

Question 1: (General)

What is the contract number, total value, and period of performance for the incumbent contract?

Answer: GS-02F-0405D, VA101J1448; \$2M, August 1, 2011 – September 30, 2016

Question 2: (Page 6, RFP Section B.2, Invoicing & Paying Instructions and Task Order Ordering Procedures)

For e-invoicing, will there be one monthly submission for all task orders? Or multiple submissions by individual order?

Answer: You will invoice by individual Task Orders. Each Task Order will have its own funding document.

Questions 3-5: (Page 6, RFP Section B.2, Task Order Ordering Procedures and Page 14, PWS 8.0)

Please clarify how task orders will be issued, which has an impact on reporting.

- Will they be issued by OGC Region and VA Central Office, to align with the reporting requirements in PWS 8.2? Or in another way?

Answer: Task Orders will be issue by the SAC

- Will contractors see orders come in by office or by region?

Answer: Task Orders will be issue by the SAC

- For reporting purposes, will VA indicate each user's region?

Answer: Task Orders will be issue by the SAC; Each individual Task Order will outline its individual requirement for the order.

Question 6: Section B.4 Performance Work Statement, 14.0 Period of

Performance (pages 15-16). The period of performance is identified as 9/30/2016 – 9/29/2017 (Base Year). It is this offeror's understanding that VA's current contract does not expire until 9/30/2016. As the incumbent provider of CALR services, this offeror cannot have overlapping contract periods. Can VA please modify the period of performance to begin 10/1/2016?

Answer: Yes, Period of Performance can be modified to begin 10/1/2016. Period of performance may depend on the year of the money for any individual order. A order my have to begin on 30 Sep 2016.

Question 7: (Page 45, RFP Section B.5)

The Price/Cost Schedule refers to a September 30, 2016 start date. Approximately when does VA anticipate awarding the contract?

Answer: Late Sept 2016

Question 8: Section C.14, VAAR 852.219-10 VA Notice of Total Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Set-Aside (pages 63-64). Block 10 of the solicitation states that this is an unrestricted solicitation, and there are no other FAR provisions suggesting any set-asides; however, Section (b) of VAAR 852.219-10 suggests that offers are only to be considered and awarded to service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns. Are offers from entities that do not meet the requirements of a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business going to be considered?

Answer: Yes, Clause will be removed.

Question 9: (Page 74, Addendum to FAR 52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors) Please confirm that title pages and cover letters are not included in the page count. Like tables of contents and glossaries of abbreviations/acronyms, these items facilitate review and distinction between proposal volumes, but are not typically evaluated.

Answer: They are not included in page count

Question 10: (Page 74, Addendum to FAR 52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors) In tables and graphics, may offerors use Arial font that is smaller than 11-point, so long as the text remains easily readable?

Answer: Follow the instructions submitted

Question 11: (Pages 74-75, Addendum to FAR 52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors and Pages 78-79, Evaluation of Offers)

According to the instructions for Volume I and evaluation approach for Technical Subfactor 1, offerors must address PWS Sections 3.0-7.0 and related PWS subparagraphs. However, several of the relevant subparagraphs require offerors to provide additional information that would far exceed the 30-page limitation for Volume I.

For example:

- PWS 3.2(d) instructs offerors to provide a list of all combined and separate databases of federal and state jury decisions. This type of list can also run from tens to hundreds of pages.
- PWS 3.3 requires offerors to provide an exhibit that provides terms for use of the Other Databases Menu.
- PWS 4.4 references detailed and lengthy lists of requirements in Attachment A (Mandatory Resources, Federal) and Attachment B (Mandatory Resources,

State). Together with the PWS, these Attachments constitute about 35+ pages of technical requirements.

- PWS 4.4.3(d) requires a list of citator databases to be listed as a proposal exhibit. Such a database list can often run from tens to more than 100 pages.
- Additionally, PWS 8.3.1 requires definition of external faults as an exhibit.

We respectfully request clarification on the information that offerors must include in their proposals. If any or all of these items must be addressed, we suggest that offerors be permitted to provide them in separate appendices/exhibits that do not count against the 30-page limitation. This additional space is necessary to adequately speak to the aforementioned PWS subparagraphs. Any one of these subparagraphs by itself would constitute technical requirements that cannot be fully addressed by any offeror in just 30 pages – much more so if offerors must cover all of them.

Answer: In 3.2, the contractor will provide a list of all combined and separate databases in their proposal.

In those sections where the VA asks for an exhibit, that exhibit will not be counted towards the page count.

Question 12: Addendum to FAR 52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors—Commercial Items, Format (page 74) and Volume I – Technical Factor (page 75). The table on page 74 limits Volume I (Technical) to 30 pages. The solicitation also indicates on page 74 that “Offerors are responsible for including sufficient details, in a concise manner, to permit a complete and accurate evaluation of each proposal.” Offerors are further instructed on page 75 to provide a “detailed approach to meeting the performance requirements of the solicitation,” which requires a response to Sections 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0 of the Performance Work Statement. Given the level of detail required by the solicitation (six pages of requirements) and the need for offerors to provide VA with sufficient detail, this offeror respectfully requests an increase in the number of pages allowed for Volume I from 30 pages to 40 pages.

Answer: The total number of pages for Vol 1, is increased to 40 pages.

Question 13: Addendum to FAR 52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors—Commercial Items, Volume III – Price (page 76). The Volume III instructions (subpart B) specify that “The Price Proposal does not have a page limitation.” However, the table on page 74 indicates a 5-page limit. Moreover, this offeror notes that Section B.5 Price/Cost Schedule spans over seven pages (pages 45-52). Is it a correct understanding that Volume III – Price has no page limit? Please clarify.

Answer: No page limit for Volume III - Price

Question 14-15: Addendum to FAR 52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors—Commercial Items, Volume IV – Solicitation, Proposal and Award Documents and Representations and Certifications (page 77). The last sentence of the last paragraph in this section states, “Any Offeror-imposed terms and conditions which deviate from the Government’s material terms and conditions established by the Solicitation, may render the proposal unacceptable, and thus ineligible for award.” Standard industry practice in the CALR industry is that offerors may propose assumptions, conditions, and exceptions that may then be negotiated with the Government prior to contract award. Further, the FAR specifically provides that a commercial item purchase will be subject to a offeror’s standard commercial license agreement.

As such, is it a correct understanding that the VA will allow offerors to submit assumptions, conditions, and exceptions (as well as their standard commercial license agreement) as part of their proposal response (subject to Government review and/or possible negotiation)?

Answer: We will review all assumptions, conditions, and exception and work with the contractor though “clarifications” to have a complete understanding of their position.

If so, should offerors submit this information in Volume III Price or Volume IV Solicitation, Proposal, and Award Documents and Representations and Certifications? Please clarify.

Answer: Volume IV

Question 16: Section E.3 52.204-17 Ownership or Control of Offeror (NOV 2014) (page 68). Section E.3 references FAR 52.204-17 Ownership or Control of Offeror (NOV 2014). Under the current Federal Acquisition Regulation, FAR 52.204-17 has been updated (July 2016). Please clarify.

Answer: Clause will be updated.

Question 17: Section E.4 52.209-5 Representation by Corporations Regarding An Unpaid Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction Under Any Federal Law (Deviation) (Mar 2012) (page 69). Section E.4 references FAR 52.209-5. Under the current Federal Acquisition Regulation, FAR 52.209-5 is Certification Regarding Responsibility Matters (Oct 2015). FAR 52.209-11 is Representation by Corporations Regarding Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under any Federal Law (Feb 2016). Please clarify.

Answer: Clause will be updated.

Question 18: Section E.5 52.204-16 Commercial and Government Entity Code Reporting (Nov 2014) (page 70). Section E.5 references FAR 52.204-16 (Nov 2014). Under the current Federal Acquisition Regulation, FAR 52.204-16 has been updated (July 2016). Please clarify.

Answer: Clause will be updated.

Question 19-20: Section E.8 52.212-2 Evaluation—Commercial Items, Technical Subfactor 3: Product Demonstrations (page 79). Technical Subfactor 3 provides for Product Demonstrations.

How, if at all, should this technical subfactor be addressed in Volume I (Technical)?

Answer: The demonstration will not be part of your written Volume I, but will be used to determine a final rating of your Vol 1.

When and how will offerors be notified of VA's interest in a demonstration?

Answer: Demonstrations will be scheduled after the closing date of this solicitation. The VA will contract you.

Question 21-23: (Pages 77, Section E.8)

According to Section E.8(b), offers will be evaluated for awarded purposes by adding the total price for all options to the total price for the basic requirement. Please clarify. Suggested areas for clarification include, but are not limited to:

- Do "options" refer to Option Years 1-4, to the CLINs for the databases of specialized materials in PWS 3.2 (CLINs X001-X011), or something else?

Answer: Option refers to Options years 1-4

- Does "basic" refer to the Base Year, the General Research requirements in PWS 3.1, or something else?

Answer: In the pricing schedule, we will add your pricing in the Base period and all Option Period to determine a final overall price. See the new CLIN structure as shown in the answer to Question 27 of Q&A Part 1.

- To compute the total price, will VA be adding all CLINs (X001-X012) for a total of 1,366 subscriptions? Or using a different quantity, such as the approximate number of users (800)?

Answer: Keep in mind the number of subscriptions in the CLINs in for evaluation purpose only. See the new CLIN structure as shown in the answer to Question 27 of Q&A Part 1.

Question 24: Section E.9 52.212-3 Offerors Representations and Certifications—Commercial Items (Mar 2015) (page 81). Section E.9 references 52.212-3 (Mar 2015). Under the current Federal Acquisition Regulation, FAR 52.212-3 has been updated (July 2016). Please clarify.

Answer: Clause will be updated.

Question 25: Attachment 3 Past Performance Questionnaire Template. The instructions to the Past Performance Questionnaire Template provide that “The assessor, in turn, to verify Sections I through III.” However, it appears that Section I is intended to be for the insertion of the Solicitation Data for this RFP. As such, it appears that there is a typographical error in the instructions and it should read “The assessor, in turn, to verify Sections II and III.” Please clarify.

Answer: Past Performance instructions are correct as written.