

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
SOLICITATION NUMBER VA248-16-R-1360

Q1. Can you please tell me if this is a new requirement? If not, who is the incumbent, and what are the current rates? Thank you.

A1. This is a follow-on requirement. The incumbent is TDY Medical Staffing, Inc. Any additional information pertaining to the current contract must be requested through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and forwarded to the VA Privacy Officer at NF/SG VA Healthcare System, 1601 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608.

Q2. Would the Government treat a SDVOSB joint venture as TJC-certified if the JV is between an SBA-approved Mentor & Protégé and the Mentor firm is TJC certified but the Protégé is not?

A2. This question will be addressed in Amendment 3 to the solicitation.

Q3. Does the Presolicitation under solicitation number VA24816R1360 contain requirements similar to a current contract? If possible, please provide the current contract number. Or, is this a new requirement for the government?

A3. The current contract number is VA248-15-F-1374. Please refer to answer A1 above.

Q4. It seems the NAICS code is set aside for Packaging and Labeling Services do you think it's possible to change the NAICS code to 561320?

A4. NAICS Code 561320 for Temporary Help Services does not meet our requirement needs. An agency may use a temporary help service firm(s) in a single situation, as defined in 5 CFR part 300.504, initially for no more than 120 workdays. Provided the situation continues to exist beyond the initial 120 workdays, the agency may extend its use of temporary help services up to the maximum limit of 240 workdays.

Q5. Can you please tell me if this is a new requirement? If not, who is the incumbent, and what is the contract number?

A5. Please refer to answer A1 and A3 above.

Q6. Is there a page limit on any of the submission Volumes?

A6. No.

Q7. If we have a prime-sub relationship, are we able to submit the subs relevant Past Performance in addition to our own?

A7. If a contractor wishes to use a subcontractor's past performance to support their performance on a current requirement, they must use that subcontractor, or one of similar experience and qualifications, in performance of the resultant contract. If a different subcontractor is used, the experience and qualifications are subject to evaluation by the technical evaluation board.

Q8. Are these services being provided at any of the facilities currently or within the past 3 years? If so, please post the contract numbers.

A8. Please refer to answer A3 above.

Q9. Could you please provide the incumbent's name and contract # and the number of current Sterile Supply Technicians currently in place?

A9. Please refer to answer A1 and A3 above.

Q10. When calculating our price, should we use 2080 hours or the standard 1920 hours?

A10. Offeror should use the 2080 hours. This requirement is for fifteen (15) Sterile Supply Technician at 2080 per FTE equates to 31,200 per year as stated in the Performance Work Statement (PWS).

Q11. Regarding Past Performance, can Subcontractor Past Performance also be also used or is this limited to only the Prime?

A11. Please refer to answer A7 above.

Q12. Reference Technical Factor 1, Subfactor 1 (page 61) – Are we required to provide biographical data on all 15 proposed Sterile Supply Technicians?

A12. Yes.

Q13. Reference Factor 3, Past Performance, Subfactor 1 (page 62) – Are we required to provide 3 references for all 15 proposed Sterile Supply Technicians?

A13. This question will be addressed in Amendment 3 to the solicitation.

Q14. Was this a follow-on requirement? If so, could you please provide the incumbent contract number for this opportunity?

A14. Please refer to answer A3 above.

Q15. Is there an incumbent contractor performing these services or is this a new requirement?

A15. Please refer to answer A1 above.

Q16. What is the name of the incumbent contractor (if applicable)?

A16. Please refer to answer A1 above.

Q17. Is the incumbent contractor eligible to bid on the follow-on contract (if applicable)?

A17. Yes.

Q18. What is the incumbent contract value, contract # and contract period of performance?

A18. Please refer to answer A1 and A3 above.

Q19. In consideration of the short timeframe, would the government consider adjusting the requirement to provide resumes/credentials for all 15 FTEs, instead evaluating a sample pool of candidates?

A19. This question will be addressed in Amendment 3 to the solicitation.

Q20. Can you clarify the qualifications of the service providers regarding certifications?
“In section 2.1.1. BOARD CERTIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY: Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) through an accredited Surgical Technologist Training Program or one (1) year hands on experience with Dental and/or Surgical Instruments or endoscopes. And on the addendum for evaluation criteria it states:

- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)
- One (1) Year experience with Dental and/or Surgical Instruments or Endoscopes
- VA experience preferred “

We understand that the preference is for the personnel to have certification, but that is not a requirement if they have appropriate job experience.

A20. Yes, Sterile Supply Technician must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST);
- Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD);
- Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST);
- International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM);
- Or one (1) Year experience with Dental and/or Surgical Instruments or Endoscopes;
- VA experience preferred

Q21. For pricing, to confirm: you are wanting offerors to provide pricing using the appropriate wage determination for US Dept. of Labor category 01410 Supply Technician and that these are to be employees of the offeror and not 1099 independent contractors?

A21. Yes, offerors must provide pricing using the appropriate wage determination for US Department of Labor category.

Q22. Is CPR training required? “It’s listed in section 2.1.4. **STANDARD PERSONNEL TESTING/INFECTION CONTROL that the technicians who provide patient care services must have** successfully completed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training. However, medical supply technicians don’t provide any direct patient care services.”

A22. CPR training is not required. Paragraph 2.1.4. (g) has been removed from the PWS.

Q23. We no longer see the requirement from the presolicitation that the offeror be certified by TJC. Has that requirement been removed?

A23. This question will be addressed in Amendment 3 to the solicitation.

Q24. The RFP states that “[t]he Sterile Supply Technician(s) shall adhere to Joint Commission Standards”. Can the Government elaborate as to which TJC standards it is referring since sterile processing techs do not administer patient care?

A24. When referring to the Joint Commission Standards in regards to Sterile Processing, the JC wants to ensure we are processing all reusable equipment per manufactures guidelines. They verify that work flow, people flow, and air flow is correct to ensure no cross contamination between patients.

Q25. Is the Government requesting that offerors submit packages (“copies of all licenses, accreditations and/or certificates”) of its proposed contract personnel as part of the technical proposal?

A25. Yes, we will need copies of all licenses, accreditations and/or certificates that qualify an individual for this requirement.

Q26. Under Past Performance, where the Government requests 3+ “references of responsible individuals who would have firsthand knowledge of the candidates who may be assigned as part of this contract”, is the Government requesting 3+ references for each contract personnel candidate proposed as part of this requirement? Can these be peer references?

A26. Yes, a peer reference is acceptable if they have firsthand knowledge of the individual.

Q27. The Government appears to accept the “Certified Surgical Technologist” certification but not the certifications that Sterile Processing Techs typically pursue (i.e. CBSPD and CRCST). Will the Government accept CBSPD and CRCST certifications as a satisfactory certification alongside the CST certification?

A27. Yes, the Government will accept Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD), Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST), International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM) alongside the CST certification. Paragraph 2.1.1. BOARD CERTIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY has been change to now read:

“2.1.1. **BOARD CERTIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY:** Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) through an accredited Surgical Technologist Training Program or one (1) year hands on experience with Dental and/or Surgical Instruments or endoscopes. The following certifications are acceptable for the position of Sterile Supply Technician (Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD), Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST), International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM). These certifications are routinely pursued by Sterile Supply Technicians. Training/experience as volunteer or other capacity from NF/SG may shorten duration of experience required. The Sterile Supply Technicians understand infection prevention concepts. The Contractor shall submit in writing, within fourteen (14) calendar days of their personnel being assigned to provide services under this contract, a roster of personnel and/or Subcontractors along with a copy of their current credentials/experience that may be providing service to the NF/SG Veterans Health System for review.”

Q28. Is this an existing requirement? If so, please provide the name of the incumbent contractor and the contract number.

A28. Please refer to answer A1 and A3 above.

Q29. If this is an existing requirement, how many incumbent SPD techs currently are performing on the contract?

A29. Please refer to answer A1 above.

Q30. Subfactor 2 of Technical Factor 1 identifies “Privacy Confidentiality and HIPPA” as a performance measure to be addressed. Is the Government anticipating that SPD techs will receive HIPAA-protected information?

A30. No. We do not expect employees to receive HIPAA-protected information but the training is a requirement.