

COMBINED SYNOPSIS/SOLICITATION FOR COMMERCIAL ITEMS

General Information

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Product or Service Code:	R707
Set Aside:	Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)
NAICS Code:	541611

Contracting Office Address

Network Contracting Office 22
4811 Airport Plaza Drive
Suite 600
Long Beach, CA 90815

Description

This is a combined synopsis/solicitation for commercial items prepared in accordance with the format in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) subpart 12.6, "Streamlined Procedures for Evaluation and Solicitation for Commercial Items," as supplemented with additional information included in this notice. This announcement constitutes the only solicitation; proposals are being requested, and a written solicitation document will not be issued.

This solicitation is a Request for Proposal (RFP). The solicitation document and incorporated provisions and clauses are those in effect through Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-99.

The associated North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code for this procurement is 541611, with a small business size standard of \$15.0M.

The Network Contracting Office (NCO) 22 is seeking contractor support to support its contracting operations at its Long Beach, CA office.

All interested companies shall provide proposals in accordance with the following Price/Cost Schedule:

IDIQ Contract Guaranteed Minimum: \$2,500.00
Four-Year IDIQ Contract Ceiling Limit: \$7,000,000.00

Price/Cost Schedule:

Base Year: September 23, 2018 – September 22, 2019

Line Item	Description	Estimated Quantity	Unit of Issue	Unit Price	Total Price
0001	Entry Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
0002	Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist	1560	HR	\$	\$
0003	Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
0004	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	1560	HR	\$	\$
0005	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
0006	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
0007	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
0008	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
0009	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
0010	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
0011	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
0012	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
Base Year Total Price:					\$

Option Year 1: September 23, 2019 – September 22, 2020

Line Item	Description	Estimated Quantity	Unit of Issue	Unit Price	Total Price
1001	Entry Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
1002	Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist	1560	HR	\$	\$
1003	Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
1004	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	1560	HR	\$	\$
1005	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
1006	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
1007	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
1008	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
1009	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
1010	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
1011	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
1012	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
Option Year 1 Total Price:					\$

Option Year 2: September 23, 2020 – September 22, 2021

Line Item	Description	Estimated Quantity	Unit of Issue	Unit Price	Total Price
2001	Entry Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
2002	Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist	1560	HR	\$	\$
2003	Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
2004	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	1560	HR	\$	\$
2005	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
2006	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
2007	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
2008	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
2009	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
2010	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
2011	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
2012	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
Option Year 2 Total Price:					\$

Option Year 3: September 23, 2021 – September 22, 2022

Line Item	Description	Estimated Quantity	Unit of Issue	Unit Price	Total Price
3001	Entry Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
3002	Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist	1560	HR	\$	\$
3003	Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
3004	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	1560	HR	\$	\$
3005	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
3006	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
3007	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
3008	Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist	2080	HR	\$	\$
3009	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
3010	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
3011	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
3012	Contracts Closeout Specialist II	2080	HR	\$	\$
Option Year 3 Total Price:					\$

Base Year:	\$
Option Year 1:	\$
Option Year 2:	\$
Option Year 3:	\$
Total Price (Base Year & Option Years 1 – 3):	\$

STATEMENT OF WORK (SOW)

1. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

- 1.1. Introduction. The Service Area Organization (SAO) West, NCO22 requires the service of contractors to support its operations to ensure the completion of customer requirements throughout the fiscal year. These contracted contracting specialists and contract closeout specialists will allow NCO22 to support the myriad of contracting requirements for each of the eight (8) healthcare systems within VISN 22.
- 1.2. Scope. The contractor shall provide qualified personnel to perform non-personal services in accordance with this Statement of Work (SOW). Services shall include, but are not limited to, the following: pre-award functions, price and cost analysis, preparation of award documents and supporting documentation, contract administration, contract closeout, and other related non-inherently governmental functions.
- 1.3. Objectives. The following provides the overall functional objectives for the Contracts Support Specialist.

The contractor shall assist in the following functions:

- 1.3.1. Solicit, evaluate, negotiate, analyze, advise, closeout, award, and terminate contracts for the procurement of supplies and services.
 - 1.3.2. Research, analyze, and review all applicable policies, guidance, and regulations to support the customer and government contracting officers in their decision-making.
 - 1.3.3. Provide procurement assistance, advice, and guidance to the customer as requested. The contractor does not have approval or award authority. All advice and guidance shall be approved by government contracting officers in accordance with FAR 7.503(c)(12).
 - 1.3.4. Advise acquisition team, as needed, on price, cost, and/or financial-related matters throughout the development of sourcing strategies and throughout the solicitation, evaluation, negotiation, and award of contractual actions for supplies and services.
 - 1.3.5. Provide cost and price analysis recommendations as requested.
 - 1.3.6. Recommend business solutions to day-to-day contractual challenges.
 - 1.3.7. Other specific tasks shall include: acquisition strategy planning, requirements review and Performance Work Statement (PWS)/Statement of Work (SOW) development in collaboration with customers, source selection support, synopsis and solicitation development, preparing mandatory contract file documentation, contract management, and administration.
- 1.4. Objectives. The following provides the overall functional objectives for the Contracts Closeout Specialist:

The contractor shall:

 - 1.4.1. Utilize VA internal and external financial and business management systems, to include, but not limited to FMS, IPPS, and IFCAP/VISTA.

1.4.2. Communicate with the COR/end user, contracting, logistics, accounting, and vendors regarding invoices, accuracy of accruals, outstanding balances, and purchase order status to expedite close out resolution.

1.4.3. Verify purchase orders, tax identification, invoice submissions, and payment inquiries.

1.5. Labor Category Qualifications

1.5.1. The contractor shall provide dedicated, full-time, qualified personnel to manage and execute all aspects of the work described in this SOW. Education may not be substituted for required work experience.

1.5.2. All personnel shall be thoroughly familiar and proficient in the use of commercial software packages such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

1.5.3. All Contracts Support Specialists shall have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Coursework must have included at least 24 semester hours in any combination of the following fields: accounting, business, finance, law, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, or organization and management.

1.5.4. Journeyman Level Contracts Support Specialist (GS 1102-12 equivalent):

At least four (4) years of federal contracting experience, and preferably with experience with the electronic Contract Management System (eCMS) and VISTA applications within the past two years. Documented experience in, and working knowledge of VA programs is preferable. The candidate shall have excellent writing skills and be able to effectively communicate orally and in writing. The candidate shall be familiar with FAR and VAAR based procurements.

1.5.4.1. Duties Required: The candidate shall assist with solicitation, evaluation, negotiation, analysis, awards and terminations on contracts for the procurement of supplies and services, including complex contracts and high-dollar acquisitions. Work requires analysis and evaluation of certified cost and pricing data and other types of pricing information to determine price reasonableness. Preparation of contract files and electronic documents is also required. The candidate shall independently prepare contracting recommendations for the contracting officer that require research and interpretation of evolving government regulations, policies, guidance, and laws.

1.5.5. Junior Level Contracts Support Specialist (GS 1102 - 9/11 equivalent):

At least two (2) years of federal contracting experience is necessary, and preferably with experience with the eCMS and VISTA applications within the past two years. The candidate shall have excellent writing skills and be able to effectively communicate orally and in writing. The candidate shall be familiar with FAR and VAAR based procurements.

1.5.5.1. Duties Required: With minimal direction, the candidate shall perform routine contracting tasks, such as acquisition planning, preparation of solicitations, proposal analysis, and post-award activities in support of less complex government acquisitions. The candidate shall assist with the close out of existing contracts as needed. Work includes preparing portions of less complex contractual documents, and reading and interpreting basic procurement regulations, policies, and directives to make recommendations to the contracting officer.

1.5.6. Entry Level Contracts Support Specialist:

Less than two (2) years of federal contracting experience is necessary, and preferably with experience with the eCMS and VISTA applications. The candidate shall have excellent writing skills and be able to effectively communicate orally and in writing. The candidate shall be familiar with FAR and VAAR based procurements.

1.5.6.1. Duties Required: The candidate shall perform routine contracting tasks, such as acquisition planning, preparation of solicitations, proposal analysis, and post-award activities in support of less complex government acquisitions. The candidate shall assist with the close out of existing contracts as needed. Work includes preparing portions of less complex contractual documents, and reading and interpreting basic procurement regulations, policies, and directives to make recommendations to the contracting officer.

1.5.7. Contracts Closeout Specialist II:

At least three (3) years of relevant experience, preferably with the VA. The candidate shall have documented experience in, and working knowledge of the following VA programs: FMS, IPPS, and VISTA. The candidate shall have excellent writing skills and be able to effectively communicate orally and in writing.

1.5.7.1. Duties Required: Knowledge of monitoring and reviewing aged payables and undelivered orders to ensure purchase orders and contracts are accurately funded and properly managed in accordance with VA guidelines. Facilitates communication and problem resolution to ensure proper use and accounting of purchase orders to help expedite closeout as appropriate. Use of internal systems such as general ledgers, VISTA, and locally developed Financial Indicator Database access to identify orders that are impacted by the Financial Indicator criteria.

1.5.8. Inherently Governmental Functions. Tasks that are prohibited under this contract are listed in FAR Subpart 7.5, "Inherently Government Functions."

1.6. Key Personnel. All proposed personnel shall be considered key personnel. As such, any change in personnel will be subject to Government approval prior to the change. The contractor shall minimize the effect and impact to the organization by strategically managing contractor personnel turnover to the greatest extent possible.

1.6.1. Contractor Identification. Contractor employees shall clearly identify themselves as "Contractors" at all times. This shall include: when in the workplace; at meetings; and in conversations, telecommunications, mail, electronic mail (e-mail), and faxes.

1.6.2. Background Investigation. A criminal background check is required for all contractor personnel working in government facilities. All contractor personnel working in Government facilities must complete fingerprinting and start background investigation paperwork prior to the start of performance or placement on the contract.

1.6.3. Non-Disclosure Agreements. To ensure the integrity of government contracting operations, all contractor personnel shall execute a Non-Disclosure Agreement before work under this contract.

1.7. Personnel Maintenance. Maintain minimal personnel turnover throughout the life of the contract. Ensure continuation of services during prolonged personnel absences due to sickness, leave, and voluntary or involuntary termination from employment such that impact to the government is

minimal. Once the contractor knows that an employee is leaving and will no longer provide support under the contract, the contractor shall provide written documentation to the CO and Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) within three (3) business days of the employee advising the contractor of his/her intent to leave. This written notification shall include the date and time the position will be vacant, the reason the employee will no longer be working under the contract, and the anticipated replacement date.

- 1.7.1. FTE Vacancies. Any position vacancies shall not exceed fourteen (14) calendar days unless directed or approved, in writing, by the CO. FTE vacancies beyond the fourteen (14) calendar day period may result in negative past performance/CPARS ratings.
- 1.7.2. Replacement/Substitution. Prior to replacing/substituting key personnel performing on this contract, the contractor shall provide a sufficiently detailed Qualification Summary/Resume of proposed personnel for government approval/verification of education and experience requirements.
- 1.7.3. Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCI): The OCI plan shall be submitted to the contracting officer. The contractor shall provide an OCI Plan for detecting, disclosing, avoiding, and mitigating OCI issues/risks involved with the performance of this contract. The plan shall identify any potential conflicts of interest and shall provide a process for dealing with any OCI that is identified during the performance of the contract. The OCI plan shall disclose all cross-teaming arrangements and shall include a representation that there will be no "cross-talk" or information shared between the two affiliates in connection with the contract.
- 1.7.4. Removal of Personnel at Government Request. The government may request removal (permanent or temporary) of contract personnel upon discovery of fraudulent resume documentation, or when contractor personnel behave in an unprofessional manner that would be considered unacceptable by a reasonable person. The contractor shall provide a sufficiently detailed qualification summary/resume of proposed personnel for government coordination prior to replacing/substituting personnel under these circumstances.
- 1.7.5. Travel. Travel may be required for training or other official purposes per CO direction. If required, the government shall reimburse approved expenses in accordance with GSA Terms and Conditions. The following is the link to federal per diem rates: http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877?utm_source=OGP&utm_medium=print-radio&utm_term=portal/category/21287&utm_campaign=shortcuts

2. SERVICES SUMMARY

- 2.1. Purpose. The Services Summary lists performance objectives for the required services the government will survey. The absence of any contract requirement from the Services Summary shall not detract from its enforceability nor limit the rights or remedies of the government under any other provision of the contract, including the clauses entitled "Inspection of Services," "Inspection," or "Default".
- 2.2. Components. The Services Summary states the performance objective (required service), and threshold (performance standard) in either a qualitative or quantitative fashion for each critical success factor.
- 2.3. Right to Survey. The Government reserves the right to survey all services and requirements called for in this SOW in accordance with FAR Part 46 to determine whether the contractor is meeting performance objectives and goals.

Services Summary

Performance Objective	Performance Standard
Solicit, evaluate, analyze, advise, close out, and assist with awards and terminations on contracts for the procurement of supplies and services.	No more than three (3) instances per quarter of failure to provide proper contract administration and to prepare contractual documents.
Research, analyzes, and reviews all applicable policies, guidance, and regulations to support the customer and the government contracting officer's decision-making.	No more than three (3) instances per quarter of failure to follow regulations and provide appropriate support.
Advise acquisition team, as needed, on price, cost, and/or financial-related matters throughout the development of sourcing strategies and the solicitation, evaluation, negotiation, and award of contractual actions.	No more than two (2) instances per quarter of failure to provide completed documentation pertaining to the solicitation, evaluation, negotiation, and award of contractual actions.
Utilize VA internal and external financial and business management systems to include, but not limited to FMS, IPPS, IFCAP/VISTA.	No more than three (3) instances per quarter of failure to properly utilize VA internal and external financial and business management systems.
Communication with COR/end user, contracting, logistics, accounting, and vendor regarding invoices, accuracy of accruals, outstanding balances, and purchase order status to expedite close out resolution	No more than three (3) instances per quarter of failure to follow regulations and provide appropriate support.
Verification of purchase orders, tax identification, invoice submission, and payment inquiries.	No more than two (2) instances per quarter of failure to provide completed documentation.
Personnel Maintenance	No more than two (2) instances per quarter of failure to fill vacancies with qualified personnel within 14 days of vacancy notification.
Effectively replaces/substitutes personnel	Coordinate 100% of the time for replacement and substitution of personnel.
Develop and submit all required deliverables	Performance is acceptable when: 100% of deliverable requirements are met and received on time.

3. GOVERNMENT FURNISHED PROPERTY & SERVICES

The contractor personnel will work in a government facility. The government will furnish, or make available, the required working space, equipment, and network access required to perform services under this contract.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

4.1. Monthly Performance Activity/Status Report: The report shall be provided to the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) during the first week of each month. The contractor shall provide

monthly status reports of employees as an attachment to all invoices in order to be considered for payment. The monthly report shall include, at a minimum, contractor employee name and actions completed, completed closeouts, and the contract numbers for each completed action. The number of hours worked shall be listed for each employee.

4.2. Deliverables

Deliverable	Due Date; Frequency
Non-Disclosure Agreement	Must be received and properly executed before the placement of contractor personnel.
Monthly Performance Activity/ Status Report	Submitted during the first week of each month.
Quality Control Plan	Updated throughout the contract as changes occur.

4.3 Tour of Duty: Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 3:30 pm, alternative schedule may be authorized.

4.4 Tradeoffs are allowed, with prior authorization from the CO, to work a longer day in exchange for a shorter day within the 2-week pay period.

4.5 Telework is not authorized

4.6 Duty Station: 4811 Airport Plaza Drive Suite 600 Long Beach, CA 90815

5. QUALITY

5.1. Quality Control. The contractor shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive inspection system that assures compliance with all requirements of this contract in accordance with FAR Part 46, Quality Assurance. The QC records of inspections shall identify procedures to prevent and ensure nonrecurrence of defective services as well as the corrective action taken to address and mitigate defective services. The contractor shall submit, to the contracting officer, an updated plan as changes occur.

5.2. Quality Control Plan (QCP). The contractor shall develop a QCP that demonstrates how the contractor shall maintain an inspection system acceptable to the government, covering the services to be provided under this contract. At a minimum, the contractor shall develop quality control procedures that address the areas identified in the Services Delivery Summary in Section 2 of this SOW.

6. SECURITY

6.1. Pass and Identification Items. Ensure the pass and identification items required for contract performance are obtained for employees prior to the performance start date. NCOemployees will assist contractor personnel in obtaining the PIV cards and VA systems access.

6.2. Retrieving Identification Media. The contractor shall retrieve and return all identification media, including the PIV Cards, when the contract expires or from employees who depart for any reason before the expiration of the contract (e.g. terminated for cause, retirement, etc.).

6.3. Disclosure of Information. The contractor will not have access to classified information. All information is considered sensitive and will not be disclosed outside the workplace. This includes contractor proprietary data, passwords, “For Official Use Only” documents, and “Source Selection Information” documents.

6.4. National Agency Check. The contractor will be required to submit information for each employee in advance of employment for a National Agency Check in the Joint Personnel Adjudication System (JPAS). This is required in advance to provide contract employees access to the

government network and systems. All contractor employees are required to complete Information Assurance training on an annual basis. All contractors shall provide a signed Non-Disclosure Agreement to the contracting officer.

7. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1. Contractor employees are required to complete annual Information Security Awareness training. The estimated time to complete all modules is approximately one and a half hours.

8. FEDERAL HOLIDAYS AND PAY

The following federal holidays are observed under this contract:

New Year's Day	1 January
Martin Luther King's Birthday	Third Monday in January
President's Day	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	4 July
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
Veteran's Day	11 November
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas Day	25 December

- 8.1. Overtime/Holiday Time. Overtime is defined as any time worked in excess of 80 hours over a two-week period. Holiday Time is defined as any time worked on a federal holiday as addressed above. Contractors may only work overtime or holiday time to the extent it is specifically authorized in advance, in writing, by the contracting officer. No additional hours of overtime may be worked without express written authorization for each hour worked. Labor rates for overtime hours will not change from the standard labor rates applied to the contract for regular hours worked.
- 8.2. The contractor shall only bill and invoice for actual hours worked by the contractor employee. Payment will not be made for hours that are not worked by the contractor employee.

B.1 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION DATA

1. Contract Administration: All contract administration matters will be handled by the following individuals:

a. CONTRACTOR:

b. GOVERNMENT: Contracting Officer 36C262
Department of Veterans Affairs
Network Contracting Office 22
4811 Airport Plaza Drive
Suite 600
Long Beach CA 90815

2. CONTRACTOR REMITTANCE ADDRESS: All payments by the Government to the contractor will be made in accordance with:

- ☒ 52.232-33, Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer—System For Award Management,
or
☐ 52.232-36, Payment by Third Party

3. INVOICES: Invoices shall be submitted in arrears:

- a. Quarterly ☐
b. Semi-Annually ☐
c. Other ☒ Actual hours worked

4. GOVERNMENT INVOICE ADDRESS: All Invoices from the contractor shall be submitted electronically in accordance with VAAR Clause 852.232-72 Electronic Submission of Payment Requests.

Contractor shall bill via Tungsten Network, <https://www.tungsten-network.com/us/en/>.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS: The offeror acknowledges receipt of amendments to the Solicitation numbered and dated as follows:

AMENDMENT NO		DATE

B.2 IT CONTRACT SECURITY

VA INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY/PRIVACY

1. GENERAL

Contractors, contractor personnel, subcontractors, and subcontractor personnel shall be subject to the same Federal laws, regulations, standards, and VA Directives and Handbooks as VA and VA personnel regarding information and information system security.

2. ACCESS TO VA INFORMATION AND VA INFORMATION SYSTEMS

a. A contractor/subcontractor shall request logical (technical) or physical access to VA information and VA information systems for their employees, subcontractors, and affiliates only to the extent necessary to perform the services specified in the contract, agreement, or task order.

b. All contractors, subcontractors, and third-party servicers and associates working with VA information are subject to the same investigative requirements as those of VA appointees or employees who have access to the same types of information. The level and process of background security investigations for contractors must be in accordance with VA Directive and Handbook 0710, Personnel Suitability and Security Program. The Office for Operations, Security, and Preparedness is responsible for these policies and procedures.

c. Contract personnel who require access to national security programs must have a valid security clearance. National Industrial Security Program (NISP) was established by Executive Order 12829 to ensure that cleared U.S. defense industry contract personnel safeguard the classified information in their possession while performing work on contracts, programs, bids, or research and development efforts. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not have a Memorandum of Agreement with Defense Security Service (DSS). Verification of a Security Clearance must be processed through the Special Security Officer located in the Planning and National Security Service within the Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness.

d. Custom software development and outsourced operations must be located in the U.S. to the maximum extent practical. If such services are proposed to be performed abroad and are not disallowed by other VA policy or mandates, the contractor/subcontractor must state where all non-U.S. services are provided and detail a security plan, deemed to be acceptable by VA, specifically to address mitigation of the resulting problems of communication, control, data protection, and so forth. Location within the U.S. may be an evaluation factor.

e. The contractor or subcontractor must notify the Contracting Officer immediately when an employee working on a VA system or with access to VA information is reassigned or leaves the contractor or subcontractor's employ. The Contracting Officer must also be notified immediately by the contractor or subcontractor prior to an unfriendly termination.

3. VA INFORMATION CUSTODIAL LANGUAGE

a. Information made available to the contractor or subcontractor by VA for the performance or administration of this contract or information developed by the contractor/subcontractor in performance or administration of the contract shall be used only for those purposes and shall not be used in any other way without the prior written agreement of the VA. This clause expressly limits the contractor/subcontractor's rights to use data as described in Rights in Data - General, FAR 52.227-14(d) (1).

b. VA information should not be co-mingled, if possible, with any other data on the contractors/subcontractor's information systems or media storage systems in order to ensure VA requirements related to data protection and media sanitization can be met. If co-mingling must be allowed to meet the requirements of the business need, the contractor must ensure that VA's information is returned to the VA or destroyed in accordance with VA's sanitization requirements. VA reserves the right to conduct onsite inspections of contractor and subcontractor IT resources to ensure data security controls, separation of data and job duties, and destruction/media sanitization procedures are in compliance with VA directive requirements.

c. Prior to termination or completion of this contract, contractor/ subcontractor must not destroy information received from VA, or gathered/ created by the contractor in the course of performing this contract without prior written approval by the VA. Any data destruction done on behalf of VA by a contractor/subcontractor must be done in accordance with National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requirements as outlined in VA Directive 6300, Records and Information Management and its Handbook 6300.1 Records Management Procedures, applicable VA Records Control Schedules, and VA Handbook 6500.1, Electronic Media Sanitization. Self-certification by the contractor that the data destruction requirements above have been met must be sent to the VA Contracting Officer within 30 days of termination of the contract.

d. The contractor/subcontractor must receive, gather, store, back up, maintain, use, disclose and dispose of VA information only in compliance with the terms of the contract and applicable Federal and VA information confidentiality and security laws, regulations and policies. If Federal or VA information confidentiality and security laws, regulations and policies become applicable to the VA information or information systems after execution of the contract, or if NIST issues or updates applicable FIPS or Special Publications (SP) after execution of this contract, the parties agree to negotiate in good faith to implement the information confidentiality and security laws, regulations and policies in this contract.

e. The contractor/subcontractor shall not make copies of VA information except as authorized and necessary to perform the terms of the agreement or to preserve electronic information stored on contractor/subcontractor electronic storage media for restoration in case any electronic equipment or data used by the contractor/subcontractor needs to be restored to an operating state. If copies are made for restoration purposes, after the restoration is complete, the copies must be appropriately destroyed.

f. If VA determines that the contractor has violated any of the information confidentiality, privacy, and security provisions of the contract, it shall be sufficient grounds for VA to withhold payment to the contractor or third party or terminate the contract for default or terminate for cause under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 12.

g. If a VHA contract is terminated for cause, the associated BAA must also be terminated and appropriate actions taken in accordance with VHA Handbook 1600.01, Business Associate Agreements. Absent an agreement to use or disclose protected health information, there is no business associate relationship.

h. The contractor/subcontractor must store, transport, or transmit VA sensitive information in an encrypted form, using VA-approved encryption tools that are, at a minimum, FIPS 140-2 validated.

i. The contractor/subcontractor's firewall and Web services security controls, if applicable, shall meet or exceed VA's minimum requirements. VA Configuration Guidelines are available upon request.

j. Except for uses and disclosures of VA information authorized by this contract for performance of the contract, the contractor/subcontractor may use and disclose VA information only in two other situations: (i) in response to a qualifying order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or (ii) with VA's prior written approval. The contractor/subcontractor must refer all requests for, demands for production of, or inquiries about, VA information and information systems to the VA contracting officer for response.

k. Notwithstanding the provision above, the contractor/subcontractor shall not release VA records protected by Title 38 U.S.C. 5705, confidentiality of medical quality assurance records and/or Title 38 U.S.C. 7332, confidentiality of certain health records pertaining to drug addiction, sickle cell anemia, alcoholism or alcohol abuse, or infection with human immunodeficiency virus. If the contractor/subcontractor is in receipt of a court order or other requests for the above mentioned information, that contractor/subcontractor shall immediately refer such court orders or other requests to the VA contracting officer for response.

l. For service that involves the storage, generating, transmitting, or exchanging of VA sensitive information but does not require C&A or an MOU-ISA for system interconnection, the contractor/subcontractor must complete a Contractor Security Control Assessment (CSCA) on a yearly basis and provide it to the COR.

4. INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

a. Information systems that are designed or developed for or on behalf of VA at non-VA facilities shall comply with all VA directives developed in accordance with FISMA, HIPAA, NIST, and related VA security and privacy control requirements for Federal information systems. This includes standards for the protection of electronic PHI, outlined in 45 C.F.R. Part 164, Subpart C, information and system security categorization level designations in accordance with FIPS 199 and FIPS 200 with implementation of all baseline security controls commensurate with the FIPS 199 system security categorization (reference Appendix D of VA Handbook 6500, VA Information Security Program). During the development cycle a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) must be completed, provided to the COR, and approved by the VA Privacy Service in accordance with Directive 6507, VA Privacy Impact Assessment.

b. The contractor/subcontractor shall certify to the COR that applications are fully functional and operate correctly as intended on systems using the VA Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC), and the common security configuration guidelines provided by NIST or the VA. This includes Internet Explorer 7 configured to operate on Windows XP and Vista (in Protected Mode on Vista) and future versions, as required.

c. The standard installation, operation, maintenance, updating, and patching of software shall not alter the configuration settings from the VA approved and FDCC configuration. Information technology staff must also use the Windows Installer Service for installation to the default "program files" directory and silently install and uninstall.

d. Applications designed for normal end users shall run in the standard user context without elevated system administration privileges.

e. The security controls must be designed, developed, approved by VA, and implemented in accordance with the provisions of VA security system development life cycle as outlined in NIST Special Publication 800-37, Guide for Applying the Risk Management Framework to Federal Information Systems, VA

Handbook 6500, Information Security Program and VA Handbook 6500.5, Incorporating Security and Privacy in System Development Lifecycle.

f. The contractor/subcontractor is required to design, develop, or operate a System of Records Notice (SOR) on individuals to accomplish an agency function subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, (as amended), Public Law 93-579, December 31, 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and applicable agency regulations. Violation of the Privacy Act may involve the imposition of criminal and civil penalties.

g. The contractor/subcontractor agrees to:

(1) Comply with the Privacy Act of 1974 (the Act) and the agency rules and regulations issued under the Act in the design, development, or operation of any system of records on individuals to accomplish an agency function when the contract specifically identifies:

(a) The Systems of Records (SOR); and

(b) The design, development, or operation work that the contractor/ subcontractor is to perform;

(1) Include the Privacy Act notification contained in this contract in every solicitation and resulting subcontract and in every subcontract awarded without a solicitation, when the work statement in the proposed subcontract requires the redesign, development, or operation of a SOR on individuals that is subject to the Privacy Act; and

(2) Include this Privacy Act clause, including this subparagraph (3), in all subcontracts awarded under this contract which requires the design, development, or operation of such a SOR.

h. In the event of violations of the Act, a civil action may be brought against the agency involved when the violation concerns the design, development, or operation of a SOR on individuals to accomplish an agency function, and criminal penalties may be imposed upon the officers or employees of the agency when the violation concerns the operation of a SOR on individuals to accomplish an agency function. For purposes of the Act, when the contract is for the operation of a SOR on individuals to accomplish an agency function, the contractor/subcontractor is considered to be an employee of the agency.

(1) "Operation of a System of Records" means performance of any of the activities associated with maintaining the SOR, including the collection, use, maintenance, and dissemination of records.

(2) "Record" means any item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by an agency, including, but not limited to, education, financial transactions, medical history, and criminal or employment history and contains the person's name, or identifying number, symbol, or any other identifying particular assigned to the individual, such as a fingerprint or voiceprint, or a photograph.

(3) "System of Records" means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

i. The vendor shall ensure the security of all procured or developed systems and technologies, including their subcomponents (hereinafter referred to as "Systems"), throughout the life of this contract and any extension, warranty, or maintenance periods. This includes, but is not limited to workarounds, patches, hotfixes, upgrades, and any physical components (hereafter referred to as Security Fixes) which may be necessary to fix all security vulnerabilities published or known to the vendor anywhere in the Systems,

including Operating Systems and firmware. The vendor shall ensure that Security Fixes shall not negatively impact the Systems.

j. The vendor shall notify VA within 24 hours of the discovery or disclosure of successful exploits of the vulnerability which can compromise the security of the Systems (including the confidentiality or integrity of its data and operations, or the availability of the system). Such issues shall be remediated as quickly as is practical, but in no event longer than 2 days.

k. When the Security Fixes involve installing third party patches (such as Microsoft OS patches or Adobe Acrobat), the vendor will provide written notice to the VA that the patch has been validated as not affecting the Systems within 10 working days. When the vendor is responsible for operations or maintenance of the Systems, they shall apply the Security Fixes within 5 days.

l. All other vulnerabilities shall be remediated as specified in this paragraph in a timely manner based on risk, but within 60 days of discovery or disclosure. Exceptions to this paragraph (e.g. for the convenience of VA) shall only be granted with approval of the contracting officer and the VA Assistant Secretary for Office of Information and Technology.

5. INFORMATION SYSTEM HOSTING, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, OR USE

a. For information systems that are hosted, operated, maintained, or used on behalf of VA at non-VA facilities, contractors/subcontractors are fully responsible and accountable for ensuring compliance with all HIPAA, Privacy Act, FISMA, NIST, FIPS, and VA security and privacy directives and handbooks. This includes conducting compliant risk assessments, routine vulnerability scanning, system patching and change management procedures, and the completion of an acceptable contingency plan for each system. The contractor's security control procedures must be equivalent, to those procedures used to secure VA systems. A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) must also be provided to the COR and approved by VA Privacy Service prior to operational approval. All external Internet connections to VA's network involving VA information must be reviewed and approved by VA prior to implementation.

b. Adequate security controls for collecting, processing, transmitting, and storing of Personally Identifiable Information (PII), as determined by the VA Privacy Service, must be in place, tested, and approved by VA prior to hosting, operation, maintenance, or use of the information system, or systems by or on behalf of VA. These security controls are to be assessed and stated within the PIA and if these controls are determined not to be in place, or inadequate, a Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) must be submitted and approved prior to the collection of PII.

c. Outsourcing (contractor facility, contractor equipment or contractor staff) of systems or network operations, telecommunications services, or other managed services requires certification and accreditation (authorization) (C&A) of the contractor's systems in accordance with VA Handbook 6500.3, Certification and Accreditation and/or the VA OCS Certification Program Office. Government- owned (government facility or government equipment) contractor-operated systems, third party or business partner networks require memorandums of understanding and interconnection agreements (MOU-ISA) which detail what data types are shared, who has access, and the appropriate level of security controls for all systems connected to VA networks.

d. The contractor/subcontractor's system must adhere to all FISMA, FIPS, and NIST standards related to the annual FISMA security controls assessment and review and update the PIA. Any deficiencies noted during this assessment must be provided to the VA contracting officer and the ISO for entry into VA's

POA&M management process. The contractor/subcontractor must use VA's POA&M process to document planned remedial actions to address any deficiencies in information security policies, procedures, and practices, and the completion of those activities. Security deficiencies must be corrected within the timeframes approved by the government. Contractor/subcontractor procedures are subject to periodic, unannounced assessments by VA officials, including the VA Office of Inspector General. The physical security aspects associated with contractor/ subcontractor activities must also be subject to such assessments. If major changes to the system occur that may affect the privacy or security of the data or the system, the C&A of the system may need to be reviewed, retested and re- authorized per VA Handbook 6500.3. This may require reviewing and updating all of the documentation (PIA, System Security Plan, Contingency Plan). The Certification Program Office can provide guidance on whether a new C&A would be necessary.

e. The contractor/subcontractor must conduct an annual self assessment on all systems and outsourced services as required. Both hard copy and electronic copies of the assessment must be provided to the COR. The government reserves the right to conduct such an assessment using government personnel or another contractor/subcontractor. The contractor/subcontractor must take appropriate and timely action (this can be specified in the contract) to correct or mitigate any weaknesses discovered during such testing, generally at no additional cost.

f. VA prohibits the installation and use of personally-owned or contractor/ subcontractor-owned equipment or software on VA's network. If non-VA owned equipment must be used to fulfill the requirements of a contract, it must be stated in the service agreement, SOW or contract. All of the security controls required for government furnished equipment (GFE) must be utilized in approved other equipment (OE) and must be funded by the owner of the equipment. All remote systems must be equipped with, and use, a VA-approved antivirus (AV) software and a personal (host-based or enclave based) firewall that is configured with a VA-approved configuration. Software must be kept current, including all critical updates and patches. Owners of approved OE are responsible for providing and maintaining the anti-viral software and the firewall on the non-VA owned OE.

g. All electronic storage media used on non-VA leased or non-VA owned IT equipment that is used to store, process, or access VA information must be handled in adherence with VA Handbook 6500.1, Electronic Media Sanitization upon: (i) completion or termination of the contract or (ii) disposal or return of the IT equipment by the contractor/subcontractor or any person acting on behalf of the contractor/subcontractor, whichever is earlier. Media (hard drives, optical disks, CDs, back-up tapes, etc.) used by the contractors/ subcontractors that contain VA information must be returned to the VA for sanitization or destruction or the contractor/subcontractor must self-certify that the media has been disposed of per 6500.1 requirements. This must be completed within 30 days of termination of the contract.

h. Bio-Medical devices and other equipment or systems containing media (hard drives, optical disks, etc.) with VA sensitive information must not be returned to the vendor at the end of lease, for trade-in, or other purposes. The options are:

- (1) Vendor must accept the system without the drive;
- (2) VA's initial medical device purchase includes a spare drive which must be installed in place of the original drive at time of turn-in; or
- (3) VA must reimburse the company for media at a reasonable open market replacement cost at time of purchase.

(4) Due to the highly specialized and sometimes proprietary hardware and software associated with medical equipment/systems, if it is not possible for the VA to retain the hard drive, then;

(a) The equipment vendor must have an existing BAA if the device being traded in has sensitive information stored on it and hard drive(s) from the system are being returned physically intact; and

(b) Any fixed hard drive on the device must be non-destructively sanitized to the greatest extent possible without negatively impacting system operation. Selective clearing down to patient data folder level is recommended using VA approved and validated overwriting technologies/methods/tools. Applicable media sanitization specifications need to be pre-approved and described in the purchase order or contract.

(c) A statement needs to be signed by the Director (System Owner) that states that the drive could not be removed and that (a) and (b) controls above are in place and completed. The ISO needs to maintain the documentation.

6. SECURITY INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

a. The term "security incident" means an event that has, or could have, resulted in unauthorized access to, loss or damage to VA assets, or sensitive information, or an action that breaches VA security procedures. The contractor/ subcontractor shall immediately notify the COR and simultaneously, the designated ISO and Privacy Officer for the contract of any known or suspected security/privacy incidents, or any unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information, including that contained in system(s) to which the contractor/ subcontractor has access.

b. To the extent known by the contractor/subcontractor, the contractor/ subcontractor's notice to VA shall identify the information involved, the circumstances surrounding the incident (including to whom, how, when, and where the VA information or assets were placed at risk or compromised), and any other information that the contractor/subcontractor considers relevant.

c. With respect to unsecured protected health information, the business associate is deemed to have discovered a data breach when the business associate knew or should have known of a breach of such information. Upon discovery, the business associate must notify the covered entity of the breach. Notifications need to be made in accordance with the executed business associate agreement.

d. In instances of theft or break-in or other criminal activity, the contractor/subcontractor must concurrently report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement entity (or entities) of jurisdiction, including the VA OIG and Security and Law Enforcement. The contractor, its employees, and its subcontractors and their employees shall cooperate with VA and any law enforcement authority responsible for the investigation and prosecution of any possible criminal law violation(s) associated with any incident. The contractor/subcontractor shall cooperate with VA in any civil litigation to recover VA information, obtain monetary or other compensation from a third party for damages arising from any incident, or obtain injunctive relief against any third party arising from, or related to, the incident.

7. LIQUIDATED DAMAGES FOR DATA BREACH

a. Consistent with the requirements of 38 U.S.C. 5725, a contract may require access to sensitive personal information. If so, the contractor is liable to VA for liquidated damages in the event of a data breach or privacy incident involving any SPI the contractor/subcontractor processes or maintains under this contract.

b. The contractor/subcontractor shall provide notice to VA of a "security incident" as set forth in the Security Incident Investigation section above. Upon such notification, VA must secure from a non-Department entity or the VA Office of Inspector General an independent risk analysis of the data breach to determine the level of risk associated with the data breach for the potential misuse of any sensitive personal information involved in the data breach. The term 'data breach' means the loss, theft, or other unauthorized access, or any access other than that incidental to the scope of employment, to data containing sensitive personal information, in electronic or printed form, that results in the potential compromise of the confidentiality or integrity of the data. Contractor shall fully cooperate with the entity performing the risk analysis. Failure to cooperate may be deemed a material breach and grounds for contract termination.

c. Each risk analysis shall address all relevant information concerning the data breach, including the following:

- (1) Nature of the event (loss, theft, unauthorized access);
- (2) Description of the event, including:
 - (a) date of occurrence;
 - (b) data elements involved, including any PII, such as full name, social security number, date of birth, home address, account number, disability code;
- (3) Number of individuals affected or potentially affected;
- (4) Names of individuals or groups affected or potentially affected;
- (5) Ease of logical data access to the lost, stolen or improperly accessed data in light of the degree of protection for the data, e.g., unencrypted, plain text;
- (6) Amount of time the data has been out of VA control;
- (7) The likelihood that the sensitive personal information will or has been compromised (made accessible to and usable by unauthorized persons);
- (8) Known misuses of data containing sensitive personal information, if any;
- (9) Assessment of the potential harm to the affected individuals;
- (10) Data breach analysis as outlined in 6500.2 Handbook, Management of Security and Privacy Incidents, as appropriate; and
- (11) Whether credit protection services may assist record subjects in avoiding or mitigating the results of identity theft based on the sensitive personal information that may have been compromised.

d. Based on the determinations of the independent risk analysis, the contractor shall be responsible for paying to the VA liquidated damages in the amount of \$47.65 per affected individual to cover the cost of providing credit protection services to affected individuals consisting of the following:

- (1) Notification;
- (2) One year of credit monitoring services consisting of automatic daily monitoring of at least 3 relevant credit bureau reports;

- (3) Data breach analysis;
- (4) Fraud resolution services, including writing dispute letters, initiating fraud alerts and credit freezes, to assist affected individuals to bring matters to resolution;
- (5) One year of identity theft insurance with \$20,000.00 coverage at \$0 deductible; and
- (6) Necessary legal expenses the subjects may incur to repair falsified or damaged credit records, histories, or financial affairs.

8. SECURITY CONTROLS COMPLIANCE TESTING

On a periodic basis, VA, including the Office of Inspector General, reserves the right to evaluate any or all of the security controls and privacy practices implemented by the contractor under the clauses contained within the contract. With 10 working-day's notice, at the request of the government, the contractor must fully cooperate and assist in a government-sponsored security controls assessment at each location wherein VA information is processed or stored, or information systems are developed, operated, maintained, or used on behalf of VA, including those initiated by the Office of Inspector General. The government may conduct a security control assessment on shorter notice (to include unannounced assessments) as determined by VA in the event of a security incident or at any other time.

9. TRAINING

a. All contractor employees and subcontractor employees requiring access to VA information and VA information systems shall complete the following before being granted access to VA information and its systems:

(1) Sign and acknowledge (either manually or electronically) understanding of and responsibilities for compliance with the Contractor Rules of Behavior, Appendix E relating to access to VA information and information systems;

(2) Successfully complete the VA Cyber Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior training and annually complete required security training;

(3) Successfully complete the appropriate VA privacy training and annually complete required privacy training; and

(4) Successfully complete any additional cyber security or privacy training, as required for VA personnel with equivalent information system access [to be defined by the VA program official and provided to the contracting officer for inclusion in the solicitation document - e.g., any role-based information security training required in accordance with NIST Special Publication 800-16, Information Technology Security Training Requirements.]

b. The contractor shall provide to the contracting officer and/or the COR a copy of the training certificates and certification of signing the Contractor Rules of Behavior for each applicable employee within 1 week of the initiation of the contract and annually thereafter, as required.

c. Failure to complete the mandatory annual training and sign the Rules of Behavior annually, within the timeframe required, is grounds for suspension or termination of all physical or electronic access privileges and removal from work on the contract until such time as the training and documents are complete.

LIMITATIONS ON SUBCONTRACTING-- MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE (JUN 2011)

This solicitation includes **VAAR 852.219-10, VA Notice of Total Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Set-Aside**. Accordingly, any contract resulting from this solicitation will include this clause. The contractor is advised in performing contract administration functions, the CO may use the services of a support contractor(s) retained by VA to assist in assessing the contractor's compliance with the limitations on subcontracting or percentage of work performance requirements specified in the clause. To that end, the support contractor(s) may require access to contractor's offices where the contractor's business records or other proprietary data are retained and to review such business records regarding the contractor's compliance with this requirement. All support contractors conducting this review on behalf of VA will be required to sign an "Information Protection and Non-Disclosure and Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest Agreement" to ensure the contractor's business records or other proprietary data reviewed or obtained in the course of assisting the CO in assessing the contractor for compliance are protected to ensure information or data is not improperly disclosed or other impropriety occurs. Furthermore, if VA determines any services the support contractor(s) will perform in assessing compliance are advisory and assistance services as defined in FAR 2.101, Definitions, the support contractor(s) must also enter into an agreement with the contractor to protect proprietary information as required by FAR 9.505-4, obtaining access to proprietary information, paragraph (b). The contractor is required to cooperate fully and make available any records as may be required to enable the CO to assess the contractor's compliance with the limitations on subcontracting or percentage of work performance requirement.

SECTION C - CONTRACT CLAUSES

C.1 52.204-4 PRINTED OR COPIED DOUBLE-SIDED ON RECYCLED PAPER (MAY 2011)

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this clause—

"Postconsumer fiber" means— (1) Paper, paperboard, and fibrous materials from retail stores, office buildings, homes, and so forth, after they have passed through their end-usage as a consumer item, including: used corrugated boxes; old newspapers; old magazines; mixed waste paper; tabulating cards; and used cordage; or

(2) All paper, paperboard, and fibrous materials that enter and are collected from municipal solid waste; but not

(3) Fiber derived from printers' over-runs, converters' scrap, and over-issue publications.

(b) The Contractor is required to submit paper documents, such as offers, letters, or reports that are printed or copied double-sided on paper containing at least 30 percent postconsumer fiber, whenever practicable, when not using electronic commerce methods to submit information or data to the Government.

C.2 52.204-9 PERSONAL IDENTITY VERIFICATION OF CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL (JAN 2011)

(a) The Contractor shall comply with agency personal identity verification procedures identified in the contract that implement Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance M-05-24, and Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) Number 201.

(b) The Contractor shall account for all forms of Government-provided identification issued to the Contractor employees in connection with performance under this contract. The Contractor shall return such identification to the issuing agency at the earliest of any of the following, unless otherwise determined by the Government:

(1) When no longer needed for contract performance.

(2) Upon completion of the Contractor employee's employment.

(3) Upon contract completion or termination.

(c) The Contracting Officer may delay final payment under a contract if the Contractor fails to comply with these requirements.

(d) The Contractor shall insert the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (d), in all subcontracts when the subcontractor's employees are required to have routine physical access to a Federally-controlled facility and/or routine access to a Federally-controlled information system. It shall be the responsibility of the prime Contractor to return such identification to the issuing agency in accordance with the terms set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Contracting Officer.

C.3 52.203-16 PREVENTING PERSONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (DEC 2011)

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this clause—

"Acquisition function closely associated with inherently governmental functions" means supporting or providing advice or recommendations with regard to the following activities of a Federal agency:

- (1) Planning acquisitions.
- (2) Determining what supplies or services are to be acquired by the Government, including developing statements of work.
- (3) Developing or approving any contractual documents, to include documents defining requirements, incentive plans, and evaluation criteria.
- (4) Evaluating contract proposals.
- (5) Awarding Government contracts.
- (6) Administering contracts (including ordering changes or giving technical direction in contract performance or contract quantities, evaluating contractor performance, and accepting or rejecting contractor products or services).
- (7) Terminating contracts.
- (8) Determining whether contract costs are reasonable, allocable, and allowable.

"Covered employee" means an individual who performs an acquisition function closely associated with inherently governmental functions and is—

- (1) An employee of the contractor; or
- (2) A subcontractor that is a self-employed individual treated as a covered employee of the contractor because there is no employer to whom such an individual could submit the required disclosures.

"Non-public information" means any Government or third-party information that—

- (1) Is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) or otherwise protected from disclosure by statute, Executive order, or regulation; or
- (2) Has not been disseminated to the general public and the Government has not yet determined whether the information can or will be made available to the public.

"Personal conflict of interest" means a situation in which a covered employee has a financial interest, personal activity, or relationship that could impair the employee's ability to act impartially and in the best interest of the Government when performing under the contract. (A *de minimis* interest that would not "impair the employee's ability to act impartially and in the best interest of the Government" is not covered under this definition.)

- (1) Among the sources of personal conflicts of interest are—

(i) Financial interests of the covered employee, of close family members, or of other members of the covered employee's household;

(ii) Other employment or financial relationships (including seeking or negotiating for prospective employment or business); and

(iii) Gifts, including travel.

(2) For example, financial interests referred to in paragraph (1) of this definition may arise from—

(i) Compensation, including wages, salaries, commissions, professional fees, or fees for business referrals;

(ii) Consulting relationships (including commercial and professional consulting and service arrangements, scientific and technical advisory board memberships, or serving as an expert witness in litigation);

(iii) Services provided in exchange for honorariums or travel expense reimbursements;

(iv) Research funding or other forms of research support;

(v) Investment in the form of stock or bond ownership or partnership interest (excluding diversified mutual fund investments);

(vi) Real estate investments;

(vii) Patents, copyrights, and other intellectual property interests; or

(viii) Business ownership and investment interests.

(b) *Requirements.* The Contractor shall—

(1) Have procedures in place to screen covered employees for potential personal conflicts of interest, by—

(i) Obtaining and maintaining from each covered employee, when the employee is initially assigned to the task under the contract, a disclosure of interests that might be affected by the task to which the employee has been assigned, as follows:

(A) Financial interests of the covered employee, of close family members, or of other members of the covered employee's household.

(B) Other employment or financial relationships of the covered employee (including seeking or negotiating for prospective employment or business).

(C) Gifts, including travel; and

(ii) Requiring each covered employee to update the disclosure statement whenever the employee's personal or financial circumstances change in such a way that a new personal conflict of interest might occur because of the task the covered employee is performing.

(2) For each covered employee—

(i) Prevent personal conflicts of interest, including not assigning or allowing a covered employee to perform any task under the contract for which the Contractor has identified a personal conflict of interest for the employee that the Contractor or employee cannot satisfactorily prevent or mitigate in consultation with the contracting agency;

(ii) Prohibit use of non-public information accessed through performance of a Government contract for personal gain; and

(iii) Obtain a signed non-disclosure agreement to prohibit disclosure of non-public information accessed through performance of a Government contract.

(3) Inform covered employees of their obligation—

(i) To disclose and prevent personal conflicts of interest;

(ii) Not to use non-public information accessed through performance of a Government contract for personal gain; and

(iii) To avoid even the appearance of personal conflicts of interest;

(4) Maintain effective oversight to verify compliance with personal conflict-of-interest safeguards;

(5) Take appropriate disciplinary action in the case of covered employees who fail to comply with policies established pursuant to this clause; and

(6) Report to the Contracting Officer any personal conflict-of-interest violation by a covered employee as soon as it is identified. This report shall include a description of the violation and the proposed actions to be taken by the Contractor in response to the violation. Provide follow-up reports of corrective actions taken, as necessary. Personal conflict-of-interest violations include—

(i) Failure by a covered employee to disclose a personal conflict of interest;

(ii) Use by a covered employee of non-public information accessed through performance of a Government contract for personal gain; and

(iii) Failure of a covered employee to comply with the terms of a non-disclosure agreement.

(c) Mitigation or waiver. (1) In exceptional circumstances, if the Contractor cannot satisfactorily prevent a personal conflict of interest as required by paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this clause, the Contractor may submit a request through the Contracting Officer to the Head of the Contracting Activity for—

(i) Agreement to a plan to mitigate the personal conflict of interest; or

(ii) A waiver of the requirement.

(2) The Contractor shall include in the request any proposed mitigation of the personal conflict of interest.

(3) The Contractor shall—

(i) Comply, and require compliance by the covered employee, with any conditions imposed by the Government as necessary to mitigate the personal conflict of interest; or

(ii) Remove the Contractor employee or subcontractor employee from performance of the contract or terminate the applicable subcontract.

(d) *Subcontract flowdown.* The Contractor shall include the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (d), in subcontracts—

(1) That exceed \$250,000; and

(2) In which subcontractor employees will perform acquisition functions closely associated with inherently governmental functions (i.e., instead of performance only by a self-employed individual).

(End of Clause)

C.4 52.203-17 CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE WHISTLEBLOWER RIGHTS AND REQUIREMENT TO INFORM EMPLOYEES OF WHISTLEBLOWER RIGHTS (APR 2014)

(a) This contract and employees working on this contract will be subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies in the pilot program on Contractor employee whistleblower protections established at 41 U.S.C. 4712 by section 828 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Pub. L. 112–239) and FAR 3.908.

(b) The Contractor shall inform its employees in writing, in the predominant language of the workforce, of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712, as described in section 3.908 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(c) The Contractor shall insert the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (c), in all subcontracts over the simplified acquisition threshold.

(End of Clause)

C.5 52.212-5 CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT STATUTES OR EXECUTIVE ORDERS—COMMERCIAL ITEMS (JAN 2018)

(a) The Contractor shall comply with the following Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clauses, which are incorporated in this contract by reference, to implement provisions of law or Executive orders applicable to acquisitions of commercial items:

(1) 52.203-19, Prohibition on Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements (JAN 2017) (section 743 of Division E, Title VII, of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235) and its successor provisions in subsequent appropriations acts (and as extended in continuing resolutions)).

(2) 52.209-10, Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations (NOV 2015).

(3) 52.233-3, Protest After Award (Aug 1996) (31 U.S.C. 3553).

(4) 52.233-4, Applicable Law for Breach of Contract Claim (Oct 2004) (Public Laws 108-77 and 108-78 (19 U.S.C. 3805 note)).

(b) The Contractor shall comply with the FAR clauses in this paragraph (b) that the Contracting Officer has indicated as being incorporated in this contract by reference to implement provisions of law or Executive orders applicable to acquisitions of commercial items:

☒ (1) 52.203-6, Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government (Sept 2006), with Alternate I (Oct 1995) (41 U.S.C. 4704 and 10 U.S.C. 2402).

☒ (2) 52.203-13, Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct (OCT 2015) (41 U.S.C. 3509).

☐ (3) 52.203-15, Whistleblower Protections under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (JUN 2010) (Section 1553 of Pub. L. 111-5). (Applies to contracts funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.)

☒ (4) 52.204-10, Reporting Executive Compensation and First-Tier Subcontract Awards (OCT 2016) (Pub. L. 109-282) (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

☐ (5) [Reserved]

☒ (6) 52.204-14, Service Contract Reporting Requirements (OCT 2016) (Pub. L. 111-117, section 743 of Div. C).

☐ (7) 52.204-15, Service Contract Reporting Requirements for Indefinite-Delivery Contracts (OCT 2016) (Pub. L. 111-117, section 743 of Div. C).

☒ (8) 52.209-6, Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting with Contractors Debarred, Suspended, or Proposed for Debarment. (OCT 2015) (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

☒ (9) 52.209-9, Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters (Jul 2013) (41 U.S.C. 2313).

☐ (10) [Reserved]

☐ (11)(i) 52.219-3, Notice of HUBZone Set-Aside or Sole-Source Award (NOV 2011) (15 U.S.C. 657a).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (NOV 2011) of 52.219-3.

☐ (12)(i) 52.219-4, Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns (OCT 2014) (if the offeror elects to waive the preference, it shall so indicate in its offer) (15 U.S.C. 657a).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (JAN 2011) of 52.219-4.

☐ (13) [Reserved]

☐ (14)(i) 52.219-6, Notice of Total Small Business Set-Aside (NOV 2011) (15 U.S.C. 644).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (NOV 2011).

☐ (iii) Alternate II (NOV 2011).

☐ (15)(i) 52.219-7, Notice of Partial Small Business Set-Aside (June 2003) (15 U.S.C. 644).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (Oct 1995) of 52.219-7.

- ☐ (iii) Alternate II (Mar 2004) of 52.219-7.
- ☒ (16) 52.219-8, Utilization of Small Business Concerns (NOV 2016) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(2) and (3)).
- ☐ (17)(i) 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan (JAN 2017) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(4)).
- ☐ (ii) Alternate I (NOV 2016) of 52.219-9.
- ☐ (iii) Alternate II (NOV 2016) of 52.219-9.
- ☐ (iv) Alternate III (NOV 2016) of 52.219-9.
- ☐ (v) Alternate IV (NOV 2016) of 52.219-9.
- ☐ (18) 52.219-13, Notice of Set-Aside of Orders (NOV 2011) (15 U.S.C. 644(r)).
- ☐ (19) 52.219-14, Limitations on Subcontracting (JAN 2017) (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(14)).
- ☐ (20) 52.219-16, Liquidated Damages—Subcontracting Plan (Jan 1999) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(4)(F)(i)).
- ☐ (21) 52.219-27, Notice of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Set-Aside (NOV 2011) (15 U.S.C. 657f).
- ☒ (22) 52.219-28, Post Award Small Business Program Rerepresentation (Jul 2013) (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)).
- ☐ (23) 52.219-29, Notice of Set-Aside for, or Sole Source Award to, Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business Concerns (DEC 2015) (15 U.S.C. 637(m)).
- ☐ (24) 52.219-30, Notice of Set-Aside for, or Sole Source Award to, Women-Owned Small Business Concerns Eligible Under the Women-Owned Small Business Program (DEC 2015) (15 U.S.C. 637(m)).
- ☒ (25) 52.222-3, Convict Labor (June 2003) (E.O. 11755).
- ☐ (26) 52.222-19, Child Labor—Cooperation with Authorities and Remedies (JAN 2018) (E.O. 13126).
- ☒ (27) 52.222-21, Prohibition of Segregated Facilities (APR 2015).
- ☒ (28) 52.222-26, Equal Opportunity (SEP 2016) (E.O. 11246).
- ☒ (29) 52.222-35, Equal Opportunity for Veterans (OCT 2015) (38 U.S.C. 4212).
- ☒ (30) 52.222-36, Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities (JUL 2014) (29 U.S.C. 793).
- ☒ (31) 52.222-37, Employment Reports on Veterans (FEB 2016) (38 U.S.C. 4212).
- ☒ (32) 52.222-40, Notification of Employee Rights Under the National Labor Relations Act (DEC 2010) (E.O. 13496).
- ☒ (33)(i) 52.222-50, Combating Trafficking in Persons (MAR 2015) (22 U.S.C. chapter 78 and E.O. 13627).
- ☐ (ii) Alternate I (MAR 2015) of 52.222-50 (22 U.S.C. chapter 78 and E.O. 13627).

☒ (34) 52.222-54, Employment Eligibility Verification (OCT 2015). (E. O. 12989). (Not applicable to the acquisition of commercially available off-the-shelf items or certain other types of commercial items as prescribed in 22.1803.)

☐ (35)(i) 52.223-9, Estimate of Percentage of Recovered Material Content for EPA-Designated Items (May 2008) (42 U.S.C.6962(c)(3)(A)(ii)). (Not applicable to the acquisition of commercially available off-the-shelf items.)

☐ (ii) Alternate I (MAY 2008) of 52.223-9 (42 U.S.C. 6962(i)(2)(C)). (Not applicable to the acquisition of commercially available off-the-shelf items.)

☐ (36) 52.223-11, Ozone-Depleting Substances and High Global Warming Potential Hydrofluorocarbons (JUN 2016) (E.O. 13693).

☐ (37) 52.223-12, Maintenance, Service, Repair, or Disposal of Refrigeration Equipment and Air Conditioners (JUN 2016) (E.O. 13693).

☐ (38)(i) 52.223-13, Acquisition of EPEAT®-Registered Imaging Equipment (JUN 2014) (E.O.s 13423 and 13514).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (OCT 2015) of 52.223-13.

☐ (39)(i) 52.223-14, Acquisition of EPEAT®-Registered Televisions (JUN 2014) (E.O.s 13423 and 13514).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (JUN 2014) of 52.223-14.

☐ (40) 52.223-15, Energy Efficiency in Energy-Consuming Products (DEC 2007)(42 U.S.C. 8259b).

☐ (41)(i) 52.223-16, Acquisition of EPEAT®-Registered Personal Computer Products (OCT 2015) (E.O.s 13423 and 13514).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (JUN 2014) of 52.223-16.

☒ (42) 52.223-18, Encouraging Contractor Policies to Ban Text Messaging While Driving (AUG 2011)

☐ (43) 52.223-20, Aerosols (JUN 2016) (E.O. 13693).

☐ (44) 52.223-21, Foams (JUN 2016) (E.O. 13693).

☐ (45) (i) 52.224-3, Privacy Training (JAN 2017) (5 U.S.C. 552a).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (JAN 2017) of 52.224-3.

☐ (46) 52.225-1, Buy American—Supplies (MAY 2014) (41 U.S.C. chapter 83).

☐ (47)(i) 52.225-3, Buy American—Free Trade Agreements—Israeli Trade Act (MAY 2014) (41 U.S.C. chapter 83, 19 U.S.C. 3301 note, 19 U.S.C. 2112 note, 19 U.S.C. 3805 note, 19 U.S.C. 4001 note, Pub. L. 103-182, 108-77, 108-78, 108-286, 108-302, 109-53, 109-169, 109-283, 110-138, 112-41, 112-42, and 112-43.

☐ (ii) Alternate I (MAY 2014) of 52.225-3.

☐ (iii) Alternate II (MAY 2014) of 52.225-3.

☐ (iv) Alternate III (MAY 2014) of 52.225-3.

☐ (48) 52.225-5, Trade Agreements (OCT 2016) (19 U.S.C. 2501, et seq., 19 U.S.C. 3301 note).

☒ (49) 52.225-13, Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases (JUN 2008) (E.O.'s, proclamations, and statutes administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury).

☐ (50) 52.225-26, Contractors Performing Private Security Functions Outside the United States (OCT 2016) (Section 862, as amended, of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008; 10 U.S.C. 2302 Note).

☐ (51) 52.226-4, Notice of Disaster or Emergency Area Set-Aside (Nov 2007) (42 U.S.C. 5150).

☐ (52) 52.226-5, Restrictions on Subcontracting Outside Disaster or Emergency Area (Nov 2007) (42 U.S.C. 5150).

☒ (53) 52.232-29, Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Items (Feb 2002) (41 U.S.C. 4505, 10 U.S.C. 2307(f)).

☐ (54) 52.232-30, Installment Payments for Commercial Items (JAN 2017) (41 U.S.C. 4505, 10 U.S.C. 2307(f)).

☐ (55) 52.232-33, Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer—System for Award Management (Jul 2013) (31 U.S.C. 3332).

☐ (56) 52.232-34, Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer—Other than System for Award Management (Jul 2013) (31 U.S.C. 3332).

☐ (57) 52.232-36, Payment by Third Party (MAY 2014) (31 U.S.C. 3332).

☐ (58) 52.239-1, Privacy or Security Safeguards (Aug 1996) (5 U.S.C. 552a).

☐ (59) 52.242-5, Payments to Small Business Subcontractors (JAN 2017)(15 U.S.C. 637(d)(12)).

☐ (60)(i) 52.247-64, Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels (Feb 2006) (46 U.S.C. Appx. 1241(b) and 10 U.S.C. 2631).

☐ (ii) Alternate I (Apr 2003) of 52.247-64.

(c) The Contractor shall comply with the FAR clauses in this paragraph (c), applicable to commercial services, that the Contracting Officer has indicated as being incorporated in this contract by reference to implement provisions of law or Executive orders applicable to acquisitions of commercial items:

☐ (1) 52.222-17, Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers (MAY 2014) (E.O. 13495).

☐ (2) 52.222-41, Service Contract Labor Standards (MAY 2014) (41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

☐ (3) 52.222-42, Statement of Equivalent Rates for Federal Hires (MAY 2014) (29 U.S.C. 206 and 41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

[] (4) 52.222-43, Fair Labor Standards Act and Service Contract Labor Standards—Price Adjustment (Multiple Year and Option Contracts) (MAY 2014) (29 U.S.C. 206 and 41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

[] (5) 52.222-44, Fair Labor Standards Act and Service Contract Labor Standards—Price Adjustment (MAY 2014) (29 U.S.C. 206 and 41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

[] (6) 52.222-51, Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment—Requirements (MAY 2014) (41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

[] (7) 52.222-53, Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Certain Services—Requirements (MAY 2014) (41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

[] (8) 52.222-55, Minimum Wages Under Executive Order 13658 (DEC 2015).

[] (9) 52.222-62, Paid Sick Leave Under Executive Order 13706 (JAN 2017) (E.O. 13706).

[] (10) 52.226-6, Promoting Excess Food Donation to Nonprofit Organizations (MAY 2014) (42 U.S.C. 1792).

[] (11) 52.237-11, Accepting and Dispensing of \$1 Coin (SEP 2008) (31 U.S.C. 5112(p)(1)).

(d) Comptroller General Examination of Record. The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of this paragraph (d) if this contract was awarded using other than sealed bid, is in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold, and does not contain the clause at 52.215-2, Audit and Records—Negotiation.

(1) The Comptroller General of the United States, or an authorized representative of the Comptroller General, shall have access to and right to examine any of the Contractor's directly pertinent records involving transactions related to this contract.

(2) The Contractor shall make available at its offices at all reasonable times the records, materials, and other evidence for examination, audit, or reproduction, until 3 years after final payment under this contract or for any shorter period specified in FAR Subpart 4.7, Contractor Records Retention, of the other clauses of this contract. If this contract is completely or partially terminated, the records relating to the work terminated shall be made available for 3 years after any resulting final termination settlement. Records relating to appeals under the disputes clause or to litigation or the settlement of claims arising under or relating to this contract shall be made available until such appeals, litigation, or claims are finally resolved.

(3) As used in this clause, records include books, documents, accounting procedures and practices, and other data, regardless of type and regardless of form. This does not require the Contractor to create or maintain any record that the Contractor does not maintain in the ordinary course of business or pursuant to a provision of law.

(e)(1) Notwithstanding the requirements of the clauses in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this clause, the Contractor is not required to flow down any FAR clause, other than those in this paragraph (e)(1) in a subcontract for commercial items. Unless otherwise indicated below, the extent of the flow down shall be as required by the clause—

(i) 52.203-13, Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct (OCT 2015) (41 U.S.C. 3509).

(ii) 52.203-19, Prohibition on Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements (JAN 2017) (section 743 of Division E, Title VII, of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235) and its successor provisions in subsequent appropriations acts (and as extended in continuing resolutions)).

(iii) 52.219-8, Utilization of Small Business Concerns (NOV 2016) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(2) and (3)), in all subcontracts that offer further subcontracting opportunities.

(iv) 52.222-17, Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers (MAY 2014) (E.O. 13495). Flow down required in accordance with paragraph (l) of FAR clause 52.222-17.

(v) 52.222-21, Prohibition of Segregated Facilities (APR 2015).

(vi) 52.222-26, Equal Opportunity (SEP 2016) (E.O. 11246).

(vii) 52.222-35, Equal Opportunity for Veterans (OCT 2015) (38 U.S.C. 4212).

(viii) 52.222-36, Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities (JUL 2014) (29 U.S.C. 793).

(ix) 52.222-37, Employment Reports on Veterans (FEB 2016) (38 U.S.C. 4212).

(x) 52.222-40, Notification of Employee Rights Under the National Labor Relations Act (DEC 2010) (E.O. 13496). Flow down required in accordance with paragraph (f) of FAR clause 52.222-40.

(xi) 52.222-41, Service Contract Labor Standards (MAY 2014) (41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

(xii)(A) 52.222-50, Combating Trafficking in Persons (MAR 2015) (22 U.S.C. chapter 78 and E.O. 13627).

(B) Alternate I (MAR 2015) of 52.222-50 (22 U.S.C. chapter 78 and E.O. 13627).

(xiii) 52.222-51, Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment—Requirements (MAY 2014) (41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

(xiv) 52.222-53, Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Certain Services—Requirements (MAY 2014) (41 U.S.C. chapter 67).

(xv) 52.222-54, Employment Eligibility Verification (OCT 2015) (E. O. 12989).

(xvi) 52.222-55, Minimum Wages Under Executive Order 13658 (DEC 2015).

(xvii) 52.222-62 Paid Sick Leave Under Executive Order 13706 (JAN 2017) (E.O. 13706).

(xviii)(A) 52.224-3, Privacy Training (JAN 2017) (5 U.S.C. 552a).

(B) Alternate I (JAN 2017) of 52.224-3.

(xix) 52.225-26, Contractors Performing Private Security Functions Outside the United States (OCT 2016) (Section 862, as amended, of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008; 10 U.S.C. 2302 Note).

(xx) 52.226-6, Promoting Excess Food Donation to Nonprofit Organizations (MAY 2014) (42 U.S.C. 1792). Flow down required in accordance with paragraph (e) of FAR clause 52.226-6.

(xxi) 52.247-64, Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels (Feb 2006) (46 U.S.C. Appx. 1241(b) and 10 U.S.C. 2631). Flow down required in accordance with paragraph (d) of FAR clause 52.247-64.

(2) While not required, the Contractor may include in its subcontracts for commercial items a minimal number of additional clauses necessary to satisfy its contractual obligations.

(End of Clause)

C.6 52.216-18 ORDERING (OCT 1995)

(a) Any supplies and services to be furnished under this contract shall be ordered by issuance of delivery orders or task orders by the individuals or activities designated in the Schedule. Such orders may be issued from the effective date of the contract through the end of the effective period.

(b) All delivery orders or task orders are subject to the terms and conditions of this contract. In the event of conflict between a delivery order or task order and this contract, the contract shall control.

(c) If mailed, a delivery order or task order is considered "issued" when the Government deposits the order in the mail. Orders may be issued orally, by facsimile, or by electronic commerce methods only if authorized in the Schedule.

(End of Clause)

C.7 52.216-19 ORDER LIMITATIONS (OCT 1995)

(a) *Minimum order.* When the Government requires supplies or services covered by this contract in an amount of less than \$100.00, the Government is not obligated to purchase, nor is the Contractor obligated to furnish, those supplies or services under the contract.

(b) *Maximum order.* The Contractor is not obligated to honor—

(1) Any order for a single item in excess of \$2,000,000.00;

(2) Any order for a combination of items in excess of \$7,000,000.00; or

(3) A series of orders from the same ordering office within one (1) days that together call for quantities exceeding the limitation in paragraph (b)(1) or (2) of this section.

(c) If this is a requirements contract (i.e., includes the Requirements clause at subsection 52.216-21 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)), the Government is not required to order a part of any one requirement from the Contractor if that requirement exceeds the maximum-order limitations in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, the Contractor shall honor any order exceeding the maximum order limitations in paragraph (b), unless that order (or orders) is returned to the ordering office within seven (7) days after issuance, with written notice stating the Contractor's intent not to ship the item (or items) called for and the reasons. Upon receiving this notice, the Government may acquire the supplies or services from another source.

(End of Clause)

C.8 52.216-22 INDEFINITE QUANTITY (OCT 1995)

(a) This is an indefinite-quantity contract for the supplies or services specified, and effective for the period stated, in the Schedule. The quantities of supplies and services specified in the Schedule are estimates only and are not purchased by this contract.

(b) Delivery or performance shall be made only as authorized by orders issued in accordance with the Ordering clause. The Contractor shall furnish to the Government, when and if ordered, the supplies or services specified in the Schedule up to and including the quantity designated in the Schedule as the "maximum." The Government shall order at least the quantity of supplies or services designated in the Schedule as the "minimum."

(c) Except for any limitations on quantities in the Order Limitations clause or in the Schedule, there is no limit on the number of orders that may be issued. The Government may issue orders requiring delivery to multiple destinations or performance at multiple locations.

(d) Any order issued during the effective period of this contract and not completed within that period shall be completed by the Contractor within the time specified in the order. The contract shall govern the Contractor's and Government's rights and obligations with respect to that order to the same extent as if the order were completed during the contract's effective period; *provided*, that the Contractor shall not be required to make any deliveries under this contract after September 30, 2022.

(End of Clause)

C.9 52.217-8 OPTION TO EXTEND SERVICES (NOV 1999)

The Government may require continued performance of any services within the limits and at the rates specified in the contract. These rates may be adjusted only as a result of revisions to prevailing labor rates provided by the Secretary of Labor. The option provision may be exercised more than once, but the total extension of performance hereunder shall not exceed 6 months. The Contracting Officer may exercise the option by written notice to the Contractor within 15 days.

(End of Clause)

C.10 52.217-9 OPTION TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT (MAR 2000)

(a) The Government may extend the term of this contract by written notice to the Contractor within 15 days; provided that the Government gives the Contractor a preliminary written notice of its intent to extend at least 30 days before the contract expires. The preliminary notice does not commit the Government to an extension.

(b) If the Government exercises this option, the extended contract shall be considered to include this option clause.

(c) The total duration of this contract, including the exercise of any options under this clause, shall not exceed four years.

(End of Clause)

C.11 VAAR 852.203-70 COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING (MAY 2018)

The Contractor shall not make reference in its commercial advertising to Department of Veterans Affairs contracts in a manner that states or implies the Department of Veterans Affairs approves or endorses the Contractor's products or services or considers the Contractor's products or services superior to other products or services.

(End of Clause)

C.12 52.232-19 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR (APR 1984)

Funds are not presently available for performance under this contract beyond September 30, 2019. The Government's obligation for performance of this contract beyond that date is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for contract purposes can be made. No legal liability on the part of the Government for any payment may arise for performance under this contract beyond September 30, 2019, until funds are made available to the Contracting Officer for performance and until the Contractor receives notice of availability, to be confirmed in writing by the Contracting Officer.

(End of Clause)

C.13 VAAR 852.219-10 VA NOTICE OF TOTAL SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE (JUL 2016)(DEVIATION)

(a) *Definition.* For the Department of Veterans Affairs, "Service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern or SDVSOB":

(1) Means a small business concern:

(i) Not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans or eligible surviving spouses (see VAAR 802.201 Surviving Spouse definition);

(ii) The management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans (or eligible surviving spouses) or, in the case of a service-disabled veteran with permanent and severe disability, the spouse or permanent caregiver of such veteran;

(iii) The business meets Federal small business size standards for the applicable North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code identified in the solicitation document;

(iv) The business has been verified for ownership and control pursuant to 38 CFR 74 and is so listed in the Vendor Information Pages database, (<https://www.vip.vetbiz.gov>); and

(v) The business will comply with subcontracting limitations in 13 CFR 125.6, as applicable

(2) "Service-disabled veteran" means a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), with a disability that is service-connected, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(16).

(b) *General.*

(1) Offers are solicited only from verified service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns. Offers received from concerns that are not verified service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns shall not be considered.

(2) Any award resulting from this solicitation shall be made to a verified service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern.

(c) *Agreement.* A service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern agrees that in the performance of the contract, the concern will comply with the limitation on subcontracting requirements in 13 CFR §125.6.

(d) A joint venture may be considered a service-disabled veteran owned small business concern if the joint venture complies with the requirements in 13 CFR 125.15, provided that any reference therein to SDVO SBC is to be construed to apply to a VA verified SDVOSB as appropriate.

(e) Any service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern (non-manufacturer) must meet the requirements in FAR 19.102(f) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation to receive a benefit under this program.

(End of Clause)

C.14 VAAR 852.237-70 CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES (APR 1984)

The contractor shall obtain all necessary licenses and/or permits required to perform this work. He/she shall take all reasonable precautions necessary to protect persons and property from injury or damage during the performance of this contract. He/she shall be responsible for any injury to himself/herself, his/her employees, as well as for any damage to personal or public property that occurs during the performance of this contract that is caused by his/her employees fault or negligence, and shall maintain personal liability and property damage insurance having coverage for a limit as required by the laws of the State of California. Further, it is agreed that any negligence of the Government, its officers, agents, servants and employees, shall not be the responsibility of the contractor hereunder with the regard to any claims, loss, damage, injury, and liability resulting there from.

(End of Clause)

C.15 MANDATORY WRITTEN DISCLOSURES

Mandatory written disclosures required by FAR clause 52.203-13 to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General (OIG) must be made electronically through the VA OIG Hotline at <http://www.va.gov/oig/contacts/hotline.asp> and clicking on "FAR clause 52.203-13 Reporting." If you experience difficulty accessing the website, call the Hotline at 1-800-488-8244 for further instructions.

(End of Clause)

SECTION D - CONTRACT DOCUMENTS, EXHIBITS, OR ATTACHMENTS

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SECTION E - SOLICITATION PROVISIONS

ADDENDUM to FAR 52.212-1 INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS—COMMERCIAL ITEMS

Provisions that are incorporated by reference (by Citation Number, Title, and Date), have the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available.

The following provisions are incorporated into 52.212-1 as an addendum to this solicitation:

- a. Offerors should thoroughly review the specifications of the SOW prior to submitting a proposal. Failure to understand the SOW requirements shall not relieve the successful Offeror from performing in accordance with the strict meaning and intent of the SOW.
- b. Submission of Offers. The Offeror must complete and return all required documents prior to the time and date specified in the “Current Response Date” on the first page of the combined synopsis/solicitation in order to be considered for award.
- c. Price/Cost Schedule. The Offeror shall completely fill out the Price/Cost Schedule provided in this combined synopsis/solicitation. No other format for the submission of the Price/Cost Schedule shall be accepted. The price stated in the offer shall be an inclusive rate.
- d. Period of Acceptance of Offers. The Offeror agrees to hold prices in its offer, firm for a period of 120 days from the date specified for the receipt of offers.
- e. Questions shall be submitted in writing via email no later than August 29, 2018 at 10:00am to Stephen Y. Kwak at Stephen.kwak@va.gov. All questions shall be answered via an amendment to the FBO posting on or about September 4, 2018.
- f. Offerors shall submit proposals via email to Stephen Y. Kwak at Stephen.kwak@va.gov by September 7, 2018 at 10:00am.
- g. **Special Standard of Responsibility. Specialized Experience.** This special standard of responsibility will be used to determine the offeror’s specialized experience providing contracts support specialists and/or contracts closeout specialists. Specifically, the offeror shall provide a narrative summary in no more than three (3) pages demonstrating its experience in vetting, hiring, and providing contracts support specialists and/or contracts closeout specialists as described in the Statement of Work.
- h. Proof of compliance with the Limitations on Sub-Contracting. If intending to use sub-contractors in the performance of this contract, Offerors shall provide the following with their offers:
 - i. Narrative that identifies your intended sub-contractors.
 - ii. The estimated value of each sub-contract.
 - iii. The services that each sub-contractor will provide.
 - iv. Socio-economic status of the sub-contractor (e.g. large, small, VOSB, SDVOSB).

E.1 52.209-7 INFORMATION REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (JUL 2013)

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this provision—

"Administrative proceeding" means a non-judicial process that is adjudicatory in nature in order to make a determination of fault or liability (e.g., Securities and Exchange Commission Administrative Proceedings, Civilian Board of Contract Appeals Proceedings, and Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals Proceedings). This includes administrative proceedings at the Federal and State level but only in connection with performance of a Federal contract or grant. It does not include agency actions such as contract audits, site visits, corrective plans, or inspection of deliverables.

"Federal contracts and grants with total value greater than \$10,000,000" means—

(1) The total value of all current, active contracts and grants, including all priced options; and

(2) The total value of all current, active orders including all priced options under indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity, 8(a), or requirements contracts (including task and delivery and multiple-award Schedules).

"Principal" means an officer, director, owner, partner, or a person having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g., general manager; plant manager; head of a division or business segment; and similar positions).

(b) The offeror [] has [] does not have current active Federal contracts and grants with total value greater than \$10,000,000.

(c) If the offeror checked "has" in paragraph (b) of this provision, the offeror represents, by submission of this offer, that the information it has entered in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIS) is current, accurate, and complete as of the date of submission of this offer with regard to the following information:

(1) Whether the offeror, and/or any of its principals, has or has not, within the last five years, in connection with the award to or performance by the offeror of a Federal contract or grant, been the subject of a proceeding, at the Federal or State level that resulted in any of the following dispositions:

(i) In a criminal proceeding, a conviction.

(ii) In a civil proceeding, a finding of fault and liability that results in the payment of a monetary fine, penalty, reimbursement, restitution, or damages of \$5,000 or more.

(iii) In an administrative proceeding, a finding of fault and liability that results in—

(A) The payment of a monetary fine or penalty of \$5,000 or more; or

(B) The payment of a reimbursement, restitution, or damages in excess of \$100,000.

(iv) In a criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding, a disposition of the matter by consent or compromise with an acknowledgment of fault by the Contractor if the proceeding could have led to any of the outcomes specified in paragraphs (c)(1)(i), (c)(1)(ii), or (c)(1)(iii) of this provision.

(2) If the offeror has been involved in the last five years in any of the occurrences listed in (c)(1) of this provision, whether the offeror has provided the requested information with regard to each occurrence.

(d) The offeror shall post the information in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(iv) of this provision in FAPIIS as required through maintaining an active registration in the System for Award Management database via <https://www.acquisition.gov> (see 52.204-7).

(End of Provision)

E.2 52.216-1 TYPE OF CONTRACT (APR 1984)

The Government contemplates award of an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract resulting from this solicitation.

(End of Provision)

E.3 52.233-2 SERVICE OF PROTEST (SEP 2006)

Protests, as defined in section 33.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that are filed directly with an agency, and copies of any protests that are filed with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), shall be served on the Contracting Officer (addressed as follows) by obtaining written and dated acknowledgment of receipt from:

Stephen Y. Kwak

Department of Veterans Affairs

Network Contracting Office 22
4811 Airport Plaza Drive
Suite 600
Long Beach CA 90815

(b) The copy of any protest shall be received in the office designated above within one day of filing a protest with the GAO.

(End of Provision)

E.4 VAAR 852.233-70 PROTEST CONTENT/ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (JAN 2008)

(a) Any protest filed by an interested party shall:

(1) Include the name, address, fax number, and telephone number of the protester;

(2) Identify the solicitation and/or contract number;

- (3) Include an original signed by the protester or the protester's representative and at least one copy;
 - (4) Set forth a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest, including a description of resulting prejudice to the protester, and provide copies of relevant documents;
 - (5) Specifically request a ruling of the individual upon whom the protest is served;
 - (6) State the form of relief requested; and
 - (7) Provide all information establishing the timeliness of the protest.
- (b) Failure to comply with the above may result in dismissal of the protest without further consideration.
- (c) Bidders/offerors and contracting officers are encouraged to use alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedures to resolve protests at any stage in the protest process. If ADR is used, the Department of Veterans Affairs will not furnish any documentation in an ADR proceeding beyond what is allowed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(End of Provision)

E.5 VAAR 852.233-71 ALTERNATE PROTEST PROCEDURE (JAN 1998)

As an alternative to filing a protest with the contracting officer, an interested party may file a protest with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, Acquisition Administration Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, or for solicitations issued by the Office of Construction and Facilities Management, the Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. The protest will not be considered if the interested party has a protest on the same or similar issues pending with the contracting officer.

(End of Provision)

PLEASE NOTE: The correct mailing information for filing alternate protests is as follows:

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics,
Risk Management Team, Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Or for solicitations issued by the Office of Construction and Facilities Management:

Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management
811 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

E.6 52.252-1 SOLICITATION PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEB 1998)

This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the offeror and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions, the offeror may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Also, the full text of a solicitation provision may be accessed electronically at this/these address(es):

<http://www.acquisition.gov/far/index.html>
<http://www.va.gov/oal/library/vaar/>

(End of Provision)

(End of Addendum to 52.212-1)

E.7 52.212-2 EVALUATION—COMMERCIAL ITEMS (OCT 2014)

(a) *Basis of Award.* This procurement is being conducted pursuant to FAR Part 13 procedures. The Government intends to award a contract resulting from this solicitation to the responsible offeror who offers the lowest price, whose price is found to be reasonable, and whose proposal does not take exception with any of the requirements for this procurement specified in the solicitation. In addition to the general standards of responsibility found at FAR § 9.104-1, in accordance with FAR § 9.104-2, the special standards of responsibility described below apply to this procurement. **Offerors who fail to meet the special standards of responsibility will not be eligible to receive contract award.**

Special Standards of Responsibility: The following special standards of responsibility apply to this procurement: Offeror shall have specialized experience providing contracts support specialists and/or contracts closeout specialists. Specifically, the offeror shall have experience in vetting, hiring, and providing contracts support specialists and/or contracts closeout specialists as described in the Statement of Work.

(b) *Evaluation Process.* Proposals will be evaluated in the following manner. The lowest-priced offer will be identified. The proposal for the lowest-priced offer will be evaluated to determine if the offered price is reasonable and if the proposal does not take exception with any of the requirements for this procurement. If the price is found to be reasonable and the proposal does not take exception with any of the requirements for this procurement, the contracting officer will determine if the offeror is responsible using the general and special standards of responsibility for this procurement. If contract award cannot be made to the lowest-priced offer, the contracting officer will evaluate the next lowest-priced offer. This process will continue until a contract award can be made, or the contracting officer determines that no contract award can be made. The contracting officer may find all offers not acceptable and cancel the procurement if the lowest-priced offer exceeds the amount of funding available for the procurement. The Government intends to evaluate offers and award a contract without discussions with offerors. However, the Government reserves the right to conduct discussions at any time if determined by the contracting officer to be in the Government's interest.

(c) *Options*. 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 significantly unbalanced. Evaluation of options shall not obligate the government to exercise the option(s).

(d) *Acceptance of Offer*. 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 there are negotiations after its receipt, unless a written notice of withdrawal is received before award.

(End of Provision)

Point of Contact

Stephen Y. Kwak
Chief, Services Branch 1
Stephen.kwak@va.gov