

Frequently Asked Questions

NAIS Increment 2 Request for Proposal (RFP)

Updated: August 23, 2007

After releasing a draft NAIS Statement of Work (SOW) and Performance Specification (PSPEC) in December 2006, the Coast Guard received many questions and comments from industry. We sincerely appreciate the feedback provided. We have reviewed every question and comment received, and we are considering them all. Although we will not be providing specific responses to each question or comment on the draft documents, the final RFP will reflect our consideration of this input. To assist industry in preparing for the RFP release, we have developed the following responses to the most frequently asked questions regarding the NAIS Increment 2 RFP.

1. When will the RFP be released to industry and what is the anticipated proposal development period?

The RFP is expected to be released early November 2007. The RFP and all associated documents will be available via the NAIS RFP website at: www.naisproject.net following release of the formal synopsis. Industry will have about 90 days to prepare and submit a proposal to the Coast Guard for consideration.

2. How will the Coast Guard procure Increment 2?

The Coast Guard will procure the NAIS Increment 2 capability in a two-phased approach. The first procurement, which will be the subject of the RFP targeted for release in November 2007, will be a full and open competition (i.e., the DHS EAGLE contract will not be used) and will be awarded to a single offeror, selected under best-value consideration, to design, develop, integrate, test and implement the core NAIS capability to reach Initial Operational Capability. Options will exist under the first procurement for follow-on systems engineering, site selection, equipment delivery and initial logistics support services to support the Government in reaching Full Operational Capability (FOC). The Coast Guard intends to procure the NAIS core design, interface control documents and associated data rights under the first procurement to facilitate deployment of the NAIS design solution nationwide under a second procurement action. The second procurement is expected to be a multiple-award contract for remote site work and installations to establish the nationwide coverage for FOC.

2A. Will contractor team members who participate in design, development, integration, testing and/or deployment of the Initial Operating Capability under the 1st award (Increment 2 Phase 1) be considered eligible for award for the Phase II RFP for remote site work and installations?

The contractor for Phase I of Increment 2 will be able to compete for the Phase II requirement.

3. What are the designated Initial Operating Capability (IOC) Sectors?

Coast Guard Sectors Delaware Bay, Hampton Roads and Mobile (not including coverage of the western rivers) are the designated IOC Sectors. We intend to provide the locations and characteristics of existing government-owned or leased radio frequency (RF) sites within the three designated IOC Sectors as part of the RFP.

4. Is use of Increment 1 as part of Increment 2 a requirement?

No. Use of Increment 1 in the Increment 2 solution is not a specific requirement. We will seek a design solution that meets the PSPEC at the lowest total cost and is the best value to the Government. We intend to make as much Increment 1 design and deployment information as possible available with the RFP, so that offerors may consider if and how reuse of the existing Increment 1 capability provides the best value to the Coast Guard. There are common capabilities and elements associated with Increments 1 and 2, including: the network backbone, Coast Guard Data Network Plus / DHS OneNet; the System Operations Center at the Coast Guard Navigation Center in Alexandria, VA; and, the data storage and processing center at the Coast Guard Operations Systems Center in Martinsburg, WV. As part of the core NAIS design and implementation, the Contractor will, at a minimum, have to plan for and address transitioning from Increment 1 to Increment 2 capability where an Increment 1 receive site exists and incorporating the Increment 1 data feeds into the NAIS Increment 2 enterprise data center (e.g., data processing, storage, archive and retrieval).

5. What types of Government Furnished Information (GFI) will be provided to industry?

In general, we intend to provide as much information as we can with regard to existing government infrastructure and capability relevant to this project. As examples, we will be providing a listing of, and details on, all existing Coast Guard RF sites located in the IOC Sectors; a technical data package for the Increment 1 system design and details for all Increment 1 sites; and, descriptive documents on CGDN+, DHS OneNet, OSC and NAVCEN.

6. What specific information will be made available regarding Rescue 21?

We intend to provide a complete listing of all Rescue 21 sites that have been accepted by the Coast Guard within the designated IOC Sectors. Also, we intend to provide the results of testing the Coast Guard recently completed on the performance of an AIS base station installed at the Rescue 21 site in Cape May, NJ. Finally, we are considering holding a site visit at the Cape May Rescue 21 site during the proposal development period.



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7. Will foreign competition be allowed to participate in the development of Increment 2?

Yes, foreign competition will be allowed. However, FAR 52.225-13 (Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases) will apply to the Contractor and any subcontractors.

8. What is the applicability of the SAFETY Act to NAIS?

The NAIS, as a system, may qualify under the SAFETY Act as a Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology. We are currently preparing a Procurement Pre-Qualification Request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to issue a Pre-Qualification Designation Notice. A Pre-Qualification Designation Notice, if granted by DHS, will permit the successful offeror to submit a streamlined application and to receive expedited review of its application for designation and liability protection under the SAFETY Act. Additional information on the SAFETY Act is available at www.safetyact.gov.

9. Will site visits be allowed and coordinated during the proposal development period?

Yes, we are planning to hold at least one site visit during the proposal development period. We are considering holding up to three, including one at the Coast Guard Operations Systems Center, one at the Coast Guard Navigation Center, and one at a Rescue-21 site. The location(s) and other details are being developed and will be provided with the RFP .

10. Will demonstrations be required?

We are considering making demonstrations a requirement.

11. Will Increment 2 be required to work with the Department of Defense's Net-Centric Enterprise Services (NCES)?

Yes. The NCES has been successfully tested by the Maritime Domain Awareness Community of Interest (MDA COI) as a possible U.S. Government-wide service-oriented architecture (SOA) infrastructure solution for AIS information sharing. It is expected that NCES will receive information from NAIS; however, NCES will not provide a SOA infrastructure (e.g., an enterprise service bus) for NAIS and the Coast Guard. An offeror should consider NCES as an external system that NAIS must provide an interface to, but not rely on for any of the capabilities required in the PSPEC. An offeror will be required to propose SOA infrastructure components necessary to deliver the NAIS capabilities required in the Performance Specifications. As plans for a Coast Guard and DHS SOA infrastructure are still maturing at the current time, an offeror will be required to provide a conceptual design that is sufficiently flexible and adaptable to accommodate alternate SOA implementations. An offeror will be expected to establish the flexibility and adaptability of their design by documenting service interfaces and demonstrating the modularity, componentization, openness, and separation (i.e., decoupling) of user-facing services. Ideally, an offeror's design will require only minimal recoding of "adapters" and "wrappers" to adjust service interfaces to meet a possible change in SOA infrastructure components.

12. Will the NAIS program equip Coast Guard Sector Command Centers with [GIS] displays to view track plots?

Sector Command Centers will utilize a track view GIS application that will have the ability to view AIS messages. The NAIS program is not expected to provide users (Sector Command Centers et al.) with any track viewing software. An offeror's design is expected to deliver tracks, AIS Messages, and other NAIS data to users via SOA subscription services. These data provisioning services should be completely decoupled from the internal application systems, subsystems and components of an offeror's proposed solution. An offeror is required to deliver these services along with documentation clearly defining and describing the interfaces and calling procedure to these services. These services should be sufficiently open, modular, and implement industry-standard protocols to be called by any application integrated with the Coast Guard SOA infrastructure.

13. How will non-Coast Guard users access information from the NAIS database?

As part of Increment 2's SOA, NAIS will provide services that will enable authorized users to query the NAIS database or obtain a tailored feed of AIS data. See question 11 and 12, above, for more information.

14. Will long-range AIS reception be included in the Increment 2 contract?

No. Long-range AIS reception (beyond 50 nautical miles to 2,000 nautical miles) will be part of a separate (Increment 3) contract.

15. Will Increment 2 software be required to encrypt or decrypt AIS messages?

No. The NAIS software will not be required to perform these functions.

