

Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation (T4NG)
Industry Day Questions and Answers
VA118-14-I-0558
October 30, 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	Questions	Answers
1.	Does a potential bidder have to have capabilities in all functional areas?	The prime contractor and its proposed subcontractors must provide all capabilities to meet all functional areas of the PWS.
2.	As Evaluation Factors include Veterans Involvement and Veterans Employment, is there guidance the VA can give to indicate a numeric/percent threshold for the relative level of credit in evaluation given for Vet involvement/employment?	<p>Veterans Involvement will be evaluated as follows. An VOSB/SDVOSB prime will receive credit. Other primes will receive some consideration if they agree to subcontract at least 12% to VOSBs and 10% to SDVOSBs subcontractors.</p> <p>There are no numeric thresholds for the Veterans Employment Factor. The Veterans Employment Factor will be evaluated based on how many Veterans are employed by the Offeror and the percentage of the Offeror's workforce comprised of Veterans to demonstrate the Offeror's level of commitment to employing Veterans.</p>
3.	It was stated that SDVOSB Primes must be CVE-verified and listed in VIP. Do SDVOSB-led Joint Ventures that are established specifically to propose to T4NG have to be CVE verified and listed in VIP, or just its SDVOSB Managing Member?	IAW 38 CFR Part 74 the SDVOSB JV is required to be CVE verified, in order to substantiate the eligibility requirements. Specifically 38 CFR 74.1 under the joint venture definition it states "[f]or a VA contract, a joint venture must be in the form of a separate legal entity".
4.	If SDVOSB-led Joint Ventures must be CVE verified, by when?, proposal submission or by award?	To be considered for award as a SDVOSB/VOSB, the Offeror must be registered and verified in the Vendor Information Pages (VIP)

		database (http://www.VetBiz.gov) at time of proposal submission and at time of award.
5.	Based on FAR parts 127.500, 127.501(a), and 127.502, which points to SBA guidance regarding NAICS designations for WOSBs and EDWOSBs, the 4 awards should be designated as EDWOSB and not WOSB because the awards will be under NAICS code 541512.	The Government concurs and awards will be reserved for EDWOSBs IAW with SBA regulations.
6.	Regarding Volume II, Past Performance, is there a minimum amount of time a company must be performing on a contract before it will be counted by the Government as qualifying past performance for the purposes of Volume II and Evaluation Factor II?	No there is no minimum amount of time the company must be performing on contract provided that the contract meets the RFP definitions of "Recent" and "Relevant".
7.	Regarding Evaluation Factor II, Past Performance, page 108 of the Draft RFP refers to "CTA" (IAW FAR subpart 9.6) and Volume II requires that these CTAs be included in the volume. Are these CTAs simply subcontractor Teaming Agreements? Does the Government have any samples of CTAs, or any specific minimum requirements for what a compliant/responsive CTA must contain within it?	Yes CTAs are simply written agreements between the Prime contractor and each of its subcontractors IAW FAR subpart 9.6. There is no specified format for these and the Government has no sample CTAs to provide.
8.	Page 101 states, "Prime Offerors shall submit up to three (3) instances and major subcontractors shall submit up to two (2) instances of Federal, State or Commercial contracts (prime contracts, task/delivery orders, and/or major subcontracts in performance during the past three years from the solicitation date of issuance), which are relevant to the efforts required by this solicitation." Is this two past performance references for each major subcontractor? (and therefore for a total maximum of six (6) past	The maximum number of past performance instances that can be submitted is nine (9). Three (3) from the prime and two (2) for each of the three major subcontractors.

	performance references for the maximum of three (3) major subcontractors?) Or alternatively, is this referring to a total of two (2) past performance references from all major subcontractors (so that therefore only one or two of the maximum of three major subcontractors may submit subcontractor past performance references?)	
9.	Will the Government provide specific guidance regarding the number of Questionnaires required for each past performance instance? For example, are Questionnaires required from both the Contracting Officer and the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative?	There is no limitation on the number of questionnaires submitted per past performance instance.
10.	The Volume IV Veteran Employment spreadsheet calculates "Percentage of Veterans employed by the Prime Offeror". How would Veteran Employment be rated/evaluated in the case of a Joint Venture (JV)? Does it count the employees of the JV? Does it count the employees of managing/controlling member? Does it count the employees of all members? Is it some combination of these? If it is some combination, can an offeror choose to count only the percentage Veterans employed by the JV itself and not include the member companies?	This factor will consider all the employees of each company that is part of the Joint Venture.
11.	For Volume IV Veteran Employment and Evaluation Factor IV, is the "percentage of Veterans employed by the Prime Offeror" the only data element which is evaluated for the Veteran Employment factor? If additional data elements or calculations are evaluated for that factor, can the Government explain/elaborate?	There are no additional calculations or data elements other than the number of Veterans employed, total number of employees and percentage of Veterans employed by the Prime Offeror .

12.	For Volume V Small Business Participation, there is a small spreadsheet for offerors to submit proposed small business participation. How are the percentages calculated for members of a JV? For example, in a hypothetical scenario where a JV is offering as Prime contractor and is proposing that the JV will perform 51% of the total workshare, and a member of that JV is itself a HUBZone company and that particular member owns 49% of the JV, and if there were no other HUBZone subcontractors to the JV other than that member, would the resulting proposed HUBZone participation to be entered into the Volume V spreadsheet be counted as 51%? Or would it be 49% of 51% = 24.99%?	Small business Participation Commitment goals are at the discretion of the Prime Offeror. The percentages proposed for the Goals will be incorporated into any resulting contract in accordance with H-4 Small Business Requirements.
13.	During the teleconference you discussed off-ramping a contractor who is no longer eligible during small business. At what point do you off-ramp? Yearly or after the first ordering period – 5 years?	Please see H-2 clause which details when the a contractor may be off-ramped.
14.	Will HUBZone companies that are responding as a Prime to the T4 NG RFP be eligible for the SBA HUBZone price preference percentage when the government does their proposal evaluation?	IAW 52.219-4, Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns, HUBZone companies may accept or waive the evaluation preference. If an offeror elects to receive a Price evaluation preference, at least 50 percent of the cost of personnel for the total T4NG Basic contract performance must be spent for employees of the concern or employees of other HUBZone small business concerns. Note that if this preference is accepted, failure to meet the 50 percent requirement may result in termination for failing to meet FAR clause 52.219-4.

15.	Referencing Page 101 of the Draft RFP, Volume II Past Performance Files, is the \$1,000,000 threshold the total value of the contract the past performance being cited or the amount the referencing company performed on that contract?	The \$1,000,000 threshold is the value of the effort performed by the company via a task order, contract or subcontract.
16.	If a company is in the process of being evaluated by CVE to become SDVOSB at time of proposal bid, but finally deemed officially SDVOSB before the initial evaluation is concluded (said to be August 2015, so probably months beforehand), will they still be able to be evaluated as a SDVOSB?	No, Offerors must be verified in VIP at time of proposal submission and at time of award.
17.	Will VA T4NG Awardees be able to add Subcontractors to their team following contract award or at the Task Order Level without Contracting Officer Consent?	Yes. For T&M orders the labor rate for the proposed subcontractor shall not exceed the blended labor rate on contract.
18.	It is our understanding that currently, a WOSB or HubZone company that submits a bid will only have a chance to compete if in the initial 4 SDVOSB and 4 VOSB there are not 4 companies awarded that also have a WOSB and/or Hubzone designation. For a women-owned small business or Hubzone, the investment to pursue T4NG is high and with the potential that their bid is may not be evaluated, some WOSB and Hubzone companies may find that risk too high. Has the TAC given any consideration to ensuring that some minimum number of WOSB and/or Hubzone, non-Veteran owned, companies be awarded a spot on T4NG?	There will not be a minimum reserve set that only includes non-Veteran owned WOSBs or HUBZone businesses; however, these Offerors can compete in Step One and also in Step Three if the reserve has not been met. Additionally, if a total of twenty awards are not reached through step three, there still may be an opportunity to make additional awards to best value proposals remaining in the competitive range without regard to the size of the Offeror.
19.	The current draft for T4NG states that WOSB and Hubzone must certify their size status at time of	No, this is not being considered.

	<p>submission and time of award. While this aligns with the VETS First law, it seems to run contrary to other IDIQs/GWACs and the FAR Subpart 19.3 which states a Woman Owned Small Businesses and Hubzones must certify at original time of submission unless there is a triggering event. Would the TAC consider amending this requirement for WOSB and Hubzone to match the FAR and only require certification at time of award?</p>	
20.	<p>Will you release attachments 001, 002, 011, 012, 013, 015 and 016 prior to the release of the final RFP? If so, when will they be made available?</p>	<p>The Government intends to release draft attachments other than Sample Tasks as they become available.</p>
21.	<p>What, if any, information is required in the Small Business volume other than the spreadsheet?</p>	<p>At this time no further information will be required.</p>
22.	<p>Will information other than the SBPC spreadsheet be evaluated under the SBPC factor?</p>	<p>No.</p>
23.	<p>Are offerors required to submit CTA's for the same company in both Management and Past Performance volumes?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
24.	<p>Are the CTA's counted against the page limitation in the Management volume?</p>	<p>No, CTA's will not count towards the page limitation. This will be set forth in the Solicitation.</p>
25.	<p>Is the spreadsheet set forth in Section L Volume V SBPC the same as the one referenced in Section J, Attachment 013?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
26.	<p>Is the spreadsheet set forth in Section L Volume IV Veterans Employment the same as the one referenced in Section J, Attachment 011?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

27.	Section L Price Volume VI – What will the Government do with the Price Methodology file?	The Price Methodology file is used for post award purposes.
28.	VA says under basis of awards that VA anticipates 20 awards; 12 to SB, including four to SDVOSB, four awards to VOSB, and four awards to WOB, and/or Hubzone, which means there will be a maximum of eight awards to other than SB, correct ?	No, not necessarily. The Government reserves the right to make awards to any size company in step one and step four if a total of twenty awards have not been made through step three.
29.	VA allows offer to submit past performance for prime and up to three major subcontractors; does VA ask that the past performance cover the functionality of the entire PWS?	Areas of relevance include contracts greater than \$1,000,000 which provide any combination of the IT services similar to those required under functional areas 4.1 through 4.11 of the T4NG PWS
30.	VA will evaluate management approach to see if it will meet PWS requirements; does VA expect offeror team to be able to address all functionality called for in PWS?	Yes. VA will evaluate the management approach and VA expects that an Offeror's team be able to address all functionality called for in the PWS.
31.	Refers to CTA per FAR 9.6, such reference allows for normal sub-prime teaming, and does not refer to GSA CTA, whereby both prime and sub are required to have GSA schedules and bid from such, correct ?	CTA as required in the T4NG RFP does not refer to GSA CTA.
32.	What percentage or portion of revenue was from non-VA agencies under T4?	Less than 2% to date.
33.	Can VA consider evaluation points under the Veteran Employment Approach for companies that have a Veteran employment engagement plan that values hiring Veterans and contributing to Veteran transition from military to private sector?	At this juncture VA does not anticipate doing so.
34.	Please confirm that non-VA agencies will be able to use the	This vehicle may be available to other agencies.

	T4NG vehicle to address their requirements in line with the T4NG PWS.	
35.	Does the VA anticipate awarding one or more of the Sample Tasks concurrent with award of an IDIQ contract?	No.
36.	Are the sample tasks funded?	No.
37.	How many proposals were received by the VA on the first T4 contract?	107
38.	In light of the importance of the following nationwide issue - request VA consider evaluation of a team's subcontractors number of Veterans employed in addition to the prime's number of Veterans employed to gain a broader view of this factor.	While Government applauds and appreciates subcontractor Veteran employment, there is no means to monitor/control subcontractor Veteran employment as the Government does not have privity of contract with the subcontractor , therefore the Government only intends to evaluate the Prime contractor in connection with this area.
39.	Will the Government make a provision for companies to compete while pending CVE approval, but must be approved at contract start date since the POP Start is June 2016? This will provide ample time for CVE approval. Current minimum CVE approval is between 3-6 Months.	No. Offerors must be verified in VIP at time of submission and at time of award.
40.	Does the Vet employment factor apply to current Reserve and Guard members, or must you be totally discharged from the Service? The solicitation (pg 102, draft RFP) requires an honorable discharge, which seems to indicate that a Reservist or Guardsman must no longer be active in the Guard or Reserve while working for an offeror.	A Veteran is defined as an honorably discharged member of active duty military, reserve or National Guard.
41.	We understand that there will be no prime awards, other than small	No.

	business set asides, designated for Veteran owned or service disabled Veteran owned businesses. Would VA consider additional evaluation points for teams that include "other than small" businesses that are Veteran or service disabled Veteran owned? These companies represent an extensive knowledge base resulting from your SDVOSB and VOSB programs and further support Veteran and service disabled Veteran businesses as they exceed the initial small business NAICS 541512 revenue cut off and continue to grow and succeed while providing credit to teams that utilize these Veteran owned companies over other mid-tier and large businesses.	
42.	Based on the explanation of the 4 Step process, it reads as if an initial Step will take place to first establish what firms are in the competitive range. Is that correct?	No, there is no initial step to down select proposals. The competitive range will be based on the most highly rated proposals with appropriate consideration given to the six (6) evaluation factors. Then Steps One through Four will be utilized. Note however, that the number of proposals in the competitive range may be limited in order to conduct an efficient competition.
43.	Will these firms then be ranked within the range?	It is not anticipated that VA will rank proposals in this solicitation.
44.	Will there be a separation of large business from small business before establishing the CR?	The Government will select the most highly rated proposals taking into account the four-step selection process.
45.	Once you are evaluated to be within the competitive range, how could you be eliminated from receiving an award?	You will not receive an award if you are not among the Offerors determined to be the most beneficial to the Government, with appropriate consideration given to the six (6) evaluation factors.
46.	What will the scale be for Technical? e.g. Outstanding, Good,	The Government will not provide the adjectival ratings at this time.

	Acceptable, Unacceptable?	
47.	Technical involves 3 sample tasks. Does this mean proposing 3 separate technical approaches?	The Government is not answering questions relative to the sample tasks.
48.	What are the sub factors for Veteran's Involvement?	There are no subfactors for this factor.
49.	The RFP only mentions subcontracting plans to SD and VO SB which can be evaluated in the SB Participation Commitment Factor. Does Veteran Involvement assess a firm's participation level with Veteran Programs e.g. Wounded Warriors, Homeless Vets, etc.?	No.
50.	We suggest NAICS codes including: 521610 Facilities Support Services (Size Standard - \$38.5M) or 521610, NAICS 518210 Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services (Size Standard - \$32.5M). Is the NAICS code set in stone?	The NAICS code 541512 was deemed the most appropriate code based on market research and prior experience.
51.	What is the first year forecast of new work vs. follow-on work being executed on the current T4 contract, given there is an overlap in the PoPs of the two contracts? Can this be quantified?	There is no forecast of work to be executed under the current T4 contract vice T4NG during the overlap period.
52.	We recommend that ISO and CMMI certification for software development, for the large business primes, be considered as an advantage during proposal evaluation, at the IDIQ level. If potentially required at the task order level, this may require teammates to fulfill the capability and would be more encompassing if the Prime had those skills from the beginning, and higher scoring for large firms that have that those qualifications should be considered	ISO and CMMI certifications may be required for individual task orders. These are not required at the IDIQ level and therefore will not be evaluated.
53.	Since the vehicle may be available for non-VA agencies (e.g. DHS,	All recent and relevant past performance instances are viewed

	DoD), will a prime's past performance for organizations like those be viewed as equally important as VA-direct experience, as long as that past performance maps well to the T4 Next Generation PWS requirements??	equally.
54.	Do primes have to have their SBPP's re-evaluated (or do we disclose) when some subs graduate from socio-economic categories, at the end of each performance year?	Proposed SBPC percentages will be incorporated into the contract and do not change as a result of subcontractors graduating from socio-economic categories. In meeting these percentages, subcontractors proposed to perform under individual task orders meet the requirement of that specific socioeconomic category in order to receive credit for that SBPC percentages at time of Task Execution Plan (TEP) submission, however, maintain that status throughout the life of the task order.
55.	We are struggling with the need to have a very large team vs. the ability to add new subs on specific task order bids to cover unique requirements (you can't forecast every contingency when you are bidding the IDIQ). Will the On-Ramp feature of the contract allow for adding new subcontractors, consistent with the IDIQ SBPP, when bidding task orders? Would they be priced as ODCs in those task orders? This would provide maximum flexibility to respond to VA requirements; please advise	The On-Ramp feature is solely for the addition of prime contractors. Subcontractors may be added at any time. Clause 52.244-2 is applicable.
56.	Will small business certifications (e.g., Hub Zone, 8(a)) for small businesses that are subs be required at time of submission and/or award?	Proof of certification is required for Prime Offerors. No proof of Certification is required for subcontractors; however, the Government may verify the socioeconomic status of the proposed subcontractors. Note: The percentages proposed for Small

		Business Participation will be incorporated into any resulting contract in accordance with the clause in Section H, Small Business Participation Requirements.
57.	Are the Sample Task Orders required to be submitted in separate files or will they be embedded as part of the Technical Volume?	Sample tasks are part of the Technical Volume; however, each sample task submission requires its own PDF.
58.	The DRFP states: "The Offeror's proposal shall consist of seven volumes. The Volumes are I - Technical, II – Past Performance, III – Veterans Involvement, IV – Small Business Participation Commitment, V – Veterans Employment, VI - Price and VII - Solicitation, Offer and Award Documents and Certifications/Representations. However, in sections L.6.2.c and L.6.2.c.iv the Veterans Employment Volume is labeled as Volume IV. Will the government please change the Veterans Employment volume number in section L.6.1.a to IV?	This has been corrected.
59.	The DRFP states " (4) Performance Risk Assessment Questionnaire. Performance Risk Assessment Questionnaires, found at Section J Attachment 016 of the solicitation, must be completed and submitted for all contract(s)/task order(s) identified in Section 1." These questionnaires are completed by the customers and sent directly to the VA. Will the government specify what it requires to be included in section 4?	The offeror is required to have the questionnaires completed and submit these as part of its proposal.
60.	The DRFP states in section L.6.2.c.i (b) (1) "The Offeror shall submit a Contractor Team Arrangement (CTA) IAW FAR subpart 9.6, between the Prime and each subcontractor. Then in section	The CTAs are required in Volume I as part of the Management Subfactor and will not count toward the page limitations. This will be reflected in the final solicitation.

	<p>L.6.2.c.ii “The Offeror shall submit the CTA required in the Management Subfactor between the Prime and each subcontractor.”</p> <p>Then in section L.6.2.c.vi (SOLICITATION, OFFER AND AWARD Section) “The Contractor shall provide the CTA(s) with its proposal.” Will the government please specify which volume it requires the compilation of CTAs for all subcontractors to be located? Given the large size of this compilation, will the government allow this to be submitted as an appendix that does not count toward page count?</p>	
61.	<p>Given that there are 2 sections labeled L.6.2.c.vi, will the government please re-label the VOLUME VI - SOLICITATION, OFFER AND AWARD DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS/REPRESENTATIONS as L.6.2.c.vii?</p>	This has been corrected.
62.	<p>H-2 states that an SDVOSB, VOSB, WOSB or HubZone contract holder that was not awarded in Step One would be potentially off-ramped due to the appropriate status no longer being in effect. Will the selection Step be made public post award? Would this Off-Ramp activity only occur after the end of year 5?</p>	The Successful Offerors will be told in which step they received an award. Off-ramp timing is set forth in clause H-2.
63.	<p>6.2.iii Volume III- Veterans Involvement states that Non-SDVOSBs/VOSBs must state in its proposal the names of the SDVOSBs and/or VOSBs with whom it intends to subcontract and provide a brief description of the approximate dollar values of the proposed subcontracts. With no visibility into the dollar value of the</p>	Dollar values should be based on the Offeror’s proposed price.

	task orders to be issued, should the offeror use the IDIQ ceiling?	
64.	In K.2(C)(1) brackets seem to be missing to fill in “has” or “has not”. Please verify.	This is correct as stated.
65.	In Section C, 3.10 it states, "These applications are broadly divided into the following categories, but are not limited to Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Software as a Service (SaaS), Utility Computing, Web Services, Platform as a Service (PaaS), Managed Service Providers (MSP), Service Commerce, and Internet Integration." Please verify if the RFP will require the contractor to provide Cloud services to a third party?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level.
66.	The Contractor shall provide an independent review of products developed by other entities. The Contractor shall review, evaluate, validate and verify processes, procedures and methodologies used in developing, testing, maintaining and securing third-party systems/software. Does the government anticipate that IV&V tasks will be awarded separately from the execution/implementation tasks to address potential OCI concerns?	Yes. The Government typically separates development and IV&V efforts to address potential OCI issues.
67.	There are expatriate compensation and tax implications for US employees when working in certain countries. Can the government provide a list of the most likely countries where Task Order Support could be provided?	VA has facilities worldwide which may require any of the functional areas identified in the PWS. See the following website for VA locations. http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1
68.	If the Prime is a joint venture (JV), will the Government require any additional documents such as the JV operating agreement to be	Yes. The JV agreement will be required.

	submitted with the proposal?	
69.	<p>Section L requests information regarding the “Contractor’s ability to attract and retain its workforce – The Offeror shall provide a brief narrative on its mechanism to attract and retain its work</p> <p>force.” Should the methodology provided be relevant at the IDIQ or Task Order level?</p>	The methodology provided must address how the contractor’s workforce will be able to respond to the overall contract.
70.	For the Small Business Participation Commitment goals, is the 35% for Small Business independent and separate from the 35% for SDVOSBs, VOSBs, SDBs, WOSBs, and HUB Zone, or is the 35% all inclusive of all socio-economic statuses?	The 35% is all inclusive of all socio-economic statuses.
71.	Section C.3.12. Can the Govt provide some estimate of how many instances additional certs may be required? If a potential bidder does not have the certs does that preclude them from bidding on a specific task order?	The Government cannot provide a number of instances that may require certifications. Offerors are required to meet requirements specified in the specific RTEP/task order.
72.	<p>In situations where the prime has proposed subcontractors to help execute a task order, will the government state the percentage of work required to be performed at the task order level by the company possessing the required CMMI rating, ISO certification, or ITIL certification?</p> <p>Will the government allow subcontractors’ CMMI ratings or other quality certifications to be used to qualify to bid on task orders that require those standards as stated in Section C.3.12 or will the prime</p>	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level.

	contractor have to possess the required CMMI, ISO, or ITIL appraisals/certifications?	
73.	Volume VI (d). Is it the government's intent that participants cannot use consultants to help develop responses to the sample tasks?	An Offeror cannot use a consultant to develop responses to sample tasks. The Government requires sample task responses be prepared by employees of the Offeror or its subcontractor(s) with which it has a CTA as defined in FAR subpart 9.6. The Contractor shall provide the CTA(s) with its technical proposal. The Government will not consider proposals for award from Offerors that do not provide the certification or provide falsified certifications; and all such responses will be deemed ineligible for award. This certification is set forth at Solicitation Section J – Attachment 013.
74.	Will prime contractors need to detail some work breakdown among prime and subs or other rate blending methodology to determine a final blended rate?	No, Offerors are not required to explain how they derived the blended rate.
75.	Does the government require all subcontractors to submit separate price proposals detailing their direct costs, indirect rates and fees?	No.
76.	How will the past performance rating system used for primes on the T4 contract be used in evaluating past performance for T4NG? Will the scoring be used when considering a contractor that has used the T4 IDIQ as a past performance reference?	The past performance rating system used for primes on the T4 contract will not be used for evaluation of past performance for T4NG.
77.	If VA intends for this to be a multi-agency contract, will VA's acquisition regulations take precedence over funding agencies' acquisitions regulations (e.g.,	It is possible that another agency's clauses may be incorporated into a task order, but that will be specified on a task order by task order basis.

	DFARS)?	
78.	For larger companies comprised of numerous subsidiaries or other entities within their organization, will the government limit the evaluation to the number of Veterans (and the number of overall employees) that make up the bidding entity or will they consider the total numbers of the entire parent organization?	The Government defines Prime Offeror as the bidding entity.
79.	Are there small business goals for SDVOSB / VOSB Primes? Page 103 of 110 discusses Small Business Commitment Goals. If a Prime is a WOSB and SDVOSB, would the Prime's work share address the small business requirements for SDVOSB, VOSB, and WOSB?	All primes must meet or exceed the small business commitment requirement of the RFP. Yes, small business primes may count their own workshare/obligated dollars toward meeting the small business commitment goals for each socioeconomic concern it qualifies for.
80.	For the sample tasks, do you want companies to articulate how they would perform and complete the work in the sample task, do you want to see the work product/deliverable that would result from performing the sample task, or both?	The Government is not answering questions relative to sample tasks.
81.	Will VA follow a similar approach to T4 NG pricing as it did for the original T4 and the T4 On-Ramp (industry provided rates for on-site CONUS, off-site CONUS, and OCONUS), or will VA take a different approach to pricing for T4 NG? How will VA evaluate and compare pricing between different companies?	Please refer to sections L and M of the RFP for the manner in which the VA will evaluate price.
82.	Does the VA have a preferred Business Intelligence tool or are they open to partner supported COTS solution?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level.

83.	"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?	A Contractor is able to certify its accounting system via a DCAA audit, independent auditor and/or other material demonstrating the adequacy of its accounting system.
84.	If Offerors are not considered WOSB at time of submission but drop to this small business size (WOSB) prior to award, is there any process by which Offerors could re-certify their size standard prior to award in order to qualify for the WOSB category?	To be considered for award as a EDWOSB, the concern shall be registered in the SAM and submit documents verifying its certification as a EDWOSB, at time of proposal submission.
85.	For the volumes that are required to be submitted as separate files (Volumes I, II, V, and VI), does the Government want to see separate cover pages and table of contents for each file or should the Volume I cover page and complete table of contents be placed only in the first file?	This would be the offeror's choice. A cover letter and table of contents are not included in the page counts.
86.	Page 90 of the solicitation Section K.1.a.2 references \$25M size standard. Will the Government clarify whether this size standard will be updated to \$27.5M to reflect the latest SBA figures?	The size standard for NAICS 541512 is \$27.5M.
87.	May Offerors use other than TNR font style for tables and illustrations?	No. IAW Solicitation instructions at L.6.2, Times New Roman fonts are required.
88.	RE: Basis of Award. The Industry Slides note Step One: The Government will select eight (8) Offerors from the proposals included within the competitive range without regard to the socioeconomic size of the Offeror. Will the Government select twenty (20) Offerors, instead of eight (8)?	The Government will only select 8 offerors in Step One. Up to 12 additional awards will be made in accordance with steps 2, 3 and 4.
89.	Does the Government also mean to include four WOSB and/or	EDWOSBs or Hubzones which are also SDVOSBs or VOSBs would be

	HUBZone Offerors in Step Two?	considered in Step 2 and again in Step 3, if not selected in Step 2.
90.	<p>The draft document states: “In this context, “Offeror” refers to the proposed prime contractor. In this context, “Offeror” refers to the proposed prime contractor and the proposed major subcontractor(s). Major subcontractors are defined as the three (3) subcontractors, identified in the Management Subfactor, expected to receive the greatest amount of subcontracted work and for which a CTA exists”.</p> <p>Will the Government please confirm that the term “Offeror” refers to the proposed prime contractor and the proposed major subcontractor(s)?</p>	The term “Offeror” refers to the proposed prime contractor and the proposed major subcontractor(s) for the purposes of evaluating the past performance factor. See revised RFP.
91.	Is a CTA required for each proposed subcontractor?	Yes, a CTA is required under the Management Subfactor for each subcontractor and under the past Performance Factor for each major subcontractor.
92.	<p>Would VA consider expanding the definition of what constitutes an “employee” to include staffing agency and 1099 arrangements? This more expansive definition would allow vendors to more aptly describe how Veterans are being afforded full-time employment through their companies</p>	No, this is not being considered at this time.
93.	<p>Many Federal agencies have recently provided guidance that Program Managers, etc. can no longer provide ad hoc references/questionnaires, and are using CPARS as the official record for performance on the contract. The draft RFP language states that questionnaires must be completed and submitted for all task orders identified in Section 1. This</p>	The Government requires questionnaires and will also review past performance data available in the Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS).

	language may lead offerors to exclude highly relevant, strong past performance for reasons beyond our control. Will the Government please accept CPARS and questionnaires? This will give VA the broadest access to past performance data.	
94.	The Veteran Employment Factor favors organizations that are domestic companies, with large military defense contracts. For companies that have a large international work force that hire employees within those specific countries, should we only list our US work force and the US Veterans?	Only US Veterans shall be listed and any employee that meets the following definition. An employee is defined as any individual on the payroll of an employer who is an employee for purposes of the employer's withholding of US Social Security taxes.
95.	Regarding the Draft RFP, Section I, page 81 – Under what circumstances would 52.216-11 apply to the labor portion of a Task Order?	52.216-11 does not apply and will be removed from the solicitation.
96.	Regarding the Draft RFP, Section I, page 81 – Does the Government intend to issue any Cost-Type Task Orders that allow fee?	Cost type task orders with fee are allowable under T4NG.
97.	Can vendors use an IDIQ vehicle, e.g., T4, CIOSP-3, DHS Eagle II, as one of their past performance citations or must the citation be at the task order level?	Any effort that meets the definitions of recent and relevant may be used.
98.	Section B, Contract Maximum/Minimum Ceiling (Draft RFP page 10) - Please verify the accuracy of the dollar values that are specified. Specifically, the sentences that read as follows: "...the Maximum value of the T4NG contract is \$22.3 Billion. The maximum overall value of the T4NG contract for both the base period and options is \$23 Billion. The maximum overall value of the base period is \$10.4B. The maximum	This has been corrected to read \$22.3B

	value of the T4NG contract in the option period, if exercised, is \$11.9B.” (emphasis added)	
99.	Section I.6, Organizational Conflicts of Interest (Draft RFP page 86) - Paragraph (b) of this section requires that the offerors provide a statement with their offers regarding potential Organizational Conflicts of Interest. Please verify whether that requirement is applicable to the offerors’ submission of their T4NG base contract proposals, or if this is a requirement that will be applicable after the award of the T4NG base contracts and in conjunction with RTEPs that are subsequently issued.	Clause 852.209-70 applies to the T4NG base contract and task order level and an Offeror must provide any required information if it feels an OCI may exist.
100.	Section L.6(c), Proposal Files, Content Requirements (Draft RFP page 99) - The graphic indicates, for “Volume II - Past Performance Files,” that there is a two page limitation per past performance instance for Section 2, however, for Section 3, “New Corporate Entities,” it appears that two pages in total are permitted. Is this correct?	Yes this is correct. Section 3, if applicable, is a description of the role played by the specific employee(s) in the instance(s) described in Section 2. There is a two page limitation for all of Section 3.
101.	Would a newly formed Joint Venture be considered a “new corporate entity”? If so, would it include the past performance of each of the joint venture partners only in Section 2, only in Section 3, or in both Sections 2 and 3?	Yes a newly formed joint venture would be considered a new corporate entity. Both sections should be included if applicable.
102.	Or, if the Joint Venture, as a new corporate entity has no prior performance in its capacity as a Joint Venture, does it submit no past performance and receive a rating of “neutral” for this factor?	See above. The Government will not provide the adjectival ratings at this time.
103.	Section L.6(2)(c)(ii), Past Performance Files (Draft RFP page	A joint venture is considered a Prime Offeror. Prime offerors shall submit

	101) - How should past performance information be submitted for a Joint Venture if it is to submit Past Performance under Section 2...Will a Joint Venture be permitted to submit three instances for each of the Joint Venture partners, or is the Joint Venture limited to a total of three instances which can be from one or both of the Joint Venture partners?	up to three instances only.
104.	Section L.6(2)(c)(iv), Veterans Employment File (Draft RFP page 102) consists solely of a spreadsheet and related certification. Are offerors prohibited from providing any narrative with the spreadsheet to describe their corporate commitment to, and programs that are in support of, Veterans?	Offerors are required to follow the solicitation instructions. The Government will only evaluate the spreadsheet.
105.	Section L.6(2)(c)(v), Small Business Participation Commitment Files (Draft RFP page 103) - Is Total Contract Value the actual price proposed by the offeror or the estimated T4NG contract ceiling?	Total contract value is the actual proposed price.
106.	Section L.6(2)(c)(v), Small Business Participation Commitment Files (Draft RFP page 103) - The RFP identifies the NAICS Code for this procurement as 541512 which implies that all subcontractors must be small for that particular NAICS Code. If a Small Business subcontractor is, however, registered and expected to perform work in a different NAICS Code, can they still be considered small if they are not also small for 541512?	Only NAICS Code 541512 will be utilized for determining the size status of a business.
107.	Section L.6(2)(c)(v), Small Business Participation Commitment Files (Draft RFP page 103) consists only	Offerors are required to follow the solicitation instructions. The Government will only evaluate the

	of a spreadsheet. Are offerors prohibited from including any narrative with this spreadsheet to substantiate their Small Business subcontracting commitment? If limited to the spreadsheet, on what basis will the Government evaluate an offeror's "demonstrate(d)... clear commitment to meeting or exceeding the goals"?	spreadsheet. Solicitation has been updated accordingly.
108.	On page 24 of the Industry Day Briefing Slides, the last bullet states that the "Current T4 Period of Performance expires June 30, 2016" (emphasis added). Please verify whether that reference should instead be to the current T4 ordering period.	Yes this should read T4 ordering period.
109.	In the Questions and Answers published on October 3, 2014, Answer #94 states that the Government anticipates an award in the second quarter of FY16, however, page 24 of the Industry Day Briefing Slides (fourth bullet) indicates that the awards will be made on or about December 2015. Which date reflects the TAC's current projection?	At this time the Government anticipates award in December 2015.
110.	Will the Government provide the offerors with 30 days to respond to each of the proposal submission requirements, or will a shorter period of time be allocated for the offerors to formulate and submit their responses to the Sample Tasks?	At this time the Government anticipates releasing the Sample Tasks with the formal RFP.
111.	If an offeror is an SDVOSB and is also a WOSB, will said offeror be considered for both the 8 reserve awards for SDVOSB/VOSB and the 4 reserve awards for WOSB/HUBZone, or just one category of reserve awards? If said	An SDVOSB that is also a EDWOSB can be considered for award in all four steps. The Offeror would also be eligible for set asides in any socio-economic category it is verified in.

	offeror is eligible for consideration for both pools of reserve awards, will said offeror be eligible to bid on Task Orders released as set-asides for any of the socioeconomic categories (per H-10 Task Order Restricted Competition)?	
112.	For Section L, Vol 3, Veterans Involvement, pg. 102, how can an approximate dollar value of the proposed subcontracts with SDVOSB and VOSB firms be properly estimated in the absence of specific task orders upon which to base such an estimate?	All dollar values should be based on the offeror's proposed price.
113.	In Section L, Vol 3, Veterans Involvement, pg. 102, please confirm that nothing else is required other than to state the names of the proposed SDVOSB and VOSB firms and estimate subcontract dollar values.	Please follow all instructions in Section L Volume 3 which sets forth all required information for this Factor volume.
114.	On Section L, Vol 6, Price, pg. 104, does the phrase "one loaded labor rate for the prime contractor and all subcontractors per labor category" mean that one single labor rate should be provided for all subcontractors or that one single labor rate should be provided for each subcontractor?	A single blended rate for each labor category is required.
115.	In Section L.6.2.(vi)(b), pg. 104, the RFP states that the offeror is required to provide and pay for its employees' personal computer, phones and calls, copiers, fax machines, office supplies, mail costs, etc. utilized while at Off-Site work locations. The cost for these items shall be incorporated into the overhead cost or G&A that is included in the proposed blended loaded hourly rates and will not be	Please follow the instructions of the RFP. The Government cannot advise an Offeror on how best to structure its proposal.

	<p>allowed as ODCs in task orders.</p> <p>If the offeror's Disclosure Statement considers most of these items as direct cost, may the offeror include them in the proposed blended loaded hourly rates as a separate direct cost factor, rather than including them inappropriately as an indirect cost in the overhead or G&A rate?</p>	
116.	For Section M, Volume 1, pg. 107, will this section be updated with issuance of the three sample task orders to be more relevant and specific to those task orders?	Section M Volume 1 will remain as stated.
117.	In reference to Section J, pg. 89, will customer questionnaires be required on past performance references?	Yes questionnaires are required for each reference.
118.	For Section M, subsection A – Basis for award, pg. 106-107, will the Government clarify that once the 12 VOSB and/or SDVOSB and WOSB and/or Hubzone competitors receive awards, could some or all of the remaining 8 awards include small business primes?	Small business primes not eligible for reserve awards are eligible for awards in Step 1 and Step 4
119.	Once the T4NG contracts are awarded, does the Government still intend to issue task orders under the old T4 contract?	Task orders may be awarded on T4 through the June 2016 ordering period.
120.	Will the contractor be responsible for shipping hardware or software to OCONUS sites?	These requirements will be specified in the task order.
121.	If work is performed at the contractor site, does the contractor have to purchase PMAS and Propath licenses or are these provided as GFP for all task orders?	There are no licenses associated with PMAS and ProPath.
122.	Please provide the names of the other development methodologies the contractor might be required to	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level.

	use.	
123.	How many development projects are currently underway at the VA? Of those underway, how many are following an Agile methodology?	Agile is the preferred software development methodology for VA. There are numerous development efforts currently underway.
124.	Please provide the names of the VA cloud vendors.	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level.
125.	Do VA cloud vendors need to be FEDRAMP certified?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level.
126.	Will the VA provide information for each functional area that would allow the contractors to size the work efforts needed to meet the requirements?	No. Please follow instructions of the Price Volume.
127.	Will the VA be providing a listing of the current COTS/GOTS products and the quantities used for network, systems, databases, and the tools used to manage the infrastructure?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level.
128.	Please describe the current VA technology refresh cycle in terms of year refresh percentage.	T4NG is an IT services contract vehicle. Only incidental hardware may be purchased on this vehicle.
129.	How many studies and analyses are performed each year?	This data is unavailable.
130.	Is EVMS tracking required for all task orders? Even FFP task orders?	If EVMS is required, it will be specified at the task order level.
131.	To what extent does the VA expect the contractor to test Open Source products for security vulnerabilities? Will the normal C&A and continuous monitoring be sufficient?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
132.	Will the VA be providing any information about the current mobile applications in place today?	No. Any required information will be provided at the task order level
133.	How much modelling and simulation work is required each year? Will this be defined up front in each task order so the contractor can size the	This information is not required in order to submit a proposal. Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level

	equipment and tools required?	
134.	How many data migrations are performed each year?	This data is not available.
135.	Will the VA be providing information on all of the different voice configurations used at the VA?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
136.	Will the VA be providing information about the transmission systems in use today at the VA?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
137.	What COTS/GOTS tools are in use to support the Service Desk/Call Center?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
138.	What COTS/GOTS tools are used for asset and license management today?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
139.	What COTS/GOTS tools are used for data mining and business intelligence today? What DBMSs are used at the VA today? What COTS/GOTS product is used for the data warehouse?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
140.	Will the VA provide more information about the number of data centers, Generator/Power/HVAC systems used at each location?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
141.	What COTS/GOTS tools and methodologies are used for training at the VA today?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
142.	Will the VA provide further information on the number and size of the Facility Design and Modification services required each year?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
143.	Will the VA outline the number of site surveys required each year?	Any required information will be provided at the task order level
144.	Will the VA provide more information about the requirement to develop Physical Security Systems and what	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level

	is required? Are all physical security systems in place today and just require maintenance?	
145.	Will the VA require that prime offerors show a track record of responding to task orders on a multi-award IDIQ to ensure adequate competition on each task order?	All recent and relevant past performance will be viewed equally.
146.	Will the VA require that prime offerors hold one or more of the certifications described in Section 3.12 to ensure certified best practices and quality in relation to VA mission critical systems/software products under this contract?	Any required certifications will be specified at the task order level
147.	What is considered “value added work” by the prime contractor if greater than 70% of the work is subcontracted in an RTEP?	This is task order specific. Reference 52.215-23 – Limitations on Pass-Through Charges
148.	What is the definition of “major subcontractor”? This could be a subjective if there is a not a definition in terms of the percentage of utilization/workshare.	Major subcontractors are defined as the three subcontractors expected to receive the highest dollar value of subcontracted work, with which the Prime Offeror has a CTA.
149.	Can you submit additional references for small or mid-tier firms (those who are not considered “major”) that are innovative and niche players on the offerors’ team?	No, Offerors may not submit additional references. Please follow the instructions of the RFP at xxx.
150.	Must the contractor provide rates for on-site, off-site and all OCONUS locations?	Please follow the instructions of the RFP for the Volume VI – Price Files.
151.	What is the anticipated volume of RTEPs expected per year?	The volume of RTEPs cannot be reasonably estimated.
152.	Does the VA plan to continue to share the pipeline with the T4NG awardees in advance of release of the RTEPs?	Yes.
153.	What are the criteria by which offerors will be evaluated on the	Understanding of Problems and Feasibility of Approach as defined in

	sample task orders?	Section M of the solicitation.
154.	Given the large number of participants on the Industry Day Conference Call, is the Government contemplating a multi-phase procurement with pass fail requirements around Industry Certifications such as CMMI Level 3 or above, ISO-270000, and ISO-20000 to narrow the field of offerors?	This is not being considered.
155.	Are there any potential OCI concerns for tasks awarded in this service area? For example, would the awarding of tasks in this area preclude work in another area?	Yes, there may be occasional OCI concerns. OCI concerns are fact specific and handled on a case by case basis.
156.	Mobile infrastructure is not mentioned in the draft. Does the government anticipate issuing tasks related to mobile infrastructure and if so, what service area would be applicable for those tasks?	Technical requirements and the applicable service area will be specified at the task order level
157.	What is the anticipated breakdown (%) of unclassified vs. classified tasks that will be issued in the base period?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
158.	Is the Government contemplating Oral Presentations in conjunction with this procurement?	No.
159.	Does the Government intend to make awards based upon the Sample Tasks?	Sample tasks are for evaluation purposes only and will not be awarded.
160.	Teaming scenario: One of our subcontractors for T4NG is classified as HUBZone at time of this IDIQ award. After the first three years of the IDIQ, we respond to a task order but this subcontractor lost its HUBZone classification. Will we still be able to count them towards our HUBZone goals prior to the end of	Subcontractors used to perform task orders must be certified as that specific socioeconomic category at time of TEP submission in order to count them toward that small business goal.

	the five-year base period?	
161.	<p>The Draft RFP states, “The Contractor may support a cloud computing environment. Cloud computing is a delivery model for IT services based on the Internet, typically involving the provision of dynamically scalable and often virtualized resources as a service over the Internet. Cloud computing delivers common business applications online which are accessed from a web browser, while the software and data are stored on servers.”</p> <p>The first of the two sentences we quote above matches the definition of the NIST definitions for cloud computing. The second is an additional constraint on the definition of cloud computing which is not part of the NIST definition. Is it the VA’s intention to put this additional constraint on cloud computing services; or is the practice of delivering business applications which are dynamically scalable to “apps” and other native client applications which are not accessed via web browser in scope for cloud computing services in T4 Next Generation?</p>	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
162.	What is the decision process for setting aside RTEPS to the various socio-economic categories? Who makes the decision? Will RTEPS be set aside for HUBZone and WOSB?	Acquisition strategy is determined based on market research and is at the discretion of the Contracting officer with coordination of the customer.
163.	Under the Small Business Participation Commitment section, the Draft RFP states that Large Businesses must submit a Small Business Subcontracting Plan, under file name (Prime	Yes. Only large business must submit a small business subcontracting plan. Reference 52.219-9 -- Small Business Subcontracting Plan and VAAR 852.219-9 for subcontracting plan

	<p>Offeror)_SBSP.PDF. However, there is no corresponding instructions in section L.6.2.(v) VOLUME V – SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION COMMITMENT FILES instructions.</p> <p>Must large businesses submit the SBSP? If so, what format should be used?</p>	<p>instructions. All Offerors must submit a SBPC volume.</p>
164.	<p>Is it the Government's intention to only award 12 total contracts if all of the socio-economic award goals are met in Steps 1-3?</p>	<p>The Government reserves the right to make up to twenty awards.</p>
165.	<p>How will the government verify the statistics provided on Veterans Employment by the offerors? Will the government compare these to DOL/OFCCP VETS 100 reports, or require that the numbers submitted here are from the last DOL/OFCCP report submitted?</p>	<p>This factor is self-certified.</p>
166.	<p>H-1: On-Ramp. Paragraph indicates that this may include revisiting the original pool of T4NG offerors deemed in the competitive range, and/or issuing a follow-on T4NG solicitation for evaluation. If this is done, how will this affect the original offerors deemed in the competitive range, specifically, the current contract holders, e.g. if an offeror was awarded a contract in Step One and the government decided to onramp and revisit the original pool, will the successful offeror have to win a follow-on solicitation to retain the contract?</p>	<p>There will be no effect on current contract holders.</p>
167.	<p>M.C.1.b.(2)—Feasibility of Approach section states that the Government may evaluate the Offeror's proposed blended labor rates in the Management section; however, neither L or M requires the Offeror to</p>	<p>The rates submitted in the Price Volume will be evaluated.</p>

	submit rates with the Management section	
168.	H-9 We understand that this will be primarily handled at the time of task order competition, however, will the Government be providing a Wage Determination for a "higher" wage determination location, in order to develop the contract level rates? Recommend government selects a higher wage determination location like Washington DC or San Francisco and have all bidders use this for SCA categories for evaluation consistency.	Ensuring the rates for applicable labor categories will be in compliance with the Service Contract Act will be the offeror's responsibility.
169.	How will the Government determine that proposed blended rates are unrealistically low in the absence of cost/pricing data? Will the Government expand upon what steps it will take in this process?	The Government may evaluate the offeror's proposed blended labor rates to determine if the proposed blended rates are unrealistically low in order to assess the ability of the offeror to meet the PWS requirements and whether the proposal provides the Government with a high level of confidence of successful performance. Unrealistically low blended labor rates proposed for a significant quantity of the total labor hours may indicate a high-risk approach to contract performance.
170.	L.6 Proposal Submission Instructions, Section 2.c.(ii) VOLUME II – PAST PERFORMANCE FILES (p. 101 of 110) state that the "Offeror shall submit Volume III Past Performance Proposal in a separate file". Please confirm that the Past Performance volume should be Volume II, not Volume III.	This has been corrected.
171.	L.6.2.c.(ii) VOLUME II – PAST PERFORMANCE FILES (p. 101 of	The Government cannot advise on

	<p>110) states that “past performance of the Offeror and its proposed major subcontractors will be evaluated” and that “major subcontractors shall submit up to two (2) instances of Federal, State or Commercial contracts”. The evaluation approach in Section M.2.C.2 further states that “the prime contractor and proposed major subcontractor(s) will be assessed individually and the results will then be assessed in their totality to derive the Offeror’s Past Performance rating.” Will the Government please clarify whether the total evaluation score will be impacted if an Offeror does not submit past performance for one or more of its three major subcontractors, or if a major subcontractor submits only one rather than two past performances?</p>	<p>how to best respond to the RFP.</p>
172.	<p>The table provided in L.6.2.c. Content Requirements (p. 99 of 100) lists the required format for Volume II Past Performance Section 1 as an Excel spreadsheet (Prime Offeror)_CD.XLS(X), however a format is not specified outside of the content requested in Section 2.c.(ii)(1) Section 1 – Contract Descriptions, sections (a)-(e), Section 4 (p. 101 of 110). Does the Government intend to include a required format or template with the Final RFP, or will this be at the discretion of the Offeror?</p>	<p>Format is at the offeror’s discretion provided it meets all other proposal submission requirements.</p>
173.	<p>RFP Section I.2 VAAR 852.252-70 SOLICITATION PROVISIONS OR CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (JAN 2008) (p. 84 of 110) states that “the following provisions or clauses incorporated by reference in this solicitation must be completed by the offeror or</p>	<p>URL corrected. See revised RFP.</p>

	prospective contractor and submitted with the quotation or offer". The URL provided in this section leads to a 404 Page Not Found page.	
174.	Can the government please confirm that, for contracts where the offeror performed as a subcontractor, Performance Risk Assessment Questionnaires can be completed by either the prime contractor or the corresponding government CO or COR.	The Government cannot advise on how to best respond to the RFP. Questionnaires may be completed by either Prime Contractor personnel or Government personnel.
175.	The Contractor may support a Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) that is a flexible set of design principles used during the phases of systems development and integration which will be specified at the task order level. Is the SOA mentioned a specific SOA, or is this a general statement?	This is a general statement. Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
176.	The Contractor shall ensure Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) product(s), software configuration and customization, and/or new software are PIV-enabled by accepting HSPD-12 PIV credentials Does this include implementation of HSPD-12 PIV in case the selected COTS product does not include PIV?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
177.	The Contractor IT end user solution that is developed for use on standard VA desktop computers shall be compatible with and be supported on the current standard VA operating system. VA is currently using Windows 7 (64bit), Internet Explorer 9 and Microsoft Office	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level

	<p>2010.</p> <p>Is there any requirements for backward compatibility?</p>	
178.	<p>Often the question is raised regarding PMAS and ProPath compliance in circumstances where there is are version changes in these systems during the course of Task Order execution. Could the Government clarify the requirements to comply with PMAS and ProPath versions approved at the time of Task Order award?</p>	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
179.	<p>Preserve such data, records, logs and other evidence which are reasonably necessary to conduct a thorough investigation of any computer security incident.</p> <p>Are there any requirements on how long logs should be kept?</p>	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
180.	<p>The Contractor shall provide Business Process Modeling (BPM) to include clinical and benefits workflows and Business Process Reengineering (BPR) support to system/software engineering efforts.</p> <p>Would this be on projects from other contractors and/or our own projects?</p>	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
181.	<p>Retire older systems and build new systems that are scalable and extensible by building them based on reusable services on commodity IT products</p> <p>This is more extensive than architecture development, can the scope of work as it relates to architecture development be more clearly defined?</p>	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
182.	<p>Will there be any opportunities for the contractor to be involved in any</p>	Technical requirements will be

	new web page development activities as well? As of now, this section only mentions updates or maintenance of webpages.	specified at the task order level
183.	4.2.12 These systems are in various stages of the lifecycle. What system does the PWS refer to when it states "These systems"?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
184.	Can the TAC elaborate on specifics in regards to services contractors may provide when it comes to SDN?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
185.	Can the TAC clarify what it means by incidental facility design?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
186.	7.3.2 states the Government reserves the right to specify separate rates for each category of labor to be performed by each subcontractor and for each category of labor to be performed by the prime contractor, and for each category of labor to be transferred between divisions, subsidiaries, or affiliates of the offeror under a common control. In L.6.2.vi(a) we are instructed that there will be one blended loaded labor rate for the prime and all subcontractors per labor category. Can the government clarify which is the correct?	The blended rate is the ceiling rate per labor category. Offerors may bid lower labor rates for specific task orders. The right to specify separate rates for the prime and each subcontractor as stated in 7.3.2 is at the task order level, not the basic IDIQ.
187.	7.3.2 The T&M and CR instructions reference using labor category numbering shown in Attachment 2. But FFP does not. Should FFP be included as well?	FFP is not included in this requirement.
188.	Page 106, Section M, paragraph A.2 under Step 2 it states, "...and an additional four (4) contracts total (combined from Steps One and Two) to VOSB and/or SDVOSBs. Does the word "additional" mean that between Steps One and Two, there will be a total of 8 companies	Yes.

	selected between VOSB and SDVOSB?	
189.	Page 78, clause H-7, refers to Year 2000 Compliance. Is this still relevant?	Yes, see FAR 39.106.
190.	In the Industry Day Brief, slide 24 stated that "Initial Evaluation Concluded on or about August 2015." At that time, is it the Government's intent to release any information concerning which companies are in the "competitive range"?	At this time a company will be informed if it is no longer eligible for an award.
191.	Recommend that BCSI be listed as applicable documents since facility construction may be required.	Facility construction is not within scope of the T4NG contract.
192.	Since security classifications have been established to protect information and data, has the VA determined what classified applications and data may be stored in the cloud and what can be stored in VA or Federal Government Enterprise Data Center Facilities? If so, please provide the classification levels and storage requirements.	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
193.	Other than those already identified in the PWS, does the VA envision any other standards and/or certifications that might be included in either the core contract or at the task order? Some additional standards that might be applicable include ISO 20000, ISO 27001 or ISO 28000?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
194.	Given that the VA has overseas locations (OCONUS), will the information, data and/or records generated by these locations be stored locally or will it need to be ported and stored in the United States?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level

195.	PWS 4.8.11 Will there be a similar requirement for data, information and/or records stored in the cloud?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
196.	Regarding the comment “Contractor shall ensure all work is performed in countries deemed not to pose a significant security risk.”; please clarify what you mean by “significant security risk”.	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
197.	Where may the contractor obtain the training materials to ensure its employees meet the requirements cited in PWS 6.8?	VA Talent Management System (TMS) access will be provided upon task order award to employees performing on the specific effort.
198.	If Contracting Officer asks a question of the offeror or a clarification that might necessitate the revision to their proposal, will the offeror, in responding, be bound to the original page count?	Instructions for items for negotiations (IFN) will be provided to those offerors receiving IFNs.
199.	Is there a requirement for the offeror to create a Life-cycle Risk Management Framework Plan?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
200.	If there are two large businesses with equivalent scores, will preference be given to Veteran ownership?	Veteran ownership preference only applies to SDVOSB and VOSBs.
201.	What plans does the TAC have in place to improve the information used to describe opportunities in the pipeline?	The TAC intends on automating the pipeline in the near future.
202.	What plans does the TAC have in place to implement a change management process during the execution phase of task orders?	Change management is task order specific and handled on a case by case basis.
203.	The solicitation indicates that the Technical Sub-factor will be evaluated in part by considering the realism of the labor categories being proposed in the Offeror’s response to the sample tasks. It would seem	The evaluation of rates to determine if they are unrealistically low is part of the Management subfactor evaluation, not the Sample Task subfactor.

	that “realism of labor categories” would be assessed on the LCAT, level, and rate for the LCAT/Level. However, in Section M, there is no consideration for the price assigned to each LCAT proposed in the response to the Sample Task. Please explain.	
204.	During the performance of T4NG, will the past performance scores be more transparent to differentiate the elements?	VA strives to be as transparent as possible. The evaluation of PP during contract performance will be determined at a later date.
205.	In the presentation on Monday Oct 6, it was stated that emphasis would be placed on Healthcare and Benefits Systems. What consideration is made for business systems, scheduling systems, and support of infrastructure?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
206.	Will the government accept Representations and Certifications from SAM.gov for Volume VII in lieu of filling out Solicitation Section K?	FAR 52.204-7, System for Award Management, is included in this solicitation; therefore, paragraph (d) of FAR provision 52.204-8 applies.
207.	Section C, Addendum B.4Per the Addendum 'The contractor/Subcontractor shall certify to the COR that applications are fully functional and operate correctly as intended on systems using the VA Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC), and the common security configuration guidelines provided by NIST or VA. This includes Internet Explorer 7 configured to operate on Windows XP and Vista (in Protected Mode on Vista)' - should the web-browser and O/S requirements be updated to current VA standards?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
208.	Will adherence to the Acquisition Project Management Framework (APMF) be required?	Requirements will be specified at the task order level
209.	Included in the requirements is	Requirements will be specified at

	Earned value Management (EVM). Will the requirement to use EVM be identified at the task order level on a task by task basis?	the task order level
210.	Per the PWS 'Current technology areas of focus for VA include software architectures, databases, web-based applications, mobile applications, telehealth, enterprise solutions, wireless, and security.' - given emerging needs in solving complex questions related to Veteran's health and quality of service from existing data, would the VA also include data science/advanced data analytics as an area of focus?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
211.	<p>"The government has identified the way it will verify SDVOSBs, VOSBs, WOSBs and HUBZone firms.</p> <p>1. What does the VA expect to use for Small Disadvantaged Business certification/verification?</p> <p>2. Can a Prime use the socio-economic classification of a partner firm at time of Contract award for use in the Base Period Small Business Participation goals even if the partner firm has lost its socio-economic classification post-award?"</p>	<p>SDB certifications are not required by the RFP.</p> <p>Subcontractors used to perform individual task orders must be certified as that specific socioeconomic category in order to receive credit for that small business goal at time of TEP submission and would maintain that status through the life of that particular task order.</p>
212.	If the Offeror includes a compliance matrix to aid the reviewer in evaluating proposal, will that count against the page count?	Yes.
213.	How, if at all, will the government evaluate price realism and/or price reasonableness of task order proposals during the execution of T4NG?	The Government determines price reasonableness IAW FAR Part 15.4.

214.	Will the first eight awarded offerors be able to maintain their prime status on the T4 NextGen contract for 10 years regardless of material change in ownership, or size standard, if Small Businesses?	Yes.
215.	Will the TAC allow SBs that grow out of the SB size standard to remain on the contract as a large business if they are selected in Steps 2-4?	These SBs may be off-ramped in accordance with clause H-2.
216.	May prime contractors propose fewer than three major subcontractors?	The Government cannot advise on how to best respond to the RFP; however, no more than three major subcontractors may be put forth in the Past Performance Factor.
217.	CLIN 0008 and 1008 reference H-2 Small Business Participation Requirement which is actually H-4. Please clarify.	References corrected. See revised RFP.
218.	Should Section C be referred to as the Performance Work Statement or Statement of Work? Please clarify as Section 1.0 makes reference to the PWS.	Section C is referred to as the Performance Work Statement. Solicitation has been updated.
219.	H-7 is incorrectly referred to as "Metrics" which is actually H-8. Please clarify that this is a typo.	See revised RFP.
220.	Section L.6.2.c.(v)(1), pg 103 of 110 - Section refers to Section H-3 Small Business Requirements, which is actually H-4. Please clarify.	See revised RFP.
221.	To be included as VOSB and/or SDVOSBs on our team do the firms need to be verified by VA as VOSB and/or SDVOSB? If so, will CVE have an expedited process for T4NG interested vendors?	Yes, the firms need to be verified. CVE has stated that they no longer offer an expedited verification process. The lead time on verifications is dependent on the timeliness of requests and the continued responsiveness of the company to the CVEs requests for information. T4NG was announced at the Advanced Planning Briefing to

		Industry (APBI) in June of 2014 with an anticipated acquisition schedule to allow for sufficient time for verifications and/or joint venture approvals.
222.	Will CPARS and PPIRS database record printouts suffice instead of the questionnaires mentioned in the RFP?	No, all offerors must follow instructions of the RFP. Questionnaires are required. PPIRS records will also be utilized in accordance with the solicitation instructions.
223.	Is it acceptable for the offeror to use a sans-serif type face (e.g., Arial) for graphics and tables to promote readability?	Please follow font and submission instructions as specified in the RTEP. Deviations are not permitted.
224.	Will the government please clarify the evaluation criteria for Management Subfactor requirements (1) – (5)?	These are defined in Section M of the RFP.
225.	The Government focuses a large portion of the evaluation of the feasibility of offeror's Management Proposal on the realism of its rates. What information should the offeror provide within its Management Proposal to address the realism of its proposed blended rates?	Please follow instructions of the RFP. No additional information is to be provided within the management proposal to address the blended rates.
226.	How would VA recover contract administration costs if the T4 Next Generation contract is used by other Federal Agencies? Will an access/use fee be charged?	This is internal to VA.
227.	Is the Minimum guaranteed value \$500,000 per prime awardee?	Yes.
228.	Will VA consider monthly reporting or, if kept on a quarterly basis, interim reporting of SB goals, to allow for real-time results to be part of the past performance assessments?	Reporting on a quarterly basis is the current requirement; however, reporting on a more frequent basis is currently under consideration.

229.	Would the Government consider either releasing a different set of Sample Tasks for the SBSA, SDVOSB and WOSB competitors more in line with the size, scope and complexity of the set aside tasks in execution; or, would the Government consider only requiring SB offerors to submit a response to a subset of the Sample Tasks. This approach would lower the barrier to entry, increasing competition and decrease the cost burden on SDVOSB and WOSB offerors.	The prime and its subcontractors must provide all capabilities to meet all the functional areas of the PWS. Sample tasks will not be different based on size standards of Offerors as all offerors, regardless of socio-economic size, must be able to provide all capabilities.
230.	What is the Government's definition of a "best of breed" contractor? How is the Government planning to measure this? Will there be consideration for SDVOSB teams who can stand on their own?	Contracts will be awarded to the best value proposals in accordance with steps 1-4 as defined in the basis for award.
231.	Is the Management section addressing the Offeror's overall management approach for the vehicle, as well as Task Order level? Or is the Management section to specifically address the Task Order management of each of the three Sample Tasks?	The Government cannot advise on how to best respond to the RFP.
232.	If TOs are issued within specific awardee tracks, will all set-aside awardees be eligible to bid on Unrestricted (large firm) track requirements? (i.e. can set-aside awardees bid up)	All awardees may bid on full and open task orders.
233.	Each time a project comes out for re-compete - we are seeing the trend that the awarded price is reduced significantly each time. At some point this creates risk to the VA and the contractor's performance. Will cost realism be included in the evaluation of the IDIQ and the TO's? If so – how will	The Government will not conduct cost realism at the IDIQ level; however, cost or price realism may be conducted at the task order level when appropriate. How realism would be evaluated would be identified in the RTEP for those particular task orders.

	this be accomplished?	
234.	Will the VA TAC continue to utilize other acquisition vehicles such as the VETS GWAC, 8(a) STARS, Schedule 70, MOBIS?	Yes
235.	Will the VA TAC centrally manage RTEPS for other Departments/Agencies or will the Department/Agency be allowed to issue the solicitation, evaluate proposals, make the award, and manage the RTEP?	Either scenario is possible.
236.	Will the VA TAC allow resumes and/or biographies to be included during the RTEP process?	Requirements will be specified at the task order level. Generally, resumes and biographies are not included as part of the RTEP process.
237.	Will the VA TAC allow the inclusion of graphics in RTEP proposals	Graphics may be included unless specifically excluded in the RTEP.
238.	What discriminators (e.g., Past Performance, Resumes, CPARS rating, Innovation, etc.) does the VA TAC intend to utilize/allow during the RTEP evaluation process?	Each RTEP will identify the discriminators to be used.
239.	Given the page limitations specified for proposal volumes, including the Management Volume and Sample Tasks, recommend that the VA allow vendors to agree/concur to some RFP requirements (e.g., Security, Manpower Reports, Reporting Procedures, etc.) rather than requiring a detailed response for those sections. If so, recommend stating which sections MUST be address in proposal responses, or indicate which can be met by a general concurrence.	Please follow instructions of the RFP. Not every RFP requirement requires a response.
240.	Does the VA TAC intend to source-direct and awards to successful vendors at the time of the VETS T4	The Government reserves the right to award initial orders at the time of the basic contract award on a sole

	NG award? If so, how will the VA determine which awards (monetary value) goes to what prime?	source basis pursuant to FAR 16.505(b)(2)(iv) at amounts which may exceed the minimum guaranteed value.
241.	Will Price proposals be evaluated for (1) Price Realism: and (2) Price Reasonableness	Price will be evaluated in accordance with section M.
242.	<p>Recommend inclusion of provisions for inclusion of Technology Refresh clause to allow for future technology, innovations, and/or requirements. This is especially important given that this is potentially a ten year contract vehicle.</p> <p>"FAR 39.101(b)(2): consider how fast the state of the art of the IT products or services are changing through market research FAR 39.102(b) and (c): conduct a risk assessment regarding technical obsolescence, and the dependencies between projects or systems.</p> <p>- In this case, can technology upgrades be acquired and incorporated without integration and interoperability problems?</p>	T4NG is an IT services contract and will only be used to purchase products incidental to these services. Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level which minimizes these risks.
243.	Should the Government use "modular contracting" to acquire the IT products and services in smaller quantities over time, to ensure the IT system can incorporate the latest technology?	T4NG is an IDIQ which allows modular contracting at the task order level.
244.	How long will the process be to clear employees through the VA process on task orders?	Per the VA Security Investigation Center background investigations typically take five business days from receipt of a completed package.
245.	Will employees need to have the VA clearance Day One of a task order	Requirements will be specified at the task order level.

	or is there a grace period?	
246.	What is the anticipated Validity Period for proposals submitted in response to the final VA T4 NG solicitation?	The anticipated Validity Period for proposals shall be 12 months from proposal due date.
247.	During the Industry Day Presentation, it was mentioned that the Small Business Subcontracting Plan would be incorporated at the "Contract" level. With respect to meeting the goals of the Small Business Subcontracting Plan, will it be at the individual Task Order (TO) level or the aggregate of all awarded Task Orders?	The aggregate of all awarded Task Orders
248.	<p>Addendum B, B2, subparagraph 5 states "The Contractor or Subcontractor must notify the CO immediately when an employee working on a VA system or with access to VA information is reassigned or leaves the Contractor or Subcontractor's employ. The CO must also be notified immediately by the Contractor or Subcontractor prior to an unfriendly termination."</p> <p>Since there is no privity of contract between the Government (VA) and subcontractors, shouldn't the Contractor be responsible for notifying the Government when Contractor or Subcontractor personnel are reassigned or leave employment? Please clarify.</p>	All communication should be routed through the prime Contractor unless there is an exceptional circumstance in which there is an unfriendly termination. Ultimately, the Prime contractor is responsible for ensuring the Government is aware of the unfriendly termination and will be held accountable should this not occur.
249.	Addendum B, seems to mix the terms Contractor, Subcontractor, Vendor. Please clarify.	Addendum B is IAW VA Information and Information System Security/Privacy Language, VA Handbook 6500.6, Appendix C, March 12, 2010
250.	In General shouldn't the reference to	Addendum B is IAW VA Information

	Addendum B refer to the Contractor? The Contractor should be responsible for flowing appropriate regulations and other requirements to subcontractors, teammates, and employees.	and Information System Security/Privacy Language, VA Handbook 6500.6, Appendix C, March 12, 2010
251.	Consider that DoD Source Selection Policy and Guidance outlines a transparent approach to proposal evaluation methodology. In the absence of clearly articulated evaluation standards to include defined technical ratings, technical risk ratings (if any); how will the VA and industry rest assured that the standard is known and applied equitably across what is expected to be a large pool of offerors proposing diverse and complex T4NG solutions?	All proposals will be strictly evaluated per section M of the RFP.
252.	Is a mandatory use policy expected for T4NG?	No.
253.	<p>Not all VoIP systems have fully transitioned to IPV6. Some manufacturers still use the IPv4 framework for internal communications between components such as TDM line gateways and Core Servers. Most, if not all, external facing connections use either IPv6 or dual stack framework.</p> <p>Will the government allow systems to be proposed and implemented that still use IPv4 for internal only (meaning voice network within a specific physical location i.e. DCO, or from component to component within the facility local network) communications?</p>	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level
254.	Can the contractor assume that there will be an interim period where applications based current versions	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level

	<p>(i.e. Windows 7) will still be supported even after the VA has decided to move to the newer version (i.e. Windows 8.1)?</p> <p>It is possible that there may be some lag time where certain vendor applications have not been developed for Windows 8.1 in time for deployment</p>	
255.	<p>While not discussed in the PWS, the same question as above would apply for server OS as well. For instance, assuming the current government supported Windows Server OS is 2008 or 2008R2. At some point it would be assumed that the VA would update their supported Windows Server OS to 2012. Would there be a lag time that 2008R2 would still be allowed while certain vendors upgrade their product from 2008 to 2012?</p>	<p>Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level</p>
256.	<p>Without reviewing current PBX or other Voice related systems, it is possible that there are current systems within the government inventory that are no longer supported by the original manufacturer and direct OEM spare parts may not be available. Does the government allow for third party and/or remanufactured spare parts for existing voice related systems. If, in an extreme case, no spare parts are available at all, is there a process in place for contractor to notify the government and recommend replacement solution?</p>	<p>Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level</p>
257.	<p>PWS Section 2.0 Applicable Documents vs.</p> <p>PWS Section 6.0 Security and Privacy</p>	<p>Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level</p>

	<p>The requirements are clear with respect to VA security and VA background investigations which fall under HSPD-12. However, the last paragraph of 6.2 makes reference to DoD investigations and requirement for DSS, and states that additional security clearance requirements will be identified at the TO order level.</p> <p>In addition to managing HSPD-12 clearances, are contractors required to have DSS facility clearances?</p>	
258.	<p>Is meeting the requirements for Veteran participation and small business utilization based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of contract? • Life of the contract? 	<p>Small business participation is evaluated on a quarterly basis over the life of the contract.</p>
259.	<p>How will the VA manage the measurement of the level and type of small business involvement on a TEP?</p> <p>Once a TEP has been awarded, a commitment to a certain level and type of small business participation has been made. Throughout the life of the TEP the actual level of small business participation may vary as the prime balances the need for timely replacement of staff against holding a position for a particular small business partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the involvement level be measured? At the start of the TEP only, as a rolling average or instantaneously at the time of a report? • If the level of small business participation falls below that proposed, how long will the prime have to correct? 	<p>Reference H-4 of the RFP, Small Business Participation Requirements.</p> <p>Small business participation is not measured at the task order level unless it was issued as a set-aside order.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will a formal recovery plan be required? 	
260.	When task orders are restricted to small business or a subcategory of small business per Section H-10, will prime contractors be required to recertify their size and/or socioeconomic status for the task order solicitation?	Prime contractors do not have to recertify their size status or socioeconomic status; however, if issued as an SDVOSB or VOSB set-aside, the prime must be verified in the VIP database at the time of TEP submission and at the time of award of the task order.
261.	During the performance of the current T4 contract, which of the technical functional areas were the most difficult for the incumbent T4 contractors to respond to and provide resources to meet the challenges found there-in?	T4 has successful task order performance across all functional areas of the PWS unless specifically asked to do so by the CO.
262.	What percentage of the current T4 contract task orders are awarded sole-source?	Less than 5% the current T4 contract task orders have been awarded sole-source.
263.	What percentage of the current T4 contract task orders were restricted to a VOSB and/or SDVOSB competition only?	Approximately 22% were set-aside for small business.
264.	Based on future Department IT needs what technical areas does the Department expect to award the most work in on T4NG?	The IT landscape is constantly changing; therefore, the Government cannot predict future requirements.
265.	On page 103/110 of the Draft RFP; VA118-15-R-0558 indicates that proposal VOLUME V – SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION COMMITMENT FILES. Include a table that has a 35% small business requirement. The requirement table breaks the small business requirement out across five business types: SDB - 5%; WOSB - 5%; HUBZone – 3%; VOSB – 10%; and SDVOSB – 10%. There is no reference or percentages dedicated to regular small business or 8(a)s.	There is currently no reserve for SDB or 8(a)s. The small business categories and associated percentages are consistent with those of the Agency.

	Is the intent of the Department of Veterans Affairs to not provide preference to both small business and 8(a)s in the upcoming T4NG procurement covering a potential 10 year, \$22.3 Billion procurement effort? Please note: that SDB-5% as a category is not referenced in Draft RFP's Section M – Evaluation Factors For Award; Paragraph - A. Basis For Award.	
266.	Will the SBA or the Department of Veteran Affairs OSDBU be providing any programmatic or individual assistance to small businesses seeking to join one of the Prime Contract Teams for the new T4NG?	The TAC has supplied an interested party list by socio-economic status for companies who are seeking teammates. Requests OSDBU or SBA assistance should be directed to SBA or OSDBU.
267.	Are all SDVOSBs considered to be VOSBs and will awarded work to an SDVOSB count towards goals of VOSB?	All SDVOSBs are VOSBs. Work awarded to an SDVOSB counts toward VOSB goals.
268.	Will the Sample Task response instructions be provided with the Sample Tasks?	Yes.
269.	Could awards be made to different contractors for sub-areas such as PWS section 4.1.1 and 4.1.2?	Awards will not be made based on functional areas. Awards will be made for the entire IDIQ contract only.
270.	Have any incumbent contractors been COI'ed out from this contract?	No, there are no OCI issues which prevent current T4 primes from bidding T4NG.
271.	Have the incumbent contractors for the functional areas been identified?	No, the current T4 contract does not have primes for individual functional areas.
272.	Will proposals from consortiums be considered?	The Offeror has to be registered in accordance with SAM IAW FAR Part 4.11 and can team pursuant to FAR Part 9.6.
273.	Are there advantages to SDVOSB Primes having Partners mostly	The Government cannot advise on how to best respond to the RFP.

	composed of strong-performing Women Owned Small Businesses and Hub-Zone small businesses?	
274.	Will Past Performance for Healthcare IT be weighted higher than generic IT Past Performance?	All recent and relevant past performance instances are viewed equally.
275.	Under the "IT Facilities" Functional Area, are Agencies wanting to out-source to Hosted IT Services or have T4NG IDIQ awardees operate and sustain Agency-owned IT Facilities? What percentage of both has been identified by potential Customers of the T4NG IDIQ?	Technical requirements will be specified at the task order level.
276.	Section H-6, Please confirm that this paragraph, and specifically the adjustment of indirect rates, only applies to materials on time and material task orders.	INCORPORATION OF RATES AND LABOR DESCRIPTIONS applies to both time and materials.
277.	Section L states that "The Offeror shall provide a brief narrative on the skills and expertise of the prime and each subcontractor, and which functional area(s) each is performing as identified in PWS Paragraph 4.0 and its subparagraphs." This is the only reference responding to PWS Section 4.0. Will the government please clarify how offerors are to respond to PWS Section 4.0? Should responses for PWS Section 4.0 be provided within the 25 pages of the management section?	The Government cannot advise on how to best respond to the RFP. Please follow the proposal submission instructions in L.6. Please note that a response to every PWS paragraph is not required.
278.	Relative to the preference that the Draft RFP proposes to give to Woman Owned and HUBZone companies in Source Selection, why does the government give this preference over other disadvantaged companies?	VA strives to meet or exceed its small business goals for all types of small businesses. Unfortunately VA has difficulty meeting its goals for WOSB and HubZone small businesses. This acquisition strategy seeks increase prime contract opportunities in these two

		categories.
279.	With no factor other than the government's unclear reasoning for the preferential treatment of HUBZone and WO companies over other categories of offerors, doesn't the Source Selection preference in this award violate the government's stated evaluation criteria?	No, it does not.
280.	<p>The government states its intention for an "Off Ramp" for certain situations wherein a change in a corporation's structure has a material impact on their business classification. The US government regularly reviews the status of all Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) geographic areas and reclassifies those areas based upon changing economic environments.</p> <p>Therefore, a geographic area (and the companies within it) may meet the definition of a HUBZone at the time of RFP release and proposal preparation, but not submission, submission but not award or award but not post award. The government's time definition to determine if a company qualifies as a HUBZone company is at proposal submission and contract award. If a HUBZone company is intended to be awarded a contract yet through growth and hiring of employees outside the HUBZone itself, or government redefinition of that geographic area, no longer qualifies as a HUBZone company at the time of award, will that company have wasted a year of effort in pursuing T4NG?</p>	Whether or not to bid on the T4NG RFP is a business decision that must be made by the company.
281.	If a company awarded a T4NG	IAW with Statute 126.601, firms

	<p>contract as a HUBZone company ceases to meet the legal criteria as a HUBZone company, either because of hiring employees who live outside the HUBZone area, or the governments redefinition of their geographic area, will that company be required to report the change in business status to the government? If so, will the government “Off Ramp” that company or continue to report the revenue generated by that company as HUBZone revenue despite the fact that the company no longer meets the legal requirements as a HUBZone company? If so, would the government not be misstating its achievement of its Small Business goals?</p>	<p>must be qualified both at time of initial offeror and at time of award in order to be eligible for a HUBZone contract. A concern that is qualified as a HUBZone at time of initial offeror and award, including a MAC, is considered a HUBZone throughout the life of that contract.</p> <p>For the purposes of contracts (including Multiple Award Contracts) with durations of more than five years (including options), a contracting officer must request that a business concern recertify its HUBZone small business concern (SBC) status no more than 120 days prior to the end of the fifth year of the contract, and no more than 120 days prior to exercising any option.</p>
282.	Will complexity be evaluated w/r/t Past Performance?	Areas to be evaluated may include but are not limited to the offerors record of: technical understanding, project milestones and schedule; quality of the services provided, and cost controls.
283.	What is the approximate mix of Firm Fixed Price, T&M, or Cost Reimbursement contracts awarded in 2014?	This information is publicly available via FPDS.
284.	Would you confirm that small businesses do not need to submit a Small Business Participation Plan, but instead a Small Business Participation Commitment Excel file?	Small business are not required to submit a small business subcontracting plan; however, all Offerors (Large and small) must complete the SBPC excel file.
285.	Can you please identify the citizenship requirement for this engagement?	At the basic level there is no citizenship requirement; however, at the task order level there may be some citizenship restrictions that apply.
286.	Based on identified Classification level, will interims be accepted to	Requirements will be specified at the task order level

	begin work?	
287.	If there are requirements for TS, please clarify investigation requirement based on classification?	Requirements will be specified at the task order level
288.	<p>“the Offeror is required to include the Government-provided Material/ODC amounts and the Government provided Travel amountsin accordance with regulations regarding time-and-material contracts, when loading these estimates, no fee/profit is allowed.”</p> <p>Please confirm that the “no fee/profit” comment only refers to travel and ODC’s.</p>	This is correct.
289.	H-8 / Page 78-79. Please clarify and define how the VA will determine “Value of the Contractor” in the Task Order Metrics paragraph? Will determination be for all TEPs or just Cost-plus and T&M type?	Value of the Contractor considers the value of the services provided by the contractor, the quality of the products delivered by the contractor, and overall assessment of performance
290.	Does the government expect the complete CTA from all subcontractors or will the signature page be sufficient?	Yes, Offerors are required to provide the entire CTA.
291.	The Government requires a Program Manager. The government did not specify this as a key position or request a resume. Will this role be considered a Key position?	No resumes are required to be submitted in response to the RFP. Key personnel, if required, would be identified at the task order level.
292.	In regard to Section 4.6, Enterprise Networks, DRFP page 33, can the government confirm whether it considers the GSA Network Universal range of services outside the envisioned scope of T4NG?	Voice and data services are outside the envisioned scope of T4NG; however, there are other areas within the Network range of services that could be considered within the scope of T4NG.
293.	Does the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Technology Acquisition Center have, or will they have, a government-employed Business	This is not planned at this time, although it may be a future consideration.

	Development Staff that is responsible for marketing the T4NG contract vehicle to potential customers?	
294.	<p>When does the government anticipate making a decision regarding the future of the VRM IDIQ vehicle and on whether VRM will remain a standalone contract vehicle versus having all VRM work performed on T4NG? Will the government share with Industry what the determining factors will be in arriving at a decision?</p> <p>Will future RTLS requirements and contracts be competed under T4NG?</p>	Acquisition strategies are dependent on the specific requirement. Many factors contribute to these strategies. The Government cannot speculate on what strategies will be employed for requirements that are not defined at this time.
295.	In regard to Section M, Evaluation Factors for Award, DRFP page 106, as a basis for award determination will the government make any assessment of a potential offeror's ability to market the T4NG vehicle and ultimately drive business towards the vehicle?	No. The basis of award is as stated in the RFP.
296.	It was related that the government will accept Past Performances equally for VA, Government, State Government, commercial contracts, etc. What steps will be taken by the government to ensure State Government and Commercial Past Performances aren't downgraded since those efforts will not be tracked in the Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS) nor have any VA affiliation?	Evaluations will be conducted strictly in accordance with Section M of the RFP.
297.	<p>For existing T4 Task Orders, are they in full compliance with PMAS? Verified by whom?</p> <p>Are all current T4 TOs using the PMAS Review process and</p>	Not all T4 task orders require compliance with PMAS. This is based on the individual requirements and specified by the task order. Monitoring compliance with PMAS requirements and

	<p>scheduling Milestones review thru PMAS Business Office?</p> <p>Are all T4 TOs reporting thru PMAS Dashboard? Who monitors compliance?</p> <p>Are current T4 TOs performed in full compliance with ProPath practices?</p>	<p>ProPath processes is the responsibility of the COR and/or the VA program/project manager.</p>
298.	<p>The Office of IT; Office of Enterprise Development – “Quality Assurance Standard” reference PMAS and ProPath – is the single, most binding QA Standard for T4 TOs. Is this standard currently being applied? If so, by whom?</p>	<p>Yes this standard is currently applied by VA’s Office of Information & Technology (OI&T), however it is not the only QA standard required. These will be defined at the task order level.</p>
299.	<p>With regard to Volume III, Veteran’s involvement, if the Prime offeror is already either an SDVOSB or an SDVOSB JV, can it still receive additional consideration under the VAAR 852.219-72 Evaluation Factor for Participation in the VA Mentor-Protégé Program? If so, and the SDVOSB is a Protégé in such an agreement, are the limitations on what or who the Mentor may be? In the case of a JV, to receive consideration under this element, does the JV itself need to be the Protégé, or is it the SDVOSB managing member of the JV which must be the Protégé?</p>	<p>IAW VAAR 819.7102(d), by definition a protégé means an SDVOSB or VOSB; for purposes of receiving consideration under the VA Mentor Protégé Program (MPP). An SDVOSB listed by name as a protégé under the VA MPP; which was initiated on Dec 30, 2011, does not also convey their protégé status to any joint venture (JV) for which the SDVOSB is also a member. This is true even if the SDVOSB is the managing member, and the JV were also eligible to be considered an SDVOSB JV, by virtue of the SDVOSBs controlling interests. The SDVOSB JV (as a separate legal entity from the managing member, IAW 38 CFR 74.1) would have to itself, already be named as a protégé on a current VA Mentor Protégé Agreement, prior to submitting a proposal.</p> <p>IAW VAAR 819.7102(a) “[a] mentor may be a large or small business concern.” IAW VAAR 819.7104(a) “to be eligible, mentors... must not be listed on the Excluded Parties</p>

		<p>List System". Additionally, mentors must be adequately situated as to provide appropriate development assistance to enhance the capabilities of the protégés to perform as prime contractors and/or subcontractors.</p> <p>A JV being formed for the purpose of proposing on any resulting solicitation cannot also be construed as a pseudo mentor protégé arrangement, between a managing member and the other venture members, for the purpose of obtaining mentor protégé consideration.</p>
300.	<p>On Page 97, section L.5 VAAR 852.219-71 VA MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM (DEC 2009), will the government consider the addition of HUBZone certified companies to the list of eligible companies as protégés in the VA mentor protégé program?</p>	<p>The VA Mentor-Protégé requirements are addressed in VAAR 852.219-71. The Government will not deviate from the regulations.</p>
301.	<p>How will the VA manage the measurement of the Veterans Employment performance on a TEP?</p> <p>Once a TEP has been awarded, a commitment to a certain level of Veteran participation has been made. Throughout the life of the TEP the actual level of Veteran participation will vary up and down as staff join or leave the TEP and the prime balances the need for timely replacement of staff against holding a position for a Veteran with the correct skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the VA track this? I don't see a metric in the list of metrics for the Personnel Contractor Manpower Report (unless it is OI&T 	<p>Please see solicitation, clause H-5, Veterans Employment.</p>

	<p>Pillar Supported – a term I am not familiar with).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the participation level be measured? A rolling average or instantaneously at the time of a report? • If the level of Veteran participation falls below that proposed, how long will the prime have to correct? • Will a formal recovery plan be required? • Will this be measured by head count or labor dollars? 	
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