

**Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation (T4NG)
Request for Proposal (RFP) Questions and Answers
VA118-15-R-0558
November 25, 2014**

Notes:

- 1. For efficiency purposes, the Government removed duplicative questions and questions that have been previously answered. Please review the RFI and Industry Day Questions and Answers previously posted to FBO.**
- 2. T4 NextGen is an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order (MATO) contract.**

| Number | Questions | Answers |
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| 1. | Reference: Sample Tasks Will the Government provide any additional information on any of the Sample Tasks. | The Government will not provide any additional information relative to the Sample Tasks. |
| 2. | Reference Performance Work Statement (PWS) functional areas: Will the Government provide any additional information on any of the PWS functional areas. | The Government will not provide any additional information relative to the PWS functional areas. T4 NextGen is an Indefinite IDIQ Order MATO contract. As such, specific technical requirements will be provided at the task order level. |
| 3. | Are we required to price the sample tasks? | No. |
| 4. | We request an extension to the proposal due date. | No extension will be granted at this time. |
| 5. | The pricing spreadsheet named "001-(Prime Offeror)_PRICINGATTACHMENT " requests OCONUS rates for 21 labor categories. Given the varying Department of State Post Differential and Danger Pay Allowances, knowing the locations is helpful in accurately estimating the OCONUS rates. Where are the OCONUS locations? | See the following website for VA locations. http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1 The specific locations where work will be required is currently unknown as the requirements will be task order specific; however, the VA maintains OCONUS locations in Hawaii, Alaska, Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico, |

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| | | American Samoa, and the US Virgin Islands. |
| 6. | Regarding potential OCONUS opportunities, could you please confirm that an applicable SOFA, such as the one between the United States and the Philippines, or a similar type of agreement, will be identified and flowed down at the Task Order level? | SOFA is not applicable to VA; however, if an external department/agency issues a task order in which SOFA would be applicable it will be specified at the task order level. |
| 7. | We assume that prohibiting consultants from sample task development excludes them from all proposal development tasks, e.g., outlining, theming, solutioning, writing, graphic development, reviewing, and potentially editing. In anticipation of this bid, some of the outlining, theming, solutioning, and preliminary writing has already been completed by consultants. Are we not able to use these inputs in any way? | Consultants shall not contribute to the development of the sample task responses in any way. A consultant may review other portions of the proposal not related to the Sample Tasks. |
| 8. | What is the VA's business rationale for excluding consultants from the proposal development tasks listed in Q1 above? Is it the VA's intention that if we use consultants, we essentially need to either hire them as W2 employees or make them T4NG subcontractors in order to be compliant? | Sample tasks are a test of an Offeror's inherent capability to perform under the T4NG contract and should represent the efforts of the team planned to perform under the contract and not the product of outside consultants. Sample task responses shall be prepared by the Offeror and its subcontractor(s) with which it has a CTA as defined in FAR subpart 9.6 and included in the management volume. Consultants shall not contribute to the development of the sample task responses. |
| 9. | Since there is the possibility of over a year between time of submission and time of award, will the VA allow for the replacement of a JV member that changes the status of a JV? For example, companies A and B are in a Woman owned JV, with Company A as the lead member. Company B | The joint venture submitting the proposal is recognized as a specific entity. As such, any changes to the composition of the joint venture dissolves the specific joint venture entity which submitted a proposal. |

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| | grows large after submission, but before award. At the time of award, can company B be replaced in the JV by a new company, Company C, and then move Company B to a subcontractor role to fulfill the contract? OR, Can Company B just be removed from the JV and allow Company A to proceed as the sole member of the JV with Company B as a subcontractor? | |
| 10. | <p>Reference: M.A.1 Basis for Award. To receive consideration for award, a rating of no less than “Acceptable” must be achieved for the Technical Factor, all Technical Sub-factors, and the SBPC Factor.”</p> <p>Question: Since the Sample Tasks are a Technical Subfactor, one can conclude the Sample Task rating is also “Acceptable/Unacceptable.” Is this correct?</p> | The Government does not disclose adjectival ratings. The Sample Task sub-factor will be evaluated in accordance with the Basis for Award. |
| 11. | <p>Reference: Past Performance rating.</p> <p>Question: What are the performance risk rating criteria? Additionally, it is unclear what the overall rating is when an offeror meets the evaluation criteria for performance risk, quality, recency, and relevancy – is it favorable or unfavorable as suggested in C.2.b or some other rating?</p> | The Government does not disclose rating definitions. |
| 12. | <p>Reference: Section L, para L.5. 52.222-46 – EVALUATION OF COMPENSATION FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES and Section L Instructions for VOLUME I – TECHNICAL FILES, Section 5, CTA.PDF (Contractor’s ability to attract and retain its workforce...)</p> <p>Due to the Compensation Plan</p> | Yes. In accordance with Section L.11, Proposal Submission Instructions, the Compensation Plan shall be submitted under Volume I, Sub-factor b – Management. See RFP Amendment A00001. |

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| | containing “pricing” related information such as salaries and fringes, is it the Government’s intent to have it within the Technical Volume? | |
| 13. | Further, is salary data required for all 173 positions provided in the RFP or only for the positions deemed necessary in our Sample Task Order Responses? | A blended rate is required for all labor categories (175) provided in the RFP. |
| 14. | Reference: Page 4 of 124, Section B.3 Price Schedule, CLINS X001, X002 and X003. Question: All CLINs are addressed, providing explanation that they will be required and included in price at Task Order level, but there is no mention of CLINs X001, X0002, and X003. Please confirm that as the “NOTE” in B.3 states, no pricing is to be provided in these CLINs (X001, X002, and X003) in response to this RFP | All price proposals must be submitted in the format provided at Section J, Attachment 001. Pricing at the CLIN level is not required. |
| 15. | Will the Government reconsider the allowance of the use consultants on the sample tasks to ensure the fair treatment to the small business community, especially SDVOSBs. | No, the Government will not reconsider allowance of the use consultants on the sample tasks. |
| 16. | Since offerors are responding to Sample Task Orders and no specific locations are provided AND can vary drastically based on location of services, length of service by incumbent employees, etc., is it the Government’s intent for the Compensation Plan to be submitted in response to this RFP or at the individual Task Order Level? | The Compensation Plan is to be submitted in response to this RFP only. |
| 17. | If the Compensation Plan is to remain as part of the response to this RFP, please advise if the Compensation Plan is to be provided by the Prime Contractor only, or if it is required from subcontractors as well? All company | The Compensation Plan is to be provided by the Prime Contractor only. |

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| | plans are different, and considered proprietary information... if plans are required by subcontractors, how does the Government want subcontractors to submit/provide their Compensation Plans? | |
| 18. | If consultants are used in our regular business operations and they have been working for us for a long period of time as a 1099 contractor, may we use their input to develop responses to the sample tasks? | No. Consultants shall not contribute to the development of the sample task responses. |
| 19. | L.8.b. This section requires a statement on OCI. Please confirm that this should be included as part of volume 7. | The statement shall be submitted with the proposal, only if applicable, and is not related to any specific volume. |
| 20. | We hereby request that the total compensation plan be made an attachment that is not included in the page limitation for Volume 1, Sub-factor b | See Amendment A00001. |
| 21. | L.11(2)(c)(ii)(1) – Contract Descriptions Given the RFP included no attachment specifying format for the required excel file, please confirm that contract format that includes the information required in subparagraphs (a) through (e) is acceptable. | Any format that includes the information required at RFP Section L.11(2)(ii)(1) – Section 1 Contract Descriptions. |
| 22. | There is no start date referenced in the final RFP. However question 109 in the October 30th Q and A's states the government anticipates award in December 2015. Q: Is it safe to assume the start date should be December 2015? | As previously stated, the Government anticipates award in December 2015. |
| 23. | There appears to be some inconsistency in the labeling, numbering, and identifying several attachments. For example, | See Amendment A00001. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Attachment 010's are listed: Small Business Participation Report and Performance Assessment Plan, yet the actual attachments to the solicitation documents on FedBizOpps do not match Attachment 016 - T4-SAMPLETASKS when opened has a heading of Attachment 014. <p>Q: Will the government please clarify the numbering of attachments?</p> | |
| 24. | Please confirm that it is the government's intention for the Performance Risk Assessment Questionnaires (PRAQs) to be completed by our clients and returned to us to be submitted as part of our overall Volume II response due Dec 19, instead of our clients submitted PRAQs directly to the VA Contracting Officer. | Yes, submit all questionnaires with your proposal. |
| 25. | Reference Section 6.2f - If contractor personnel have active DOD clearances, can their existing e-QIP records be utilized or must they re-enter their information into e-QIP to support this contract? | Contractors will be required to re-enter their information into e-QIP to support task orders. |
| 26. | Are Contractor Team Arrangements (CTAs) required to be submitted in both Volume I – Technical and Volume II – Past Performance? Please clarify. | Yes. |
| 27. | Will Prime Offerors and Subcontractors be required to execute NDAs with MITRE Corporation as they will be reviewing proprietary data? | MITRE has signed an NDA to protect offerors' proprietary information. Separate agreements with prime offerors and subcontractors are not required. |
| 28. | Will the government alter the requirement of maintaining the ratio of Veterans employment for small business, since it is overly burdensome for small businesses because as they grow they may see a significant negative shift in their ratios due to having to hire a broader pool of | No, this is a requirement of the contract. |

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| | employees, especially if they are now in an area of high Veteran population and expand to areas with lower Veterans ratios? | |
| 29. | Are companies required to include their Veteran employment rate for their entire company, or if they have separate federal contract subsidiaries or federal contract divisions can they use their numbers for those components, as some large companies will interpret requirement as just for their federal practice. | The Government defines Prime Offeror as the bidding entity with a specific DUNS and CAGE code. Offerors shall only count the number of total employees and Veterans employed by the prime offeror/bidding entity. |
| 30. | <p>Within H.9, Metrics, the government refers to program-level and Task Order metrics. Are the program-level metrics synonymous with the contract metrics and the TO level metric synonymous with the performance metrics referred to in #2 of the management instructions?</p> <p>If not, can the government please clarify what they deem to be performance metrics and contract metrics as referenced in the management instructions?</p> | <p>The program level assessment will be a collection and consolidation of all QASP Performance Based Service Assessment Surveys for all of the task orders. Contractor performance on the Task Order level will be assessed IAW the corresponding QASP Performance Based Service Assessment Survey.</p> <p>The Government cannot advise on how best to propose regarding the management subfactor.</p> |
| 31. | Please define what the government means by professional employees: does this include support personnel or labor associated with the contractor that will be billable? | Professional employees are defined in 29 CFR 541. |
| 32. | Must the contractor include all supporting information used to develop compensation plans within the compensation plan or is it acceptable for the contractor to just reference supporting data used within the plan? | The Government cannot advise on how best to propose regarding the management subfactor. |
| 33. | The RFP states that "the Offeror's Management sub-factor proposal shall address the following areas: The proposed approach of how this effort will be accomplished by the offeror | The Government cannot advise on how best to propose regarding the management subfactor. |

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| | <p>and its subcontractors”.</p> <p>Can the government please clearly state what the government expects the contractor to discuss in this section? Does the government expect contractors to detail their and subcontractors’ approach to accomplishing the management of this contract or does the government expect the contractor to detail their approach to accomplishing the technical functional area tasks as defined in the RFP?</p> | |
| 34. | What should the contractor name the price methodology file? | (Prime Offeror)_PRMETH.PDF |
| 35. | Request that the Government confirm that term “Offerors” used in the RFP Section L.9(c) requirement for “Offerors must state in their proposals the names of the SDVOSBs and VOSBs with whom they intend to subcontract...” refers only to “Non-Veteran offerors.” | RFP Section L.9(c) states Non-Veteran offerors proposing to use service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses or Veteran-owned small businesses as subcontractors will receive some consideration under this evaluation factor. |
| 36. | <p>RFP Section L.11.2.a Proposal Files. Each volume shall contain the offerors DUNS and CAGE Code.</p> <p>Are the Cage Code and DUNS required to be on every page of the proposal (such as the header) or only on the cover page?</p> | DUNS and CAGE Codes are required on the cover page of each volume. |
| 37. | Is the cover page that we use to introduce our Volumes considered to be the same as the Cover Letter? Will a Volume Cover count towards page count? | Yes the cover letter is the same as the cover page. See RFP Amendment A00001. The cover page is not included in the page counts. |
| 38. | Would it be permissible for an offeror to use the services of the individual whom they have designated as their T4NG Program Manager to assist in the development of its Sample Task responses if that individual is currently not a full time employee? | Yes, provided the individual is an “employee” of the offeror as defined in the RFP. 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 Social Security taxes. |

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| 39. | Will the Government permit the use of subcontractor logos in the body of the proposal where the overview of the team is provided? | Yes but this will count toward the page limitation. |
| 40. | Is it permissible to use single-spaced lists (for bullets and numbered/lettered lists) without putting a blank line between each bulleted/numbered/lettered line? | Please follow formatting requirements at L.11(2) Proposal Files. |
| 41. | Is it permissible to use a font other than Times New Roman in graphics? | No. Please follow formatting requirements at L.11(2) Proposal Files. |
| 42. | "The Government may evaluate the Offeror's proposed blended labor rates . . ." Should Offeror include such rates in the Management proposal? | No. |
| 43. | Will Mentor-Protégé Agreements from other agencies receive the same credit as VA Mentor-Protégé Agreements? We believe that VA is not accepting new Mentor-Protégé Agreements so to provide credit for such agreements from other agencies is appropriate. | Mentor- Protégé Agreements involving SDVOSB or VOSB concerns from any Federal Agency will be considered in evaluation of the Veterans Involvement Factor. |
| 44. | The "Government Small Business Participation Requirement" has been left "TBD". Could you please confirm that it will be 35% as found in the Section L.11 instructions for Volume V? | The Small Business Participation Requirement must be at least 35 percent. |
| 45. | The applicable documents described in Y. and Z. appear to be the same document. Likewise, the documents described in KK. and LL. appear to be the same. Could you please confirm these are duplications? | Yes. See RFP Amendment A00001. |
| 46. | Ref. Attachment 018 Performance Risk Assessment Questionnaire - Please confirm the past performance ratings should be "Exceptional", "Very Good", "Satisfactory", "Below", "Satisfactory", and "Poor". "Below" and "Satisfactory" are currently listed in separate rows and give the offeror the perception they are two different | See Amendment A00001. |

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| | ratings. | |
| 47. | VOLUME 5 Small Business Participation Commitment – Can the VA please clarify whether the Small Business Subcontracting Plan will be evaluated? If so, what criteria will be used or evaluation in Section M? | The Small Business Subcontracting Plan to be submitted by large businesses in accordance with FAR 19.702 is not evaluated. |
| 48. | Ref. I – Clauses Incorporated by reference – 52.210-1 is currently “RESERVED” in the FAR including amendments through FAC 2005-77 effective November 13th 2014. Please advise whether this clause should be incorporated by reference and if so, please provide full text as it is not available in the current FAR version. | This clause is still applicable and can be found in the FAR. |
| 49. | Certain contracting offices will not provide questionnaires. This being the case, will a CPARS report suffice? | No. |
| 50. | The proposal submission instructions state that new corporate entities may submit data on prior contract(s)/task order(s) involving its officers and employees. However, in addition to the other requirements in this section, the Offeror shall discuss in detail the role performed by such persons in the prior contract(s)/task order(s) cited. Information shall be included in the files described in the sections above. If new corporate entities are not applicable to the offeror, should this section/file be omitted or should a document be submitted, stating that new corporate entities are not applicable? | Either approach is acceptable. |
| 51. | Can the Government please clarify if there is an evaluation preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns? Item A, Basis for Award in Section M states, “All non-price factors when combined are significantly more important than the Price Factor.” | Yes, in accordance with FAR 52.219-4. |
| 52. | If a HUBZone elects to receive the evaluation preference, must at least 50% of the cost of personnel for | Yes, IAW 52.219-4, Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business |

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| | contract performance be spent for employees of the concern or employees of other HUBZone concerns? | Concerns, offers from HUBZone small business concerns that have not waived the evaluation preference agree that in the performance of this contract at least 50 percent of the cost of personnel for contract performance will be spent for employees of the concern or employees of other HUBZone small business concerns. |
| 53. | In Step 3 of the award process, will the Government give priority to SDVOSB and VOSB concerns over other small business offerors or will all submissions be treated equally within this category? | All small business offerors in Step 3 will be treated equally regardless of socioeconomic category. |
| 54. | Will the VA consider Virtual employment that will enable the inclusion of more Veterans especially the disabled and those working in rural areas that are challenged to get to the work place and large metro areas? Virtual employees can be more cost effective and allow to expand the potential work pool of qualified individuals. | An employee is defined as any individual on the payroll of an employer (Prime Offeror) who is an employee for purposes of the employer's withholding of Social Security taxes. |
| 55. | Section L , Volume I, Technical Files, paragraph (i)(b)(1) states in part: "The Offeror's Management Sub-factor proposal shall address the following areas: (1) The proposed approach of how the effort required by the T4NG PWS will be accomplished by the Offeror and its subcontractor(s)." Can the Government clarify this requirement - Should this be addressed from a technical basis and from a management basis? Does the Government expect that the offerors to specifically address each PWS Section from a technical and/or management basis? | The Government cannot advise on how best to propose. 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. |
| 56. | Section L -11(2.)(ii) "..... Areas of | Yes. |

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| | <p>relevance include contracts/subcontracts the Offeror has been awarded and are greater than \$1,000,000 and which provide any of the IT services similar to those required under functional areas 4.1 through 4.11 of the T4NG PWS...." Are all Contract References from the offeror and major subcontractors required to be greater than \$1,000,000?</p> | |
| 57. | <p>Section I page 88 - Please correct the date of provision 52.242-4 as it currently reads, "Jan 1197"</p> | <p>See RFP Amendment A00001.</p> |
| 58. | <p>Regarding the statement, "Mechanism to attract and retain workforce." Does that apply to prime offeror only or prime and subs?</p> | <p>The statement is applicable to the Offeror as a team; however, only the Prime offeror is required to submit a compensation plan.</p> |
| 59. | <p>RFP states: "...you are required to input the total number of employees for your company only, as well as the total number of Veterans employed by your company...." If a company only tracks Veteran employment numbers within their U.S. employee base can we provide the number of U.S. employees and U.S. Veterans instead of Worldwide employees and U.S. Veterans?</p> | <p>The Government defines Prime Offeror as the bidding entity with a specific DUNS and CAGE code. Offerors shall only count the number of total employees and Veterans employed by the prime offeror/bidding entity.</p> |
| 60. | <p>Volume IV states, "The Offeror shall complete provided spreadsheet, PrimeOfferor_VE.XLS found in section J of the solicitation. Please rename this file replacing PrimeOfferor with the Offeror's company name. Additionally, the Offeror must complete the certification set forth at Attachment 014. Can the Government please confirm that Attachment 14 should be submitted in Volume VII only, and not within Volume IV as well? If we are to provide it in Volume IV, can the Government please provide direction on how to submit the employment certification form with this volume?"</p> | <p>The certification at attachment 014 shall be provided in Volume VII only.</p> |

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| | Should we embed the certification as a separate tab in the PrimeOfferor_VE document or submit as a separate PDF file? | |
| 61. | Volume II - Past Performances Files - Will the Government please confirm that past performance may come from either party in a formal joint venture, such as an SBA 8(a) Mentor Protégé Joint Venture? | An existing joint venture may provide instances of work performed as the joint venture entity. A new joint venture may provide instances from either party; however both sections 2 and 3 should be submitted. |
| 62. | Volume VI - Pricing Files - The RFP Pricing Template requests OCONUS rates for select labor categories. OCONUS locations are defined as Government owned and/or operated facilities (On-Site) outside the continental United States. Are locations specific allowances for OCONUS (non US performance locations) included in the ODC totals provided in the RFP for each year, or are these location specific allowance or uplifts to be included in our OCONUS rates in the T4NG Pricing Template? | Location specific allowances for OCONUS (non US performance locations) are not included in the ODC totals provided in the RFP for each year. OCONUS location allowances or loadings should be included in the OCONUS blended loaded labor rates in the T4NG Pricing Template for those labor categories that the Government is requesting OCONUS blended loaded labor rates. |
| 63. | How long should Offerors make their proposals valid? | 365 days. See Amendment A00001. |
| 64. | L; 118; (e) Reference to Section D of the Solicitation seems to be incorrect. Is the correct reference Attachment 001 – Pricing? | See Amendment A00001. |
| 65. | So that the Government may take advantage of a contractor's pre-existing intellectual property, such as best practices methodologies, and would the Government add FAR 52.227-14, ALT II and ALT III? | Alternates may be added at the task order level as applicable. |
| 66. | Section L.11, 11 (vi), Pages 117 & 118. Subpara vi contains conflicting language regarding the disclosure of cost data. Could the Government reconcile the following statements: "(vi) Breakdown of cost data is not required in as much as the Contracting Officer anticipates | Adequate competition is expected at the basic contract level. The pricing methodology file will not be evaluated at the basic contract level but may be utilized in post award actions to determine price reasonableness. |

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| | adequate price competition." and "(vi) (d) The price proposal shall also include an additional Price Methodology file that identifies the Offeror's proposed fringe rate, overhead rate, G&A rate, Facilities Capital Cost of Money rate (if applicable), and profit percentage." | |
| 67. | Must proposed subcontractors be SDVOSB/VOSB? | No. |
| 68. | RFP: "File sizes shall not exceed 100MB." Is this the file size limit for the total number of files submitted or for each individual file? | The 100MB limitation is per individual file. |
| 69. | RFP states that to "...receive consideration for award, a rating of no less than Acceptable must be achieved for the Technical Factor, all Technical Sub-factors, and the SBPC Factor." How will the sample task scores be used to establish the score for Subfactor a – Sample Tasks? | The Government will not provide this information. |
| 70. | Is a response asserting NO conflicts of interest also required in the response? | If there are no conflicts no OCI statement is required. |
| 71. | Section 7.2 of the PWS states: "The Contractor shall establish a single management focal point, the Program Manager, to accomplish the administrative, managerial and financial aspects of this contract and all subsequent Task Orders. This individual shall be identified to the TAC as the focal point for all programmatic issues." However, the Labor Category of Program Manager is assigned 105,000 hours annually (54.7 FTEs at 1920 productive work year per FTE). Is this Labor Category intended to be used for the Program Manager, or the Project Director (which is assigned 1,870 annually). | The Program Manager assigned 105,000 hours is for program management at the task order level. |

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| 72. | Section L-11, Proposal Submittal Instructions, (2) Proposal Files, page 111, states Page numbers, company logos, and headers and footers may be within the page margins ONLY. Is it the Government's intention that page numbers and headers and footers are within a one inch margin, effectively making the margins for text 1.25", or is the government's intention to have one inch margins for body text with the headers and footers with a one-inch margin in a word processing program? | Please follow formatting requirements at L.11(2) Proposal Files. |
| 73. | RFP Page 116 Volume V, states that "All offerors both large and small are required to submit a subcontracting plan. However, in Section L Contents Requirements Chart for Volume VII it states that large businesses are required to submit a subcontracting plan. Please clarify. | RFP Page 116 Volume V states "All Offerors, both small and large businesses, are required to submit Small Business Participation Commitment information." |
| 74. | Will the Government also be utilizing CPARS in the event a CPARS report is not available in PPIRS? | The Government reserves the right to obtain past performance information from any available source. |
| 75. | The Pricing Spreadsheet contains values for ODCs and Travel. Therefore, are these values the same for all bidders? If so, is the pricing evaluation based only on labor and indirect ODCs? | The ODC and Travel amounts are used for evaluation purposes and are locked values in the spreadsheet. Therefore, they are the same for all bidders. The price evaluation is based on labor, travel, travel indirect, ODC and ODC indirect. The bidders are proposing labor rates and travel/ODC indirect rates only. The government provided labor hours and travel/ODC amounts are used for evaluation purposes and shall not be changed. |
| 76. | Does the stated On-Ramp procedure – specifically the wording of including but not limited to – allow companies who have not responded to a T4 procurement to be included as | The Government may On-Ramp Contractors by any means necessary, including but not limited to, revisiting the original pool of T4NG Offerors deemed in the |

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| | potential awardees? | competitive range, and/or issuing a follow-on T4NG solicitation for evaluation that may not be limited to companies that responded to the original T4. |
| 77. | Would the VA consider including a price evaluation preference for Economically Disadvantaged Woman-owned Small Business (EDWOSB) in an effort to ensure that the VA meets its woman-owned small business goals for the next generation T4 contract? | This is not being considered at this time. |
| 78. | Having a sans serif font (Arial) and a serif font (Times New Roman) allows for a differentiation between Heading titles and paragraph text. This makes following the outline of the proposal easier for the reviewer. Fonts like Arial are also easier to read in graphic especially on color at a smaller sizes. May the text above (RFP Section L.11.2.a) be changed to read 12-point Times New Roman and Arial fonts are required? | No. Please follow formatting requirements at L.11(2) Proposal Files. |
| 79. | May we assume that a heading of a paragraph is part of the following paragraph thus may be closer to the related paragraph than 6 points (the default in word is for heading to be at least 6 points away from the paragraph above and a maximum of 3 points from the paragraph they are related to)? For example: Preceding paragraph stops here, followed by 6 points at a minimum 1.1 Heading Title Text Here Text of related paragraph follows heading at 3 points or less depending on heading level. Other paragraphs in the section follow the 6 point minimum | Please follow formatting requirements at L.11(2) Proposal Files. |
| 80. | The Government will evaluate the extent the Offeror exceeds the following Small Business Goals: SDVOSB: 10% of the total contract | The Government will not provide this information. |

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| | <p>value; VOSB: 12% of the total contract value; SDB (including Section 8(a)): 5% of the total contract value; women-owned small business: 5% of the total contract value; HUBZone Small Business: 3% of the total contract value.</p> <p>Could you provide an explanation of how the Government will evaluate these goals? Will the evaluation include additional credit for exceeding these goals?</p> | |
| 81. | <p>Please confirm that the Small Business amount in RFP Attachment 15, Row 2, is the same amount that will be reported for "Total Small Business Subcontracting / Participation" in RFP Attachment 10, Row 15?</p> | <p>The Small Business Participation Requirement must be at least 35 percent.</p> |
| 82. | <p>Please clarify that the goal for Small Business in RFP Attachment 15, Row 2, includes Small Business (No other category above)?</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |
| 83. | <p>Please confirm that the proposed goal for Small Business in RFP Attachment 15, Row 2, does NOT need to equal the sum of the goals for SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, VOSB, and SDVOSB?</p> | <p>Correct.</p> |
| 84. | <p>RFP Attachment 10, Column C, requires entries for funded/obligated percent performed by Small Businesses.</p> <p>Please confirm these are percentages of the total contract dollars obligated to the prime, and not a percentage of the dollars that the prime has subcontracted?</p> | <p>Column C is Column D (obligated dollars to SB) divided by total obligated dollars.</p> |
| 85. | <p>It would appear that by having fulfilled the 10% SDVOSB goal, it would leave only 2% requirement to fulfill for VOSB. Is this correct?</p> | <p>A SDVOSB counts as a VOSB.</p> |
| 86. | <p>Please confirm that, if a prime subcontracts business to VOSBs and SDVOSBs that have NOT been CVE certified, those amounts will NOT be counted toward their respective small</p> | <p>Correct, SDVOSB/VOSB subcontractors not verified in VIP will not count towards SDVOSB/VOSB small business goals.</p> |

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| | business participation percentages? | |
| 87. | Can major subs submit their completed PRAQs directly to the government? If not, should major subs include their completed PRAQs in a sealed package to the primes? | No the prime offeror is responsible for submitting the Performance Risk Assessment Questionnaires with its proposal. |
| 88. | Is a Pricing Methodology required for subcontractors or just the prime contractor? | The Pricing Methodology is required for the Prime only. |
| 89. | Will there be any set aside consideration for AbilityOne organizations or the employment of persons with disabilities? | Not at this time. |
| 90. | Pages 113-114, (i) VOLUME I - TECHNICAL FILES, (1) thru (5) – Please clarify if (1) through (5) pertain to both (a) Sample Tasks Sub-factor and (b) Management Sub-factor. | 1 through 5 pertain to the Management subfactor only. |
| 91. | RFP Section M.C.1.b, page 122 Evaluation of Offerors Management Sub-factor (a). Please clarify whether the evaluation of labor rates for performance risk will be based on the Total Compensation Plan rather than Blended Loaded Labor rates? (b). If analysis of loaded labor rates for the Management Proposal will be based on something other than Total Compensation, please explain what these factors will be? | The management subfactor will evaluate the blended loaded labor rates as well as the total compensation plan. |
| 92. | Is this \$500k maximum for each contract holder, or across all the IDIQ holders? | It is a \$500k minimum per contract holder. |
| 93. | H-4 Although the “Small Business Participation Report”, is submitted quarterly, will the “Small Business Participation Commitment (SBPC)” be assessed on an annual (or longer) basis? | Currently, SBPC is collected and assessed quarterly. |
| 94. | H-5 “Veterans Employment” Although the “Veterans Employment Certification Report”, is submitted quarterly, will the “Veterans Employment Volume” commitment be | Veterans Employment will be collected and assessed quarterly. |

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| | assessed on an annual (or longer) basis? | |
| 95. | Will the 10% “evaluation preference” for HUBZone offers apply to a prime offer from Small Business whose HUBZone subcontractor will perform more than 50% of the work on a task order? | No. |
| 96. | There is some ambiguity regarding which files the Government is referring to when it states “these files.” Would the Government please clarify whether or not Offeror’s must provide a separate approach that addresses the Management Sub-factor in each of the three (3) 25-page Sample Tasks in addition to the “Sub-factor b – Management” response? Also, if Offerors are required to address all five management areas detailed on pages 113 and 114 in each Sample Task that would mean a separate Total Compensation Plan is required for each Sample Task response. Would the Government please clarify if this is accurate? | The management subfactor is independent of the sample task subfactor. |
| 97. | Would the Government allow Offerors to submit a 1 to 2 page introduction to Volume II – Section 2 that is not included in the 2-page per instance limitation for each past performance reference? | No. |
| 98. | Education Level Requirements for the Labor Categories: The RFP states that (i) For a Bachelor’s degree “8 years of additional relevant experience may be substituted for education”; (ii) For a Master’s degree “10 years of additional relevant experience may be substituted for education”; and (iii) For an Associate of Arts degree “4 years of additional relevant experience may be substituted for education”. Please confirm that (a) For a Master’s degree requirement, a Bachelor’s plus 2 | Please refer to the labor category descriptions in Attachment 002. |

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| | years of additional relevant experience is acceptable; and for a Bachelor's degree requirement, an Associate of Arts plus 4 years of additional relevant experience is acceptable. | |
| 99. | Offerors are permitted to provide ONLY ONE PROPOSAL for consideration" Does this apply to companies and wholly owned subsidiaries? Can a parent company and its wholly owned subsidiary both submit a proposal for T4-NG and be awarded a contract for T4-NG? | Yes, this applies to companies and wholly owned subsidiaries. A parent company or its subsidiary must submit only one proposal. |
| 100. | Will the VA provide contractors the ability to utilize both their Material Handling rate and G&A for pricing purposes? If so, for pricing purposes only, please provide a percentage distribution of the ODCs between material and ODCs e.g., materials are estimated to be 30% and ODCs 70% of the ODC amount for each period? | Yes, the contractor shall propose indirect rates for ODC(material handling) and travel (G&A). Those indirect rates shall be the ceiling rates for any T&M task orders. Since this is a T&M evaluation, the Government provided amount for ODCs (materials) and travel are the distribution of the total ODCs for each of the ordering periods. |
| 101. | Pursuant to Section L.11.c (vi) Volume VI-Price Files, subsection (c), offeror understands that as currently written, the indirect rates used in the proposal will become the ceiling rates for the ten year contract. Vendors appreciate the need to protect the government from unplanned indirect prices increases through the life of a contract; typically, ceiling rates are set higher than bid rates to accommodate situations outside the vendor's control. Will the VA consider revising the ceiling rates to be 10% over the bid rates? | No. |
| 102. | Would the Government like to see included in the volume submission, confirmation proof of VIP registration for all SDVOSB/VOSB team members under iii Volume III – Veteran's | No. |

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| | Involvement Files, 2) For Non-SDVOBs/VOSBs? | |
| 103. | Please confirm that for non-HUBZone offerors, the offeror is to submit the Excel Pricing Attachment and Pricing Methodology only. | All Offerors shall submit price proposals in the format provided at Section J, Attachment 001. |
| 104. | “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)...”Question: Does the “...solicitation date of issuance” refer to this VA118-15-R-0558 solicitation? | Yes. |
| 105. | Are compliance matrices, and Acronym lists required in any of the Volumes? If so, are they excluded from the page count? | Compliance matrices and Acronym lists are not required. If the offeror chooses to provide these they will be counted towards the stated page limitations. |
| 106. | “How does the prime account for current employees (per the definition) who are also still members of the National Guard or Reserves? | A Veteran is defined as an honorably discharged member of active duty military, reserve or National Guard. |
| 107. | In the case of an Offeror without a record of relevant past performance or for whom information on past performance is not available, the Offeror may not be evaluated favorably or unfavorably on past performance. On the surface it would appear that this statement suggests a “neutral” rating – is this assumption correct? How will the evaluation treat a neutral rating? | The Government does not provide rating definitions. The Offeror will not be evaluated favorably or unfavorably on past performance in the case where no past performance exists. |
| 108. | Will the Government provide VA Handbook 6500 as part of the final solicitation? | The final solicitation was released on November 19, 2014. VA Handbook 6500 can be found at http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/ and can be found on VOA under VA Industry IT library. |
| 109. | Could the Government identify the labor categories/skill levels where a | Any labor category may require a Top Secret clearance for any work |

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| | TS clearance requirement could potentially be required? | done for an outside Agency. This would be defined at the specific task order level. |
| 110. | The Contractor shall complete the initial security and privacy awareness training and accept the VA Contractor Rules of Behavior (ROB) within three days of receipt of task order award in the VA Talent Management System (TMS).” Being unfamiliar with the ROB, would the Government make these requirements available with the final solicitation? | These documents would be provided at the task order level. |
| 111. | Does the Government expect the name of the proposed Contractor PM as part of the overall Management Approach submitted in Factor 1? | No. |
| 112. | Will the Government make available the ATOMS so we might determine if it is compatible with our existing web-based system? | No, only awardees are provided access to ATOMs. |
| 113. | Quarterly Collective Prime Program Reviews. Will the Government make available the agendas and subsequent meeting minutes for recent sessions in order to give a context for the items covered during the sessions and the level of effort required to prepare for them? | No, however, these are standard format PowerPoint slides and standard meeting minutes. |
| 114. | Assessing Veteran employment as a single point-in-time metric could arbitrarily and artificially skew the results. Will the Government consider defining an average number of Veterans employed over a period of time (e.g. 2 years) to demonstrate an offeror’s commitment to employing Veterans and avoid potential arbitrary and artificial advantages? | No, Veterans employment will be measured at time of proposal submission for all Offerors. |
| 115. | Based on our understanding of the RFP, there is no requirement for a cost/price narrative. Please clarify if a cost narrative is required. | IAW RFP Section L.11(2)(VI)(d), the price proposal shall also include an additional Price Methodology file that identifies the Offeror’s proposed fringe rate, overhead rate, G&A rate, Facilities |

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| | | Capital Cost of Money rate (if applicable), and profit percentage. |
| 116. | Volume 5, Page 116 - If the Prime is a small business, do they still need to meet all the Small Business Participation Commitment? | Yes, all Offerors shall propose and meet and/or exceed their proposed Small Business Participation Commitment figures. |
| 117. | FAR 9.602 (c): The companies involved normally form a contractor team arrangement before submitting an offer. However, they may enter into an arrangement later in the acquisition process, including after contract award. Can we provide the executed CTA once the contract is awarded instead of including it at the time of the proposal submission (Per FAR 9.602 above)? | CTAs are required at time of proposal submission. |
| 118. | Please clarify the Period of Performance: is it a 5 year base/5 year option vs. 5 year base/5 1 year options? | Period of Performance is one five year base ordering period and one five year option ordering period. |
| 119. | H.2 Off-Ramp Does this imply that so long as the government is notified by a SDVOSB/VOSB Step 1 awardee of any status change that they are not subject to the off-ramp clause since they were awarded contract during Step One (1)? | Correct, any awardee in Step 1 is not subject to the Off-Ramp clause. |
| 120. | Please confirm that bidders are not allowed to provide any narrative discussion within the Volume II Section 4 response, and that the entire page-unlimited section is to be a single combined PDF with all questionnaires for the contract(s)/task order(s) identified in Section 1 of the Volume II. | Correct, Volume II, Section 4 is only for Questionnaires and should be a single, combined PDF. |
| 121. | In a number of the Labor Category Descriptions there are some lower level categories with no identified years of experience; for example, Engineering Analyst has the following description but no years of experience: "An Engineering Analyst has experience analyzing specific aspects of a given system and/or | Yes, but the appropriate education requirements must be met. |

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| | product's architecture, design, coding, and performance. Is able to identify issues and/or risks and document specific sources. Should we assume 0 (zero) years of experience required for this position and the others that have no number in the years of experience? | |
| 122. | Requires High School or GED and 3 (three) years of experience and states "Has vast knowledge and familiarity with given business, functional, or technical area and or disciplines." Can you tell us if this is in error? 3 years and "Vast Experience" don't seem to be aligned. Should it be "Has knowledge of and familiarity with . . ."? | The labor category description is correct as stated. |
| 123. | The referenced paragraph states that Volume II-Past Performance Files Section 2 has a 2 page limit. Section 2 of Past Performance is to include past performance descriptions of the prime and three major subs, we assume that the 2 page limit is for each past performance with a maximum page limit of 12, please confirm. | As specified in the RFP, narratives are limited to 2 pages per instance. Therefore there will be no more than 18 pages total for all 9 instances. |
| 124. | IAW with FAR 9.6, it appears that a CTA needs only to show the Prime/Subcontractor relationship between the prime and subcontractor. Please confirm that a single page CTA document that specifically defines a Prime/Subcontractor relationship exists between the 2 companies and is signed by both parties that have agreed to partner for this specific procurement will meet the CTA requirement for the T4 NG solicitation. | The CTA must be in accordance with FAR 9.6. There is no minimum page length, however it must provide the terms and conditions of the agreement and be signed by both parties. |
| 125. | Please verify that the only CTAs required to be submitted with the proposal are for the three major subcontractors and not for all subcontractors aligned with the Prime? | CTA's must be submitted in the management volume for all subcontractors being utilized. CTA's must be submitted in the past performance volume only for the three major subcontractors. |

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| 126. | Please confirm that if the SB is NOT a SB under the T4NG NAICS 541512 that they can't be counted as a SB even if they do qualify as a SB under other NAICS codes. | The NAICS code for this procurement is 541512 and all Offerors or subcontractors must meet the size standard of \$27.5M to be considered a small business. |
| 127. | Section H-11: States CO may limit task order competition to specific types of small business concerns. Will these limited competitions be considered "set-aside" or "reserved" and do limitations on subcontracting rules apply? (FAR 52.219-14) | These would be considered set-asides at the task order level and 52.219-14 would apply for small business set-asides at the task order level. VAAR 852.219-10 and -11 would apply to SDVOSB and VOSB set-asides. |
| 128. | Does the Government expect the Offerors to modify the government supplied Excel spreadsheets to add the complete company name, date, and solicitation number in the header and/or footer? | No. The Prime offeror is required to insert its company name, "PrimeOfferor", as part of the file name |
| 129. | On page 113 of the RFP, no page limit indication is provided for the Veterans Employment Excel Spreadsheet (Volume IV) and the Small Business Participation Commitment Excel Spreadsheet (Volume V). Is our assumption correct that these two respective files have no page limit and should only include the data requested or related clarification cited in the RFP, and no other content? | No other information is permitted to be provided as it will not be evaluated. The spreadsheets should only be completed with the requested data. |
| 130. | Proposal Submission Instructions, Section 2ciii Volume III – Veteran's Involvement Files – we are required to state the names of the SDVOSBs and VOSBs that we intend to subcontract. Are we required to provide CTAs for all SDVOSBs and VOSBs that we "intend" to bid with? | All subcontractors are required to have a signed CTA which shall be submitted with the Prime Offeror's proposal. |
| 131. | Can the Government please provide guidance on how we can obtain access to, copies of or detailed descriptions of "the VA enterprise management framework," the "OI&T Technical Reference Model," and the "OneVA Enterprise Technology Strategic Plan? Also, will the | There is no reference library for this solicitation. All documents are publically available. Applicable documents can be found at http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/ . |

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| | Government be providing access to a Reference Library for this solicitation? | |
| 132. | To be consistent with the government's approach to certifying and maintaining T4NG prime vendors' socio-economic status, subcontractors should remain in the socio-economic status that the subcontractor certifies via their reps and certs at the time of subcontract award for the duration of the T4NG IDIQ period-of-performance. Having subcontractors change status during the life of T4NG will dramatically complicate reporting against small business goals (potentially having companies in different socio economic categories on individual task order). Is it the government's intent that a Prime's subcontractor certifies its size designation at time of the Prime's issuance of a subcontract award and that designation remains valid for the Prime's T4NG IDIQ contract? | A subcontractor's size status does not remain the same as at time of award of the basic contract and is verified per each task order. Its size status will remain the same for the life of that individual order. |
| 133. | If an SDVOSB entity was previously verified by VA and is currently going through the re-verification process, can they still be considered an SDVOSB for T4NG? It is possible that our verification will be complete prior to the current RFP due date, but the actual timing is out of our hands at this point. Can we attest to being in the process, rather than being verified, since our application is currently being reviewed AND we were previously verified? | An SDVOSB/VOSB must be registered and verified in the CVE database at time of proposal submission and time of award. Certification and/or re-certification is incumbent upon the Offeror. There are no exceptions. |
| 134. | The Veterans Employment Certification states that "The Offeror hereby certifies to the number of Veterans and total number of employees currently employed by the Prime Offeror". May the Offeror include Veterans employed by team members in the total count of Veterans? | No, the Offeror may not include Veterans employed by team members in the total count of Veterans. No, under Veterans Employment, attachment 014 should be completed for the Veterans Employment Certification. |

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| | Also, please confirm that the direction in L.11.2.iv to complete Attachment 014 should be to complete Attachment 017. | |
| 135. | Are CONUS and OCONUS rates expected to be ceiling rates? | Yes, for T&M type orders. |
| 136. | Please clarify if the Offeror may select more than one subcontractor as the major subcontractor for a PWS technical functional area. | The Government cannot advise on how best to propose. |
| 137. | Are prime offerors required to disclose recent (within the last three years) Cure Notices and Termination for Cause Convenience notices received from the Government for prime contracts/task orders? | The burden of proving low performance risk rests with the Offeror. |
| 138. | The 'Description' column in Attachment 002 – Labor Category Descriptions, #150 – System Modeling and Simulation Engineer, references a Systems Maintenance Technician. Question: Can the Government amend this cell to reflect the appropriate labor category? | See RFP Amendment A00001. |
| 139. | The 'Description' column in Attachment 002 – Labor Category Descriptions, #161 – Telecommunications Engineer, Senior, references a Telecommunications Engineer (e.g. no Senior). Question: Can the Government amend this cell to reflect the appropriate labor category? | See RFP Amendment A00001. |
| 140. | Do HUBZone companies in a JV receive the 10% credit evaluation factor or is this only applicable to prime HUBZone offerors not involved in a JV? | The joint venture can only receive the evaluation credit if it is considered a HUBZone JV as stated in the FAR 19.1. |
| 141. | Will task orders be awarded on a 12 month basis only? Or multi year? | Task order periods of performance are specific to the requirement and may be more or less than 12 months. |
| 142. | A prime or major sub must have past performances submitted for evaluation with questionnaires filled out by the | Questionnaires are to be returned to the Offeror. Offerors are required to submit their |

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| | <p>client. If a vendor is on more than one team (prime and sub and/or multiple subs), will it be necessary for the client to fill out a separate past performance questionnaire for each team that the past performance reference is being use on? Our concern is that the customer may be confused and only submit one questionnaire if more than one is required.</p> | <p>questionnaires with its proposal.</p> |
| 143. | <p>Is there a mechanism for the Government to acknowledge receipt of electronically submitted documents, such as the Past Performance POC list by email and the final proposal submission?</p> | <p>VOA will provide a receipt upon submission/upload of documents.</p> |
| 144. | <p>I.2 52.215-22 LIMITATIONS ON PASS-THROUGH CHARGES-- IDENTIFICATION OF SUBCONTRACT EFFORT (OCT 2009)</p> <p>How does this apply to the proposal for the IDIQ contract, to Task Orders under the contract, or both?</p> | <p>52.215-22 applies to applicable T&M and Cost Reimbursable task orders.</p> |
| 145. | <p>RFP states the offeror's proposal shall consist of six volumes (Volume VI = Solicitation, Offer and Award documents and Certifications/Representations). Are Certifications/Representations needed from Offeror's team members?</p> | <p>No, only the prime offeror.</p> |
| 146. | <p>Please confirm that only the completed and signed Standard Form 33, Solicitation, Offer and Award is required in Volume VI, and not the entire RFP document</p> | <p>Please follow instructions at Volume VII.</p> |
| 147. | <p>The report has a line for reporting Small Business goals for Historically Black Colleges & University and Minority Institution but that group is not listed in either Section L or M of the RFP. Do HBCU/MIs have a percentage goal within the stated 35% (If so, what is that goal) or is this</p> | <p>The SBPC report does not contain a line for HBCU/MI.</p> |

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| | simply another category that can be reported on if applicable? | |
| 148. | Reference Section L, Volume II-Past Performance Files. Question: Is it acceptable to the government that our Past Performance contract narratives are submitted in a table at 8 point font or higher? | No. Please follow formatting requirements at L.11(2) Proposal Files. |
| 149. | Veterans Involvement Evaluation Approach – The Government states that non-Veteran offerors proposing to use service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses or Veteran-owned small businesses as subcontractors will receive some consideration under this evaluation factor. Will service-disabled Veteran owned or Veteran owned prime offerors that are not small businesses and who propose to use service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses or Veteran-owned small businesses as subcontractors receive greater consideration compared to non-Veteran prime offerors under this evaluation factor? | No. |
| 150. | After a detailed review of the pricing file we discovered a calculation error in one of the cells in the 001 pricing file. In the Evaluated Price Summary, both Option Year 1 and Option Year 2 are pulling Travel Indirect and ODC Indirect from Option Year 2 (column W in the Evaluated Price Detail tab). Option Year 1 should be using cells T183 & T185 respectively but is using W183 & W185, the Option Year 2 numbers. Would the TAC please correct this error? | See RFP Amendment A00001 |