

Small Caliber Second Source September 14, 2010 Industry Day Questions/Answers

1. Based on industry feedback and concern, the Government now intends to issue a solicitation for a producer/systems integrator to produce all three families (5.56mm, 7.62mm, Cal .50). Thus, the Government has determined that one contract award, instead of three separate contract awards, would represent the best value to the Government due to the lower cost to evaluate, award, and administer one contract and economies of scale available to a contractor producing all three families. Therefore, only one contract will be awarded based on the solicitation.

2. **Question:** Can a contractor propose on a DODIC level?

Answer: No, offerors must provide an offer on all the items listed in the RFP (see slide 13 of the industry day briefing).

3. **Question:** Will the Government entertain revising the strategy to allow tracer cartridges from outside the NTIB versus tracer projectiles?

Answer: No, as stated in the approved J&A, the Government intends is to have the NTIB producers assemble the cartridge within the NTIB. (Bullets/projectiles do not constitute a complete cartridge. The words *bullet/projectile* are interchangeable.)

4. **Question:** Can the tracer projectiles be shipped to the NTIB without the cartridge?

Answer: Yes, there are vendors who are currently doing this.

5. **Question:** What quantity of tracers will be needed for the lifetime of the contract?

Answer: At this time, the Government cannot provide a reasonable estimate of tracer quantities; however, historically most 7.62mm and Caliber .50 ammunition procured were 4 ball/1 trace.

6. **Question:** The Industry Briefing states contractors can get magnesium powder outside the NTIB; however, will the Government allow other components/raw materials to be procured outside the NTIB?

Answer: This procurement is restricted to the National Technology Industrial Base (NTIB) in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 2304 (c)(3) as implemented by FAR 6.302-3 (a)(2)(i). It is the intent of the Government to maximize the use of the NTIB. Therefore, offerors are requested provide the Government feedback on any and all components, to include raw material, which cannot be obtained in the NTIB, with the exception of tracer

projectiles for 5.56mm M856 cartridges, 7.62mm M62 cartridges, and Caliber .50 M17 cartridges and the magnesium powder used to produce those tracer projectiles. The Government will evaluate offeror's inputs and list any NTIB exceptions in the RFP.

7. **Question:** Will the Government look at single point of failures that are common to Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (LCAAP) and second source?

Answer: No, on this RFP, the Government is concerned about mitigating a single point of failure for the production facilities at LCAAP.

8. **Question:** Who are the ARMS tenants at LCAAP and what do they supply?

Answer: The following are the current ARMS Tenants:

- MAST (40mm M781; M81 Igniter time blasting fuze)
- Pride Machinery (occasionally supports Modernization)
- Arcadis (supports an Army environmental contract)
- Elite Cuisine (food service to production buildings)
- WASP (administrative operations for non-standard ammo contract)

In process:

- Bearing Distributors (commercial sales although are an ATK vendor for maintenance supplies)

Please note this list is subject to change and not the responsibility of the Government to update.

9. **Question:** Will the Government provide weapons for testing?

Answer: Yes, weapons will be provided as GFM.

10. **Question:** Can a contractor have more than one (1) automatic weapon on site?

Answer: Current Government contractors have more than one automatic weapon on site.

11. **Question:** Caliber .50 A576 was on first second source, will it be on this RFP?

Answer: No.

12. **Question:** Will the Government compete out year requirements each year?

Answer: No, under this proposed contract, options will not be competed. However, the Government reserves the right not to exercise an option in a given year and re-compete

those requirements via a new contract vehicle if it is in the best interest of the Government.

13. **Question:** Given the volatility of copper prices, will the Government do anything to mitigate the price?

Answer: The Government will mitigate the copper price volatility by use of the EPA clause.

14. **Question:** Will the Government set the baseline for copper?

Answer: The Government is currently developing the EPA clause for copper and it will be available in the Draft RFP.

15. **Question:** Does the Government plan to have an EPA for energy?

Answer: No, the Government does not plan to have an energy EPA in the RFP.

16. **Question:** What does a foreign contractor need to do to obtain the TDP?

Answer: In order to obtain the TDPs, the contractor would need to have a DSP-5, fully executed by the State Department, which allows for the export of the technical data in question.

17. **Question:** Can an existing technical assistant agreement (TAA) be transferred?

Answer: Please contact the State Department so they can address your individual concerns.

18. **Question:** Will waivers to the TDP be granted?

Answer: The Government expects the contractor to build to U.S. Military TDPs.

19. **Question:** When will the M855A1 TDP be issued?

Answer: The Government intends to provide the M855A1 TDP after the issuance of the Draft RFP upon request to the Contracting Officer with the certified DD form 2345.

20. **Question:** Does the M855A1 use tracer projectiles?

Answer: The M855A1 does not use tracer projectiles.

21. **Question:** Will the Government waive First Article Acceptance Tests (FAATs) for continuous production?

Answer: Offerors shall propose assuming they will need FAATs. Any possible waivers will be in accordance with clauses in the solicitation/contract.

22. **Question:** Can the NTIB producers switch subcontractors after the first year?

Answer: Yes, the producers can change subcontractors; however, FAATs will be required in accordance with the contract. If a subcontractor is used that was not in the original proposal, then a change in place of performance must be approved by the Contracting Officer.

23. **Question:** Will the Government validate new producers by requiring bid samples?

Answer: No, FAATs will be required in accordance with the contract. If a subcontractor is used that was not in the original proposal, then a change in place of performance must be approved by the Contracting Officer.

24. **Question:** Will MIL STD 1916 be included in the solicitation?

Answer: Yes.

25. **Question:** Will the new SPC clause be included in the RFP?

Answer: The RFP will include 52.246-4506 Statistical Process Control (SPC).

26. **Question:** In push/pull there is a possibility to award 650,000,000 rounds in a given year, if so, would the delivery scheduled be adjusted beyond the 24 months in the proposed contract?

Answer: Should option quantities which are pushed back or pulled forward be awarded, and the total for the particular caliber family then exceeds the maximum quantities per year established in the solicitation, the Government will adjust the contract delivery schedule so that the contractor will not have to deliver more than the maximum quantity per family in that given year.

27. **Question:** Can an option be pulled into the base year?

Answer: At this time, the Government does not intend on pulling future option years into the base year, however this may be changed if the base contract award is delayed.

28. **Question:** Can the Government pull unused option year one (1) quantities to option year four (4)?

Answer: Yes.

29. **Question:** Will the option years be matrix pricing?

Answer: Yes, there will be range pricing for all the option years.

30. **Question:** Will deliveries be FOB origin or FOB destination?

Answer: Deliveries will be FOB origin.

31. **Question:** Will the second industry day be scheduled prior to the end of calendar year?

Answer: The Government is aggressively trying to hold a second industry day prior to end of calendar year.

32. **Question:** How much time is there between the RFP and proposal submission?

Answer: At a minimum, no less than 30 days.

33. **Question:** How likely is a September 2011 award date?

Answer: The Government is aggressively working towards this award date.