

- (a) **SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE - PROPOSAL LINE ITEMS 0001 through 0017 and 1001 through 1016**— Pursuant to FAR 52.219-6, these line items are **set-aside** for the exclusive participation of small business concerns in accordance with this solicitation from responsible small business concerns whose offers meet the solicitation requirements in terms of technical acceptability, quality control program, past performance, SDVOSB Participation and Commitment to Small Businesses, and fair market price. If only one offer from a responsible small business concerns is received, the contracting officer reserves the right to make award if the offer meets the solicitation requirements in terms of technical acceptability, quality control program, past performance, SDVOSB Participation and Commitment to Small Businesses and fair market price. FAR 19.501(g) provides that a contract may not be awarded as a result of a small business set-aside if the cost to the awarding agency exceeds the fair market price. **The following information or factors shall be used to evaluate offers:**

- (1) Technical Capability
- (2) Quality Control Program
- (3) Past Performance
- (4) SDVOSB Participation and Commitment to Small Businesses
- (5) Price

Relative Importance: Criterion 1 is more important than Criteria 2, 3, 4. Criteria 2 and 3 are of equal importance. Criterion 4 is less important than criteria 2 and 3 and significantly less important than criterion 1. When combined, Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4 are significantly more important to price.

(a) Except when it is determined not to be in the Government's best interest, the Government will evaluate offers for award purposes by adding the total price for all options to the total price for the basic requirement. The Government may determine that an offer is unacceptable if the option prices are materially unbalanced. Evaluation of options shall not obligate the Government to exercise the option(s).

(b) If this solicitation is a request for proposals (RFP), a written notice of award or acceptance of an offer, mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful offeror within the time for acceptance specified in the offer, shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party. Before the offer's specified expiration time, the Government may accept an offer (or part of an offer), whether or not

(c) Offerors are cautioned to follow the detailed instructions fully and carefully, as the Government reserves the right to make an award based on initial offers received, without exchanges of such offers.

(d) Offerors may be asked to clarify certain aspects of their proposal (for example, the relevance of past performance information) or respond to adverse past performance information to which the offeror has not previously had an opportunity to respond. Adverse past performance is defined as past performance information that supports a less than satisfactory rating on any evaluation element or any unfavorable comments received from sources without a formal rating system.