

| # | <i>Questions/Comments and Answers</i> |
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| 8 | <p>Q: What is NSF's stance on the procurement process having a window for private two-way communication with the program office?</p> <p>A: At this time, private communication between the program office and interested offerors is not being conducted. After the release of the RFP, scheduled communications between offerors and NSF will be posted to FedBizOpps.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Q: Will contracts awarded to private companies for the Antarctic Support Contract be subject to the Defense Base Act?</p> <p>A: No, the contract will not be subject to the Defense Base Act.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Q: What is the NSF's policy surrounding the use of foreign companies as sub-contractors for specific technical expertise?</p> <p>A: Involvement of foreign companies is limited to the instances described in H.4.(i)-(iii).</p> |
| 11 | <p>Q: Will a Statement of Work be issued for this project</p> <p>A: A Statement of Work will not be issued by the NSF for this competition. In the pending RFP, Section C will be comprised of a Statement of Objectives (SOO). In response to this SOO the Offerors will submit a Performance Work Statement (PWS) for evaluation (which will be located in Section J as Attachment 2).</p> |
| 12 | <p>Q: In the Draft SOO Version 1 dated April 30, 2008, Section C.11.1 b) and Section C.11.2, Infrastructure & Professional Services Minimum Requirements paragraphs a), b), c) and d) indicate that fire protection services will be required under this contract. However, in the Statement of Objectives in the draft RFP dated June 30, 2008 the only references to fire protection services are in Section C.6.2 f) Technical Management and Administration Minimum Requirements and Section C.6.3 k), Technical Management and Administration Constraints are the only references alluding to a fire protection services requirement. Will there be a requirement for the contractor to provide Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), structural fire protection, and the related fire prevention and inspection services?</p> <p>A: While the Draft SOO published on 18 April 2008 was more specific regarding NSF's expectations for contractor supplied fire fighting services than in Section C of the Draft RFP (posted 18 June 2008), offerors for the ASC should describe how they propose to provide the USAP with a complete and comprehensive program for fire protection for all aspects of Antarctic operations including structural, airfield, field camp, and vehicle elements.</p> |

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| 13 | <p>Q: We have worked on a number of government contract pursuits; in those RFPs the government leaves the management of awarded award fees to the Offeror and subcontractor as part of their teaming agreement. Requiring the Offeror to share award fees with subcontractors (rather than as a negotiable element of their teaming agreement) will (possibly) cause the Offerors to reconsider their subcontracting plans, reducing the number of subcontracts they award.</p> <p>A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the Final RFP.</p> |
| 14 | <p>Q: Section C.6.2.f states that the contractor must "...develop emergency response plans and maintain a capability to properly mitigate and respond to emergencies... with appropriately trained personnel." Please clarify the requirements for emergency response services to include Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and structural emergency response services. The referenced requirements (Section C.6.2. f) and (Section C.6.3. k) are too vague to determine staffing and the NSF's expectations in this mission critical area. Please define the government's expectations for fire prevention and fire extinguisher inspection/maintenance services.</p> <p>A: (1) To the maximum degree possible and practical USAP expects compliance with the following standards for airfield/aircraft fire protection: NFA 403, <i>Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Services at Airports</i> USAF T.O. 00-125-72, <i>Ground Servicing of Aircraft and Static Grounding/Bonding</i> AMCI 11-208 and AFP 32-2004 (MOOTW, Military Operations Other Than War) To the maximum degree possible and practical USAP expects compliance with the following standards for structural fire protection: NFA family of codes and standards (especially NFA Std. 1500, <i>Firefighter Occupational Health and Safety Program</i>) (2) The expectation is that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be structured so as to provide prompt, appropriate care to injured or ill USAP participants. Useful models include state or local EMS systems or the military health system.</p> |
| 15 | <p>Q: Is indoor air purification an integral part of this project?</p> <p>A: Air purification is not an integral part of this project.</p> |
| 16 | <p>Q: Reference CLINS 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300. Considering the <i>New Construction/Special Projects</i> nature of these desired estimates, will the NSF provide specific project SOWs for the development of target costs, target profits and profit adjustment formula?</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. The final RFP will have a Government provided NTE for major construction and special projects. This portion will not be part of the total evaluated cost for Section M purposes. Major construction and special projects' requirements will be determined post-award and will be incorporated by modification into the contract and will be consistent with the pertinent Annual Program Plan.</p> |
| 17 | <p>Q: Reference the Fixed-Price Incentive (Firm target) contract elements addressed in CLINS 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300. We note that 48 CFR - specifically, 48 CFR 16.403-1 - does not reference an "over/under range" determination. Please elaborate on this metric.</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.</p> |
| 18 | <p>Q: Reference to Section C in general. Will a table of standards (e.g., NFPA, API, IBC, FISMA, OSHA, etc) be provided in the final RFP?</p> <p>A: Offerors are responsible for locating standards available to the general public and applicable to a given situation.</p> |
| 19 | <p>Q: Reference Section C.6.2.k. To what specific standard(s) are USAP medical facilities managed?</p> <p>A: Fixed USAP medical facilities are managed and operated to provide ambulatory and urgent care services. No surgical capability exists at any USAP station.</p> |

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| 20 | <p>Q: Reference Section C.6.3.w. Will NSF provide bidders a copy of the master permit?</p> <p>A: NSF will make a document available in the library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 21 | Reserved |
| 22 | <p>Q: Reference Section C.7.2. j. Was the NSF intent that this sentence read: "The contractor shall <i>procure using government funds</i>, operate, maintain, and replace as required common...?"</p> <p>A: The sentence is intended to be read as written.</p> |
| 23 | <p>Q: Reference Section C.8 in general. What are the ruggedness standards for the IT hardware being used to support the USAP?</p> <p>A: NSF has not established specific standards for ruggedness. In keeping with OMB Circular A-119 (revised), "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," which states, "<i>All federal agencies must use voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards in their procurement and regulatory activities, except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical,</i>" NSF will work with the awardee to determine appropriate standards on a case-by-case basis, determined by the nature of the application. In some cases for extreme environmental conditions, performance that exceeds even rigorous requirements such as MIL-STD-810 may be needed, and other cases, standard commercial consumer grade standards may be applicable. The offeror is expected to apply its skill/expertise as required to address this issue."</p> |
| 24 | <p>Q: Reference to Section C.8 in general. What is the minimum CMMI level rating that the NSF will consider adequate?</p> <p>A: The Final RFP will be amended to require CMMI Level 3 certification as the minimum acceptable level.</p> |
| 25 | <p>Q: Reference Section C.8.2.c. Was the NSF intent that this sentence read: "Provide <i>within sustaining funds</i> general and special purpose electronic systems and services beyond conventional Information Technology and Communications (IT&C) ..."?</p> <p>A: The phrasing of Section C.8.2.c is written as intended.</p> |
| 26 | <p>Q: Reference Section C.8.2.d. Will the contractor be responsible for maintenance and calibration of other government agency equipment, i.e., SPAWAR, USAF and NASA?</p> <p>A: The contractor will not be responsible for calibration of equipment for other government agencies.</p> |
| 27 | Reserved |
| 28 | <p>Q: Reference Section C.8.3. Will the bidders have access to the stated Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs)?</p> <p>A: NSF will make those available to the offerors in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 29 | <p>Q: Reference Section C.9.3.c. Specifically that "American Petroleum Institute (API) guidelines and regulations must be followed to the maximum extent within the USAP." We note that API is an extensive organization with standards and guidelines that overlap and duplicate standards and guidelines addressed and covered by many other regulatory bodies and/or professional organizations, (e.g., addressing subjects such as safety, fire protection, IT security, etc.). Is it the aim of the NSF to make the API a primary standards organization for the USAP?</p> <p>A: It is not the intent of NSF to have API be the overarching standards organization for NSF.</p> |

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| 30 | <p>Q: Reference Section H.1 a. Does this listing represent the minimum requirement or the entire requirement for key personnel?</p> <p>A: This listing represents the minimum requirement of key personnel; however, Offerors may propose additional key personnel.</p> |
| 31 | <p>Q: Reference Section H.4. The section initially states that “The U.S. Firm awarded this contract shall employ only U.S. Citizens”. Later in the same section it states “...all personnel performing work being reimbursed to the contractor as a direct cost, or by the contractor to its affiliates, consultants, or subcontractors as a direct cost under any sub-agreement, must be U.S. citizens <i>or permanent residents</i>.”</p> <p>Should the first sentence read “...shall employ only U.S. Citizens or permanent residents”?</p> <p>A: Section H.4 Award of Contract to U.S. Firms and Citizens Only will be revised in the final RFP.</p> |
| 32 | <p>Q: Reference Section H.22, Domicile Transportation. This section states that transportation of employees from domicile to work places shall not be an allowable cost under this contract. We request that NSF provide a definition of domicile.</p> <p>A: Transportation from domicile to work will not be an allowable cost except to and from Antarctica. Domicile, as defined in Black’s Law Dictionary, is where an individual has a permanent home or principal residence.</p> |
| 33 | <p>Q: Reference Section L.11.10.7. This section directs the contractor to submit a schedule of all proposed direct and indirect rates by fiscal year. We assume labor rates would fall in this category. Please clarify your definition of direct rates.</p> <p>A: The distribution of direct and indirect costs must be consistent with the Cost Accounting Standards Disclosure Statement provided by the offeror.</p> |
| 34 | <p>Q: Reference Section L.12.1. Please confirm that the stated Total Small Business percentage as well as the Small Business Category percentages are based on total <i>subcontract</i> dollars, and not total contract dollars.</p> <p>A: It will be based on total contract dollars not subcontract dollars.</p> |
| 35 | <p>Q: Reference Section L.15. Should this state “The <i>maximum</i> offer acceptance period is <u>365</u> calendar days....”?</p> <p>A: Section L.15. is correct as written in the RFP.</p> |
| 36 | <p>Q: Reference Section B.2. Regarding the Cost Reimbursable CLINs, does the NSF plan to provide defined estimates to be used by all Offerors in bidding these CLINs?</p> <p>A: NSF is reconsidering those CLINs. It is the offeror’s responsibility to acquire necessary cost information to make these estimates via on-line library information, pre-solicitation conference, site visits and pre-proposal one-on-ones.</p> |
| 37 | <p>Q: Ref. DRFP Section B.2, Section B.6, Section J.1. In the performance of the contract, the Cost Reimbursable (CR) structure defined in the Draft RFP incentivizes the contractor to emphasize timeliness (of delivering material and personnel) over cost savings in order to minimize risk to the performance of the Award Fee CLINs. Additionally, Section J.1 calls for “<i>Surveillance Plan(s), inclusive of Performance Metrics (for other than CPAF-C portions of the contract)</i>”, but it is not clear how these performance metrics would apply to a cost reimbursable structure to incentivize the contractor to better achieve the goals of the NSF. Would the NSF consider a Cost Plus Incentive Fee (CPIF) structure for materials, ODCs, travel, etc. to recognize the risk in delivering all required material and personnel to their final destination on time, and to better balance cost and timeliness incentives? If so, the Surveillance Plan could then be structured to directly affect the incentive fee earned by the contractor under these CLINs.</p> <p>A: NSF is not currently considering a CPIF structure. Surveillance Plans (SP) will be required to</p> |

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| | evaluate and document the contractor's performance through the life of the contract. For instance, the CPAF portion of the contract will have a SP called the Award Fee Plan and non-CPAF portions will have a SP that doesn't include an Award Fee Plan. |
| 38 | <p>Q: Ref. DRFP Section B.2, B.4. Reference Draft RFP Section B2 and Section B4, FPIF CLINs 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300 for Construction/Special Projects: It is not clear how Construction/Special Projects would be authorized and funded under these CLINs.</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. Major construction and special projects will be separately authorized and funded via contract modification.</p> |
| 39 | <p>Q: Ref. DRFP Section B.2, Section B.4. Does the NSF intend to order services under these CLINs through task orders? If so, would the NSF consider adding FAR 52.216-18 Ordering and 52.216-19 Order Limitations to the RFP, modifying 52.216-1 in Section L to include the Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract type, and providing additional direction concerning task order proposal procedures and expectations?</p> <p>A: NSF does not intend to order services through Task Orders.</p> |
| 40 | <p>Q: Ref. DRFP Section B.2, B.4. Would the NSF also consider adding FFP and CPFF Task Order CLINs to provide contracting flexibility for special projects?</p> <p>A: The Final RFP will have a Government provided NTE for major construction and special projects. This portion will not be part of the total evaluated cost for Section M purposes. Major construction and special projects' requirements will be determined post-award and will be incorporated by modification into the contract and will be consistent with the pertinent Annual Program Plan.</p> |
| 41 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B2 and Section B4. FPIF CLINs 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300 for Construction/Special Projects: The table in Section B2 provides fill-ins for Cost/Price, Fee, and Total Price, and Section B4 provides blanks for total cost, target profit, and target price as well as a figure for ceiling price. However the FPIF definition in FAR 52.216-16 provides for a formula for adjusting profit based on the variance between target and negotiated cost. There is no place defined in the referenced sections for the over and under profit adjustment percentages. Where should the Offeror describe its proposed cost adjustment formula within its proposal?</p> <p>A: The proposed cost adjustment formula should be discussed in the cost proposal where applicable; however, the final RFP will not include any FPIF CLINs.</p> |
| 42 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2, Section F.2, Section L.9.3.5. Option Period 4, Item 5000 through 5600, is October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022. This is CPAF, FPIF, and CR, and represents the performance of the USAP mission support during this period. Transition-out, Item 6000, is October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, and is CR only. We assume CLIN 6000 only covers transition out activities. Who is responsible for the performance of the mission during the period October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, the Austral Summer? If NSF intends that this support be performed under this contract, we recommend that CLINs 6000 through 6600 be defined with a period of performance of October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, to cover performance of the USAP mission support through the 2022-2023 Austral Summer, and define a new CLIN 7000 for the Cost Reimbursable CLIN for transition out activities. Alternatively, the Period of Performance for CLINs 5000 through 5600 could be extended to March 31, 2023.</p> <p>A: The incumbent contractor.</p> |
| 43 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B.7. Section B.7 (b) Award Fee Determination presents an award fee schedule with a zero award fee given at less than an 80 percent award fee score. Will the NSF consider a scale based on Outstanding, Very Good, Satisfactory, Marginal, and Unsatisfactory ratings, with a sliding scale of compensation based on meeting the Outstanding, Very Good, Satisfactory, and Marginal ratings, together with a less stringent award fee plan to compensate the contractor for work acceptably performed? For example, something like the following might be considered:</p> |

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| | A: The award fee schedule is presented in the RFP as it was intended. Alternatives to the award fee schedule will not be considered. |
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| 45 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B.7, Section J.1, Section L.9.1.8. Section J.1 defines both an Award Fee Plan and a Surveillance Plan, while Section L.9.1.8 only refers to a surveillance plan. Was the “surveillance plan” defined in Section L.9.1.8 meant to cover both of the documents defined in Section J.1? If so, we would recommend that the page limitation for Volume II - Technical Proposal be increased so that both of these documents can be adequately addressed. Or is the “surveillance plan” in Section L.9.1.8 a summary of the salient points of the Award Fee Plan & Surveillance Plan, which are to be delivered separately?</p> <p>A: (1) No. Section J, Attachment 1, is for the Award Fee Plan for the CPAF contract type set out for Integrated Operations and Science Support. Section J, Attachment 8, is for Surveillance Plan(s) for other portions of the contract. (2) There will be no page limitations for the award fee plan. (3) Non-CPAF portions of the contract will require a separate Surveillance Plan from the Award Fee Plan. The non-CPAF Surveillance Plans will be located at Section J, Attachment 8 and also will not have a page limit.</p> |
| 46 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B.7. Section B7 (f) Payment of Award Fee states that “<i>There will be no provisional, interim or advance billing of award fee prior to a final determination of award fee earned and execution by the Contracting Officer of a contract modification authorizing payment.</i>” If the payment of Provisional Award Fee to the contractor is not allowed, this approach will result in negative cash flow for both the contractor and its team members for the duration of the year long award fee period. The Federal Acquisition Regulations allow for the payment of Provisional Award Fee as well as the government’s ability to recoup any overpayment of Award Fee in the event the contractor does not perform to the government’s expectations. Provisional Award Fee allows the contractor the ability to absorb contract related unallowable costs as they occur and thus provides the contractor’s program manager greater flexibility to respond to unanticipated events/costs. The provisional payment of Award Fee does not diminish the significance of the government’s evaluation of the contractor’s performance, and in fact can increase the contractor’s efforts by increasing the contractor’s desire to perform at the highest levels on the contract. Contractors will perform at a higher level to ensure that they do not get into a situation where they would have to repay the government, nor to find themselves in a situation where they would lose the ability to bill provisional award fee. The payment of Provisional Award Fee also provides the government with the ability to establish more stable funding baselines and allocation requirements. Based on the above considerations, would the NSF consider changing Section B.7 (f) to allow payment of provisional award fee?</p> <p>A: No. NSF currently is not considering provisional award fee. Refer to Draft RFP, Section B, Paragraph 7.f, Payment of Award Fee, states that no provisional interim or advance billing of award fee will be authorized.</p> |
| 47 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C, Section J, Section L; Section M. Section C of the Draft RFP makes reference to the Offeror proposed Performance Work Statement (PWS) as per the following: “<i>THE AWARDEE’S PWS WILL BE INCORPORATED AT CONTRACT AWARD.</i>” Section J of the Draft RFP (item 2) lists the PWS as an attachment to the contract, to be proposed by the Offeror. However Section L does not provide any specific instructions regarding the development of a PWS and its place in the final proposal submission. Further, Section M.6.1.3.1 states “<i>The Government will assess the Offeror’s schedule and milestones for implementing the entire proposed PWS</i>” but does not provide specific criteria regarding the evaluation of the PWS itself. Will the NSF consider identifying in Section L the requirements for a proposed PWS to be included as a separate Attachment to Volume II, not subject to the page limitations?</p> <p>A: The PWS should be submitted under Section J, Attachment 2 in Volume I and will not be subject to page restrictions. Changes to Section L language regarding the PWS are being considered. The</p> |

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| | PWS will be evaluated under "Technical Approach" – Section M.6.1.2 Sub factor 2. |
| 48 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C, Section J, Section L, Section M. Does the NSF intend to evaluate the proposed PWS? If so, will the NSF consider adding evaluation criteria in Section M that will specify how the PWS will be assessed in the source selection process?</p> <p>A: Yes. The PWS will be evaluated under "Technical Approach" – Section M.6.1.2 Sub factor 2</p> |
| 49 | <p>Q: Ref SOO, DRFP Section C.6.3, J.1. The DRFP Reference states, "<i>The contractor will assume responsibility for existing leases and charters and operator agreements (e.g. Christchurch Airport Authority, NZ, and Punta Arenas, Chile)</i>". Section J.1 indicates that a "listing" of assignable leases/charters and assignable subcontracts will be posted to the USAP website. Will the actual lease/charter/subcontract agreement documents be posted to the USAP website, or made available in an NSF on-site Bidders Library?</p> <p>A: Copies of charters and leases will be made available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 50 | Reserved |
| 51 | <p>Q: Ref SOO, DRFP Section C.8.3. The DRFP Reference states, "<i>The contractor must comply with the terms/conditions of Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) as amended and extended, which define IT&C service and supplier relationships.</i>" Could the NSF provide all MOAs for IT&C service and supplier relationships, either in the On-Line Library or as an attachment to the RFP?</p> <p>A: NSF will make those available to the offerors at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p> |
| 52 | <p>Q: Ref SOO, DRFP Section C.9.2.h. The DRFP Reference states, "<i>The contractor shall provide and manage housing and berthing for program personnel at all stations, at field camps, and on research vessels.</i>" We understand that currently there are separate practices for housing and berthing of military personnel. Will all dorms at McMurdo be available to all personnel or do restrictions apply for military or other personnel?</p> <p>A: The current practice is to keep military personnel berthing consolidated to maintain unit integrity. Single room accommodations are provided for aircrew to ensure minimal disruption for adequate crew rest. Offerors may propose any strategy for berthing management, provided that unit integrity is maintained and the aircrews are able to receive adequate crew rest.</p> |
| 53 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section E. How does the Government intend to inspect and accept construction projects? Would the NSF consider adding FAR 52.246-12, Inspection of Construction, to Section E.1 of the Draft RFP?</p> <p>A: Applicable FAR clauses addressing construction activities outside the United States will be addressed in each construction modification issued during the performance of the contract. .</p> |
| 54 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section E.1, Section E.2, Section E.3. What documentation will the NSF require the contractor to provide to support the Contracting Officer's formal acceptance of a construction project? Will the Contracting Officer provide the signed, final document within 30 calendar days of its receipt indicating final acceptance for payment purposes?</p> <p>A: At a minimum, the contractor will need to provide a letter of acceptance from the NSF Facilities Engineering Program Manager (FEPM), as well as any other supporting documentation to support final payment. This will include, but not be limited to, full documentation of transactions to support the transfer to real property, if applicable.</p> |
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| 56 | <p>Q: In Section E.3, the term "...free from error..." is ambiguous and subjective. We recommend that the NSF consider removing Section E.3 from the solicitation, given that adequate protections for the NSF already exist within the clauses defined in Section E.1, and will exist (by definition) in the PWS incorporated into the contract.</p> <p>A: NSF is taking this under advisement.</p> |
| 57 | Reserved |
| 58 | <p>Q: DRFP Section F.7, Item 003 in Table. The DRFP reference requires the contractor to "prepare management, Standard Operating Procedures, and PM manuals as provided for in the PWS and submit these manuals to NSF for review and approval." The initial versions of these documents are to be delivered within the first 24 months of the contract. Will the procedures and operational manuals from the current contract be available in the On-Line Library?</p> <p>A: NSF will make those available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 59 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section H.4. The referenced text says "The U.S. Firm awarded this contract shall employ only U.S. citizens." As written, this seems to prohibit award to companies that employ non-US citizens in other capacities. We assume the intent of Section H.4 is that only U.S. citizens will be employed in the performance of this contract. We therefore recommend that the wording be changed to the following: "Only U.S. Firms are eligible for award of this contract. The Firm awarded this contract shall employ only U.S. citizens in the performance of this contract."</p> <p>A: Section H.4 Award of Contract to U.S. Firms and Citizens Only will be revised in the final RFP.</p> |
| 60 | Reserved |
| 61 | <p>Q: Ref Section 6.3 of the Statement of Objectives. {It} references the requirement for the contractor to establish and operate a project headquarters in the contiguous United States. Section H.14 states that the Government will furnish, at no cost to the contractor, the necessary office space, utilities, telephone service, general purpose office equipment, and office furniture for its personnel assigned to work under this contract at Government locations in Antarctica and at operating locations in New Zealand and South America. In the past, the Government has provided office space, utilities, telephone service, general purpose office equipment, and office furniture at Port Hueneme and general purpose office equipment and office furniture at the contractor's contiguous United States project headquarters. Is it NSF's intention to continue to use Port Hueneme? If yes, will office space, etc. be provided at Port Hueneme?</p> <p>A: NSF will consider alternate locations for shipping and receiving of materials and supplies.</p> |
| 62 | <p>Q: There is considerable equipment and furniture (to include network and computing hardware) at the current contractor's Denver office that is GFE. Will this equipment and furniture be available to the successful bidder, or should bidders assume they will be responsible for furnishing the contiguous United States headquarters?</p> <p>A: The successful offeror will be responsible for furnishing the contiguous United States headquarters. Any usable GFE in the current contractor's headquarters can be made available.</p> |
| 63 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section H.17. We assume that the intent of Section H.17 is that (1) the contractor is to provide fully qualified personnel with all required licenses, certifications, etc.; (2) the contractor is responsible for any unique training (e.g., Ethics Training) or training for transferable skills (e.g., Cisco Network Administration); and (3) training that is unique to the ASC (e.g. basic survival training unique to the Antarctic environment, etc.) is chargeable to the contract. However, it appears from the Draft RFP reference that any training pertinent to the ASC (e.g., orientation, basic survival training unique to the Antarctic environment, specialized equipment training for the Antarctic environment, etc.) must be approved prior to the training occurring. A literal interpretation of the referenced clause is extremely restrictive, requiring approval by NSF for any training pertinent to the</p> |

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| | <p>ASC. Please clarify under what circumstances training must be pre-approved by the COTR.</p> <p>A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.</p> |
| 64 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section H.17. The DRFP Reference states, "<i>The contractor shall be responsible for all costs including labor hours associated with the equivalent training of replacement personnel when contractor personnel who have received Government-funded training leave and are replaced.</i>" This clause places an unreasonable burden on the contractor as a certain amount of turnover is expected (for example, seasonal replacements) and even within a season emergency circumstances might require replacement personnel who must be trained. If the intent of this requirement is that the contractor should absorb costs associated with excessive turnover of personnel, will the NSF consider modifying the requirement to include a time boundary? For example, the requirement could be modified to state, "The contractor shall be responsible for all costs including labor hours associated with the equivalent training of replacement personnel when contractor personnel who have received Government-funded training are replaced within six months of completion of the training, except when emergency circumstances require personnel replacement." By doing so, the contractor would not be penalized for training of new personnel who come on board as a result of expected seasonal turnover or when replacements occur due to emergency situations</p> <p>A: The allowability of costs will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the CO.</p> |
| 65 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section H.22. Section H.22 of the Draft RFP states, "<i>Transportation of employees from domicile to work places shall not be an allowable cost under this contract.</i>" Can the NSF please provide additional clarification regarding its definition for "domicile" and "work places"? If the intention is to exclude local travel that is within a 50 mile radius of the contractor's place of work, we recommend that Section H.22 be modified to read as per the following: "Local travel reimbursement within a 50-mile radius from the Contractor's facility or the Contractor's assigned duty station is not authorized. This includes travel, subsistence, and associated labor charges for travel time. Travel performed for personal convenience or daily travel to and from work at the Contractor's facility or local Government facility (i.e., designated work site) shall not be reimbursed hereunder. Travel, subsistence, and associated labor charges for travel time for travel beyond a 50-mile radius of the Contractor's facility or assigned duty station are authorized."</p> <p>A: Domicile, as defined in Black's Law Dictionary, is where an individual has a permanent home or principal residence. Transportation from domicile to work will not be an allowable cost except to and from Antarctica.</p> |
| 66 | Reserved |
| 67 | Reserved |
| 68 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section L.6.3.6. It appears that some words were inadvertently dropped from the first sentence in this section. We assume this was meant to be, "Title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letter, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages are excluded from the page count limitations of each volume."</p> <p>A: This will be changed to read: Items excluded from page count limits include volumes indicating "not page limited", the Award Fee Plan, Surveillance Plan(s), Performance Work Statement, title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letters, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages.</p> |

| # | Questions/Comments and Answers |
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| 69 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section L.10.2. The referenced section states that, “<i>The Offeror shall identify a minimum of three (3) contracts which meet the recency definition and are considered relevant to this requirement.</i>” Many Government customers have recently turned to using large IDIQ contracts covering a very broad scope of work (e.g. Government Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs)). Given this circumstance, will the NSF consider allowing the Offeror to use individual Task Orders performed under large IDIQ contracts for past performance citations? The Task Order citation would then be evaluated for relevancy, performance quality, etc. as defined in Section M.6.2.</p> <p>A: Individual Task Orders performed under IDIQ contracts may be used for past performance; however, no more than one Task Order may be used per IDIQ contract.</p> |
| 70 | <p>Q: Would the government consider establishing a separate CLIN for contract labor?</p> <p>A: NSF will not consider establishing a separate CLIN for contract labor.</p> |
| 71 | <p>Q: Would the government consider establishing a separate CR CLIN for fuels?</p> <p>A: NSF is reconsidering this issue.</p> |
| 72 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2. At what point will the bidders know the construction and special projects that will be required for cost estimating the bid?</p> <p>A: The scope of the individual construction and special projects will be developed post-award as requirements occur during the term of the contract. The Final RFP will have a Government provided NTE for major construction and special projects. This portion will not be part of the total evaluated cost for Section M purposes. Major construction and special projects’ requirements will be determined post-award and will be incorporated by modification into the contract and will be consistent with the pertinent Annual Program Plan.</p> |
| 73 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2. If CLIN 1400 remains FPIF, then, are the non-recurring engineering costs included?</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.</p> |
| 74 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Sec B.2, CLIN 1400 and X300. Is the government willing to change CLINs 1400 in the base year and X300 in the option years, which call for construction and special projects, from a FPIF type contract to a CR type contract CLIN that is task-order driven? If not, how does NSF plan to ensure that the contractor is eligible for positive profit incentives, tied to risks associated with on-ice construction and special work? Are there any circumstances (such as the contractor’s agreement to accept additional fiscal controls and EVMS requirements) under which the government would be willing to make such a change?</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.</p> |
| 75 | <p>Q: Will the government entertain doing the Award Fee determination semi-annually, as is the case with many other Award Fee programs?</p> <p>A: NSF will not consider performing the award-fee determination semi-annually.</p> |
| 76 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.6.2.o. (Technical Management and Administrative Minimum Requirements). Does the government expect to require full implementation of EVMS for all projects?</p> <p>A: Appropriate EVMS will be required on NSF-specified projects as per Section C.6.2.o.</p> |
| 77 | Reserved |
| 78 | <p>Q: If an NACI is required, will the NSF reimburse the bidder for this cost. Given the potential cost and time for an NACI check, would this apply to contract labor?</p> <p>A: Allowable costs will be determined in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations and the Cost Accounting Standards.</p> |

| # | Questions/Comments and Answers |
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| 79 | Reserved |
| 80 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.6.3.t. Will the government provide a table or list which maps specific certification requirements to specific positions?</p> <p>A: The Government will not provide such a table or list.</p> |
| 81 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.7.2.i. Is this requirement currently met with the existing POLARICE system or is this a new requirement? Will POLARICE be a GFE application system?</p> <p>A: POLARICE will be a GFE application system and is not a new requirement; the contractor may choose to propose an alternative.</p> |
| 82 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.7.2. Does the term "provide" imply that there will be no GFE equipment for this purpose? If it is Contractor-acquired, will the contractor be reimbursed?</p> <p>A: (1) GFE and GFP of accountable property will be provided. It is the offeror's responsibility to acquire necessary information via the on-line library, pre-solicitation, site visits and pre-proposal one-on-ones for non-accountable property. (2) Yes, if an allowable cost.</p> |
| 83 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.8.2.c. Will the government provide a list of general and special purpose electronic systems and services to be maintained by the contractor beyond those discussed in other areas of the RFP?</p> <p>A: NSF's intention is to make those available a characteristic list typifying current conditions in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. The contractor is expected to monitor operational and customer requirements as they evolve/change and respond accordingly.</p> |
| 84 | <p>Q: Will the final RFP require a specific CMMI level certification?</p> <p>A: The Final RFP will be amended to require CMMI Level 3 certification as the minimum acceptable level.</p> |
| 85 | <p>Q: Will the government provide a listing of GFE IT&C infrastructure and services that the contractor will be expected to maintain? Will the contractor be authorized to use this GFE infrastructure in the performance of this contract?</p> <p>A: (1) The Government will provide a list of major IT&C infrastructure that typifies the systems the contractor is responsible for. A listing of notional services (high-level) can be provided, but detailed services are to be proposed by the contractor in the Service Catalog. (2) Yes.</p> |
| 86 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.8.2.j. Is it the government's intent for this clause to apply only to new technology project work or is it to apply to all O&M components and spare parts sent to Antarctica?</p> <p>A: NSF is taking this under advisement.</p> |
| 87 | Reserved |
| 88 | Reserved |
| 89 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section H.29.c. The draft RFP refers to NSF networks and facilities, it is our understanding the USAP is a distinct and separate network. Will the final RFP make a distinction between NSF and USAP network infrastructure that the contractor will be expected to maintain?</p> <p>A: The USAP network is not connected to the NSF network in Arlington, VA. However, it is considered to be managed and owned by NSF.</p> |
| 90 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section J. Does the word "not" belong in the first sentence?</p> <p>A: The word "not" does not belong in the first sentence of Section J.</p> |

| # | Questions/Comments and Answers |
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| 91 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section L.6.3.6 (Proposal Page Limitations and Submissions). There appears to be missing text in this paragraph. Suggest this requirement be reworded from "...Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letter, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages" to (italics added for emphasis) "...Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letter, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages <i>are not counted against the page limit.</i>"</p> <p>A: This will be changed to read: Items excluded from page count limits include volumes indicating "not page limited", the Award Fee Plan, Surveillance Plan(s), Performance Work Statement, title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letters, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages.</p> |
| 92 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section L.11.10.2 (Purchasing System). Please clarify the requirement to have a government approved purchasing system in place of the legacy P1000 system furnished by the government?</p> <p>A: Section L.11.10.2 is self explanatory as written.</p> |
| 93 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.1 TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS. There are two major issues regarding polar transportation and logistics: (1) Signaling to industry what you want and (2) Encouraging some mechanism that would allow the winning bidder to actually provide what you want. The need for this later mechanism arises because providing transportation and logistics in a polar environment has some substantial differences from commercial transportation and logistics requirements. For example, the severe limitations on providing regular and predictable transportation during some periods, makes concepts such as just-in-time extremely impractical. Effectively addressing these differences requires a level of transportation and logistics innovation capability that is unlikely to exist in the companies submitting bids for this project. A possibility for overcoming this problem is to create a Center for Polar Transportation and Logistics jointly between the winning bidder and a university or universities with broad expertise in transportation and logistics. The Center could provide ongoing assessment of the PT&L process and technology performance, aid in developing new processes, aid in selecting and/or developing new technology for both planning and operation, and provide education regarding PT&L to scientists proposing to do polar work. I do not know how you might encourage development of such a center in the RFP. Some points that might be included to signal to industry what you want are: Provide innovative processes and modern information and decision technology to insure efficient and effective support transportation and logistics. Provide a measurable continuous improvement environment for both process and technology evolution. Provide mechanisms for assuring that the processes and technology for polar transportation and logistics are comparable in quality to that used by industry.</p> <p>A: NSF is not providing a response as no question is contained in the comment.</p> |
| 94 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2, CLIN's 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 are specified for Fixed Price Incentive Fee Construction and CLIN's 1600, 2500, 3500, 4500, and 5500 are specified for materials and shown to be Cost Reimbursable. Will materials associated with construction and special projects be cost reimbursable?</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. Contract type and costs associated with construction and special projects will be determined on an annual basis consistent with the requirements for the applicable Annual Program Plan.</p> |
| 95 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2. Will the Government award future construction projects on an IDIQ basis? Ref DRFP Section B.2. CLIN's 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 are specified for Fixed Price Incentive Construction with the rest of the CLIN's being cost plus award fee or cost reimbursable. For each individual construction project: will the Government award future construction projects on an IDIQ basis?</p> |

| # | <i>Questions/Comments and Answers</i> |
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| | A: (1) The IDIQ contract type will not be applicable to the ASC. (2) Construction and special projects will be negotiated in the contents of the Annual Program Plan each year and added to the contract through contract modifications. |
| 96 | <p>Q: What is the maximum dollar threshold for repairs and alterations that constitute a FPIF construction project vs. CPAF services?</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.</p> |
| 97 | <p>Q: What is the anticipated lead time that the Government will provide to the contractor for pricing FPIF construction task orders?</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. Also, FPIF construction task orders will not be applicable to the ASC. The awardee will be given adequate time to develop construction requirements as part of the Annual Program Plan.</p> |
| 98 | <p>Q: How long are FPIF construction bids for individual projects expected to be valid for?</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. The awardee will be given adequate time to develop construction requirements as part of the Annual Program Plan which should be valid during the year covered in the applicable Annual Program Plan.</p> |
| 99 | <p>Q: How will the Government handle delays in construction, caused by events beyond control of the contractor, that may cause contract change orders?</p> <p>A: These events will be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the contract terms and provisions as contained in the applicable modification.</p> |
| 100 | <p>Q: CLIN's 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 are specified for Fixed Price Incentive Construction with the rest of the CLIN's being cost plus award fee or cost reimbursable. We understand concerns over historic project schedule and cost growth that may have led to the decision to shift construction to fixed price. However, considering the impact to operational flexibility and the additional administrative and contractual impact on the Government associated with fixed price construction in Antarctica, would the Government consider other approaches to accomplishing schedule and cost control? Examples include a separate award fee pool and plan for construction that is directly tied to schedule and cost; and a requirement for earned value management metric</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. Major construction and special projects' requirements will be determined post-award and will be incorporated by modification into the contract and will be consistent with the pertinent Annual Program Plan.</p> |
| 101 | <p>Q: Historically all shared services were accounted for under cost plus. Will the Government expect all shared services to be priced against the basic O&M contract? Examples include cargo loading and unloading, safety, quality, procurement, material logistics, general management supervision, human resources, finance, PPE gear, project controls, etc.</p> <p>A: Incremental costs for construction and special projects need to be budgeted for that specific project.</p> |
| 102 | <p>Q: CLINs 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 request that the Offeror submit a target cost, over/under range, and a share ratio. Will all Offerors be instructed to use the Government's allocated ceiling price as the target price for each of the above CLINs? This will allow the Government to evaluate price more uniformly between Offerors with the evaluation based on the Offerors proposed target profit and the share ratio and over/under range.</p> <p>A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.</p> |
| 103 | <p>Q: CLINs 1500, 1600, 1700; 2400, 2500, 2600; 3400, 3500, 3600; 4400, 4500, 4600; 5400, 5500, 5600 are shown as CLINs for Offerors to develop proposed cost/pricing data. Without workload data, developing accurate costs for all commodities and services associated with these CLINs may lead to an extraordinary range of pricing among Offerors and in turn make it extremely difficult for the Government to evaluate proposals. Will the Government consider changing these CLINs to</p> |

| # | Questions/Comments and Answers |
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| | <p>'plug' numbers?</p> <p>A: Information regarding the pricing of leases and charters will be provided in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp Other direct costs, materials and travel are being reconsidered for inclusion in the Integrative and Operations Science Support CLIN.</p> |
| 104 | <p>Q: Will the RFP requirement that teaming subcontractors receive a percentage of the prime contract fee be waived or modified, now that the contract also contains FFP and FPIF CLINs?</p> <p>A: NSF is deleting this provision in the final RFP. The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.</p> |
| 105 | <p>Q: In past USAP RFPs, NSF has established CR amounts for Offerors to plug into their cost proposal for these types of activities. These costs were based on historical costs and/or NSF's projections. The rationale for this was based on the difficulty to specify with any certainty detailed specifications in the future. Offerors would add to these plugged amounts their loadings to complete their price proposals. Will the Government consider establishing a similar schedule for Offerors to use, or will the actual RFP have the data necessary to more accurately cost these ID/IQ type items?</p> <p>A: NSF will provide a Government NTE for construction and special projects. NSF will make the Annual Program Plan available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp Other direct costs, materials and travel are being reconsidered for inclusion in the Integrative and Operations Science Support CLIN.</p> |
| 106 | <p>Q: Provisional or interim payment of fee is currently not authorized by the Government. Will the Government consider authorizing a base fee?</p> <p>A: NSF will not consider authorizing a base fee.</p> |
| 107 | <p>Q: Section C requires Offerors to develop a PWS and Section L requires Offerors submit their PWS as part of the proposal. Will the Government allow Offerors to submit their PWS and WBS as separate un-page counted addendums to Vol. II, Technical Approach?</p> <p>A: Both PWS and WBS should be proposed under Volume I and will not be subject to page limitations.</p> |
| 108 | <p>Q: This portion of the proposal states that the contractor will provide a Performance Work Statement (PWS) in response to this Statement of Objectives (SOO). However, in order to estimate labor and materials for any PWS, Offerors will need workload data for the contract. Will the Government provide workload data to be used by Offerors to create their Basis of Estimate?</p> <p>A: NSF will not provide work load data. Offerors can find information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.</p> |
| 109 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide projected program participant population data, stratified by time and location?</p> <p>A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.</p> |
| 110 | <p>Q: Will the On-Line Library include such documents as incumbent position descriptions, SOPs, Plans, and hiring and wage/benefit information?</p> <p>A: SOPs will be made available for most functions; however, position descriptions and wage/benefit will not be provided. The SOPs will be provided in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 111 | <p>Q: Will the Government consider placing all On-Line Library information in an electronic format e.g. on the USAP website?</p> |

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| | <p>A: No, the material will remain on the NSF's re-compete website at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp A link from the USAP.gov site to NSF.gov site will be provided.</p> |
| 112 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide access to all systems data and databases utilized to perform the current operations?</p> <p>A: Access to a snapshot of current systems data for the MAPCON, P-1000, Cargo Tracking System, and Personnel Tracking System, which is publicly releasable, will be provided. Access to synthetic data used to train new users of the POLARICE system will be made available for POLARICE. This information will be provided after the RFP is issued in a form to be determined.</p> |
| 113 | <p>Q: How much time will be allocated to Offerors at OPP and incumbent contractor locations?</p> <p>A: There will be no site visit of NSF and OPP. Information on site visit(s) will be posted on FedBizOpps.</p> |
| 114 | <p>Q: NSF DRFP requires the contractor to oversee and assess all aspects of safety risk management in Antarctica and refer enforcement issues to the NSF, if required. Based on the above NSF safety risk management oversight and assessment requirements, is it the Government's desire that the contractor's proposed Safety and Occupational Health Program be a primacy document for the contractor to oversee and assess all aspects of safety/risk management in Antarctica (in addition to interfacing and complimenting the safety programs of other participating organizations and institutions)?</p> <p>A: The contractor's safety and occupational health program should be the standard for non-military USAP operations for a wide spectrum of USAP participants, including the contractor's employees and unaffiliated individuals. Business judgment will be required in applying appropriate policies and standards to specific participants and situations. The contractor will act as NSF's full-time safety representative. In the event of any disagreement on safety matters, NSF has final authority, normally through the respective NSF Representative or NSF Station Manager.</p> |
| 115 | <p>Q: The SOO states Contractor shall manage and operate health care facilities comparable to urgent care centers in the US and staff appropriately. Urgent health care centers in the US vary greatly in levels of capability. Will the Government please designate the level(s) of urgent care they require Offerors to provide when developing their staffing?</p> <p>A: The level of urgent care should meet the reasonably anticipated health care needs of a medically and dentally screened population. Consideration should also be given to the occupational and non-occupational hazards to which USAP participants may be exposed.</p> |
| 116 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide a comprehensive equipment density/inventory list (regardless of item dollar value) displaying type (make, manufacturer), year of manufacture, whether the equipment was purchased or leased that includes all project locations?</p> <p>A: Listings of accountable property (GFE and GFP) are available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. Because of the scope of the operation, a full inventory of all government property is not available for non-accountable items. A listing of all licensed software will also be made available. It is the offeror's responsibility to acquire necessary information via the on-line library, pre-solicitation, site visits and pre-proposal one-on-ones for non-accountable property.</p> |
| 117 | Reserved |
| 118 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide Offerors copies of all charters and leases so that we may review their contractual provisions, legal aspects and costs, etc.?</p> <p>A: Copies of charters and leases will be made available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. There is no operating agreement for Port Hueneme.</p> |

| # | Questions/Comments and Answers |
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| 119 | <p>Q: Are the following documents going to be provided in the On-Line Library? - Waste Management Plan and Users Guide</p> <p>A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p> |
| 120 | <p>Q: Are the following documents going to be provided in the On-Line Library? - Compliance Plan for the USAP Master Permit.</p> <p>A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 121 | <p>Q: Are the following documents going to be provided in the On-Line Library? - Environmental Protection Plan</p> <p>A: The information can be found at http://www.ats.ag/e/ep.htm</p> |
| 122 | <p>Q: Can NSF provide Exhibit A to the Master Permit – Inventory of Materials Containing Designated Pollutants?</p> <p>A: 45 CFR 671.3 (a) defines <i>designated pollutant</i> as “any substance designated as such by the Director pursuant to subpart E of this part; any pesticide, radioactive substance, or substance consisting of or containing any chemical listed by source, generic or chemical name at 40 CFR 61.01, Table 116.4A of 40 CFR 116.4; subpart D of 40 CFR part 261, 40 CFR 302.4, part 355, and part 372; and any substance which exhibits a hazardous waste characteristic as defined in subparts B and C of 40 CFR part 261; but shall not include any banned substance. Information on materials containing designated pollutants can be found at http://nsf.gov/od/opp/antarct/aca/nsf01151/start.jsp</p> |
| 123 | <p>Q: Can NSF provide Exhibit B to the Master Permit – Release Characterization Data?</p> <p>A: NSF intends to make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 124 | <p>Q: Can NSF provide Exhibit C to the Master Permit – Environmental Review documents</p> <p>A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 125 | <p>Q: When will the Government provide a copy of the “USAP Medical Screening Guideline”?</p> <p>A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 126 | Reserved |
| 127 | Reserved |
| 128 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.8.2.c. The SOO states “Provide general and special purpose electronic systems and services beyond conventional IT&C.” Will the Government please define the term ‘beyond conventional’, and designate by location the requirement?</p> <p>A. NSF is taking this under advisement.</p> |
| 129 | Reserved |
| 130 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide the methods of interface for these current IT systems to the Government cost accounting systems?</p> <p>A: There is no interface with the current government cost accounting systems.</p> |
| 131 | Reserved |
| 132 | Q: Is there a replacement schedule for any of the existing software systems? |

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| | A: NSF does not have a replacement schedule for existing software systems. |
| 133 | <p>Q: At what point in time will the Government provide copies of all Memorandum of Agreements?</p> <p>A: NSF will make those available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p> |
| 134 | <p>Q: The contractor shall develop engineering designs as required for new infrastructure or modifications to existing facilities. All engineered designs shall be stamped by a professional engineer and/or architect as appropriate. Is it correct to assume that all construction work will be designed by the contractor?</p> <p>A: This will depend on the specific construction requirement and will be determined as the need arises after the award is made.</p> |
| 135 | <p>Q: What is the anticipated average size of the projects over the next five years?</p> <p>A: The size of construction and special projects will be determined on an as-needed basis.</p> |
| 136 | <p>Q: The SOO states that the contractor must manage, operate and maintain the USAP bulk fuel storage and distribution systems. Will the Government provide equipment specifications, facilities and capacities of the equipment at each location?</p> <p>A: The NSF has site plans and details and documents of all facilities, storage, and distribution systems that depict the equipment and capacities including procedures and O&M manuals. These will be made available to offerors in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 137 | <p>Q: How much fuel will be delivered and delivery schedule requirements for each location?</p> <p>A: Currently, the USAP purchases approximately 6.4 million gallons of fuel annually for McMurdo and the South Pole Stations and 70 thousand gallons for Palmer Station. These amounts will vary based on annual requirement.</p> |
| 138 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section C.9.2.p. Paragraph "p" states: "The contractor shall manage, operate, construct, and maintain USAP facilities to provide for safe and efficient operations." Will the Government provide a definition for Special Projects?</p> <p>A: Construction and special projects will be defined and negotiated within the APP every year. Special projects can be defined as those NSF has determined to fall outside the scope of the normal operations and maintenance of the USAP, examples include: Icecube, South Pole Station Modernization.</p> |
| 139 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide information on the required approvals and funding process for minor and major construction projects, and the annual timeline for each approval/funding step?</p> <p>A: Major construction and special projects will be negotiated within the APP. The timeline for each approval/funding step will also be determined with the applicable APP.</p> |
| 140 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide a list of Construction in Progress (CIP)?</p> <p>A: This will be made available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p> |
| 141 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide a list of projects approved/funded for FY 2010?</p> <p>A: There is no list of approved projects for FY2010 at this time.</p> |
| 142 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide a list of forecasted and prioritized requirements for major facility projects?</p> <p>A: This information is not available.</p> |
| 143 | <p>Q: Will construction projects in progress be transferred to the successor contractor? If so, will they</p> |

| # | <i>Questions/Comments and Answers</i> |
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| | <p>be cost reimbursable?</p> <p>A: This will be addressed during the transition-in period. These costs will fall under the Major construction/special project NTE CLIN.</p> |
| 144 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide a listing of current suppliers for all types of materials and services?</p> <p>A: This information is not available.</p> |
| 145 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide the last three years of the Annual Program Plan?</p> <p>A: NSF will provide this information in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p> |
| 146 | <p>Q: Please identify which training will be reimbursed by the Government?</p> <p>A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise. Please see Section H. 17.</p> |
| 147 | <p>Q: The SOO defines the USAP Freight Cost Model. Will the Government provide a copy of the "Freight Cost Model"?</p> <p>A: NSF will provide all current FCM information.</p> |
| 148 | <p>Q: Will the Government provide electronic copies of the existing ACAs?</p> <p>A: No Associate Contractor Agreements exist at this time.</p> |
| 149 | <p>Q: Ref DRFP Section H.17.b. Does this clause apply to our team mates?</p> <p>A: This clause applies across the team.</p> |
| 150 | <p>Q: Will the Government identify the employee position(s) that require security clearances?</p> <p>A: There are no positions that require security clearance at this time.</p> |