



**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Office of Construction & Facilities Management  
Washington, DC 20001

Morovis National Cemetery  
Solicitation Number: VA101-17-R-0327

**Answer to RFI Question's**

Q1: Regarding Divisions 11 83 00, 11 83 01, 11 83 02 we have the following questions:

Section 11 83 00 The CORS station shall be installed before or after construction?

**VA RESPONSE:** The GPS and GIS items will need to be operational whenever the burial sections are turned over. The system will be used to collect the location of every interment starting with the first.

Answer to RFI Question's

Q2: Section 11 83 01

The RFP asks specifically for ArcGIS Desktop 10.3.1. The most current version available in the market is 10.5, is this an acceptable version for the project?

**VA RESPONSE:** No, the mobile software specified (ArcGIS for Windows Mobile) is not compatible with the latest version of ArcGIS Desktop. The last tested/verified version to work for the established workflows is ArcGIS Desktop 10.3.1.

Answer to RFI Question's

Q3: Does ArcGIS Desktop Default Search Engine meet the requirements of Section 1.2 Performance of the GIS Software (Section 2 Search), or do you expect a custom solution?

**VA RESPONSE:** Yes, the out-of-the-box search tool in ArcMap satisfies this requirement. No custom solution is required

Answer to RFI Question's

Q4: Please clarify the functionality expected for Search subsections B-2 Checkboxes and B-3 Calendar Tools. Please refer to Section 11 83 01 1.2 Performance of the GIS Software.

**VA RESPONSE:** The out-of-the-box search tool in ArcMap satisfies this requirement

Answer to RFI Question's

Q5: Could you provide the total amount of CAD files that need to be imported in the Geodatabase?

**VA RESPONSE:** The list of expected feature classes is included in 11 83 02 – GNSS & GIS Mapping and Geodata.

Answer to RFI Question's

Q6: Are these CAD files georeferenced?

**VA RESPONSE:** The GIS data must be georeferenced in local State Plane Coordinate System. Any requirement for CAD files to be georeferenced is beyond the scope of the GIS/GPS specifications

Answer to RFI Question's

Q7: For the electrical, water, sanitary sewer and storm water feature elements, do you require a geometric network to be built?

**VA RESPONSE:** No geometric network is required but all features should be snapped and with lines in the correction orientation to determine flow.

Answer to RFI Question's

Q8: It is our understanding that this Solicitation is 100% Small Business – Set Aside. For clarification purposes, Offerors must be Small Business entities, not necessarily Veteran Owned Business entities?

**VA RESPONSE:** An SDVOSB or VOSB is a Small Business and can therefore bid this solicitation.

Answer to RFI Question's

Q9: Page 8 of 59 references a Past Performance Evaluation and Questionnaire (Exhibit 1); however, I cannot find this form. Can you please provide it?

**VA RESPONSE:** Provided in earlier Amendment #1

Answer to RFI Question's

Q10: Sub-factor 2.1 states, "If and offeror chooses to compete under a teaming or joint venture. The Offeror will be instructed to submit 2 relevant projects for his teaming/joint venture partner and 2 relevant projects of his major subcontractors." Are these projects part of the 4 to 6 projects referenced earlier in the paragraph for the Offeror or are they in addition to the 4 to 6 projects?

**VA RESPONSE:** Yes, they are part of 4 to 6

Answer to RFI Question's

Q11: Page 8 of 59 requires us to submit a CPARS or Past Performance Evaluation and Questionnaire (Exhibit 1). In an effort not to over-burden our clients, would it be acceptable to include a previously completed questionnaire with our proposal for Factor 1 in lieu of a CPARS or Exhibit 1?

**VA RESPONSE:** Past performance data should be provided for the offeror, namely either the Prime of a Prime/Sub teaming arrangement or Joint Venture entity. Past performance data provided for major teaming partners or individual partners making up a Joint Venture or subcontractors to a Joint Venture can be submitted. Proposals without performance data for the Prime Contractor or JV entity itself might not maximize ratings for this Factor. There is no weighting within a Factor, only among Factors or Sub-Factors. Past Performance is one of three technical factors that are equally weighted, and when combined, are significantly more important than Factor 4.

Answer to RFI Question's

Q12: During today's site visit for subject solicitation it was mentioned that we should copy the VA PM (Brian) on all RFIs. Could you please provide us his contact information?

**VA RESPONSE:** (PM) [bryan.bodner@va.gov](mailto:bryan.bodner@va.gov)

Answer to RFI Question's

Q13: We can open all the drawings but our commercial printer as well as our own printer will not print the follow pages.

The drawings we are having problems printing are the following:

1. PART 15 – We could ONLY PRINT PAGES 1 THRU 10
2. PART 18 – WE COULDN'T PRINT PAGES 5 THRU 15
3. PART 19 – WE COULDN'T PRINT PAGES 10 THRU 21
4. PART 20 – WE COULDN'T PRINT PAGES 9 THRU 16
5. PART 22 – WE COULDN'T PRINT PAGE 40

**VA RESPONSE:** Drawings were provided in prior amendment

Answer to RFI Question's

Q14: What is the credit amount for an SDVOSB Prime over just a Small Business Prime?

**VA RESPONSE:** See Factor 4 in the RFP. A SDVOSB Prime receives "Full Credit" for this Factor. A VOSB Prime received "Partial Credit" for this Factor. A Small Business Prime that subcontracts with a SDVOSB or VOSB receives "Minor Credit"

for this Factor. A Small Business Prime that does not subcontract with a SDVOSB or VOSB receives “No Credit” for this Factor.

Answer to RFI Question’s

Q15: Should we supply the resumes for Alternative Superintendents, SSHOs, QCM, Commissioning Coordinators, and LEED Coordinators?

**VA RESPONSE:** See Sub-Factor 2.2 Key Personnel in the RFP. Resumes of key personnel are required. Alternate resumes are only required if re-assignment of key personnel is considered a possibility. Alternate key personnel for a limited time during construction shall be approved by the SRE.

Answer to RFI Question’s

Q16: What is the LEED Certification that this project is trying to accomplish?

**VA RESPONSE:** LEED Silver Certification is required for the PIC/Admin building and the Vehicle Maintenance building only.

Answer to RFI Question’s

Q17: Factor 1 - Past Performance (page 8 of 59 of the RFP) states, "Past Performance refers to the quality of recent project experience from the owner's perspective (how satisfactory was the Offeror's performance on a particular recent project)." Can you please confirm that the term "Offeror" includes both the Prime Contractor and Teaming Partner(s) and that all past performance will be weighted equally in the evaluation?

**VA RESPONSE:** Past performance data should be provided for the offeror, namely either the Prime of a Prime/Sub teaming arrangement or Joint Venture entity. Past performance data provided for major teaming partners or individual partners making up a Joint Venture or subcontractors to a Joint Venture can be submitted. Proposals without performance data for the Prime Contractor or JV entity itself might not maximize ratings for this Factor. There is no weighting within a Factor, only among Factors or Sub-Factors. Past Performance is one of three technical factors that are equally weighted, and when combined, are significantly more important than Factor 4.

Answer to RFI Question’s

Q18: Factor 2 - Relevant Experience (page 10 of 59 of the RFP states, "The purpose of this factor is to determine if the Offeror's team (joint venture/teaming partner, sub-contractors and key personnel) have the relevant experience to satisfactorily construct this project." Will Teaming Partner relevant projects be rated as highly (e.g. carry the same weight in the evaluation) as the Prime Contractor's relevant projects? If not, can you please explain how Teaming Partner projects will be evaluated?

**VA RESPONSE:** Relevant Experience for Projects and Key Personnel will be evaluated for the Offeror and Team. There is no weighting within a Factor or Sub-Factor, only among Factors or Sub-Factors. Relevant Experience is one of three technical factors that are equally weighted, and when

combined, are significantly more important than Factor 4. The two Sub-Factors within Relevant Experience—Relevant Projects and Key Personnel—are equally weighted.

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Answer to RFI Question's

Q19: It was mentioned at the site visit that we should include a copy of our Teaming Agreement with our proposal. Would it be acceptable to include our Teaming Agreement at the end of our Cost Proposal?

**VA RESPONSE:** Teaming Agreements for Joint Ventures should be included as an Appendix to the Technical Proposal. No Teaming Agreements are required for Prime/Sub arrangements but can be provided if desired.

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Answer to RFI Question's

Q20: Are CAD Files available for the above project? If so, can they be uploaded onto VA RESPONSE: the FBO website please?

CAD files will not be uploaded on the public domain as they cannot be altered and mixed with the official record drawings.

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Answer to RFI Question's

Q21: The Offerors will be instructed to submit data sheets on not less than 4 nor more than 6 relevant projects that the Offeror's principal role was prime contractor. If and offeror chooses to compete under a teaming or joint venture. The Offeror will be instructed to submit 2 relevant projects for his teaming/joint venture partner and 2 relevant projects of his major subcontractors. Projects must be relevant to the immediate acquisition. Major sub-contractors for this solicitation shall be the site civil contractor, the masonry contractor, the landscaping contractor and the irrigation contractor. All relevant projects must be well underway or completed projects within the past 5 years. Well underway" means at least 50% construction completed by the submission date of this RFP

I do not see that attachment in the bid documents. Please clarify. Also, do the subcontractors submit 2 projects too or is that only if we submit as a joint venture

**VA RESPONSE:** Data Sheet formats for the Relevant Project sub-factor were not provided. Offerors shall create their own data sheets and they must contain the minimum information requested. For conventional teaming arrangements, offerors shall submit at least 2 projects in which they performed as the Prime Contractor and

at least 2 projects for their Major Subcontractors. For Joint Venture arrangement, offerors shall submit at least 2 projects in which they performed as the Prime Contractor and at least 2 projects for their Joint Venture partner.

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Answer to RFI Question's

Q22: Page 5 of SF 30, "Experience Modification Rate."

The state agency for Workmen's Compensation fund (called the CFSE in PR) does not follow the industry standard for EMR calculations and has a merit rating that is different. Please see attached document from the Workmen's Compensation fund in Spanish that says how they calculate the EMR.

We have an excellent EMR history, but under the current system from the CFSE we have a rate of 0.3 merit rate, which means we get a 30% discount to our Workmen's Compensation account. Of course our number is different than the EMR standard for safety because it is a different measurement. Is VA willing to measure contractors with PR EMR experience on a different scale that the standard in the RFP? Note: We have approached the CFSE and asked them to change their procedures, but they have decided not to do so

**VA RESPONSE:** The government will accept an alternative method of calculating the EMR from local companies as long as it is validated by your insurance company and that it meets local industry standards for Puerto Rico.

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Answer to RFI Question's

Q23: **Taxes:** Shall the Contractor include within its price proposal the costs of Sales and Use Tax (IVU) to be applied to all materials incorporated into the project or is the Federal Government exempt from this tax?

**VA RESPONSE:** Material purchased by offerors for this Solicitation is not exempt from IVU tax. There is a CLIN breakout for taxes.

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Answer to RFI Question's

Q24: Shall the Contractor include in its price proposal the costs of the Construction Municipal Tax (Arbitrios de Construcción) within its price proposal or is the Veterans Administration paying this tax directly to the municipality?

**VA RESPONSE:** The VA is not paying taxes directly to the municipality. There is a CLIN breakout for taxes.

Answer to RFI Question's

**Q25: Tropical Climate in Puerto Rico:** Being this a project with considerable earthwork, and considering our tropical weather conditions, especially in the Morovis area, we can expect that rain will have a serious impact in the performance of the work. Based on this condition, can the VA consider extending the early turnover area delivery to 540 days and the total project time to 1080 days?

**VA RESPONSE:** Climate in Puerto Rico has already been considered in the establishment of original project milestones and duration. No change.

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Answer to RFI Question's

**VA RESPONSE: Q26: Economic Recession in Puerto Rico:** Due to the economic recession that Puerto Rico has been experiencing in the past 10 years, not much of construction activity similar to this project (major earthworks, cemeteries, golf courses, etc.) has been performed in the Island. RFP requirements for Past Experience evaluations, as well as for Relevant Projects to be submitted, require several different projects similar to this one within the past 5 years or less. This requirement excludes experienced and capable local contractors to submit a proposal as Prime Contractors due to the lack of the quantity of similar projects within such a short time frame specified. Also, this requirement will favour exterior contractors in complying with the RFP requirements using experience obtained in mainland USA; but at the end will subcontract local contractors to perform the work since they will not bring to Puerto Rico the necessary equipment to execute this type of job. Can the VA consider extending the past relevant projects' time frame at least up to 15 years from the proposal submission date?

**VA RESPONSE:** Based on Market Research, there are many small businesses in Puerto Rico that have Federal, State, or local government experience and past performance. Local contractors also have recent experience with earthwork, utilities, land development, state cemeteries, parks, concrete, vertical, MEP, etc. The Government will extend the experience and past performance timeline eligibility to within the last 10 years

Answer to RFI Question's

**Q27: Proposal Submission Date:** Due to the magnitude of the project and the complexity of the proposal, we respectfully request to extend the submission date from *Friday, June 30* to *Friday, July 14*.

**VA RESPONSE:** The Government has exercised 50-day duration for the proposal period. This has taken into account the complexity of the project. There will be No change.in due date.

Answer to RFI Question's

**Q28:** We hereby request the project civil drawings in dwg format to perform a more Accurate quantity take off.

Civil .dwg drawings will not be provided. .dwg files are official, controlled record drawings. PDF files are bid document s and adequate for quantity take-offs. They can also be converted to .dwg files by offerors.

Answer to RFI Question's

**Q29:** Due to the size and scope of the project, we hereby request that you consider an extension of time to submit the bid in reference, this time will allow all contractors and subcontractors to present a responsible bid.

Proposal due date will not be extended at this time. The government provided a 50-day bid duration, which accounts for the size and complexity of the project.

**TERANCE CRAWLEY**

**SENIOR CONTRACTION OFFICER**