? Will they be available with the solicitation or a Reading Room?	There is no roadmap by functional area. VA releases its Enterprise Technology Strategic Plan which can be found at <a href="http://www.techstrategies.oit.va.gov/docs/itroadmap/OneVA_ETSP_508C.PDF">http://www.techstrategies.oit.va.gov/docs/itroadmap/OneVA_ETSP_508C.PDF</a>  Yes a bidder's library is anticipated to be released with the Request for Proposal (RFP).
8.	General	Does the VA publish an overview of the major programs currently in place at VA (such as Vista) that include the size, scope, and technology of each? Where are these documents published? If they are not publicly available, will they be included with the solicitation or a reading Room?	OI&T publishes IT Program overviews at <a href="http://www.oit.va.gov/">http://www.oit.va.gov/</a> .
9.	General	For any sample scenario or live task order, will the VA provide detailed information via a Reading Room or Technical Library for each?	No, VA will not provide this information.
10.	General	Does the Government plan to distribute a draft Request for Proposal to industry for review and comment? When? Will the VA release Sections L and M along with the Draft Request for Proposal? If yes, how soon following the Draft RFP release does the government anticipate releasing a final RFP for bid?	See RFP.
11.	General	For the original VA T4 program, the solicitation included sample tasks. If VA intends to include sample tasks for VA T4NG, would you please release these sample tasks in draft form? What sample tasks will VA use to evaluate an offeror's ability to apply technical capabilities to real-world problem solving? Does the VA anticipate releasing Sample or Actual Task Orders with the solicitation? If it is the VA's intent to award a task order concurrent with the award of the IDIQ, will it be one or more of the sample tasks?	Sample tasks will only be released with the RFP. The VA will not disclose these sample tasks until release of the RFP.
12.	General	Will the VA hold one-on-one discussions with RFI respondents?	The VA anticipates holding one-on-ones. Instructions for one-on-ones have been posted to FBO.

13.	General	Will the VA hold an Industry Day? If so when? Will all Primes who respond to the RFI be invited to attend Industry Day?	Yes. Industry Day instructions have been posted to FBO and will be held in October 6, 2014.
14.	General	Does the government plan to select SDVOSB and VOSB companies first and only move to other types of small businesses if there are not a sufficient number of veteran owned offerors as it did with the original T4?	See draft RFP.
15.	General	The PWS makes several references to "VA specific task orders." Does this indicate that other agencies will be able to place orders against this contract and, if so, under what conditions? To what extent will the T4NG vehicle be used to address requirements at non-VA departments and agencies (e.g. the DHS CBP effort and the joint DoD-VA effort)?	The T4NG vehicle will be available to address requirements at non-VA departments and agencies.
16.	General	Will the Government look unfavorably on teams with 15 or more companies?	No.
17.	General	Are current T4 Primes eligible to participate in T4 NG?	Yes.
18.	General	Will the T4NG acquisition allow an offeror to submit both a proposal as prime, and to also be a subcontractor on a different T4NG Team? In other words, will the acquisition allow two offeror's to submit proposals in a prime/sub, sub/prime arrangement?	Yes, Offerors may submit a proposal as prime, and also be a subcontractor on a different T4NG Team.
19.	General	Will the evaluation criteria for T4NG proposals be weighted such that offeror's who have the capability to independently perform on all task areas be scored higher than those offeror's who have structured a Team that is capable together of performing on all task areas?	No, that is not anticipated.
20.	General	On the T4 competition task order performance had a low relative weight compared with other evaluation factors. Will this change on T4NG?	See draft RFP.
21.	General	Will second tier subcontracting agreements be disallowed as with the	No but Contractors will be required to comply with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)

		T4 vehicle?	52.215-23 Limitations On Pass-Through Charges (Oct 2009).
22.	General	Can VA consider evaluation points for companies that have a performance record of hiring Veterans to execute contract tasks?	See draft RFP.
23.	General	Will the VRM IDIQ vehicle be re-competed as a stand-alone vehicle or will this work be moved under the T4NG umbrella?	At this juncture it is unknown.
24.	General	Will key personnel be required for T4NG IDIQ proposals? Which positions?	It is not anticipated that Key personnel will be required at the basic IDIQ level.
25.	General	Does the VA have preferred Business Intelligence tool or are they open to partner supported COTS solution?	No. Required tools will be specified at the task order level.
26.	General	In the original T4 contract, joining multiple teams was allowed. Will this be the case for T4 NG?	Yes.
27.	General	Is T4 Next Generation viewed as a potential GWAC contract vehicle?	No.
28.	General	Will all task orders be competed among all primes?	Not every task order will be competed among primes, as set-asides may be used.
29.	General	Might the government consider Prime Awards per Functional Area for T4 Next Generation?	It is not anticipated that the awards will be made by functional area.
30.	General	Will there be any down select process leading to award?	At this juncture a "down select" process is not anticipated; however, a competitive range may be established in accordance with FAR Part 15.
31.	General	Will T4 Next Generation be a Department of Veterans Affairs mandated vehicle to be used as a first consideration for professional services acquisitions?	Acquisition strategy is determined on a case by case basis.
32.	General	Are there any envisioned 'standalone' tasks (e.g., Cyber Security, Mobile Application Development, Training)?	Task orders can be issued against individual and or /multiple functional areas.
33.	General	Will there be ORALS as part of the evaluation process?	It is not anticipated that Oral presentations will be required.

34.	General	How will the VA handle intellectual property rights?	Intellectual property (IP) rights clauses are included in the RFP and the resultant contract. IP rights will be determined at the task order level as the Government will set forth which IP clauses will be applicable.
35.	General	Has any vendor helped shape the issuing organization's need as outline in the PWS? If yes, who?	MITRE a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) provides technical expertise.
36.	General	If a prime offeror anticipates supporting the contract with multiple internal divisions, that operate under separate indirect cost pools, should separate rates be proposed for each division?	See draft RFP.
37.	General	The RFI references Network and Telecommunication Infrastructures (4.6.2). Does VA envision using T4 as a replacement to the Networx contract for the procurement of Data Network connectivity?	Acquisition strategy is determined on a case by case basis.
38.	General	Will the Government please clarify the ceiling value of the T4NG contract? Is the anticipated \$12B ceiling for the 5-year base period only? Will the ceiling be increased if the option is exercised?	See draft RFP.
39.	General	Can you please publish (on FBO) a list of the interested companies organized by: (1) interested in being a prime; (2) interested in being a subcontractor?	A list of interested companies will be published on FBO.
40.	General	Can you please publish (on FBO) a list of the existing T4 task orders, with their corresponding values and incumbents/awardees?	No, however this information is available from the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS).
41.	General	Will there be a need for COTS solutions providers in the proposals	There may be a need for COTS solutions; however, requirements will be specified at the task order level.
42.	General	Has the government decided what vehicle is most appropriate?	This acquisition will be solicited in the open market via FBO.
43.	General	When deciding on the budget has the government factored training in? How much training has been budgeted?	Yes, training is factored into the Government's independent cost estimate and is acquisition sensitive.

44.	General	We suggest that a formal On-Ramp/Off-Ramp process be established that allows Primes contractors to refresh subcontractors on their teams. This will allow Prime contractors to maintain teams whose capabilities align with the VA's evolving needs. This could be accomplished through "Open Season" allowed at the 30-month, and if the option is exercised, at the 60-month mark.	See draft RFP.
45.	General	Will contractors be able to sub across functional areas?	Yes.
46.	General	Will large businesses that acquire small business T4 primes become prime contract holders of T4 by virtue of acquisition?	See draft RFP.
47.	General	Would VA consider a small business size standard other than 25.5M such as 500 employee or 1500 employee?	NAICS 541512 – \$25.5M has been determined to be appropriate for this acquisition.
48.	General	Will performance scoring be more transparent?	It is unclear what “performance scoring” is referring to.
49.	General	Will the evaluation period still be 45 days or less?	It is unclear what evaluation period is being questioned.
50.	General	Will TAC be issuing more LPTA and T&M type contracts vs. FFP?	Contract type and evaluation method are determined on an individual task order basis.
51.	General	Is there a minimum threshold for the percentage of Technical Functional Areas within the PWS a company must be able to provide independently for it to be considered for a prime contract award?	No.
52.	General	Suggested Evaluation Criteria. We believe that a contractors’ ability to innovate and provide industry leading capabilities, especially in areas that are of major concern to VA, are of preeminent importance. Such innovation often comes from extensive commercial/private sector past performance. Will VA specifically call out and weigh innovative past performance in the commercial sector?	At this juncture it is not anticipated that this criteria will be used.

53.	General	Has the government considered adding cloud security requirements and certifications?	Cloud security requirements and certifications will be specified at the task order level.
54.	General	The Draft PWS is very general. Will the VA be asking to discuss just the contractors capabilities in the response to the proposal?	See draft RFP.
55.	General	Will there be another question & answer period once the Draft RFP comes out?	Yes. Instructions will be posted on FBO.
56.	General	You reference two ITSM approaches -- ITIL and CMMI-SVC. Which do you prefer?	There is no preference. ITSM approaches will be specified at the task order level.
57.	General	What are the requirements for EVMS? In accordance with the FAR?	Yes, EVMS requirements are in accordance with the FAR.
58.	General	What are the required EVMS capabilities of the vendors?	See PWS Section 8.1.2 Contract Performance Report (CPR).
59.	General	To ensure that teams can provide a comprehensive description of their capabilities, will the Government permit teams to provide past performance references that were executed as a subcontractor?	See draft RFP. The RFP will set forth Instructions concerning what references can be provided.
60.	General	To simplify the evaluation process for this contract, will the Government use a phased evaluation approach on this RFP including down selects of qualified teams at the end of each phase?	At this juncture it is not anticipated that a phased approach or down select will be utilized. See draft RFP.
61.	General	Including several NAICS codes will ensure that small and mid-sized businesses, as well as small disadvantaged businesses, can bring their unique capabilities and innovations to the VA. Respectfully recommend the government consider adding the NAICS 517110 to this opportunity.	NAICS 541512 – \$25.5M has been determined to be appropriate for this acquisition.
62.	General	With the vast majority of task orders firm fixed price will the government continue to require a detailed T&M type of level of effort breakout? If so, can the Government explain how these will be evaluated?	Requests for Task Execution Plans (RTEPs) will specify the level of detail required to be submitted for an individual task order.
63.	General	What was the total dollar of the Task	The current T4 contract is still

		Orders awarded on the current T4 IDIQ?	ongoing and has a ceiling of \$12B. Approximately \$2.5B has been obligated to date.
64.	General	Will the TAC employ a 2-Step process that was used to increase the SB vendor pool (On Ramp) for the current T4 for the entire T4 NG solicitation, that is Sample Task Solutions submitted 1st as a "gate" for Step 2. The "On Ramp" model encourages more competition from the vendor community and streamlines the TAC's work to reduce the competitive range to the best technically suited for overall final analysis and award. The 2-Step process also allows companies (and their associated teams) that do not pass the first gate to join teams that did successfully pass - thus giving VA access to a bigger pool of vendors and skill sets. If the TAC requires vendors submit their total offering to the solicitation all at once, the burden of proposing will discourage competition and may reduce VA's access to some of the best qualified companies to achieve VA's goals and objectives.	See draft RFP.
65.	General	At the last VA Industry Day, the VA announced that the T4 Next Gen would focus on three major areas: IT Services, Communication, and Health IT. The PWS for this RFI cites both IT Services and Communication; however, Health IT has not been included. Will VA be including specific Health IT Functional Areas in the final PWS?	Health IT has been incorporated in the relevant functional areas of the PWS.
66.	General	Pricing competition will likely be at the TEP level; how will the TAC handle "price gaming" on the IDIQ submission?	The RFP will contain language on how the Government will mitigate the risk of price gaming.
67.	General	Are there any minimum requirements related to Facility Clearance for the Prime Contractor that need to be met?	Security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
68.	General	Will VA consider enabling the enterprise through Single Sign On (SSO) or Fusion capabilities as it moves to a Service Oriented Architecture?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.

69.	Joint Ventures	Are JVs allowed?	Yes. JV agreements must be established in accordance with FAR and VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) requirements.
70.	Past Perf	If an SDVOSB Firm is planning to bid as a Prime Contractor for this IDIQ, is the government expecting that the SDVOSB firm should provide past performances working directly as a Prime Contractor on Federal Contracts?	See draft RFP.
71.	Past Perf.	With regards to past performance, will the VA permit the use of commercial contracts as past performance? Will VA evaluate Past Performance external outside of VA, including private sector, and weigh those experiences equally?	Yes. All past performance is weighted equally. Commercial and/or Government instances are allowable.
72.	Past Perf.	<p>Will the Government require three (3) past performance references from Prime SDVOSB vendors to show their experience relevant to the scope and complexity of the T4 NG Program? How many past performance references will be required for the prime contractor? For significant subcontractors?</p> <p>Can subcontractor past performance be used as part of an Offeror's proposal submission? If so, what are the parameters for using subcontractor's past performance?</p> <p>To ensure the most effective evaluation of the teams as a whole, will the government confirm that past performance from subcontractors carries the same weight as past performance from the Primes?</p> <p>To ensure that teams can provide a comprehensive description of their capabilities, will the Government permit teams to provide past performance references that were executed as a subcontractor?</p>	See draft RFP.
73.	Past perf.	Will the government confirm that teams can provide past performance references of IDIQ contracts as a whole to demonstrate the capability to manage multiple award contracts?	The Government cannot advise Offerors on how to propose. The instructions and evaluation criteria will be set forth in the final RFP.

74.	Past Perf.	Will the government confirm that the teams can provide past performance references of individual task orders under an IDIQ to demonstrate technical expertise and superior performance in the specific tasks described in the PWS?	The Government cannot advise Offerors on how to propose. The instructions and evaluation criteria will be set forth in the final RFP.
75.	Pricing	<p>"The Contractor shall address the adequacy of its accounting system as part of its price proposal." What does this entail -- a DCAA audit, corporate financials or other material?</p> <p>Is the Prime required to have a DCAA audited accounting system?</p> <p>Will the government require that primes have CAS compliant accounting systems?</p>	<p>Contractors are able to certify their accounting system via a DCAA audit, independent auditor and/or other material demonstrating the adequacy of its accounting system.</p> <p>Primes are not required to have a DCAA audited accounting system.</p> <p>It is not expected the primes will be required to have CAS compliant accounting systems, although there are limited circumstances where an individual order may require it if it does not meet the exemption categories at 48 CFR 9903.201-1</p>
76.	Small Business	Do potential companies need to be verified by the VA CVE in the VIP database?	To be considered for award as a SDVOSB/VOSB, the Offeror must be registered and verified in the Vendor Information Pages (VIP) database ( <a href="http://www.VetBiz.gov">http://www.VetBiz.gov</a> ) at time of proposal submission and at award.
77.	Small Business	Will the Government favor T4 teams with a core set of small businesses?	See draft RFP.
78.	Small Business	Given the TAC's experience with T4 with a single VOSB prime and the TAC's policy of creating opportunity and enhancing competition for all VOSBs, does the TAC anticipate making SDVOSB set-asides or VOSB set-asides under T4 NG as a matter of policy and/or practice?	Acquisition strategy is determined on a case by case basis. Set-asides may be used on a case by case basis.
79.	Small Bus	Will small business utilization still be a large factor in the performance scores?	See draft RFP.

80.	Small Bus	Does VA anticipate including Mentor / Protégé as a requirement for this solicitation?	See draft RFP.
81.	Small Bus	Please provide the Government's Small Businesses subcontracting goals (percentages) for the various socio-economic pools assigned.	See draft RFP. The subcontracting goals (percentages) for the various socio-economic categories will be set forth in the final RFP.
82.	Small Business	Will the VA set the date/time stamp for "reps and certs" to be the day the solicitation is released – not the date that ends up being the final proposal due date? By setting the date/time stamp for reps and certs to coincide with the date of solicitation release VA will have access to the strongest and most mature companies that qualify as SB primes in calendar year 2014 before the calendar year changes because most businesses map their financials to same. If the date/time stamp for reps and certs is coincidental with the date of submission, the VA may discourage the strongest and most mature companies that qualify as SB primes in calendar year 2014 from building a team and submitting a bid – leaving only the "next level down" Small Businesses in the pool of potential bidders.	Reps and certs should be current as of proposal submission.
83.	PWS 1.0 Scope -	"Contractors must be prepared to provide services and deliverables worldwide." Can VA provide further details regarding the types of international services which are required and the locations where they may be required?	VA has facilities worldwide which may require any of the functional areas identified in the PWS. See the following website for VA locations.  <a href="http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1">http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1</a>
84.	PWS 1.0	The paragraph below was included in the previous T4 RFP. Is this intentionally excluded?  Contractor-provided solutions may support the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its joint initiatives, other Federal Agencies, and if so authorized by specific Legislation (e.g. Public Law 108-136 Section 803), tasks for State	It is anticipated that this exact paragraph will not be included in the forthcoming RFP.

		and local Governments involving information technology and telecommunications that are federally funded"	
85.	PWS 3.0	Will there be a need for leasing of such services and/or hardware and software components?	Leasing may be required at the task order level.
86.	PWS 3.0	Is there an incumbent for any of the work described in the PWS?  Are they eligible to bid?	There are 16 Prime contract holders on the current T4 Contract. Yes T4 Primes are eligible to bid.
87.	PWS 3.0	The term "hardware" is used but not specified. Is this reference specific to PBX and Network equipment or does this apply to mobile devices, IT systems, and other equipment incidental to task requirements?	Hardware refers any IT equipment ancillary to the services required.
88.	PWS 3.1	Will multiple contract types be allowed on a single task order?	Yes.
89.	PWS 3.1	Will cloud service providers be required to have FedRAMP authorization?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
90.	PWS 3.1	Will the government provide specifications regarding cloud capacity, data storage, SLAs in RFP?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
91.	PWS 3.1	For Cost Reimbursement, are there specific award fee approach? For FFP, will there be any FFP LOE?	Contract type is determined on an individual order basis.
92.	PWS 3.2	What is basis for issuing an option with an additional five (5) years to T4 Next Generation?	The option, if exercised, will be exercised IAW FAR Part 17.
93.	PWS 3.2	Given the potential ten year duration for T4 NG, is the government anticipating having a process for on ramping and off ramping primes?	Yes.
94.	PWS 3.2	Is there an anticipated start date for the first 5 year period?	Government anticipates award in the second quarter of FY16.
95.	PWS 3.2	Are firms evaluated for exceeding the size standard during each 5 year period? If they exceed the size standard are they unable to compete for future SDVOSB contracts?	The Contractor's size standard will be evaluated at the end of the first five year period, unless it is required to otherwise re-represent itself in accordance FAR 52.219-28. If it is determined

			the Contractor has exceeded the size standard the Contractor will no longer be eligible for SDVOSB/VOSB set-asides. Additionally, the Contractor must be verified in the VIP database at the time of TEP submission and prior to award of a task issued on a set-aside basis.
96.	PWS 3.4	When working in Government places (i.e., Military) other than VA owned facilities, will the VA have the necessary interagency agreements in place or will that be the responsibility of the successful Task Order offeror?	Interagency agreements are the responsibility of the agencies; however, facility clearances are the responsibility of the Contractor and will be specified at the task order level.
97.	PWS 3.4	Can any of the work be completed remotely?	Specific requirements will be identified at the task order level.
98.	PWS 3.6.1	Will the successful offeror be required to conduct a 100% inventory or all GFP, GFM and GFI?	Specific requirements will be identified at the task order level.
99.	PWS 3.6.1	If required to develop software or create software "gold" disks, will the offeror release such software through VA owned equipment?	Specific requirements will be identified at the task order level.
100.	PWS 3.6.1	What equipment will government furnish?	Specific requirements will be identified at the task order level.
101.	PWS 3.6.1,	Has the Government previously provided hardware or Software to the contractor?	Yes
102.	PWS 3.6.1,	Will the Government provide a CD/DVD that has the standard VA desktop?	Specific requirements will be identified at the task order level.
103.	PWS 3.6.1	When will VA release an approved list of current Enterprise Software licenses that are available and recommended for use on projects? This type of important information helps to reduce costs and enhance interoperability.	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
104.	PWS 3.6.3	Will an approved products list be provided to bidders?	There is no approved products list. Please reference the VA Technical Reference Model (One-VA TRM). The One-VA TRM, which includes the Standards Profile and Product

			List, serves as a technology roadmap and tool for supporting OI&T. <a href="http://www.va.gov/trm/">http://www.va.gov/trm/</a>
105.	PWS 3.6.3	Based on this instruction, it would appear we would receive positive consideration for recommending a COTS or GOTS solution as part of a response. However, we would be concerned that, if development is called for, and we are aware of a COTS or GOTS solution, we would be considered non-compliant if we recommended such a solution versus the application development requested under the RTEP?	Specific development requirements will be identified at the task order level.
106.	PWS 3.6.3	The VA's prescribed approach is at times in conflict with at least some industry best practices. Can the VA consider incorporation of industry best practices along with PMAS requirements? Does PMAS always take precedent?	Consistent with the PMAS Directive, VA Directive 6071, all VA IT projects must follow the PMAS Guide whether the project will create new functionality, or enhance existing capabilities within VA's current systems or infrastructure. PMAS takes precedent for VA requirements. PMAS would not apply to non-VA requirements.
	PWS 3.6.4	Will connectivity include connectivity to federal exchange partners (DoD, IHS etc.) and/or connectivity with other health IT exchange partners such as HIEs, private healthcare facilities etc.?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
107.	PWS 3.6.4	"The Contractor...will bear the cost to provide connectivity to VA." Can the government detail the types of costs that are included?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
108.	PWS 3.6.4	Is the intent for contractors to provide support only or to also provide the required toolsets in addition to helping with the processes, procedures and policies?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
109.	PWS 3.6.4	Will the individual Task Orders pertaining to actual software development mandate fully VA-imaged Government Furnished Equipment (i.e. GFE laptops) and VPN access through	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.

		RESCUE GFE? It has been our experience that CAG access is not always sufficient for some necessary software analysis, design, or development tasks.	
110.	PWS 3.6.5	Will the contractors be allowed to change labor rates based on the location (COLA/HOLA)?	T&M labor rates on contract will only be subject to downward adjustment; however, OCONUS rates may differ from CONUS rates.
111.	PWS 3.6.5.2	States "All locations shall be approved by VA and in compliance with PWS paragraph 6.0, Security and Privacy." Do these locations need pre-approval prior to TO proposal submission or will they be approved upon award?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
112.	PWS 3.6.5.3	Are there any insurance requirements for Warranty of products for successful bidders?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
113.	PWS 3.8	Would VA consider a process change at the Task Order level to allow open source and COTS solutions to be proposed that are not on the TRM? The TRM tends to delay adding new products (and potential solutions). If a solution is proposed that is not on the TRM, then the process of getting the software reviewed and approved for inclusion on the TRM would be added to the project schedule.	Changes to the TRM policy is not within the purview of this contract.
114.	PWS 3.8	Does the OI&T Technical Reference Model (One-VA TRM) take into consideration or is it impacted by the DoD military healthcare systems of record? If not, how is the data/information stored on one ported to the other and vice versa?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
115.	PWS 3.8	Have all VA systems been converted to IPv6 or is there a plan in place that depicts the conversions to IPv6?	Per VA CIO IPv6 Directive all computing, application, and network resources must turn off IPv4 as a communication mechanism in VA by 2015 unless a waiver is approved.
116.	PWS 3.8	Will additional frameworks be named in the RFP so that contractors can	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order

		assemble appropriate resources?	level.
117.	PWS 3.8	Will the contractor be required to do work that requires compliance with the new Risk Management Framework (RMF)?	Yes.
118.	PWS 3.8	Will contractors be required to follow the VA Enterprise Service Management Model and support ITIL best practices?	Specific requirements will be identified at the task order level.
119.	PWS 3.8	For the anticipated migration to MS Office 2013, will Office 365 be leveraged to provide the software to VA users?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
120.	PWS 3.8	Is the VA looking into Virtual desktop environments?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
121.	PWS 3.8	Will the USGCB image be provided to successful bidders upon award for compliance testing?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
122.	PWS 3.8	Given the potentially 10 year period of performance of this contract, how will the technical standards expressed in PWS Section 3.8 (e.g. IPv6, Office 2013) be updated to keep up with changing technology and industry standards?	The Basic PWS may be modified to reflect current technical standards.
123.	PWS 3.9	Will Contractors unfamiliar with PMAS and ProPath (OI&T Tool), be trained on it?	PMAS and ProPath guidance is available at <a href="https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentListPublic.aspx?NodeId=27">https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentListPublic.aspx?NodeId=27</a>
124.	PWS 3.9	What SDLC is the VA using (Waterfall, Agile,...)? Beside ProPath, is the VA using other process management tools?	The Contractor shall use an incremental development methodology such as Agile unless otherwise specified at the task order level.
125.	PWS 3.9	How widespread is the VA's adoption of the "Agile" software development methodology?	"Agile" is the VA preferred software development methodology.
126.	PWS 3.10	Cloud Computing: Can the VA clarify their position on the promotion of Virtualization Technology in support of Cloud Computing and VA standards for shared infrastructure? This clarification	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.

		will provide the Vendor with additional understanding required to support technical Architecture constraints in support of IAAS designs.	
127.	PWS 3.10	Is there a specific platform (e.g. AWS, MS Azure) for Cloud Computing services?	No.
128.	PWS 3.10	Will the cloud environment(s) be made available as GFE?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
129.	PWS 3.10.	Across the Federal Government, departments and agencies are increasing efforts to consolidate data centers and leverage savings in public sector IT. With that in mind, what peer agencies and departments are the most likely to engage and support VA efforts in this area?	Unknown
130.	PWS 3.10	Does the VA plan to use a 3rd party vendor for Cloud computing or use its own data center?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
131.	PWS 3.10	Does the VA have existing enterprise agreements with cloud providers? If so, who?	No. Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
132.	PWS 3.10	Will SaaS solutions beyond just Cloud be sought by the VA?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
133.	PWS 3.10	Does the VA have any FISMA high cloud computing requirements?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
134.	PWS 3.12 Quality Assurance	"If required at the Task Order level, the rating of CMMI Level III or below..." Is this intended to indicate that no task orders will require CMMI above level III?	Yes.
135.	PWS 3.13	Are you addressing transition and Orientation Support from one contractor to the next or are you addressing transition of systems (hardware and software) from a legacy system to the new?	Transition and orientation support may include transitioning to Government or Contractor personnel.
136.	PWS 3.14	Will contractors be required to have and provide VA proof of flow down to subcontractor level and agreement by	VA does not require proof; however, subcontractors must adhere to all contract/task order clauses.

		sub to such provisions?	
137.	PWS 3.14	Will contractors providing hosted services be required to have facilities that are FISMA compliant/certified?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
138.	PWS 3.14.g	How/where will data generated overseas be initially hosted and stored?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
139.	PWS 4.0	Will submission of response require the submission of both OCI and PCI mitigation and control?	The submission of mitigation plans is not required at the contract level but may be necessary at the task order level.
140.	PWS 4.0	This section states that efforts under the contract might cause organizational conflicts of interest. Would the government consider contracting for separate pools of contractors to reduce this possibility? If not, how will possible OCI issues be handled? How will VA manage and communicate the identification of companies with OCI conflicts based on previous work? Will contractors working on IPT's and IBT's be considered as having an OCI?	A separate pool for functional areas is not being considered. The Government recognizes this may create potential organizational conflict of interest (OCI). OCI matters are fact specific, as such, OCI concerns will be handled on a case by case basis at the task order level IAW Subpart 9.5 of the FAR. It is the Contractor's business decision to bid on a particular task order.
141.	PWS 4.1	Do the terms "Problem Management" and "Risk Management" mean the same thing throughout section 4.1?	No.
142.	PWS 4.1	Is enterprise architecture at the VISN level?	Enterprise architecture is not limited to the VISN level and applies to the entire VA.
143.	PWS 4.1.3	What methods and tools are used for requirements development?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
144.	PWS 4.1.3	Can the VA provide expectations concerning respective staffing and skills mix, or will the RFP contain labor categories and descriptions?	The draft RFP will contain labor categories and descriptions.
145.	PWS 4.1.6	Are there VA-Specific Program Management Support Tools that will require Contractor Training?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
146.	PWS 4.1.6	Is there a specific KM tool in use now by the government or will the successful bidder be tasked to integrate one? Is this the same KM tool described in 4.2.10?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.

147.	PWS 4.1.6	As all new software development is mandated to follow an incremental development approach, shouldn't the program management functions and reporting be decided at the TO level?	Yes, it will be decided at the task order level.
148.	PWS 4.1.7	What tools or applications are used to store data (e.g., SharePoint, Doors)?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
149.	PWS 4.1.8	What industry service delivery standard is required by the VA?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
150.	PWS 4.1.8	Are there tools in use to support the ITIL framework? (e.g., Remedy)?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
151.	PWS 4.1.8	Does the government expect the vendors to have manufacturing capabilities?	It is not anticipated vendors will be required to have manufacturing capabilities.
152.	PWS 4.1.9	Beside IBM Rational ClearCase, does the VA use other development toolkit tools (e.g., Visual Studio)?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
153.	PWS 4.1.9	Is there a specific Development Toolkit the Contractor shall utilize?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
154.	PWS 4.1.9	Is VA transitioning to an IBM Jazz technology platform, including Rational Team Concert?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
155.	PWS 4.10	Does electronic training media have to meet 508c standards and requirements?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
156.	PWS 4.11.5	Will detailed physical security and safety requirements for cloud hosting facilities be stipulated in RFP?	Specific technical/security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
157.	PWS 4.2	How are the delineation of requirements and business process activities delineated between 4.1 and 4.2?	Functional area requirements are not mutually exclusive and may apply across multiple functional areas.
158.	PWS 4.2.4	Can you list current enterprise applications that need support?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
159.	PWS 4.2.6	What mobile platforms does the VA support?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
160.	PWS 4.2.5	What are the current systems? Is this Java, .Net or something else? Or is it a	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.

		combination?	
161.	PWS 4.2.6	Are there existing mobile devices and applications? Do these mobile devices interact with more than one VA system and application? If so, are they be identified? If there are existing mobile applications in use today, how are they secured?	There are existing mobile devices and applications. Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
162.	PWS 4.2.7	What mobile platforms does VA support? iOS? Android? Windows?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
163.	PWS 4.2.7	Are there examples of the types of wearable computing systems the government plans to implement under this contract?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
164.	PWS 4.2.10	Is the VA focused on using COTS products that have been tailored for VA applications (i.e., ERP such as Oracle, SAP, PeopleSoft) or is the VA focused on developing products which meet VA requirements?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
165.	PWS 4.2.12	Will the VA provide industry an overview of the existing infrastructure, including connectivity diagrams, hardware components and software applications to include where the main applications are stored and associated databases?	No. Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
166.	PWS 4.2.12	Will an ETL tool be provided by the government?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
167.	PWS 4.3	Will the Government provide a separate network (i.e., test or developmental) to allow demonstrations or will they occur on a live network?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
168.	PWS 4.3	Is this planned to be a single TO or will there be multiple TOs to engage successful bidders to provide this support?	This is an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order (MATO) contract. Multiple Task Orders are planned to be issued. Competition for task orders is expected unless an exception exists in accordance with FAR Part 16.

169.	PWS 4.4	Will Testing and Evaluation occur in a testing environment or a live network?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
170.	PWS 4.4	Will the Contractor be provided with VA-Specific T&E Templates to utilize? Will training of VA-specific assessment processes and procedures be needed?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
171.	PWS 4.4	Are T&E tools already defined or should the bidder recommend tools?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
172.	PWS 4.5	Will there be a standalone network (i.e., developmental or testing) in which IV&V may occur?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
173.	PWS 4.5	Will the Contractor be provided with VA-Specific IV&V Templates to use? Will training of VA-specific assessment processes and procedures be needed?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
174.	PWS 4.6	PWS says that the VA is planning to consolidate from Data, Voice, Video Systems to converged networks. If so, what is the target date?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
175.	PWS 4.6.2	Will this be for leased services or is the Government looking for a systems integrator to design, engineer, furnish, install, and test such infrastructures for delivery to the Government?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
176.	PWS 4.6.2.3	What video systems are in use (e.g., Polycom, CISO)?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
177.	PWS 4.6.2.4	Will the successful bidder be responsible for deployment of the physical layer? If so, what is the boundary of responsibility?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
178.	PWS 4.6.2.5	What are the primary SDN solutions (i.e. CISCO/Broadcom/Brocade/Juniper/Arista/HP/IBM/Dell)?"	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
179.	PWS 4.6.2.6	Will the Contractor install the single and multi-mode fiber optics or utilizing currently available fiber optics?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
180.	PWS 4.7	Will test and evaluation activities occur onsite at the VA? If not, will it be a requirement to have a test lab as part of	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.

		the successful bidders facilities?	
181.	PWS 4.8	What Tier(s) support is expected in support of O&M efforts?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
182.	PWS 4.8	Are O&M efforts performed during normal business hours?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
183.	PWS 4.8	What are the Operating Systems (Oss) of the server farm (e.g. Unix, Server 20xx)? How many servers is the VA managing? How many of the servers are virtual (physical and virtualized server instances)? What application is used for virtualization (e.g., VMWARE, HYPERV,...)?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
184.	PWS 4.8.2	Is Application support using Change Management processes based upon ITILv3?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
185.	PWS 4.8.4	For vulnerability analysis and testing, will Contractors have to provide their own vulnerability testing tools or will tools be provided?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
186.	PWS 4.8.4	Does IT security awareness and information protection awareness include formal training to be conducted by the successful bidder?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
187.	PWS 4.8.5	Are there specific availability requirements for VA systems under the contract?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
188.	PWS 4.8.5	Has Cloud been adopted for COOP scenarios?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
189.	PWS 4.8.7	What level of support will be provided? Tier 1, 2, 3, or all three levels?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
190.	PWS 4.8.7	What is the call volume by Tier on a yearly basis for day, evening and night shifts (Tier-1, Tier-2, Tier-3)? What is the average duration of each of a Tier-1, Tier-2, or Tier-3 call? What tools are used for Helpdesk/Service/Call center support?  What are current volumes, FLR/FCR, tools in use for ticketing, remote resolution, and knowledge. What are	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.

		the general performance expectations / SLAs (realizing that specifics will be contained in respective Task Orders)?	
191.	PWS 4.8.9	What tool is used for asset management?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
192.	PWS 4.8.10	What database environment is the VA using (e.g., MS SQL, ORACLE)? Is the VA using the Big Data approach? Is the VA using NIEM to communicate with other agencies?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
193.	PWS 4.8.11	Can you clarify the meaning of "The Contractor shall provide services related to software defined data center that includes a topology that extracts, pools and automates computations, networks and storage over multiple data centers including those owned by enterprises and service providers"	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
194.	PWS 4.9	Will the maintenance of FICAM LACS and PACS resources be included in the Cyber Security efforts?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
195.	PWS 4.9	What monitoring tools are used for system and network environments? What cyber tools is the VA using?	Specific technical requirements will be identified at the task order level.
196.	PWS 4.9.2	Is the VA using PIV cards? For building entrance and device authorization?	Yes, VA is using PIV cards; however, PIV card requirements will be identified at the task order level.
197.	PWS 4.10	Does the VA have an LMS? If so, which system/s is the VA using?	Yes. The current system is the VA Talent Management System (TMS).
198.	PWS 6.2	Are non-US citizens (permanent residents and/or work permit holders) eligible for employment as contractors and subcontractors under T4NG?	Yes; however, specific security requirements will be specified at the task order level.
199.	PWS 6.2	How long does the VA anticipate it will take to clear contractor personnel in comparison to the current T4 contract?	The Security Investigation Center (SIC) conducts the background investigations. Timeframe is dependent on the level of background investigation.
200.	PWS 6.2	Will contractors with security clearances from other organizations be eligible for reciprocity or will they need a new investigation to work on the contract?	Reciprocity is handled by the SIC and determined on a case by case basis.

201.	PWS 6.3 Facility/ Resource Provisions	"Contractor shall ensure all work is performed in counties deemed not to pose a significant security risk." Is there a publically accessible list of these counties?	Access to VA's network from non-NATO countries, with the exception of countries where VA has approved operations established (e.g., Philippines, South Korea, America Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands), is prohibited.
202.	PWS 6.5	The PWS states potential for up to Top Secret clearance; will a requirement for a TS FCL be instituted?	Specific security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
203.	PWS 6.5	Please identify any potential holding requirement for Secret or above material.	Specific security requirements will be identified at the task order level.
204.	PWS 7.3.2	"Labor shall further be broken out by labor categories, labor rates, and hours" for FFP bids. Can we assume this is just for "cost basis" purposes as invoicing would be done once specific project milestones had been achieved or against a Task Order specific payment schedule without hours details?	PWS Section 7.3.2.C.1 applies to the submission of the price proposal volume at the task order level.
205.	PWS 7.3.2	Section E references a Technical Volume. Is there a required format akin to the Proposal Summary Volume discussed in section A?	Reference PWS paragraph 7.3.2.E.4 for Technical Volume formatting requirements at the task order level. The content of the technical volume is specific to the RTEP requirements.
206.	PWS 7.3.2	Seven Day RTEP Response Time. We recommend the government consider a slightly longer standard response time for TEPs. The requests are many times very complex and are of high dollar value that both small and large businesses need to consider and bid carefully. A few extra days up front can pay for itself readily in improved delivery. Positive impact to both government and contractor.	VA considers RTEP response times based on the complexity of the task orders; however TEPs are typically due within seven work days of receipt of the RTEP, or unless otherwise specified in the RTEP. Additionally, task order draft PWS's are generally posted in advance for comments and feedback.
207.	PWS 7.3.2 Task Execution Plan, B. 4	"When both the Prime and/or Subcontractor bid the program manager and/or project director, labor categories, detailed rationale shall be provided." We don't understand this statement. It seems unlikely that a prime and their	There have been instances in which a Prime and Subcontractor program manager have been proposed.

		subcontractor would both bid any labor category in response to an individual RTEP.	
208.	PWS 7.3.2, paragraph B.2	Use of Non-Subcontractor Firms as ODCs. On the current T4 contract, 'non-official team member companies' are allowed to be bid as ODCs on RTEPs. Does the government anticipate continuing this practice on T4NG?	Yes.
209.	PWS 7.3.3	Is the "company" referenced The MITRE Corporation or someone else?	Yes, it's the MITRE Corporation.
210.	PWS 7.3.3	Is the MITRE Corporation the only non-Government advisors being used for TEP evaluations or will the program offices have SETA contractors to assist? Is the Technical section in a given TEP the only section where non-Government personnel will assist in evaluations or will assistance be required elsewhere (i.e., management, etc.) on an as required basis?	MITRE Corporation is the only non-Government advisors being used.
211.	PWS 7.5	This paragraph implies that follow-on task orders may be awarded without competition. Is this a correct interpretation as there may be companies who lost out on the initial award are still capable of provided the solutions the government desires.	Yes. A logical follow-on may be issued IAW FAR 16.505 for services and/or products and is an exception to competition in accordance with statute and regulation.
212.	PWS 7.3.2	"If the prime subcontracts 70% or greater, the prime shall provide a value-added statement for the proposed prime dollars IAW FAR 52.215-23 (Only applies to T&M and CR tasks)" Is this intended to apply only to large business primes?	No.