| **Number Assigned** | **Question** | **Answer** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 164a  | The SOO does not specifically mention IT field services. To what extent should this item address field services? | RFP SOO paragraph C.6.3, Information Technology and Communications (IT&C) requires IT&C for all functions of the USAP systems and states that IT&C “spans the spectrum from providing for the movement of research level data into and out of Antarctica and providing communications support for research facilities and field parties”. Paragraph C.6.3.1a), c), and g) sets out the requirement for “uninterrupted operations for all IT&C activities”, “IT&C services that are fully integrated across the USAP”, and “support for all IT&C at USAP operating locations”. Paragraph C.6.3.1.f) discusses the requirements for “remote operations in Antarctica”. Also see paragraph C.6.3.1.m) which addresses IT&C functionality “under the austere and potentially harsh conditions of the Antarctic”. The delivery of IT&C services in the field, whether located at the permanent stations, on vessels, or the near or deep field is an essential component of work to be performed under the contract.  USAP requires voice, data, and radio communications in support of its year-round field operations.  These requirements were identified throughout all of the functional areas of the SOO and additional details were provided at the presolicitation conference.  |
| 164b | The SOO item covers a significant broad range of services. Are there specific services that the NSF would like to see more detail about? | You can focus on specific areas of inquiry as necessary to provide a response to NSF.  |
| 165a (see also 168) | We plan to operate retail stores and clubs in a similar fashion as it is currently operated, i.e., we will operate stores and clubs using predominantly volunteer workforce. Is this approach acceptable? | This approach is acceptable but other approaches can be proposed and will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP.  |
| 165b | Will we inherit both the inventory and cash balances associated with current retail operations? | The contractor will inherit the inventory, but there are no “cash balances” since the sales go to offset the costs of the operation from the current fiscal year. The new contractor will need to propose retail and beverage costs through the annual program plan process. |
| 165c | We plan to audit books and take inventory during transition, and establish working capital fund with available combined balances. Do you anticipate that these cash and inventory balances will be sufficient to operate the sustaining fund, or do you expect that the awardee will need to add cash to the working capital fund? To answer this question it might be helpful to consider:* Is it acceptable to purchase retail items within the P1000 system within the NSF firewall?
* Is it acceptable to invoice the NSF for the purchase of retail items provided that we show that amount as a liability of the Working Capital Fund and reimburse the NSF that amount as sales are realized during the following months?
* Would it be acceptable to carry forward those liabilities of the Working Capital Fund to the NSF between fiscal years provided that there was an accurate reconciliation between inventory, cash, and pricing markup that clearly indicated that the liability could reasonably be repaid from sales of existing inventory during the subsequent season?
 | The contractor should consider the value of the inventory during the transition and size the proposed retail operation in the APP according to the planned sales. There is not a specific fund at present, but the costs are tracked within the contractor operating funds.* It is acceptable to purchase retail items through the normal procurement system the contractor operates.
* It is acceptable to invoice the NSF and show it as a liability as noted.
* Yes, carry over across fiscal years is acceptable. The NSF has “no year” money.
 |
| 165d | Would you please confirm that it is acceptable and necessary to include the following costs within the working capital fund and thus be reflected in the retail price necessary for breakeven:* Beginning Inventory on shelves of stores/clubs;
* Inventory of retail items held in common storage;
* Cash in registers or central working capital account;
* Purchases of retail items;
* Salaries & Benefits, if any, for “sales” employees, and direct admin support;
* Salary & Benefits associated with management oversight of fund and activities;
* Indirect costs associated with management oversight of fund and activities;
* Overhead costs associated with management oversight of fund and activities;
* Spoilage of items that spoil while in retail space;
* Pilferage losses associated with items that are stolen from retail space; and
* Cash overage/shortages.
 | Yes, all items noted should be considered within the working capital fund for retail activities. |
| 165e | Would you please confirm that it is not necessary to include the following costs within the working capital fund and thus not be reflected in the retail price necessary for breakeven:* Utility costs associate with retail space, clubs, and storage areas used for goods prior to moving goods to the retail/club space;
* Janitorial costs associate with retail space and clubs;
* O&M costs associated with retail space, clubs, the furnishings/equipment in that space, and space used to store retail items;
* Renewal costs associated with retail space or the furnishings/equipment in that space;
* Furnishings/equipment in retail space, i.e., tables, chairs, shelving, lighting, counters, sinks, bar glassware, etc.;
* Glassware cleaning and other cleaning items in the clubs;
* The cost of shipping, handling or storage of retail items;

The cost of damage, spoilage and pilferage to the point of moving them to retail / club space. | These items are correctly categorized. |
| 166  | Is selection of another PMO facility acceptable to the NSF?  | Per Section J Attachment 7 the offeror is not required to assume the Centennial lease and can propose an alternative location. |
| 167  | Cover Letter Page 2, Supplemental Information, item 1, Cost Model states that RFP Section L List of Attachments L-4, L-5, L-6 are not to be included in updated proposal submittal. Is it correct to assume that Attachment L-8 should also be excluded from the updated proposal submittal? | This is correct IAW with Section L.27 of the Amended RFP. |
| 168 (see also 165) | Cover Letter Page 6, 5 f. states that information for the pricing of retail and beverage will be provided in a subsequent amendment. Is it the NSF’s intention that retail and beverage pricing be included in the response to Amendment 007? If yes, the outlook for issuance of the information is requested. | Retail and beverage services materials and supply costs should be priced in accordance with L-14 WBS provided below:1.4.2.13.011.4.2.13.021.4.2.13.031.4.2.13.04  |
| 169 | At the time of original proposal submission the operational aspects of Winfly 2009 had been cancelled pursuant to a PI Alert memorandum dated August 18, 2008. Please confirm that the operational aspects of Winfly have been restored and that offerors should propose pricing based upon the assumption that the scope is the same as the recently completed Winfly 2010. | This is correct. |
| 170 | Page 26, F.7, item b, Page 48, L.6.3.1 through L.6.3.5, and Page 49, L.6.3.9: In regard to the electronic format in which the response to the amendment should be submitted, would it be acceptable to NSF if we submitted Word 2007 files for text and graphic materials and Excel 2007 files for spreadsheets? | Yes, that would be acceptable. |
| 171 | Page 27, Schedule of Contract Deliverables, item 018 requires submission of Weekly Station Reports on Friday of every week starting 4/30/2012. Would the NSF be receptive to submission of Weekly Station Reports beginning on the first Friday after contract start (4/6/2012)?  | Yes, that would be acceptable. |
| 172 | Page 27, Schedule of Contract Deliverables, item 020: The “description” column has text that does not appear to relate to taxes. Would NSF please clarify what information is requested? | The description shall read “The contractor shall provide an assessment (made by knowledgeable contractor personnel) of the available tax exemptions for state and local tax that may be applicable to purchases under this contract.” Section F.7 item 020 has been amended to reflect that. |
| 173 | Page 48, L.6.3.4 and Page 62, L.11.6.2.2, item b: L.6.3.4 indicates that offerors should submit an original paper copy and nine paper copies of Volume IV and 10 electronic copies. L.11.6.2.2 item b indicates that the Cost Model need be submitted in electronic copies only. We interpret these directions to mean that we will provide one original paper copy and nine paper copies of Volume IV, EXCLUDING the Cost Model, of which we will provide in ten electronic copies. Will NSF confirm that this is the correct interpretation? | Yes, this is correct interpretation. |
| 174 | Page 49, L6.3.6 indicates that all organization charts are excluded from the page count. As we have several organization charts included in our original proposal in Volume II, please confirm that these organization charts will not be included in the page count. | This is correct. These charts will not be included in the page count. |
| 175 | Page 54, Section L.9.2: There appears to be a typographical error in the first sentence of Section L.9.2, in which a closing parenthesis is missing. Is it the NSF’s intent that the PWS should be included in both Volume I and Volume II, and that the PWS should be formatted so that it corresponds with the WBS required by the NSF? | Typographical error has been corrected. Section L.9.2 Technical Approach has been revised to only require submittal of PWS in Volume II. Yes, Offeror should format PWS to correspond with the NSF WBS. |
| 176 | Page 60, Section L.11.6.1.2 Paragraph f): The second sentence requires offerors to “show how the proposed rates compare to current employees’ or category rates”. Please define “current employees or category rates”. If the definition requires comparison of proposed rates to the current incumbent employee rates, will the NSF provide information that details the current incumbent employee rates so that we can comply with this RFP requirement? | Current employees refers to individuals who are already under hire by the offeror i.e. Key Personnel or rates for categories of employees i.e. Electrician - Step 2). The comparison would show that the proposed rates are similar to rates that offeror pays to other employees that are working on other projects. Therefore, the offeror would have access to these employees’ rate information. We do not mean to use the term to refer to current employees that are incumbent contractor employees. |
| 177 | Section J, Attachment 11: Is it the NSF’s intention that the Transition be priced within the WBS? If so, will the NSF provide a WBS number for the Transition? | No, the transition shall be priced separately outside of the WBS. |
| 178 | Section J, Attachment 11, Paragraph 4.3.2 states that, “If necessary, the Contractor shall hire personnel scheduled for deployment to Antarctic for the Austral Winter period covered by Annual Program Plan Period One, and offer no less than the rates of pay and equivalent fringe benefits set forth in an individual’s employment contract.” Since the Contractor does not currently have access to the individual employment contracts issued by the incumbent, will the NSF provide salary information that can be used as the basis of estimate for Austral Winter employees during Annual Program Plan Period One? | NSF estimates winter over employees’ salary, compensation and fringe benefits at $10 million for APP period one. |
| 179 | Attachments L-9, L-10, and L-14: There are a few inconsistencies between the WBS numbers in Attachment L-14 and those in Attachments L-9 and L-10. For example, Attachments L-9 and L-10 have Multi-Media and the subsequent Level 5 elements as 1.3.4.2 and 1.3.4.2.x, respectively, whereas Attachment L-14 has the same elements labeled as 1.3.4.3 and 1.3.4.3.x. Shall we assume Attachments L-9 and L-10 are correct and revise Attachment L-14 to be consistent? | L-14 has been revised to agree with L-9 and L-10 in the WBS numbering scheme. The WBS titles should be consistent between the L-14 budgetary estimate and the L-9 and L-10 spreadsheets. |
| 180 | Is UV Monitoring part of the scope of this contract? If yes, which WBS element would you like us to use? | UV monitoring is no longer a part of the ASC contractor’s responsibilities. Support of the UV monitoring work is done through normal science support process now. |
| 181 | Attachment L-9, WBS 1.4.2.01 and 02: Please confirm that Engineering is required to support minor projects set forth in WBS 1.4.1.2.04, 05 and 06 is to be priced in WBS 1.4.3.01 and .02. | Engineering Support for 1.4.3.1.01 Engineering Division Management and 1.4.3.2.01 Engineering Services would be the WBS for Engineering Support for the Minor Projects. However, the engineering services required could encompass support to other WBSs too.  |
| 182 | Attachment L-11, Cost Model Pricing Instructions, Spreadsheet 1, Column S: Are we correct in understanding that we should provide data in Column S only when the prime contractor does not provide pricing data for subcontractors in the Cost Model because the subcontractor’s pricing is proprietary? | No.Attachment L-9 – Attachment L-11 SPREADSHEET 1 - Total Costs Prime ContractorColumn S – Consultants & Subcontractors In this spreadsheet, all subcontractor and consultant costs should be categorized as subcontractor and consultant costs and not be broken out into the major cost categories. Note that this is different from the treatment of subcontractor and consultant costs in the Summary of Total Costs IOSS spreadsheet discussed below.  |
| 183 | Attachment L-11, Cost Model Pricing Instructions, Spreadsheet 1, Column AC, – Major Construction and Special Projects: Are we correct in understanding that we should use the NTE amount provided by the NSF in CLIN XXX3.5 to complete this column? | Yes, Attachment L-9 Now Column AB is the CLIN XXXX.5 Major Construction and Special Project NTE @ $20M / year. |
| 184a | Since the requirements of Amendment 007 essentially call for the submittal of a new cost price proposal using new cost templates and WBS, please clarify that these instructions do not apply to Volume IV. Please also clarify that NSF does not desire for Volume IV to be printed on yellow paper.  | No track changes or yellow paper copies are required for Volume IV.  |
| 184b | If updates (font color and bars) are desired for Volume IV, please clarify that this requirement applies only to the Word files supporting Volume IV and not to the Excel spreadsheets since NSF has provided entirely new spreadsheets in L-9 and L-10 of Amendment 007 and Excel does not have the same track changes feature as Word.  | No track changes or yellow paper copies are required for Volume IV.  |
| 184c | Since the number of 11x17 pages in Volume II, Technical, is limited to 10, please clarify that if an Offeror desires to make changes to an 11x17 page that the struck-out or replaced 11x17 page does not count toward the overall 250 page limit or to the limit of 10 for 11x17s. | This is correct. |
| 184d | Regarding the 250 page limit for Volume II, Technical, please clarify that the page limit applies only to inserts or additions of new text to the proposal and that text that is deleted, replaced or struck-out does not count toward this overall page limit.  | This is correct. |
| 184e | If deleted, replaced or struck-out text does not count toward the overall page limit, would NSF desire a single copy of a “clean” version with all comments accepted by which to gauge whether the page count limit for Volume II has been met?  | Refer to RFP Amendment 8 Section L.6.3.2 of the RFP for revised instructions on the Volume II submission.  |
| 184f | Do the Cover Letter requirements regarding markouts and insertions/updates (font color and bars) apply to Volume I? | Yes, the requirements apply to Volume I.  |
| 185 (see also 197, 234, 242) | B.3 Price/Cost Schedule, SubCLIN 0001.A and SubCLIN 0001.B: Please clarify that the Transition-In period (CLIN 0001) is no longer than 180 days total, inclusive of SubCLIN 0001.A and SubCLIN 0001.B.  | Performance period for SubCLIN 0001.A is 60 days maximum. Performance period for SubCLIN 0001.B is 180 days maximum. Work under those SubCLINs can be performed concurrently. Total transition-in period is 180 days. Notice to proceed is required per Section J, Attachment 11 Section 1.2 |
| 186 | Section J, Attachment 11, Section 1.2 states “The Contractor shall sequence and schedule the work so that the work required by Paragraph Two and presentation of Contractor administrative and management systems to the Government for audit review as identified in Paragraph Three… are accomplished prior to beginning work set forth in the remaining paragraphs.” Section J, Attachment 11, Section 1.2 states “The Contractor shall sequence and schedule the work so that the work required by Paragraph Two and presentation of Contractor administrative and management systems to the Government for audit review as identified in Paragraph Three of the work statement are accomplished prior to beginning work set forth in the remaining paragraphs.”The hold point, sequence and schedule provision in Section 1.2 prohibits the successful offeror from initiating a number of transition activities that will minimize disruption to ongoing USAP operations to include:* Paragraph 4 – Workforce Recruiting and Hiring
* Paragraph 11 – Transition-In Reporting and Other Transition Activities

We believe it is in the best interest to the government to allow the selected Contractor to initiate incumbent employee contact at contract award to minimize anxiety, which mitigates increased risk to the NSF relative to uninterrupted operations, due to employee distractions.Paragraph 4 also includes Contract Deliverables Item 041 and 042, which are due within 30 days of contract award per the Schedule of Deliverables in Section F.7 of Amendment 007. We believe Section 1.2’s requirement prohibits the selected Contractor from working on those contract deliverables, until all of Paragraph 2 work and submission of Contract Deliverable Item 037 is complete.Would NSF authorize the selected Contractor to initiate all Transition-In activities at contract award to minimize the risk to the NSF concerning incumbent employee anxiety, and to allow comprehensive Human Resources activities and to enable work on SOW requirements such as the Transition-in Reporting requirement set forth in Paragraph 11? | Transition-In SOW has been amended to allow for those activities to start at contract award.  |
| 187 | F.7, Schedule of Contract Deliverables and Section J, Attachment 11: Please clarify the dues dates for the contract deliverables as there are several inconsistencies between the requirements in Section F.7 and Section J, Attachment 11, including Item 34a, Item 34f, and Item 39.  | Appropriate revisions have been made to Transition-In SOW and RFP. |
| 188 (see also 198) | RFP section B.3 CLIN 0001.B; Attachment L-10, worksheet “Transition-in FP T&M; Attachment L-11, page 3, paragraph 4: Please clarify the contract type for the Transition period SubCLIN 0001.B. It is variously referred to as an FP T&M, a T&M and a CR.  | SubCLIN 0001.B is a cost-reimbursable CLIN. All references to T&M have been removed from Attachment L-11. |
| 189 | RFP section F, item 032, part e; item 033, part c, item 035 parts e and g: requires submission of deliverables on October 10 of each year. Please confirm that these deliverables will first be required in 2012.  | 035.g - The questioner is incorrect. The initial submittal (i.e., the working concept) is a transition task (refer to Transition SOW §7.4.1.22) and is due 120 days following contract award. The final submittal is due approximately July 1, 2012, with updates as needed. The first submittal for deliverables 032e and 035e is in 2012. |
| 190 | RFP section F, item 034, item i states that the Legacy Systems Phase-out Plan’s initial concept is required 60 days after contract award and that the Government approved version of the final plan is “required 30 days prior to proposed start of phase-out” Please define what activities are included in “phase-out”.  | Phase-out activities will be those activities identified in the contractor Action Plan as accepted by NSF. |
| 191 | Section J, Attachment 11, Paragraph 3.3.3 requires presentation of the Material System to the Government for audit review within 2 months of the Transition-In start date.  Although the system architecture will be finalized by this date, full implementation, for example the replacement of MAPCOM, requires work at the USAP stations. As we understand that the NSF does not wish the contractor to plan on deploying the resources required for MAPCON replacement during the first two months of the Transition-In period, would NSF consider revising Section J, Attachment 11, Paragraph 3.3.3 to require submission of the Material System architecture only (and not a fully operational system) to the Government for audit review? | NSF has revised Section J, Attachment 11, and Paragraph 3.3.3 to require submission of the Material System architecture only (and not a fully operational system) to the Government for audit review. |
| 192 | Attachment L-9 WBS Element 1.2.4.2.xxx: Please confirm that Attachment L-9 WBS Element 1.2.4.2.xxx entitled “Project Specific Costs by Project Number” is a placeholder for the allocation of project-specific costs and that offerors are to identify the cost for this WBS element as “TBD”.  If this assumption is not correct, please provide the scope upon which an estimate can be based. | This assumption is correct. “Project Specific Costs by Project Number” is a placeholder for the allocation of project-specific costs and offerors are not required to price this WBS item. |
| 193a | Attachment L-10 Total Labor Staffing worksheet On the Total Labor Staffing worksheet, there are two tables. The first table, in cells A1:CH230, references the periods April 1, 2012 through Sept 30 2017.  The second table, SUMMARY OF TOTAL LABOR STAFFING BY WBS LEVELS 2 & 3 in cells L236:AC266, reflects the period April 1, 2012 through Sep 30 2024, and then includes in cell AB237, March 31 2010. Please clarify:Should cell AB237 have a value of March 31 2025 rather than March 31, 2010?   | The Table with cells ranging from A1 to CH230 provides for data at WBS level five for the first 5 ½ years of the contract. The table below at L236 to AC 266 provides for data for the entire period of performance at WBS level 3. The cell AB237 (AB 233) should read March 31, 2025.  |
| 193b | Attachment L-10 Total Labor Staffing worksheet On the Total Labor Staffing worksheet, there are two tables. The first table, in cells A1:CH230, references the periods April 1, 2012 through Sept 30 2017.  The second table, SUMMARY OF TOTAL LABOR STAFFING BY WBS LEVELS 2 & 3 in cells L236:AC266, reflects the period April 1, 2012 through Sep 30 2024, and then includes in cell AB237, March 31 2010. Please clarify:The first table (cells A1:CH230) requests data through Sept 30, 2017, while the second table requests data through 2024.  Would the NSF clarify that these are the appropriate date ranges?  | The table with cells ranging from A1 to CH230 provides for data at WBS level five for the first 5 ½ years of the contract. The table below at L236 to AC 266 provides for data for the entire period of performance at WBS level 3. The cell AB237 (AB233) should read March 31, 2025.The date range for the second table should be from April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2025 the entire period of performance with options. |
| 194 | Section L, Attachment L-12 Bill of Material (BOM): It is not clear what information offerors are to include in the column entitled “Delivery”. Could NSF clarify whether it is looking for the method/mode of delivery, the cost of delivery, the delivery location, or supplier availability/lead in this field?  | Date of delivery after receipt of order. |
| 195 | Section L, Attachment L-12 Bill of Material (BOM): Please clarify whether suitable substitutes are allowed consistent with the Buy America Act.  | For the purpose of this exercise the items for which manufacturer was provided cannot be substituted.  |
| 196 | Section L, Attachment L-14: Although we understand the high level descriptive titles for the below listed WBS elements, additional descriptive information would help to improve the accuracy of responses to Amendment 007.  Please provide the WBS Descriptions for the following WBS elements:  1.2.2.4.09 Long Duration Balloon (NASA) 1.3.1.1.02 SAS Department Support 1.4.2.5.07 Energy Conservation | The current version of Attachment L-14 does not have those WBS elements in it.  |
| 197 (see also 185, 234, 242) | Is it the Government’s expectation that all transition activities are completed within 180 days after Contract Award by allowing parallel efforts on sub-CLINS 0001.A and 0001.B after the Government notice to proceed with sub-CLIN 0001.B tasks? Please clarify.  | Performance period for SubCLIN 0001.A is 60 days maximum. Performance period for SubCLIN 0001.B is 180 days maximum. Work under those SubCLINs can be performed concurrently. Total transition-in period is 180 days. Notice to proceed is required per Section J, Attachment 11 Section 1.2 |
| 198 (see also 188) | In reference to RFP section B.3 CLIN 0001.B; Attachment L-10, worksheet “Transition-in FP T&M; Attachment L-11, page 3, paragraph 4 please clarify the contract type for the Transition period SubCLIN 0001.B. It is variously referred to as an FP T&M, a T&M and a CR.  | Transition In is Fixed Price and Cost Reimbursable – references to T&M have been removed from the L-11 Cost Model Instructions. |
| 199 | Attachment L-9 and L-10 – There are no instructions or limitations regarding formulas for calculating within or between the various Cost Model spreadsheets. May offerors develop formulas or will NSF prescribe formulas?  | Offerors may develop formulas within or between the cost model spreadsheets. |
| 200 | In reference to Attachment L-9 Total Price Prime Contractor please confirm that Column S should contain ALL costs for the subcontractor & consultant cost element including both proprietary subcontractor and non-proprietary summary (no detailed build up) costs. | Yes – all costs for subcontract & consultant including proprietary subcontracts in total. |
| 201 | In reference to Attachment L-9 Total Price Prime Contractor - WBS Element 1.2.4.2.xxx please confirm that Attachment L-9 WBS Element 1.2.4.2.xxx entitled “Project Specific Costs by Project Number” is a placeholder for the allocation of project-specific costs and that offerors are to identify the cost for this WBS element as “TBD”.  If this assumption is not correct, please provide the scope upon which an estimate can be based. | Yes, it is a placeholder within the WBS structure for Major Construction and Special Projects CLIN. |
| 202a | On the Total Labor Staffing worksheet, there are two tables. The first table, in cells A1:CH230, references the periods April 1, 2012 through Sept 30 2017.  The second table, SUMMARY OF TOTAL LABOR STAFFING BY WBS LEVELS 2 & 3 in cells L236:AC266, reflects the period April 1, 2012 through Sep 30 2024, and then includes in cell AB237, March 31 2010. Please clarify: Should cell AB237 have a value of March 31 2025 rather than March 31, 2010?   | Yes, the cell should read March 31, 2025 (now AB233). |
| 202b | The first table (cells A1:CH230) requests data through Sept 30, 2017, while the second table requests data through 2024.  Would the NSF clarify that these are the appropriate date ranges?  | The range (cells A1:CH230) requires level 5 data in the period of performance through Sept 30, 2017.  The second table starting L236 requires offeror to populate level 3 data for performance period through March 31, 2025.  Cell AB 237 will be revised to read March 31, 2025.(now AB233) |
| 202c | Is it NSF’s intention that the second table is populated with Direct Labor Costs similar to the costs captured in column “CA” through “CH” of the first table; summarized at WBS level 3 for all years of the program? | Yes |
| 203 | In reference to Attachment L-10, Total Labor Staffing the PREMIUM Costs column has a formula already populated with a cell reference \* 0 (e.g. AW11 \* 0 – where AW = Estimated Labor Costs). Is it NSF’s intention that the Offeror will write the necessary formula to present PREMIUM Costs? | Yes, dependent upon how premium pay is calculated. Hardship, deployment, retention. Offeror may use a formula or a dollar figure in the table. An additional spreadsheet may be provided to show how premium pay is calculated if not based on a percentage. There can be multiple ways that premium pay can be determined. |
| 204a | In reference to Attachment L-10 Total Labor Staffing Tab 1) Summary Total Costs, Column H – Staffing by Hours, if the Summary Total Costs worksheet is in fact a summary of the successive sheets within the workbook, which data/column in the Labor Staffing worksheet should be used to populate Column H – Staffing by Hours?  Labor Staffing, Annual Hours (Column X) or Labor Staffing, Estimated Labor Hours (Columns AN through AT)? | The summary should be based on estimated labor hours by contract year through column AN through AT, summed to WBS level 3.  |
| 204b | Additionally, what is the expectation of the data that should be populated in the following columns within the Attachment L10, Labor Staffing worksheet:* Annual Hours (Column X)?  Is this total annual productive hours, not normalized to 1880 hours?
* Estimated Labor Hours (Columns AN through AT)?  Is this total hours for the identified position within the identified WBS line item?
 | * Yes, estimated labor hours not normalized.
* Yes, these are total hours for the identified position within the identified WBS line item per contract year.
 |
| 205 | In reference to Attachment L-11, Cost Model Pricing Instructions,Spreadsheet 2 Cost Model Final Template, Treatment of Prime and Subcontractor (Proprietary and Nonproprietary) Costs please confirm the following with respect to subcontractor costs within the various worksheets in reference to Cost Model Final Template, Treatment of Prime and Subcontractor (Proprietary and Nonproprietary) Costs: * Proprietary - When Prime has access to provide subcontractor proposal details (non-proprietary info), …”Prime contractor should categorize these costs in the appropriate major cost categories under the Summary Total Costs and the fours subsidiary spreadsheet tabs”. For Non Labor EMO, this will result in the various non-labor costs within the non-proprietary sub proposal being included in the applicable non-labor types in Column H. By indicating the “Company” name in Column “M”, the specific non-proprietary cost for each non labor cost type, will be separately identified for all companies. When this splitting occurs, Prime will refrain from include the non-proprietary subcontractor proposed costs within the Column H Non-Labor Type “Subcontractor” to avoid double counting.
* Non-Proprietary – When Prime does not have access to subcontractor proposal details (proprietary info). Each proprietary subcontractor should complete a separate Cost Model Final Template for its proposal costs ONLY. In the case of Non Labor EMO, Column M would include ONLY the proprietary subcontractor “Company” Name.
* For purposes of identifying the proprietary subcontractor Cost Model Final Templates, is it acceptable to Name the file : “Cost Model Final Template - Proprietary SUBCONTRACTOR name”?
 | “Yes” to all bullets |
| 206a | WRT to Attachment L-11, Cost Model Pricing Instructions, Spreadsheet 1, Column S are we correct in understanding that we should provide data in Column S only when the prime contractor does not provide pricing data for subcontractors in the Cost Model because the subcontractor’s pricing is proprietary? | No – Total Costs Prime Contractor L-9 should include all subcontractors and consultants costs as subcontractor and consultant costs. |
| 206b | Please confirm that Column S should contain ALL costs for the subcontractor & consultant cost element including both proprietary subcontractor and non-proprietary summary (no detailed build up) costs.  | Yes |
| 207a | In reference to Attachment L-11, Cost Model Pricing Instructions, Spreadsheet 1, Column AC, – Major Construction and Special Projects, are we correct in understanding that we should use the NTE amount provided by the NSF in CLIN XXX3.5 to complete this column?  | Yes, but refence to column AB and CLIN XXXX.5 |
| 207b | Which WBS(s) do the NTE amounts align to? | The NTE amounts do not align to a WBS. They are not within the CLIN for IOSS. WBS 1.2.4.2.xxx within IOSS entitled “Project Specific Costs by Project Number” is a placeholder for the allocation of project-specific costs and need not be priced. |
| 208 | Please confirm that offeror proposals should include cost for construction, operation and maintenance of the Ice Runway. | Construction of the ice runway is an O&M activity. We’re moving to the consolidated runway concept, but we will need to make sure that offerors price building it. It’s currently an O&M activity in the area directorate, not a special project. |
| 209 |  Please confirm that construction of the McMurdo Ice Pier is a special project(s) that will be funded against CLIN XXXX.5 as required. | The construction and maintenance of the McMurdo ice pier is NOT a special project and is to be covered as an O&M tasking. This will not be funded under CLIN .5. For clarification only VERY BIG PROJECTS will ever be funded under X.5. |
| 210 | Section L.9.1.4 requires incorporation of a Deployment Matrix into Volume II, Section 1.  Please confirm that the matrix requires total number of employees (not Full Time Equivalents), by company, by week and by location. | Yes, we want head count of bodies on ice, not FTEs on ice broken across every job that exists. Your interpretation is correct. |
| 211 | How often does the Ice Pier at McMurdo need to be re-built? | The ice pier can last anywhere from 5 to 15 years depending on environmental conditions and the quality of maintenance it receives from the ASC contractor.  |
| 212 (see also 236) | In Section 11, Tab 3 – Non LaborCost of the Cost Model Instructionsthere appears to be an error in thedescription of the burdens. |  This is correct. “Equipment, Materials & Supplies, and Other Direct Costs (ODCs) and Subcontracts and Consultants” will be replaced with “Fringe, Overhead, G&A & Allocated Costs”  |
| 213 (see also 225) | Does the BOE information need to be included in the cost model? | There is no need to reproduce the BOE in the cost model. RFP Section L.11.6.2.2(b) has been amended to reflect that. |
| 214 | Do you expect paper copy submission of the cost model? | No, the cost model needs to be submitted electronically. Other Sections of Volume IV require hard copy submission. |
| 215 | Does yellow paper and track changes rule apply to Sections 1 and 3 of Volume IV? | Volume IV does not require track changes and yellow paper copies.  |
| 216 | In lieu of the fact that we are bidding to the NSF WBS there will be a lot of changes to the BOE (Section 1) of Volume IV. Would you consider not requiring the track changes for this Section? | Volume IV does not require track changes and yellow paper copies.  |
| 217 (see also 249) | In lieu of increase in the number of Past Performance references can the total number of pages in the Past Performance Volume be increased?  | Section L.6.3.3 has been amended to allow for that. |
| 218 | If an interdivisional company submits its own Attachment L-10, can their costs be displayed as a subcontract on the prime forms with their company name properly identified? | Interdivisional transfers or other arrangements are part of the proposed costs for the prime company and should not be treated as subcontracted costs in the prime’s L-9 spreadsheet. They should complete L-10 and use row P to designate IWTA organization that will be performing the work. |
| 219 | In the Summary Total Costs IOSS tab, do we need to provide totals at WBS level 2 in addition to totals by contract period? The spreadsheet only calls out 1.1 in the Base Period. | Yes, we would prefer that offerors subtotal the costs at WBS level 2 for each of the award periods. |
| 220 | In the Total Labor Staffing tab in Attachment L-10, please define the intent of the Baseline columns for hours, dollars, premium, and fringe benefits. | Intent was to provide a point to escalate from 2010 to 2012. However, as you point out these columns may not be needed for the factors other than the rate.  |
| 221 | The formulas in Column Q-W on the Non-Labor tab make it seem as though the baseline amount should be escalated. Is this the intent? What if quantities differ by contract year? | Offerors may utilize the budget estimates amounts provided by L-14. If the offeror anticipates different quantities by year then they may include the amount by year and do not need to use the formulas. |
| 222 | * Since the calculations for fringe benefits, overhead, G&A and any other allocated costs are based on a rate and base, what is the purpose of the Baseline column on the Burden Tab? Recommend that it be deleted or please specify the intent of this column.
* If baseline columns remain on the Burden tab, the formulas in columns O-T make it seem as though the baseline amount should be escalated. Is this the intent? What if the rates fluctuate each year by different amounts?
 | Offerors are not required to complete the baseline on the burden tab if they do not need to escalate from 2010 to 2012. We require that the column not be deleted for purposes of combining spreadsheets.  |
| 223 | Recommend that the Recurring/Nonrecurring and Project Code tabs be deleted from the burden tab, otherwise the burden cost will need to be generated for each employee ID and non-labor expense line. | In order to calculate total burdens for recurring and non-recurring costs and projects the offeror may utilize a separate spreadsheet by employee ID number. The Burden spreadsheet should show these costs by WBS, by recurring, non-recurring and project code.  |
| 224 | If our T&M subcontractors exceed $13.5M and are providing Cost Volumes with Attachment L-10, do we still need to show costs on the Subcontractor FFP Costs tab or can we show costs on the non-labor tab consistent with other subs? | If T&M subcontractors are providing L-10 then you do not need to include these costs on the Subcontractor FFP cost tab. They should be shown as subcontractor costs on the L-9 prime total costs spreadsheet.  |
| 225 (see also 213) | L.11.6.2.2 b Cost Model – “The basis of estimate (BOE) information used to calculate the total cost shall be included”. Are we expected to provide BOE information on the bottom of the cost model, if so what BOE information? Last time this was 462 pages MSWord of text.* If BOE stays on cost model versus cost volume then it is only received via electronic format.
* “The cost model and BOE information shall track between the proposed PWS and NSF WBS and shall cross reference to the SOO Functional areas. The L-10 cost model does not have a column for SOO do we need to add one?
 | The BOE narrative should remain in the cost volume as before. Additional footnotes for clarification or references to the BOE sections in the cost volume may be added in the cost model for explanatory purposes if needed. We do not intend that BOE information be repeated in the cost model. While the cost model does not contain a SOO column. RFP Section L-14 does include a cross reference matrix that would include this information. |
| 226 | Should WBS 1.3.1.1.02 SAS Department Support be included in Attachment L-14?  WBS 1.3.1.1.02 is included in Attachments L-9 and L-10, but is not included in Attachment L-14. | This was an error on our part. Offerors are not required to bid to WBS 1.3.1.1.02 SAS Department support. It has been removed from L-9 and L-10 spreadsheets. |
| 227 | L-10 is required to be filled out by subcontractors. There is no column on L-10 for the subcontractors to display their fee. Should the subcontractor fee be included on the Burdens tab under the “Any other Allocated Costs” section? | The award fee for the prime offeror can be displayed on the L-9 Total Cost Prime.Contractor If the subcontractors are sharing in the award fee, fee for subcontractors can be included there. If the subcontractor is receiving a fee that is not part of the award fee, offeror may insert additional rows for fee by WBS into this tab. Column G for the additional rows should be labeled as “Subcontractor Fee”. |
| 228 | L-10 requests staffing information by employee ID. Each year most employees in Antarctica are switched out with new employees performing the same work function. Is it alright for us to show the same position as only one employee ID? This will mean that in months when the position is over lapped with a new seasonal person the hours may be more than 1 FTE. | Yes, replacement personnel can use the same employee ID number for other contract years. For the same year each individual employee should receive a unique number.  |
| 229 | Are all contract travel costs captured in the “Any Other Direct Cost” column of L-14? | Yes |
| 230 | Section B.3, Price/Cost Schedule, CLIN 0000.3 and 00003.A: Please confirm charter expiration date for the R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer. Amendment 007 and cover letter state the NBP charter expires on September 30, 2012; Section J, Attachment 7 indicates 3/12/2012 | The Charter expires in March of 2012. The CLIN’s period of performance ends in September of 2012. Use the plug numbers for the Charter as provided in Section B of the RFP.  |
| 231 | L-14 WBS 1.2.3.2.03: Marine Science SupportThe WBS title says “Marine Science Support (aboard vessel RV Palmer)” and the WBS description includes “Marine Laboratory Technicians aboard research vessels...”Please confirm if this WBS element applies to the Laurence M. Gould and/or the Oden in addition to the Nathaniel B. Palmer. | Marine science techs are ALL marine science techs and are not ship specific. So it does include NBP, ODEN and also the Gould. These are guys that do technical support like run winches and seismic things. |
| 232 | Please clarify the difference between the following three WBS elements:WBS 1.2.2.4.01 Director Marine Science Operations RV,WBS 1.4.1.3.02 Palmer & Marine Area Directorate, andWBS 1.4.1.3.03 Palmer Area Directorate | WBS 1.2.2.4.01 Marine personnel, Special projects, Personnel on ice, TDY labor, Hull insurance for RV's, and Supplies, materials & services. It’s a catch-all for things that don’t fit the ship specific WBS area.WBS 1.4.13.02 Planning & coordination of support activities at Palmer & Vessels (on-site). Any dock-side support needed for ship (e.g. the “on site” part) would go here. Cranes, pier side thing that Palmer needs to support ships (any ships) etc. would go here. Examples include line for line handling, fenders for the pier, etc.WBS 1.4.1.3.03 Area Site Management & staff supervision, Office supplies, Supplies & Equipment, SAR equipment & spares and Sterilized rock from Chili for road maintenance. |
| 233 | In L-14 the WBS structure from 1.3.4.2.06 to the end of the IT section is out of sequence. The WBS’s do not match L-9. | The WBS numbering in the L-14 has been updated to agree with the L-9 spreadsheet.  |
| 234 (See also 185, 197, 242) | The expected period of performance for Transition-In is unclear to us. | Performance period for SubCLIN 0001.A is 60 days maximum. Performance period for SubCLIN 0001.B is 180 days maximum. Work under those SubCLINs can be performed concurrently. Total transition-in period is 180 days. Notice to proceed is required per Section J, Attachment 11 Section 1.2 |
| 235 | Reserved |  |
| 236 (see also 212) | Attachment L-11 Cost Instructions * Page 11, Tab 4 Burdens, description is same as Tab 3.
* Tab 5 can it be more descriptive on Fixed Price, what is and is not included?
 | * “Equipment, Materials & Supplies, and Other Direct Costs (ODCs) and Subcontracts and Consultants” will be replaced with “Fringe, Overhead, G&A & Allocated Costs” See also L-11 Page 3 bullet 4.
* This tab is created to allow for flexibility to accommodate various contract types to include firm fixed price, fixed unit price type subcontracts. If the offeror has this type of information available we would like to see as much detail as possible to provide visibility into proposed arrangements. We recognize that this could be offeror and subcontractor specific. Commercial pricing - market etc.
 |
| 237  | Columns Y – AF - show data required to be filled in for each line by contract period or is the data summarized at rows 260 -265? | * Column Y-AF (now Y-AE)is for Government furnished not-to-exceed amounts. The amounts need to be identified by contract period. Rows 260-265 should reflect summary amounts for the contract period.
* Please note CLIN for science support (column z) is no longer applicable and will be deleted in a subsequent amendment.
 |
| 238 | Attachment L-10 “Total Labor Staffing” worksheet:* Column V – X - for partial FTEs, are the productive weeks used to drive the other columns?
* Labor Costs + Premium Baseline (column BC) – can this column be blank as the calculation would be a percentage times the labor identified in columns Av – BA?
* Fringe Benefits Baseline (column BS) – It is our understanding that this column could have hours for SCA personnel and dollars for exempt personnel. Is this correct?
* Salary + Premium Pay + Fringe Benefits Baseline (Column CA), what is required for this column?
* For those subs with proprietary data, per the instructions they will submit their cost directly to the PCO, but how their staffing positions, headcount, staffing hours and costs should be included in the L-10? If there were several fixed price subcontractors is it the correct assumption that their data would go on the -10 “Transition-In and Fixed Price” worksheet. If this is incorrect, please provide clarification.
 | * Column V-X - Offeror shall provide direct labor hours AM-AT – seeking labor hours in addition to productive weeks.
* Labor Costs + Premium Baseline (BC)- Offeror can derive premium dollars based a calculation of percentage of direct labor. BC will be a sum of labor costs +premium pay. (Premium pay % x labor costs). Calculation of premium pay can be dependent on a number of factors – deployment pay, retention pay, hazardous duty pay. Actual calculation may be presented on separate spreadsheet. L-11 page 10
* Fringe Benefits Baseline (column BS) - This column is the dollar amount for each employee. SCA employees can receive FB $2.65 per hour as an example. Regular employees as % of DL. Refer to L-11 page 10 of the pricing instructions for additional spreadsheet to support your calculation if necessary.
* Column CA is the total cost of salary+premium pay +fringe benefits.
* In the technical volume, offeror shall provide staffing positions, headcount in the staffing matrix for the first full year of the contract. NSF will incorporate staffing positions, headcount, staffing hours and costs for subcontractor pricing that are submitted directly to NSF, with the offeror’s pricing. For subcontractor pricing not submitted directly to NSF, the offeror shall identify that information in the prime submittal. If proprietary info is to be provided directly to NSF, we will attempt to roll subcontractor data into prime data totals.
 |
| 239 | In reference to Attachment L-10 “NONLABOR EMO” worksheet:* The L-14 can be used to propose these costs, correct?
* Subcontracts section is for assumable subcontracts only?
* Also, there are no costs for assumable subcontracts.
 | * Yes. The amounts for materials, equipment, and ODCs can be used from L-14. Offerors can increment or decrement from those numbers with adequate explanation. Offeror shall still populate data in the EMO tab by WBS for out years. EMO tab also contains subcontracted costs which could be specific to the offeror. The prime should show the subcontracted amount and subcontract cost details if not proprietary. If proprietary, t the subcontractor shall provide a separate submission directly to NSF and NSF will combine/reconcile prime and subcontractor data.
* No.
* Not all assumable subcontract costs are included in the government furnished CLIN amounts.
 |
| 240 | In reference to Attachment L-10 “BURDENS” worksheet:* Can you describe what is required under column k (Escal Code)
* Please explain how this worksheet is supposed to work? Do we insert the number of rows used on the Total Labor Staffing” worksheet to calculate fringe benefits for each position proposed and link it back to columns BT – BY on the Total Labor Staffing” worksheet? Or is this calculation a roll-up number based upon some data? Can the government please provide the methodology needed for this calculation?
* Similar questions on how does the Overhead, G&A and Any Other Allocated costs are calculated?
 | * As an example, this column may be used for materials and supplies where an offeror proposes different escalation rates for different types of commodities. If it is not applicable for the Burden tab, Offerors may mark this column as reserved.
* This should be a roll up by each WBS number by recurring and non-recurring, by project and not by position. Offeror may include separate spreadsheets to support the calculation of overhead, G&A. Fringe should be calculated in the total labor staffing tab.
* For Overhead , G&A & Any Other Allocated Costs are calculated in accordance with offeror/subcontractors’ disclosed accounting practices and separate spreadsheets may be provided to support those calculations.
 |
| 241 | In reference to Attachment L-10 “Transition-In and Fixed Price” worksheet:* If there were several subcontractors who are fixed price, does their subcontract cost data go on this page?
* Can another sheet similar be created for the Transition-In that is CR?
 | * Yes with as much data as possible
* Yes
 |
| 242 (see also 185, 197, 234) | Transition-in CLIN, is CLIN “A” 60 days prior to the starting of CLIN “B”? If yes would a start date of 1 August be logical? | Performance period for SubCLIN 0001.A is 60 days maximum. Performance period for SubCLIN 0001.B is 180 days maximum. Work under those SubCLINs can be performed concurrently. Total transition-in period is 180 days. Notice to proceed is required per Section J, Attachment 11 Section 1.2 |
| 243 | Do we request wage determinations from the PCO or go the web site and pull down?  | Updated wage determinations were posted to FedBizOpps.com on Oct 29, 2010.  |
| 244 | X-Ref Matrix contains a column for “EN Number” reference. Is this new column required? | Yes |
| 245 | Section L.6.3.4 states 10 printed copies need to be submitted whereas L.11.6.2.2b states submission will be in electronic copies. We hope the submission is electronic. | Original and copies of Cost Model L9 and L10 need to be submitted electronically only. |
| 246 | Can the revised proposal submission date be extended by two weeks? | The date for submission of revised proposals remains December 6, 2010. |
| 247 | Can 11x17 fold-out sheets be added to the Project Proposal Form and is there a limit on the number? | 11x17 sheets can be added to the Project Proposal form and there is no limit on how many. |
| 248 | Can the total number of 11x17 fold-out sheets that can be added to the Technical Volume be increased? | RFP has been amended to allow up to 15 fold-outs in the Technical Volume.  |
| 249 (see also 217) | In lieu of increase in the number of Past Performance references can the total number of pages in the Past Performance Volume be increased?  | Section L.6.3.3 has been amended to allow for that. |
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