



Electronic Request for Proposal SOLICITATION COVER PAGE

OFFERORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ROUTINELY CHECKING THE NIAID WEBSITE FOR ANY POSSIBLE SOLICITATION AMENDMENTS THAT MAY BE ISSUED. NO ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION OF ANY AMENDMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THIS OFFICE.

Purchase Authority: Public Law 92-218, as amended.			
NOTE: The issuance of this solicitation does not commit the government to an award.			
RFP Number: NIH-NIAID-DAIDS-01-09	Just In Time: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Small Bus. Set-Aside <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 8(a) Set-Aside <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No SIC Code: 8731 Size Standard: 500 employees	Level of Effort: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Total Effort: N/A
TITLE: "HLA Typing and Epitope Mapping to Guide HIV Vaccine Design"			
Issue Date: March 27, 2000	Due Date/Time: June 30, 2000; 4:00 PM, EST	Technical Proposal Page Limits: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes [NTE <u>50</u> pages] <input type="checkbox"/> No	
ISSUED BY: Dee Dee Moss, Contract Specialist NIH, NIAID, DEA Contract Management Branch 6700-B Rockledge Drive MSC 7612, Room 2230 Bethesda, MD 20892-7612	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>We reserve the right to make awards without discussion.</i>		
	NO. OF AWARDS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Only 1 Award <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Awards	PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: Five (5) Years beginning on or about February 1, 2001.	
Offers will be valid for 120 days unless a different period is specified by the Offeror on the form entitled "Proposal Summary and Data Record, NIH-2043" (See SECTION J - Attachments)			
The Official Point of Receipt for the purpose of determining timely delivery is the Contract Management Branch as stated above. If your proposal is not received by the Contracting Officer or Designee at the place and time specified, then it will be considered late and handled in accordance with PHS Clause 352.215-10 entitled "Late Proposals, Modifications of Proposals and Withdrawals of Proposals" located in this Solicitation.			
POINT OF CONTACT -- <u>Dee Dee Moss</u> [COLLECT CALLS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.]			
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This is a listing of General Clauses which will be applicable to most contracts resulting from this RFP. However, the organizational structure of the successful offeror(s) will determine the specific General Clauses listing to be contained in the contract(s) awarded from this RFP.

ARTICLE I.1. GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A COST-REIMBURSEMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT - FAR 52.252-2, CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEBRUARY 1998)

ARTICLE I.1. GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A NEGOTIATED COST-REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS – FAR 52.252-2, CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEBRUARY 1998)

ARTICLE I.1. GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A NEGOTIATED COST-REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS - FAR 52.252-2, CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEBRUARY 1998)

Any authorized additions, substitutions and/or modifications other than the General Clauses will be based on the type of contract/Contractor and will be determined during negotiations.

9. [LIST OF ATTACHMENTS](#) - (SECTION J):
10. [REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER STATEMENTS OF OFFERORS OR QUOTERS \(NEGOTIATED\)](#) - (SECTION K)

If you intend to submit a proposal, you MUST complete this document and submit it as part of your Business Proposal. If you are unable to access this document electronically, you may request a copy from the Contracting Officer identified on the cover page of this solicitation.

11. [INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS AND NOTICES TO OFFERORS - \(SECTION L\)](#)
 1. General Information
 2. Instructions to Offerors:
 - a. General Instructions
 - b. Technical Proposal Instructions
 - c. Business Proposal Instructions

BACKGROUND/STATEMENT OF WORK

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BACKGROUND

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) supports a comprehensive portfolio of grant and contract resources to discover, develop and evaluate potential vaccines to prevent and treat infections caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1).

The aim of this research is to facilitate, and to support the design and testing of a relevant HIV-1 vaccine candidate. This is to be accomplished by evaluating, at one or more international location(s), the immune responses of individuals infected or vaccinated with non-clade B HIV-1. In addition, at domestic locations, there will be evaluations of the immune responses of clade B HIV-1 infected non-Caucasians. Prototypic isolates of clade B HIV-1 predominate in the industrialized world. To date, all HIV-1 vaccines have been based on subtype B HIV-1 and most phase I/II trials have been conducted in countries where subtype B HIV-1 predominates. However, a potential limitation to the global use of subtype B-based vaccines is that the highest rates of new infections involve non-subtype B HIV-1 in populations in developing countries. There is a great need to develop vaccines effective in these populations as such vaccines will have the greatest effect on the worldwide HIV-1 epidemic. At present, little is known about the range and diversity of the genetic and ethnic backgrounds of HIV-1 infected persons or how genetics and ethnicity affect immune responses to HIV-1. A clearer understanding of cellular and humoral immune responses in diverse populations is required to develop appropriate HIV-1 vaccine candidates; to plan future vaccine trials in countries where non-subtype B strains of HIV-1 predominate and; in populations with different HLA backgrounds.

While the correlates of immune protection against HIV-induced disease remain elusive, there is strong evidence from both HIV-infected humans and SIV-infected macaques that cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) may play a critical role in protection. The process by which CTL lyse virus-infected cells is specific and involves the interaction of the HLA molecule with peptide sequences, or “epitopes”, present in the virus. In that regard, selecting an HIV vaccine strain best suited for a particular population may need to take into account the predominant HLA type(s) and the circulating virus subtype(s) in that population. The predominant HLA type found in a population will depend largely on the ethnic makeup of that population. In addition, HIV is a highly variable virus, and the peptide sequences that identify CTL epitopes may differ between virus strains and subtypes. Therefore, the viral epitopes that trigger a protective response may differ depending on the HLA type of the individual and the genetic subtype of the infecting virus.

The results from this project should define the immunologic consequences resulting from the interactions of various HLA genetic backgrounds and the antigenic epitopes of different HIV-1 strains in populations in the study areas. This information should facilitate the development and testing of an HLA-based HIV-1 vaccine. This contract is to support: a) DNA-based molecular HLA typing of selected HIV seropositive and seronegative populations at domestic and international vaccine trial sites; b) the identification and mapping of CTL epitopes that are restricted by common HLA types; c) the identification and characterization of HIV-clade variants that are circulating in cohorts in the locations of vaccine trials; and d) the establishment of a database of HLA-types, associated T cell epitopes, and viral variants that will guide HIV vaccine design, the prediction of immune responses, and assay development.

STATEMENT OF WORK

Independently, and not as an agent of the Government, the Contractor shall furnish all necessary services, qualified personnel, materials, equipment, and facilities needed to perform the work described below.

- 1) Establish a research and administrative team that includes all expertise needed to: perform DNA-based molecular HLA typing in selected seropositive and seronegative populations; perform an array of immunologic assays, in particular CTL assays, identify CTL epitopes and their respective HLA-restricting elements; perform HIV sequence analysis of the HIV viral variants in the geographic location(s) of the cohort to be vaccinated, and establish a database of the immunogenetic, immunologic and virologic information. [Table 1](#) summarizes the Government expectations of the Offeror.

[NOTE #1 TO OFFEROR: The Government is aware that no single organization or institution may have the expertise and facilities required to perform all requirements set forth in this statement of work. Therefore, it may be necessary for the Contractor to subcontract a portion of the work. Moreover, since the Government is seeking to support the acquisition of data from potential international vaccine sites, only the primary Contractor is limited to a domestic institution or organization. Subcontracting to foreign sites is encouraged. The review and selection criteria to be employed by the Contractor for adding additional SubContractors should be clearly defined.]

- 2) Secure, receive, catalog, process and store uninfected and HIV-infected samples that may include: whole blood, frozen blood mononuclear cells, other tissues, and virus culture supernatants from both domestic and international potential HIV Vaccine Trial Units (HVTU's) of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN). In the proposal, the Offeror should describe a plan indicating a rationale for sample selection, and how the samples shall be delivered to the contract site in a timely manner. The sample supplier shall arrange for samples to be shipped from the supplier directly to the Contractor. The handling and transportation of all samples under this contract shall be in accordance with all applicable local, state, Federal and international regulations including health and safety standards. All samples received by the Contractor shall be accompanied by a data report form (DRF) containing epidemiological information that will include the subject's age, sex, risk factors, approximate date of infection, and other medical history deemed pertinent by the Project Officer. No personal identifiers will be included. Data capture forms used for this purpose shall be developed by the Contractor and are subject to approval by the Project Officer. The Contractor shall:
 - a) Develop a plan, subject to modification by the Project Officer, to acquire samples from international or domestic HVTU sites. The Contractor or SubContractor will be required to utilize these samples to perform an array of molecular HLA-typing, immunologic and virologic assays that are specified in [3-7] below.
 - b) Define and ensure adherence to guidelines, and if necessary train investigators of the most suitable manner for freezing and shipping samples and assist, when necessary, in arranging for the transfer of virus-infected samples from designated sites to the Contractor site. All shipments shall be coordinated so that viability of the samples is not adversely affected and shall adhere to all safety regulations.
 - c) If necessary, ship containers to sites providing frozen samples. The shipping containers must provide a sufficient margin of safety for maintaining appropriate environmental safeguards and desired refrigeration levels for specific products in transit, depending on the mode of transportation.
 - d) Obtain the appropriate licenses and permits required by local, state, and Federal authorities for the safe import, handling, storage and distribution of biohazardous samples.
 - e) Obtain documentation from the sample supplier to ensure specimens acquisition in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations 45 CFR 46.
 - f) Process incoming samples according to Standard Operating Procedures approved by the Project Officer that shall include, but are not limited to, the separation and aliquotting of cells, plasma and serum.
 - g) Develop and validate a computer-based inventory and distribution database to track samples and activities under this contract, for example, condition and volume of sample, temperature maintained in transit, method of processing, storage conditions, specific storage location.

- h) Transfer to the computer-based inventory and distribution database, and compile, all data from epidemiological data capture forms that accompany each sample.

[NOTE #2 TO OFFEROR: Domestic sample suppliers will include, but are not limited to, NIAID-funded investigators in major metropolitan areas throughout the U.S. International sample suppliers will include, but are not limited to, NIAID grantees funded through the HVTUs. The need for the Contractor to supply shipping containers will be minimal and will be limited to foreign suppliers who do not have access to such materials. For the purposes of preparing a budget, assume receipt of approximately 400 samples/year, 300 from an international location and 100 from within the United States of America. Samples shall include, but are not limited to: fresh whole blood (10-15 ml collected in the presence of anti-coagulant and 10-15 ml collected in the absence of anti-coagulant) or frozen tissues including blood cells, serum and plasma, and frozen virus culture supernatants.]

- 3) Determine HLA class I (A, B and C) genotypes in the samples received and determine their allelic distribution.
 - a) Extract DNA from blood or tissue samples from HIV-infected and control samples.
 - b) Perform HLA Class I typing by the technique of low resolution DNA molecular analysis on all samples.
 - c) Based on the evaluation in (b), and in conjunction with the Project Officer, identify an appropriate subset of samples for further examination by high resolution molecular DNA HLA typing.
 - d) Evaluate the data to determine if there is an association between one or more allele groups and a particular event or outcome.
 - e) With the knowledge that HIV-1 typically infects CD4+ HLA class II cells, provide technical protocols and peer-reviewed publications of ability to perform molecular HLA class II typing.

[NOTE #3 TO OFFEROR: The Offeror shall submit in the Technical Proposal a detailed protocol for molecular typing of HLA class I. All HLA Laboratory typing protocols must comply with the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) gold standard regulations. The Offeror shall also submit in the Technical Proposal a detailed protocol for molecular typing of HLA class II should it be necessary to initiate this capability at a later stage. No costs should be proposed at this time for the HLA class II typing.]

[NOTE #4 TO OFFEROR: For the purposes of preparing a budget, the Offeror should assume typing approximately 200 HIV+ samples and 100 HIV- samples by low resolution, and 50 HIV+ and 25 HIV- samples by high resolution per year.]

- 4) Determine CTL activity using state-of-the-art technologies, for example, CTL killing, ELISPOT, or intracellular cytokine staining and assess the specificity of the CTL responses (intra and inter-subtype cross-reactivity. To ensure comparability of results with other DAIDS-sponsored CTL studies, the Offeror shall employ common key reagents, such as recombinant vaccinia viruses expressing HIV gene products, and peptides from the AIDS Research and Reference Repository.
 - a) For each individual to be typed, produce an EBV-transformed B lymphoblastoid cell line (BLCL) to serve as target cells in the CTL assays.
 - b) For CTL killing assays: perform bulk culture HIV specific CTL responses by polyclonal stimulation and with multi-gene HIV clade specific antigens, expressed from recombinant pox virus or with peptide pools.
 - c) Perform CTL killing assays using a panel of clade specific recombinant vaccinia viruses expressing HIV gene products such as envelope, gag, pol and nef as the source of antigen. The Contractor is responsible for deciding and obtaining the appropriate vaccinia constructs expressing HIV-1 genes for performing the assays.
 - d) Determine CTL cross clade killing reactivity at a polyclonal level.

- e) Isolate CTL clones for detailed analysis.
- f) Develop a plan to standardize CTL assays by cross-testing of cells from established DAIDS clinical trial networks.

[NOTE #5 TO OFFEROR: The Offeror shall describe in detail his/her technical approach for evaluating CTL activity by providing a currently used protocol, as well as peer reviewed published papers. This protocol should include a description of the experimental design (sequence in which various types of studies will be carried out), and a description of the methods to carry out evaluations. A rationale for the design, based on statistical considerations, if appropriate, should be provided as well as a discussion of potential logistical problems and possible solutions. Many of the required reagents are available through the AIDS Research and Reference Repository (operated by McKesson BioServices, 621 Lofstrand Lane, Rockville, MD 20850). For the purposes of preparing a budget, the Offeror shall assume that CTL assays will be carried out on 100 samples/year and 100 BLCL lines need to be produced/year. For QA/QC testing of CTL assays, the Project Officer will co-ordinate the acquisition and supply of appropriate samples from DAIDS-supported clinical networks.]

- 5) Map CTL epitopes restricted by HLA types.
 - a) Determine MHC restriction of CTL responses through the use of HLA matched and mis-matched BLCL targets.
 - b) Map CTL epitopes restricted by common HLA types to identify epitope rich regions and/or immunodominant CTL epitopes.
 - c) Identify CTL epitopes that are restricted preferentially by a single HLA allele.
 - d) Fine map epitopes utilizing peptides in CTL killing or ELISPOT assays.
 - e) Determine CTL cross clade reactivity of specific epitopes at a clonal level.

[NOTE #6 TO OFFEROR: The Contractor shall devise a scheme for deciding the order and process for mapping CTL epitopes restricted by the most common HLA alleles. For the purposes of preparing a budget, the Offeror should plan on mapping 75 CTL epitopes /year.]

- 6) Perform HIV isolation, expansion and characterization from samples supplied to the Contractor.
 - a) Obtain and prepare uninfected human donor PBMCs for use in co-cultures with virus-infected PBMCs or other virus-infected tissue or fluid.
 - b) Isolate HIV-1 or related lentiviruses from acquired samples in human PBMC co-cultures or other state-of-the-art culture procedures as approved in conjunction with the Project Officer.
 - c) Monitor virus growth by HIV-1 p24 antigen capture analysis or other methods approved by the Project Officer.
 - d) Expand cultures and perform titer analyses in human PBMC cultures in quantities that are sufficient for genetic sequence analysis.
 - e) Identify the virus subtype by heteroduplex mapping analysis (HMA) or other state-of-the-art procedure as approved by the Project Officer.
 - f) Perform genetic sequencing of regions of the virus containing CTL responsive epitopes.

[NOTE #7 TO OFFEROR: In the technical proposal, the Offeror shall provide sample protocols together with documentation of their experience in performing these protocols, for example, peer reviewed papers. For the purposes of preparing a budget, the Offeror shall assume that virus isolation attempts will be carried out on 300 samples/year, that virus expansions will be required for approximately 150 isolates/year, that HMA analysis will be conducted on 150 isolates/year, and that genetic sequencing will be conducted on 75 isolates/year.]

- 7) Establish a database.
 - a) Electronically compile HLA molecular typing data with CTL epitope data and virus sequencing data of CTL epitopes. Align all nucleotide sequence data, translate nucleotide sequence data into amino acid sequences and align. Verify the integrity of genetic sequences by comparing them with known HIV sequences to insure that the sequences produced are HIV-specific and represent the proper gene fragment.
 - b) Analyze immunogenic, immunologic and virologic data to search for trends with regard to particular HLA alleles and disease progression or non-progression, and the conservation of CTL epitopes within a viral subtype and across viral subtypes.
 - c) Transfer all immunogenetic, immunologic and genetic sequence data in an electronic format that is compatible with information in the NIAID HIV Database to the NIAID HIV Database and Analysis Unit (HDAU) frequently, and work with the HDAU on format from the inception of contract work to ensure data centralization and compatibility. The Project Officer shall ensure that the data is widely available to the scientific community in a timely manner.

[NOTE #8 TO OFFEROR: All providers of samples and investigators who have contributed directly to the data generation will be cited, either by authorship or acknowledgement of their contributions. The data will remain the property of NIAID. In addition, sequence data and genetic clones may be made available by the Project Officer to vaccine manufacturers as needed.]

- 8) Communicate effectively with the Project Officer.
 - a) Establish a means of electronic communication with the Project Officer sufficient to support the daily exchange of Email and the submission of data files and reports to the Project Officer when requested.
 - b) Provide bi-monthly updates of sample acquisition via fax or Email.
 - c) Submit reports in accordance with the Reporting Requirements and Deliverables section incorporated into this RFP.
 - d) The Contractor's key personnel shall meet with the Project Officer and the External Advisory Committee assigned to this Contract at the Contractor's site annually to discuss contract data and progress.
- 9) Maintain a safe worksite, in accordance with the Safety and Health Clause incorporated in this contract, the Offeror's Safety and Health Plan, and all applicable Federal, State, and Local health and safety regulations. The Offeror shall possess and follow a Safety and Health Plan for compliance with all relevant Federal, State, and Local guidelines and regulations regarding exposure to hazardous chemicals drugs and potentially harmful and/or infectious biological materials. The plan shall include discussions of such topics as training and monitoring of personnel, the use of protective garments and equipment by personnel, and protocols for dealing with chemical and biological spills and accidents. A copy of the plan shall be submitted in an appendix to the Technical Proposal. The Safety and Health Clause of this solicitation should be consulted for additional information.
- 10) Ensure an orderly transition of contract-related materials to a successor Contractor or to the Government.
 - a) Six months prior to the expiration date of this contract, a transition plan shall be submitted to the Project Officer for approval.

- b) All original data and selected contract-purchased, Government-titled equipment, shall be delivered by the expiration date of this contract to a location(s) specified by the Project Officer.
- 11) Any manuscript or scientific meeting abstract containing data generated under this contract shall be submitted for review to the NIAID Project Officer before submission for public presentation or publication. Contract support shall be acknowledged in all such publications. A "publication" is defined as an issue of printed material offered for distribution or any communication or oral presentation of information. The Project Officer will review all manuscripts/abstracts in a period of time not to exceed 30 calendar days from receipt, and will either agree to the publication/ disclosure or recommend changes.
- 12) Should patents arise from this contract, they will be subject to federal law governing inventions. Every patent applicant (individual or institutional) is required to provide the Government with a non-exclusive, irrevocable, paid-up license to the invention.

Table 1

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Scientific Area	Experimental Expertise	Anticipated Outcome
Specimen selection	Knowledge of Population Genetics, Epidemiology and Immunogenetics; familiarity with scientific, ethical and managerial issues surrounding acquisition and use of human specimens	Acquisition of a total of 400 HIV+ and HIV- specimens per year from domestic and international sites
Immunogenetics	Ability to extract DNA and perform and interpret high and low resolution DNA molecular typing	High (75 samples) and low (300 samples) resolution DNA-based HLA typing of human specimens and relationship between allele groups and outcome
Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte Assays	Ability to perform bulk and clonal CTL assays, establish EBV-transformed B lymphoblastoid cell lines, isolate CTL clones, and map CTL epitopes	100 CTL assays, 100 BLCL lines, and mapping 75 CTL epitopes per year
Virus Sequencing	Ability to isolate and expand HIV-1 and sequence CTL epitope rich regions	A sequence database of conserved and variable viral CTL epitopes
Database Management	Ability to establish and manage a database in a format compatible with existing NIAID databases. Frequent transfer of data to NIAID HIV Database and Analysis Unit for integration, manipulation and analysis into a comprehensive user-friendly database	A database of HLA types, CTL epitopes and viral variants for use by the vaccine research community

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND DELIVERABLES

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The Contractor shall submit bi-monthly sample acquisition reports as well as 2 semi-annual reports per year that include, at a minimum, the information specified below. All reports shall be submitted as hard copies, and in electronic form, as computer files, in Microsoft Word™ version 7.0 for Windows and Microsoft Excel™ version 7.0 for Windows, with formats readable with an IBM-type personal computer. Files shall be sent by Email or on 3.5 inch discs by US mail or courier service. All reports shall be archived on 3.5 inch discs or other appropriate media for surrender to the Government at the expiration of the contract.

1) Bi-monthly Sample Acquisition Reports

The Contractor shall submit bi-monthly reports that summarize the following:

An inventory of samples received, type of sample, source of sample, geographic locale from which sample was derived; an inventory of all reagents derived from each sample, including amplified DNA and clones derived; a report of all genetic analyses carried out on each sample; HLA analyses performed; CTL assays conducted; and an inventory on samples sent out to collaborating laboratories.

2) Semi Annual Reports

The Contractor shall submit semi-annual reports that summarize the studies completed by the Contractor in the preceding 6 month period. Semi-annual reports shall be composed of:

- a) A cover page containing:
 - i) Contract title and number
 - ii) Period of performance being reported
 - iii) Contractor's name and address
 - iv) Date of submission.
 - b) A table of contents.
 - c) Summary tables of results during the preceding 6 month period.
 - d) A discussion of technical and administrative problems encountered, their resolution or proposed corrective action; explanation of differences between planned progress and actual progress.
 - e) An inventory of samples received, type of sample, source of sample, geographic locale from which sample was derived; an inventory of all reagents derived from each sample, including amplified DNA and clones derived; a report of all genetic analyses carried out on each sample; HLA analysis performed; CTL assays conducted; and an inventory on all samples sent out to collaborating laboratories.
 - f) Selected other additional information as may be required by the Project Officer.
- ## 3) Sequence data and alignments transfer via electronic mail or computer diskette:
- a) At the time of submission of each report the Contractor shall submit via electronic mail or computer diskette all sequence data, and all nucleotide and amino acid alignments generated during that reporting period. Choice of transfer will be determined by the Project Officer. Diskettes shall be formatted and data recorded in a format specified by the Project Officer.
- ## 4) A cumulative list of oral presentations and published materials attributable to the contract.
- ## 5) The final semi-annual report shall contain additionally:
- a) a brief description of any unfinished projects.
 - b) a status report on transition or shut down activities.

6) Annual Site Visit

During the final month of each contract year, the Contractor shall host, for NIAID contract and program staff, and their External Advisory Committee, a site visit review. This meeting shall be attended by the Contractor’s principal investigator and all co-investigators. An update and summary of results from each sub-project shall be presented by the co-investigator and/or other pertinent staff. These presentations shall include an overall summary of progress on all projects and integration of the different subprojects during the review period, and also include a description of all problems encountered that will affect the achievement of particular goals as outlined in the Contractor’s research plan. The Principal Investigator, co-investigator and staff representing each project and subproject shall describe goals and milestones and development objectives for the coming year. Additionally, the policies and procedures for monitoring the direction of specific projects shall be presented.

7) Distribution

It remains the responsibility of the Contractor to assure receipt by the Government official listed below of all deliverables by the established due dates. If the Contractor is unable to deliver the items specified hereunder within the period of performance, notwithstanding the exercise of good faith and diligent efforts in performance of the work, the Contractor shall give the Contracting Officer immediate written notice of anticipated delays with reasons therefore.

Deliverable	No. of Copies	Addressee/Distribution	Due Dates
Bi-monthly Report	1	Project Officer, CDB, VPRP	Within 3 calendar days after each 2 month period from the time of contract award
Semi-Annual Report	1	Project Officer, CDB, VPRP	Within 30 calendar days after each 6 month period from the time of contract award
	1	Contracting Officer, ARCS	

TECHNICAL EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD

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1. GENERAL

Selection of an Offeror for contract award will be based on an evaluation of proposals against three factors. The factors in order of importance are: technical, cost/price and Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) participation. Although technical factors are of paramount consideration in the award of the contract, cost/price and SDB are also important to the overall contract award decision. Technical factors are significantly more important than cost/price or other factors when combined. However, cost/price and SDB participation may become a critical factor in source selection in the event that two or more Offerors are determined to be essentially equal following the evaluation of all technical evaluation factors.

The evaluation will be based on the demonstrated capabilities of the prospective Contractors in relation to the needs of the project as set forth in the RFP. The merits of each proposal will be carefully evaluated. Each proposal must document the feasibility of successful implementation of the requirements of the RFP. Offerors must submit information sufficient to evaluate their proposals based on the detailed criteria listed below.

2. EVALUATION OF TARGETS FOR EXTENT OF SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

SDB participation will not be scored, but the Government's conclusion about overall commitment and realism of the Offeror's SDB participation targets will be highly influential in determining the relative merits of the Offeror's proposal and in selecting the Offeror whose proposal is considered to offer the best value to the Government.

The extent of the Offeror's SDB participation targets will be evaluated before determination of the competitive range. The evaluation will be based on information provided by the Offeror in their technical proposal. Evaluation of SDB participation will be a subjective assessment based on consideration of all relevant facts and circumstances. The Government is seeking to determine whether the Offeror has demonstrated a commitment to use SDB concerns for the work that it intends to perform as the prime contractor.

Offers will be evaluated on the following sub-factors:

- 1) The extent of participation of SDB concerns in terms of the value of the total acquisition.
- 2) The complexity and variety of the work SDB concerns are to perform. Greater emphasis will be given for arrangements where the SDB shall be performing work appropriate to the scientific objectives expressed in the statement of work.

3. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria are used by the technical evaluation committee when reviewing the technical proposals. Proposals will be judged solely on the written material provided by the Offeror. The criteria below are listed in the order of relative importance with weights assigned for evaluation purposes.

CRITERIA	WEIGHT
<p>1. Technical Approach/Understanding the Problem</p> <p>Offerors will be evaluated on the basis of a demonstrated understanding of the objectives and needs of the proposed project in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) DNA-based typing of HLA class I alleles on a variety of specimens. b) Measurement of CTL responses by various assays and fine mapping of CTL epitopes. c) Amplification of viral genes, HMA analysis and genetic sequencing of fragments. d) Compilation, analysis and dissemination of data. 	50 points
<p>2. Personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Principal Investigator: Quality of recent work and relevance to the proposed contract; demonstrated scientific leadership in the areas of: HLA molecular typing; identifying associations between allele(s) group and a particular event or outcome; performance of CTL assays; CTL epitope mapping; HIV virus sequencing; compiling and analyzing immunologic and virologic data; and management of samples and data. Adequacy of the Offeror's time availability for the proposed work; documented participation in similar projects; and demonstrated ability to coordinate a team effort at multiple sites if proposed. b) Scientific and/or technical strength and adequacy of the other professional, technical, and support staff including: the spectrum of expertise offered; qualifications; experience with HLA molecular typing; CTL assays; virus sequencing; and data compilation and analysis. c) Subcontractors: Documented training, experience and availability of any proposed Subcontractor(s), their documented capability to perform the proposed work, and expertise in similar projects. The logistical adequacy of the plan for the use of the Subcontractor(s) in the conduct of the project, including the time commitment of the professional and technical staff. Quality of the plan to identify the need to add, replace, or remove the Subcontractor's scientific staff, dependent on the progress or availability of new scientific information. Adequacy of plans for evaluating the performance of Subcontractors. 	30 points
<p>3. Organizational Structure, Facilities, and Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Adequacy of lines of authority and responsibility for all aspects of the proposed work. f) Adequacy of the administrative/logistical approaches including linkage to international and domestic sites, and the rationale/procedures for sample/specimen selection, management, receiving, handling, storing, tracking and inventory. g) Adequacy of the plan for the orderly transition of data and samples to a successor Contractor or to the Government. h) Adequacy of plans to coordinate research between prime and Subcontractor(s)/consultants, and ability to work cohesively as a team in multiple sites, if proposed. i) Adequacy and availability of facilities, equipment and resources necessary to receive and process and store hazardous and infectious agents, and maintain their activity and viability. j) Adequacy of the plan for compliance with all safety guidelines and regulation, including training and monitoring of personnel for exposure to infectious and hazardous reagents 	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN A LISTING(S) OF GENERAL CLAUSES WHICH WILL BE APPLICABLE TO MOST CONTRACTS RESULTING FROM THIS RFP. HOWEVER, THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SUCCESSFUL OFFEROR(S) WILL DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC GENERAL CLAUSES LISTING TO BE CONTAINED IN THE CONTRACT(S) AWARDED FROM THIS RFP.

SECTION I. GENERAL CLAUSES

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ARTICLE I.1. GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A COST-REIMBURSEMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT - FAR 52.252-2, CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEBRUARY 1998)

This contract incorporates the following clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also, the full text of a clause may be accessed electronically at this address: <http://www.arnet.gov/far/>.

a. **FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (FAR) (48 CFR CHAPTER 1) CLAUSES:**

<u>FAR CLAUSE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
52.202-1	Oct 1995	Definitions
52.203-3	Apr 1984	Gratuities (Over \$100,000)
52.203-5	Apr 1984	Covenant Against Contingent Fees (Over \$100,000)
52.203-6	Jul 1995	Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government (Over \$100,000)
52.203-7	Jul 1995	Anti-Kickback Procedures(Over \$100,000)
52.203-8	Jan 1997	Cancellation, Rescission, and Recovery of Funds for Illegal or Improper Activity (Over \$100,000)
52.203-10	Jan 1997	Price or Fee Adjustment for Illegal or Improper Activity (Over \$100,000)
52.203-12	Jun 1997	Limitation on Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions (Over \$100,000)
52.204-4	Jun 1996	Printing/Copying Double-Sided on Recycled Paper (Over \$100,000)
52.209-6	Jul 1995	Protecting the Government's Interests When Subcontracting With Contractors Debarred, Suspended, or Proposed for Debarment (Over \$25,000)
52.215-2	Jun 1999	Audit and Records - Negotiation (Over \$100,000)
52.215-8	Oct 1997	Order of Precedence - Uniform Contract Format
52.215-10	Oct 1997	Price Reduction for Defective Cost or Pricing Data
52.215-12	Oct 1997	Subcontractor Cost or Pricing Data (Over \$500,000)
52.215-14	Oct 1997	Integrity of Unit Prices (Over \$100,000)
52.215-15	Dec 1998	Pension Adjustments and Asset Reversions
52.215-18	Oct 1997	Reversion or Adjustment of Plans for Post-Retirement Benefits (PRB) other than Pensions
52.215-19	Oct 1997	Notification of Ownership Changes
52.215-21	Oct 1997	Requirements for Cost or Pricing Data or Information Other Than Cost or Pricing Data – Modifications

52.216-7	Apr 1998	Allowable Cost and Payment
52.216-8	Mar 1997	Fixed Fee
52.219-8	Oct 1999	Utilization of Small Business Concerns (Over \$100,000)
52.219-9	Oct 1999	Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Over \$500,000)
52.219-16	Jan 1999	Liquidated Damages - Subcontracting Plan (Over \$500,000)
52.222-2	Jul 1990	Payment for Overtime Premium (Over \$100,000) (Note: The dollar amount in paragraph (a) of this clause is \$0 unless otherwise specified in the contract.)
52.222-3	Aug 1996	Convict Labor
52.222-26	Feb 1999	Equal Opportunity
52.222-35	Apr 1998	Affirmative Action for Disabled Veterans and Veterans of the Vietnam Era
52.222-36	Jun 1998	Affirmative Action for Workers with Disabilities
52.222-37	Jan 1999	Employment Reports on Disabled Veterans and Veterans of the Vietnam Era
52.223-6	Jan 1997	Drug-Free Workplace
52.223-14	Oct 1996	Toxic Chemical Release Reporting
52.225-1	Feb 2000	Buy American Act - Balance of Payments Program – Supplies
52.225-13	Feb 2000	Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases
52.227-1	Jul 1995	Authorization and Consent, Alternate I (Apr 1984)
52.227-2	Aug 1996	Notice and Assistance Regarding Patent and Copyright Infringement (Over \$100,000)
52.227-11	Jun 1997	Patent Rights - Retention by the Contractor (Short Form) (Note: In accordance with FAR 27.303(a)(2), paragraph (f) is modified to include the requirements in FAR 27.303(a)(2)(i) through (iv). The frequency of reporting in (i) is annual.
52.227-14	Jun 1987	Rights in Data – General
52.232-9	Apr 1984	Limitation on Withholding of Payments
52.232-17	Jun 1996	Interest (Over \$100,000)
52.232-20	Apr 1984	Limitation of Cost
52.232-23	Jan 1986	Assignment of Claims
52.232-25	Jun 1997	Prompt Payment
52.232-34	May 1999	Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer--Other Than Central Contractor Registration
52.233-1	Dec 1998	Disputes
52.233-3	Aug 1996	Protest After Award, Alternate I (Jun 1985)
52.242-1	Apr 1984	Notice of Intent to Disallow Costs
52.242-3	Oct 1995	Penalties for Unallowable Costs (Over \$500,000)
52.242-4	Jan 1997	Certification of Final Indirect Costs
52.242-13	Jul 1995	Bankruptcy (Over \$100,000)

52.243-2	Aug 1987	Changes - Cost Reimbursement, Alternate V (Apr 1984)
52.244-2	Aug 1998	Subcontracts, Alternate II (Aug 1998) *If written consent to subcontract is required, the identified subcontracts are listed in ARTICLE B, Advance Understandings.
52.244-5	Dec 1996	Competition in Subcontracting (Over \$100,000)
52.245-5	Jan 1986	Government Property (Cost-Reimbursement, Time and Material, or Labor-Hour Contract)
52.246-23	Feb 1997	Limitation of Liability (Over \$100,000)
52.249-6	Sep 1996	Termination (Cost-Reimbursement)
52.249-14	Apr 1984	Excusable Delays
52.253-1	Jan 1991	Computer Generated Forms

b. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ACQUISITION REGULATION (HHSAR) (48 CFR CHAPTER 3) CLAUSES

<u>HHSAR</u> <u>CLAUSE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
352.202-1	Apr 1984	Definitions
352.232-9	Apr 1984	Withholding of Contract Payments
352.270-4	Apr 1984	Pricing of Adjustments
352.270-6	Jul 1991	Publication and Publicity
352.270-7	Apr 1984	Paperwork Reduction Act

[End of GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A NEGOTIATED FIXED-PRICE ARCHITECT-ENGINEER CONTRACT - Rev. 2/2000].

ARTICLE I.1. GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A NEGOTIATED COST-REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS - FAR 52.252-2, CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEBRUARY 1998)

This contract incorporates the following clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also, the full text of a clause may be accessed electronically at this address: <http://www.arnet.gov/far/>.

a. FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (FAR) (48 CFR CHAPTER 1) CLAUSES:

<u>FAR CLAUSE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
52.202-1	Oct 1995	Definitions
52.203-3	Apr 1984	Gratuities (Over \$100,000)
52.203-5	Apr 1984	Covenant Against Contingent Fees (Over \$100,000)
52.203-6	Jul 1995	Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government (Over \$100,000)
52.203-7	Jul 1995	Anti-Kickback Procedures(Over \$100,000)
52.203-8	Jan 1997	Cancellation, Recission, and Recovery of Funds for Illegal or Improper Activity (Over \$100,000)
52.203-10	Jan 1997	Price or Fee Adjustment for Illegal or Improper Activity (Over \$100,000)
52.203-12	Jun 1997	Limitation on Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions (Over \$100,000)
52.204-4	Jun 1996	Printing/Copying Double-Sided on Recycled Paper (Over \$100,000)
52.209-6	Jul 1995	Protecting the Government's Interests When Subcontracting With Contractors Debarred, Suspended, or Proposed for Debarment (Over \$25,000)
52.215-2	Jun 1999	Audit and Records - Negotiation (Over \$100,000), Alternate II (Apr 1998)
52.215-8	Oct 1997	Order of Precedence - Uniform Contract Format
52.215-10	Oct 1997	Price Reduction for Defective Cost or Pricing Data
52.215-12	Oct 1997	Subcontractor Cost or Pricing Data (Over \$500,000)
52.215-14	Oct 1997	Integrity of Unit Prices (Over \$100,000)
52.215-15	Dec 1998	Pension Adjustments and Asset Reversions
52.215-18	Oct 1997	Reversion or Adjustment of Plans for Post-Retirement Benefits (PRB) other than Pensions
52.215-19	Oct 1997	Notification of Ownership Changes
52.215-21	Oct 1997	Requirements for Cost or Pricing Data or Information Other Than Cost or Pricing Data – Modifications
52.216-7	Apr 1998	Allowable Cost and Payment (Paragraph (a) is modified to delete the words "Subpart 31.2" and to add the words "Subpart 31.3")
52.216-11	Apr 1984	Cost Contract - No Fee
52.219-8	Oct 1999	Utilization of Small Business Concerns (Over \$100,000)
52.219-9	Oct 1999	Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Over \$500,000)
52.219-16	Jan 1999	Liquidated Damages - Subcontracting Plan (Over \$500,000)

52.222-2	Jul 1990	Payment for Overtime Premium (Over \$100,000) (Note: The dollar amount in paragraph (a) of this clause is \$0 unless otherwise specified in the contract.)
52.222-3	Aug 1996	Convict Labor
52.222-26	Feb 1999	Equal Opportunity
52.222-35	Apr 1998	Affirmative Action for Disabled Veterans and Veterans of the Vietnam Era
52.222-36	Jun 1998	Affirmative Action for Workers with Disabilities
52.222-37	Jan 1999	Employment Reports on Disabled Veterans and Veterans of the Vietnam Era
52.223-6	Jan 1997	Drug-Free Workplace
52.223-14	Oct 1996	Toxic Chemical Release Reporting
52.225-1	Feb 2000	Buy American Act - Balance of Payments Program - Supplies
52.225-13	Feb 2000	Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases
52.227-1	Jul 1995	Authorization and Consent, Alternate I (Apr 1984)
52.227-2	Aug 1996	Notice and Assistance Regarding Patent and Copyright Infringement (Over \$100,000)
52.227-11	Jun 1997	Patent Rights - Retention by the Contractor (Short Form) (Note: In accordance with FAR 27.303(a)(2), paragraph (f) is modified to include the requirements in FAR 27.303(a)(2)(i) through (iv). The frequency of reporting in (i) is annual.
52.227-14	Jun 1987	Rights in Data - General, Alternate IV (Jun 1987)
52.232-9	Apr 1984	Limitation on Withholding of Payments
52.232-20	Apr 1984	Limitation of Cost
52.232-23	Jan 1986	Assignment of Claims
52.232-25	Jun 1997	Prompt Payment
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52.233-1	Dec 1998	Disputes
52.233-3	Aug 1996	Protest After Award, Alternate I (Jun 1985)
52.242-1	Apr 1984	Notice of Intent to Disallow Costs
52.242-4	Jan 1997	Certification of Final Indirect Costs
52.242-13	Jul 1995	Bankruptcy (Over \$100,000)
52.244-2	Aug 1998	Subcontracts, Alternate II (Aug 1998) *If written consent to subcontract is required, the identified subcontracts are listed in ARTICLE B, Advance Understandings.
52.244-5	Dec 1996	Competition in Subcontracting (Over \$100,000)
52.245-5	Jan 1986	Government Property (Cost-Reimbursement, Time and Material, or Labor-Hour Contract), Alternate I (Jul 1985)
52.246-23	Feb 1997	Limitation of Liability (Over \$100,000)

52.249-5	Sep 1996	Termination for the Convenience of the Government (Educational and Other Nonprofit Institutions)
52.253-1	Jan 1991	Computer Generated Forms

b. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ACQUISITION REGULATION (HHSAR) (48 CFR CHAPTER 3) CLAUSES

<u>HHSAR CLAUSE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
352.202-1	Apr 1984	Definitions - Alternate I (Apr 1984)
352.228-7	Dec 1991	Insurance - Liability to Third Persons
352.232-9	Apr 1984	Withholding of Contract Payments
352.233-70	Apr 1984	Litigation and Claims
352.242-71	Apr 1984	Final Decisions on Audit Findings
352.249-14	Apr 1984	Excusable Delays
352.270-5	Apr 1984	Key Personnel
352.270-6	Jul 1991	Publication and Publicity
352.270-7	Apr 1984	Paperwork Reduction Act

[End of GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A NEGOTIATED COST-REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS - Rev. 2/2000].

ARTICLE I.1. GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A NEGOTIATED COST-REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS - FAR 52.252-2, CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEBRUARY 1998)

This contract incorporates the following clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also, the full text of a clause may be accessed electronically at this address: <http://www.arnet.gov/far/>.

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52.242-13	Jul 1995	Bankruptcy (Over \$100,000)
52.243-2	Aug 1987	Changes - Cost Reimbursement, Alternate V (Apr 1984)
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52.246-23	Feb 1997	Limitation of Liability (Over \$100,000)
52.249-5	Sep 1996	Termination for the Convenience of the Government (Educational and Other Nonprofit Institutions)
52.253-1	Jan 1991	Computer Generated Forms

b. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ACQUISITION REGULATION (HHSAR)
(48 CFR CHAPTER 3) CLAUSES

<u>HHSAR CLAUSE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
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352.228-7	Dec 1991	Insurance - Liability to Third Persons
352.232-9	Apr 1984	Withholding of Contract Payments
352.233-70	Apr 1984	Litigation and Claims
352.242-71	Apr 1984	Final Decisions on Audit Findings
352.249-14	Apr 1984	Excusable Delays
352.270-5	Apr 1984	Key Personnel
352.270-6	Jul 1991	Publication and Publicity
352.270-7	Apr 1984	Paperwork Reduction Act

[End of GENERAL CLAUSES FOR A NEGOTIATED COST-REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS - Rev. 2/2000].

SECTION J

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

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The following Attachments are provided in full text with this Solicitation:

- [Packaging and Delivery of Proposals](#)
- [Proposal Intent Response Sheet](#) Submit on/before June 1, 2000; 4:00 PM, EST

Your attention is directed to the "proposal intent response sheet". If you intend to submit a proposal, you must complete this form and return it to this office via fax or e-mail on or before the date identified above. The receipt of this form is critical as it contains information essential for NIAID's coordination of the electronic submission and review of proposals.

- [How to Prepare and Submit an Electronic Proposal](#)

The RFP Forms/Attachments listed below are available in a variety of formats and may be viewed or downloaded directly from this site. <http://www4.od.nih.gov/ocm/contracts/rfps/forms1.htm>

Applicable to Technical Proposal

- **Optional Form 310, Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification/Certification/Declaration** [*When applicable, all institutions must have the form reviewed and approved by their Institutional Review Committee.*]
- **Technical Proposal Cost Information**
- **Summary of Current and Proposed Activities**
- **Government Notice for Handling Proposals**

Applicable to Business Proposal

- **Small Business Subcontract Plan** [*if applicable*]
- **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, OMB Form SF-LLL**
- **NIH-2043, Proposal Summary and Data Record**
- **Contact Points**
- **Breakdown of Proposed Estimated Cost (plus fee) and Labor Hours (includes an Excel cost spreadsheet template)**

To become Contract Attachments

- **Annual Technical Progress Report Format for Each Study** [*Applicable when contract involves Human Subjects unless it has been determined by the Government that the inclusion of Women and Minority Groups in the Study Population is not appropriate.*]
- **NIH(RC)-4: Invoice/Financing Request and Contract Financial Reporting Instructions for NIH Cost-Reimbursement Type Contracts**
- **Privacy Act System of Records, #09-25-2000**
- **Safety and Health (Deviation), PHS Clause 352.223-70**
- **Procurement of Certain Equipment, NIH(RC)-7 (OMB Bulletin 81-16)**

HOW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN ELECTRONIC PROPOSAL

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ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

PAGE LIMITS -- THE NARRATIVE PORTION OF THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL IS LIMITED TO NOT-TO-EXCEED 50 PAGES.

Pages in excess of this will be removed from the proposal and will not be read or evaluated. Offerors are encouraged to limit the overall size of the Technical Proposal, inclusive of appendices, attachments, etc. Note that although no page limit has been placed on the Business Proposal, Offerors are encouraged to limit its content to only those documents necessary to provide adequate support for the proposed costs.

Type density and size must be 10 to 12 points. If constant spacing is used, there should be no more than 15 cpi, whereas proportional spacing should provide an average of no more than 15 cpi. There must be no more than six lines of text within a vertical inch. Margins must be set to 1 inch around.

GENERAL --- To submit a proposal electronically under this RFP, Offerors will need to prepare the proposal on a word processor or spreadsheet program (for the cost portions) and convert them to Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF). THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND BUSINESS PROPOSAL MUST BE CONTAINED ON SEPARATE FILES. Further, to expedite the file transferring process, the two files must be named using the following DOS naming convention:

- Technical Proposal: c:\rfp____\techprop.pdf
- Business Proposal: c:\rfp____\busiprop.pdf

If your organization does not have the capability to submit electronically, or unforeseen difficulties occur during transmission, you may submit the electronic copy of your proposal with the original proposal on a diskette, CD-Rom or ZipDisk, in lieu of the internet. The Contract Specialist/Contracting Officer must be notified in advance of using these optional methods.

Approximately TWO weeks prior to the due date of proposals, all offerors will be provided with specific electronic access information and electronic proposal transmission instructions. For this reason, it is imperative that all offerors who are intending to submit a proposal in response to this RFP contact the Contracting Officer identified in this RFP and **complete and submit the attached Proposal Intent Form by the date provided on the face page of the RFP.**

NOTE: There is no limit to the size (MB) of the two electronic PDF files to be submitted; however, the size of the technical proposal is limited to the page limitation language outlined below. For purposes of assessing compliance with the page count, technical proposals will be viewed using the print function of the Adobe Acrobat Reader, Version 3.0.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS --- Do not embed sound or video (e.g., MPEG) files into the proposal documents. The evaluation system will not incorporate a capability to read these files. Graphics which are embedded into documents should be kept as simple as possible. Complex graphics require longer periods for the computers used in the evaluation system to draw, and redraw these figures and scrolling through the document is slowed significantly. Suggestions include:

- Limit colors to 256 colors at 1024 x 768 resolution; avoid color gradients.
- Simplify the color palette used in creating figures.
- Be aware of how large these graphics files become. Large files are discouraged.
- Limit scanned images as much as possible.

PROPOSAL INTENT RESPONSE SHEET

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RFP No.: NIH-NIAID-DAIDS-01-09

RFP Title: "HLA Typing and Epitope Mapping to Guide HIV Vaccine Design"

Please review the attached Request for Proposals. Furnish the information requested below and return this page by June 1, 2000. Your expression of intent is not binding but will greatly assist us in planning for proposal evaluation.

DO INTEND TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

DO NOT INTEND TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

Company/Institution Name (print): _____

Address (print): _____

Project Director's Name (print): _____

Title (print): _____

Signature/Date: _____

Telephone Number and E-mail Address (print clearly):

Names of Collaborating Institutions and Investigators (include Subcontractors and Consultants) (print):

(Continue list on a separate page if necessary)

RETURN VIA FAX OR E-MAIL TO:

CMB, NIAID, NIH

Room 2230

6700 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7612

Bethesda, MD 20892-7612

Attn: Dee Dee Moss

RFP-NIH-NIAID-DAIDS-01-09

FAX# (301) 402-0972

Email : dg25a@nih.gov

PACKAGING AND DELIVERY OF THE PROPOSAL

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[Note to Offeror: Listed below are delivery instructions for the submission of the PAPER copies of your proposal. Instructions for your electronic submission are described above in Electronic Submission Instructions.]

Shipment and marking shall be as indicated below:

A. EXTERNAL PACKAGE MARKING:

In addition to the address cited below, mark each package as follows:

"RFP NO. NIH-NIAID-DAIDS-01-09
TO BE OPENED BY AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL ONLY"

B. NUMBER OF COPIES:

The number of copies required of each part of your proposal are as specified below.

Technical Proposal: One (1) unbound signed original and 5 unbound copies, with 10 copies of items excluded from electronic submission requirement that you choose to provide in paper format (SOPs, PERTINENT MANUALS, NONSCANNABLE FIGURES OR DATA, AND LETTERS OF COLLABORATION/INTENT.)

Business Proposal: One (1) unbound signed original and 5 unbound copies.

C. PAPER COPIES TO:

<i>If hand delivery or express service</i>	<i>If using U.S. Postal Service</i>
Dee Dee Moss Contract Specialist Contract Management Branch, DEA NIAID, NIH 6700-B Rockledge Drive, Room 2230 Bethesda, Maryland 20817	Dee Dee Moss Contract Specialist Contract Management Branch, DEA NIAID, NIH 6700-B Rockledge Drive, Room 2230, MSC 7612 Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7612

NOTE: All material sent to this office by Federal Express should be sent to the Hand Carried Address.

NOTE: The U.S. Postal Service's "Express Mail" does not deliver to the hand delivered (20817 zip code) address. Any package sent to this address via this service will be held at a local post office for pick-up. THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING UP ANY MAIL AT A LOCAL POST OFFICE. If a proposal is not received at the place, date, and time specified herein, it will be considered a "late proposal," in accordance with PHSAR 352.215-10, Late Proposals, Modifications of Proposals and Withdrawals of Proposals (NOV 1986).

SECTION K
REPRESENTATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER STATEMENTS OF OFFERORS
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Representations, Certifications, and Other Statements of Offerors or Quoters (Negotiated).

1. REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

The Representations and Certifications required by this particular acquisition can be accessed electronically from the INTERNET at the following address:

<http://www4.od.nih.gov/ocm/contracts/rfps/REPCERT.htm>

If you are unable to access this document electronically, you may request a copy from the Contract Specialist identified on the cover page of this solicitation.

**IF YOU INTEND TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE
REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS AND SUBMIT THEM AS PART OF YOUR
BUSINESS PROPOSAL.**

SECTION L

INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS AND NOTICES TO OFFERORS

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

a. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS--COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION [FAR Clause 52.215-1 (February 2000)]

(a) Definitions. As used in this provision--

Discussions are negotiations that occur after establishment of the competitive range that may, at the Contracting Officer's discretion, result in the offeror being allowed to revise its proposal.

"In writing" or "written" means any worded or numbered expression which can be read, reproduced, and later communicated, and includes electronically transmitted and stored information.

"Proposal modification" is a change made to a proposal before the solicitation's closing date and time, or made in response to an amendment, or made to correct a mistake at any time before award.

"Proposal revision" is a change to a proposal made after the solicitation closing date, at the request of or as allowed by a Contracting Officer as the result of negotiations.

"Time," if stated as a number of days, is calculated using calendar days, unless otherwise specified, and will include Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. However, if the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the period shall include the next working day.

(b) Amendments to solicitations. If this solicitation is amended, all terms and conditions that are not amended remain unchanged. Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation by the date and time specified in the amendment(s).

(c) Submission, modification, revision, and withdrawal of proposals.

(1) Unless other methods (*e.g.*, electronic commerce or facsimile) are permitted in the solicitation, proposals and modifications to proposals shall be submitted in paper media in sealed envelopes or packages--

(i) addressed to the office specified in the solicitation;

(ii) showing the time and date specified for receipt, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the offeror. Offerors using commercial carriers should ensure that the proposal is marked on the outermost wrapper with the information in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (c)(1)(ii) of this provision.

(2) The first page of the proposal must show--

(i) The solicitation number;

(ii) The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the offeror (and electronic address if available);

(iii) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in the solicitation and agreement to furnish any or all items upon which prices are offered at the price set opposite each item;

(iv) Names, titles, and telephone and facsimile numbers (and electronic addresses if available) of persons authorized to negotiate on the offeror's behalf with the Government in connection with this solicitation; and

(v) Name, title, and signature of person authorized to sign the proposal. Proposals signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

- (3) Submission, modification, revision, and withdrawal of proposals.
- (i) Offerors are responsible for submitting proposals, and any modifications or revisions, so as to reach the Government office designated in the solicitation by the time specified in the solicitation. If no time is specified in the solicitation, the time for receipt is 4:30 p.m., local time, for the designated Government office on the date that proposal or revision is due.
 - (ii) (A) Any proposal, modification, or revision received at the Government office designated in the solicitation after the exact time specified for receipt of offers is "late" and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made, the Contracting Officer determines that accepting the late offer would not unduly delay the acquisition; and--
 - (1) If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the solicitation, it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government infrastructure not later than 5:00 p.m. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals; or
 - (2) There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the Government installation designated for receipt of offers and was under the Government's control prior to the time set for receipt of offers; or
 - (3) It is the only proposal received.
 - (B) However, a late modification of an otherwise successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the Government, will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.
 - (iii) Acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the Government installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government personnel.
 - (iv) If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal Government processes so that proposals cannot be received at the office designated for receipt of proposals by the exact time specified in the solicitation, and urgent Government requirements preclude amendment of the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of proposals will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal Government processes resume.
 - (v) Proposals may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before award. Oral proposals in response to oral solicitations may be withdrawn orally. If the solicitation authorizes facsimile proposals, proposals may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before award, subject to the conditions specified in the provision at 52.215-5, Facsimile Proposals. Proposals may be withdrawn in person by an offeror or an authorized representative, if the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the proposal before award.
- (4) Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, the offeror may propose to provide any item or combination of items.
 - (5) Offerors shall submit proposals in response to this solicitation in English, unless otherwise permitted by the solicitation, and in U.S. dollars, unless the provision at FAR 52.225-17, Evaluation of Foreign Currency Offers, is included in the solicitation.
 - (6) Offerors may submit modifications to their proposals at any time before the solicitation closing date and time, and may submit modifications in response to an amendment, or to correct a mistake at any time before award.
 - (7) Offerors may submit revised proposals only if requested or allowed by the Contracting Officer.
 - (8) Proposals may be withdrawn at any time before award. Withdrawals are effective upon receipt of notice by the Contracting Officer.
- (d) Offer expiration date. Proposals in response to this solicitation will be valid for the number of days specified on the solicitation cover sheet (unless a different period is proposed by the offeror).

(e) Restriction on disclosure and use of data. Offerors that include in their proposals data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose, or used by the Government except for evaluation purposes, shall--

(1) Mark the title page with the following legend:

This proposal includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed--in whole or in part--for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, a contract is awarded to this offeror as a result of--or in connection with--the submission of this data, the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets [*insert numbers or other identification of sheets*]; and

(2) Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend:

Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal.

(f) Contract award.

- (1) The Government reserves the right to award a contract or contracts resulting from this solicitation to the responsible offeror(s) whose proposal(s) represents the best value after evaluation in accordance with the factors and subfactors in the solicitation.
- (2) The Government may reject any or all proposals if such action is in the Government's interest.
- (3) The Government may waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.
- (4) The Government intends to evaluate proposals and award a contract without discussions with offerors (except clarifications as described in FAR 15.306(a)). Therefore, the offeror's initial proposal should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint. The Government reserves the right to conduct discussions if the Contracting Officer later determines them to be necessary. If the Contracting Officer determines that the number of proposals that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the Contracting Officer may limit the number of proposals in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated proposals.
- (5) The Government reserves the right to make an award on any item for a quantity less than the quantity offered, at the unit cost or prices offered, unless the offeror specifies otherwise in the proposal.
- (6) The Government reserves the right to make multiple awards if, after considering the additional administrative costs, it is in the Government's best interest to do so.
- (7) Exchanges with offerors after receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by the Government.
- (8) The Government may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed are materially unbalanced between line items or subline items. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if the Contracting Officer determines that the lack of balance poses an unacceptable risk to the Government.
- (9) If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered by the source selection authority in evaluating performance or schedule risk.

(10) The Government may disclose the following information in postaward debriefings to other offerors:

- (i) The overall evaluated cost or price and technical rating of the successful offeror;
- (ii) The overall ranking of all offerors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during source selection;
- (iii) A summary of the rationale for award; and
- (iv) For acquisitions of commercial items, the make and model of the item to be delivered by the successful offeror.

b. SIC CODE AND SIZE STANDARD

Note: The following information is to be used by the offeror in preparing its Representations and Certifications (See Section K of this RFP), specifically in completing the provision entitled, SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM REPRESENTATION, FAR Clause 52.219-1.

- (1) The standard industrial classification (SIC) code for this acquisition is 8371.
- (2) The small business size standard is 500 employees.

THIS REQUIREMENT IS NOT SET-ASIDE FOR SMALL BUSINESS. However, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requires in EVERY solicitation, (except for foreign acquisitions) the inclusion of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code and corresponding size standard which best describes the nature of the requirement in the solicitation.

c. NOTICE OF PRICE EVALUATION ADJUSTMENT FOR SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS CONCERNS

In accordance with FAR Clause 52.219-23, Notice of Price Evaluation Adjustment for Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns, incorporated in Section I.3., offerors will be evaluated by adding a factor of 10 percent to the price of all offers, except offers from small disadvantaged business concerns that have not waived the adjustment. (Note: A listing of other offerors who are excepted and will not have this evaluation factor added to their offer may be found in subparagraph (b) of FAR Clause 52.219-23.

A small disadvantaged business concern may elect to waive the adjustment, in which case the factor will be added to its offer for evaluation purposes. The agreements in paragraph (d) of FAR Clause 52.219-23 do not apply to offerors that waive the adjustment.

AN OFFEROR WHO ELECTS TO WAIVE THIS EVALUATION ADJUSTMENT MUST SPECIFICALLY INDICATE WITH A STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT ON THE COVER PAGE OF ITS BUSINESS PROPOSAL.

d. TYPE OF CONTRACT AND NUMBER OF AWARD(S)

It is anticipated that One Award will be made from this solicitation and that the award will be made on/about February 1, 2001.

It is anticipated that the award from this solicitation will be a multiple-year cost reimbursement type contract completion with a term of 5 years, and that incremental funding will be used [see Section L.2.c. Business Proposal Instructions].

e. ESTIMATE OF EFFORT

It is expected that a completion type contract will be awarded as a result of this RFP. To assist you in the preparation of your proposal, the Government considers the total 5-year effort to be approximately 3210 labor hours. This information is furnished for the offeror's information only and is not to be considered restrictive for proposal purposes.

f. COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The Contracting Officer is the only individual who can legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds in connection with the proposed procurement. Any other commitment, either explicit or implied, is invalid.

g. COMMUNICATIONS PRIOR TO CONTRACT AWARD

Offerors shall direct all communications to the attention of the Contract Specialist or Contracting Officer cited on the face page of this RFP. Communications with other officials may compromise the competitiveness of this acquisition and result in cancellation of the requirement.

h. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Contract selection and award information will be disclosed to offerors in accordance with regulations applicable to negotiated acquisition. Prompt written notice will be given to unsuccessful offerors as they are eliminated from the competition, and to all offerors following award.

i. COMPARATIVE IMPORTANCE OF PROPOSALS

You are advised that paramount consideration shall be given to the evaluation of technical proposals. All evaluation factors other than cost or price, when combined, are significantly more important than cost or price. The relative importance of the evaluation factors are specified in the TECHNICAL EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD of this solicitation. However, the Government reserves the right to make an award to the best advantage of the Government, cost and other factors considered.

j. PREPARATION COSTS

This RFP does not commit the Government to pay for the preparation and submission of a proposal.

k. SERVICE OF PROTEST (AUGUST 1996) - FAR 52.233-2

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

Brenda J. Velez
Chief, Contract Management Branch
National Institutes of Allergies and Infectious Diseases
6700 B Rockledge Dr., Room 2230 MSC 7612
BETHESDA MD 20892-7612

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

(End of Provision)

l. LATE PROPOSALS, MODIFICATIONS OF PROPOSAL, AND WITHDRAWALS OF PROPOSALS, PHS 352.215-10

Notwithstanding the procedures contained in the provision of this solicitation entitled Late Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawals of Proposals, a proposal received after the date specified for receipt may be considered if it offers significant cost or technical advantages to the Government, and it was received before proposals were distributed for evaluation, or within five calendar days after the exact time specified for receipt, whichever is earlier.

(End of provision)

2. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

a. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The following instructions will establish the acceptable minimum requirements for the format and contents of proposals. Special attention is directed to the requirements for technical and business proposals to be submitted in accordance with these instructions.

(1) Contract Type and General Clauses

It is contemplated that a cost-reimbursement, completion type contract will be awarded. (See General Information) Any resultant contract shall include the clauses applicable to the selected offeror's organization and type of contract awarded as required by Public Law, Executive Order, or acquisition regulations in effect at the time of execution of the proposed contract.

(2) Authorized Official and Submission of Proposal

The proposal must be signed by an official authorized to bind your organization and must stipulate that it is predicated upon all the terms and conditions of this RFP. Your proposal shall be submitted in the number of copies, to the addresses, and marked as indicated in the Attachment entitled, PACKAGING AND DELIVERY OF PROPOSAL, Part III, Section J hereof. Proposals will be typewritten, paginated, reproduced on letter size paper and will be legible in all required copies. To expedite the proposal evaluation, all documents required for responding to the RFP should be placed in the following order:

I. COVER PAGE

Include RFP title, number, name of organization, identification of the proposal part, and indicate whether the proposal is an original or a copy.

II. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

It is recommended that the technical proposal consist of a cover page, a table of contents, and the information requested in the Technical Proposal Instructions and as specified in SECTION J, List of Attachments.

III. BUSINESS PROPOSAL

It is recommended that the business proposal consist of a cover page, a table of contents, and the information requested in the Business Proposal Instructions and as specified in SECTION J, List of Attachments.

(3) Proposal Summary and Data Record (NIH-2043)

The Offeror must complete the Form NIH-2043, attached, with particular attention to the length of time the proposal is firm and the designation of those personnel authorized to conduct negotiations. (See Section J, Attachment entitled, PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND DATA RECORD.)

(4) Separation of Technical and Business Proposals

The proposal must be prepared in two parts: a "Technical Proposal" and a "Business Proposal." Each of the parts shall be separate and complete in itself so that evaluation of one may be accomplished independently of, and concurrently with, evaluation of the other. The technical proposal must include direct cost and resources information, such as labor-hours and categories and applicable rates, materials, subcontracts, travel, etc., and associated costs so that the offeror's understanding of the project may be evaluated (See Attachment entitled, TECHNICAL PROPOSAL COST INFORMATION/SUMMARY OF LABOR AND DIRECT COSTS). However, the technical proposal should **not** include pricing data relating to individual salary information, indirect cost rates or amounts, fee amounts (if any), and total costs. The technical proposal should disclose your technical approach in as much detail as possible, including, but not limited to, the requirements of the technical proposal instructions.

(5) Alternate Proposals

You may, at your discretion, submit alternate proposals, or proposals which deviate from the requirements; provided, that you also submit a proposal for performance of the work as specified in the statement of work. Such proposals may be considered if overall performance would be improved or not compromised and if they are in the best interests of the Government. Alternative proposals, or deviations from any requirements of this RFP, shall be clearly identified.

(6) Confidentiality of Proposals --HHSAR 352.215-12, Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data (April 1984)

The proposal submitted in response to this request for proposals may contain data (trade secrets; business data, e.g., commercial information, financial information, and cost and pricing data; and technical data) which the offeror, including its prospective subcontractor(s), does not want used or disclosed for any purpose other than for evaluation of the proposal. The use and disclosure of any data may be so restricted; **provided**, that the Government determines that the data is not required to be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended, and the offeror marks the cover sheet of the proposal with the following legend, specifying the particular portions of the proposal which are to be restricted in accordance with the conditions of the legend. The Government's determination to withhold or disclose a record will be based upon the particular circumstances involving the record in question and whether the record may be exempted from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act:

Unless disclosure is required by the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended, (the Act) as determined by Freedom of Information (FOI) Officials of the Department of Health and Human Services, data contained in the portions of this proposal which have been specifically identified by page number, paragraph, etc. by the offeror as containing restricted information shall not be used or disclosed except for evaluation purposes.

The offeror acknowledges that the Department may not be able to withhold a record (data, document, etc.) nor deny access to a record requested pursuant to the Act, and that the Department's FOI officials must make that determination. The offeror hereby agrees that the Government is not liable for disclosure if the Department has determined that disclosure is required by the Act.

If a contract is awarded to the offeror as a result of, or in connection with, the submission of this proposal; the Government shall have the right to use or disclose the data to the extent provided in the contract. Proposals not resulting in a contract remain subject to the Act.

The offeror also agrees that the Government is not liable for disclosure or use of unmarked data and may use or disclose the data for any purpose, including the release of the information pursuant to requests under the Act.

The data subject to this restriction are contained in pages (insert page numbers, paragraph designations, etc. or other identification)

In addition, the offeror should mark each page of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend:

"Use or disclosure of data contained on this page is subject to the restriction on the cover sheet of this proposal."

NOTE: Offerors are cautioned that proposals submitted with the restrictive legends or statements differing in substance from the above legend may not be considered for award. The Government reserves the right to reject any proposal submitted with a nonconforming legend.

(7) **Evaluation of Proposals**

The Government will evaluate technical proposals in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Technical Evaluation Factors for Award.

(8) **Potential Award Without Discussions**

The Government reserves the right to award a contract without discussions if the Contracting Officer determines that the initial prices are fair and reasonable and that discussions are not necessary.

(9) **Use of the Metric System of Measurement**

It is the policy of the Department of Health and Human Services to support the Federal transition to the metric system and to use the metric system of measurement in all procurement, grants, and other business related activities unless such use is impracticable or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies.

The offeror is encouraged to prepare their proposal using either "Hard Metric," "Soft Metric," or "Dual Systems" of measurement. The following definitions are provided for your information:

Hard Metric - The replacement of a standard inch-pound size with an accepted metric size for a particular purpose. An example of size substitution might be: selling or packaging liquids by the liter instead of by the pint or quart (as for soft drinks), or instead of by the gallon (as for gasoline).

Soft Metric - The result of a mathematical conversion of inch-pound measurements to metric equivalents for a particular purpose. The physical characteristics are not changed.

Dual Systems - The use of both inch-pound and metric systems. For example, an item is designed, produced, and described in inch-pound values with soft metric values also shown for information or comparison purposes.

(10) **Human Subjects**

The following notice is applicable when contract performance is expected to involve risk to human subjects:

Notice to Offerors of Requirements of 45 CFR Part 46, Protection of Human Subjects (SEPTEMBER 1985)

- a) Copies of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) regulations for the protection of human subjects, 45 CFR Part 46, are available from the Office for Protection from Research Risks (OPRR), National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892. The regulations provide a systematic means, based on established ethical principles, to safeguard the rights and welfare of individuals who participate as subjects in research activities supported or conducted by the Department.
- b) The regulations define a human subject as a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information. The regulations extend to the use of human organs, tissue and body fluids from individually identifiable human subjects as well as to graphic, written or recorded information derived from individually identifiable human subjects. The use of autopsy materials is governed by applicable State and local law and is not directly regulated by 45 CFR, Part 46.
- c) Activities in which the only involvement of human subjects will be in one or more of the categories set forth in 45 CFR 46.101(b)(1-6) are exempt from coverage.

- d) Inappropriate designations of the noninvolvement of human subjects or of exempt categories of research in a project may result in delays in the review of a proposal. The Public Health Service will make a final determination of whether the proposed activities are covered by the regulations or are in an exempt category, based on the information provided in the proposal. In doubtful cases, prior consideration with OPRR, (telephone: 301-496-7041), is recommended.
- e) In accordance with 45 CFR, Part 46, prospective Contractors being considered for award shall be required to file with OPRR an acceptable Assurance of Compliance with the regulations, specifying review procedures and assigning responsibilities for the protection of human subjects. The initial and continuing review of a research project by an institutional review board shall assure that the rights and welfare of the human subjects involved are adequately protected, that the risks to the subjects are reasonable in relation to the potential benefits, if any, to the subjects and the importance of the knowledge to be gained, and that informed consent will be obtained by methods that are adequate and appropriate. Prospective Contractors proposing research that involves human subjects shall be contacted by OPRR and given detailed instructions for establishing an institutional review board and filing an Assurance of Compliance.
- f) It is recommended that OPRR be consulted for advice or guidance concerning either regulatory requirements or ethical issues pertaining to research involving human subjects.

(11) **Privacy Act**

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that a Federal agency advise each individual whom it asks to supply information, the authority which authorizes the solicitation, whether disclosure is voluntary or mandatory, the principal purpose or purposes for which the information is intended to be used, the uses outside the agency which may be made of the information, and the effects on the individual, if any, of not providing all or any part of the requested information.

The NIH is requesting the information called for in this RFP pursuant to the authority provided by Sec. 301(a)(7) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, and P.L. 92-218, as amended.

Providing the information requested is entirely voluntary. The collection of this information is for the purpose of conducting an accurate, fair, and adequate review prior to a discussion as to whether to award a contract.

Failure to provide any or all of the requested information may result in a less than adequate review.

In addition, the Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579, Section 7) requires that the following information be provided when individuals are requested to disclose their social security number.

Provision of the social security number is voluntary. Social security numbers are requested for the purpose of accurate and efficient identification, referral, review and management of NIH contracting programs. Authority for requesting this information is provided by Section 301 and Title IV of the PHS Act, as amended.

The information provided by you may be routinely disclosed for the following purposes:

- to the cognizant audit agency and the General Accounting Office for auditing.
- to the Department of Justice as required for litigation.
- to respond to congressional inquiries.
- to qualified experts, not within the definition of Department employees, for opinions as a part of the review process.

(12) **Selection of Offerors**

- a) The acceptability of the scientific and technical portion of each research contract proposal will be evaluated by a technical review committee. The committee will evaluate each proposal in strict conformity with the evaluation criteria of the RFP, utilizing point scores and written critiques. The committee may suggest that the Contracting Officer request clarifying information from an offeror.
- b) The business portion of each contract proposal will be subjected to a cost and price analysis, management analysis, etc.
- c) If award will be made without conducting discussions, offerors may be given the opportunity to clarify certain aspects of their proposal (e.g., the relevance of an offeror's past performance information and adverse past performance information to which the offeror has not previously had an opportunity to respond) or to resolve minor or clerical errors.
- d) If the Government intends to conduct discussions prior to awarding a contract-
 - (1) Communications will be held with offerors whose past performance information is the determining factor preventing them from being placed within the competitive range. Such communications shall address adverse past performance information to which an offeror has not had a prior opportunity to respond. Also, communications may be held with any other offerors whose exclusion from, or inclusion in, the competitive range is uncertain.

Such communications shall not be used to cure proposal deficiencies or omissions that alter the technical or cost elements of the proposal, and/or otherwise revise the proposal, but may be considered in rating proposals for the purpose of establishing the competitive range.

- (2) The Contracting Officer will, in concert with program staff, decide which proposals are in the competitive range. The competitive range will be comprised of all of the most highly rated proposals. Oral or written discussions will be conducted with all offerors in the competitive range.

While it is NCI's policy to conduct discussions with all offerors in the competitive range, NCI reserves the right, in special circumstances, to limit the number of proposals included in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition. All aspects of the proposals are subject to discussions, including cost, technical approach, past performance, and contractual terms and conditions. At the conclusion of discussions, each offeror still in the competitive range shall be given an opportunity to submit a written Final Proposal Revision (FPR) with the reservation of the right to conduct limited negotiations after Final Proposal Revisions (FPRs) in accordance with HHSAR 315.670.

- e) The process described in FAR 15.101-1 will be employed, which permits the Government to make tradeoffs among cost or price and non-cost factors and to consider award to other than the lowest price offeror or other than the highest technically rated offeror. This process will take into consideration the results of the technical evaluation, the past performance evaluation (if applicable) and the cost analysis.
- f) The NCI reserves the right to make a single award, multiple awards, or no award at all to the RFP. In addition, the RFP may be amended or canceled as necessary to meet NCI requirements. Synopses of awards exceeding \$25,000 will be published in the Commerce Business Daily.

(13) **Small Business Subcontracting Plan**

If the proposed contract exceeds a total estimated cost of \$500,000 for the entire period of performance, the apparent successful offeror shall be required to submit an acceptable subcontracting plan in accordance with the terms of the clause entitled "Small Business Subcontracting Plan," FAR Clause No. 52.219-9, incorporated herein by reference in the Solicitation. SECTION J, LIST OF ATTACHMENTS, to this RFP provides an example of such a plan.

- a) THIS PROVISION DOES NOT APPLY TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.
- b) The term "subcontract" means any agreement (other than one involving an employer-employee relationship) entered into by a Federal Government prime contractor or subcontractor calling for supplies or services required for the performance of the original contract or subcontract. This includes, but is not limited to, agreements/purchase orders for supplies and services such as equipment purchase, copying services, and travel services.
- c) The offeror understands that:
 - (1) No contract will be awarded unless and until an acceptable plan is negotiated with the Contracting Officer which plan will be incorporated into the contract, as a material part thereof.
 - (2) An acceptable plan must, in the determination of the Contracting Officer, provide the maximum practicable opportunity for small business concerns and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged persons to participate in the performance of the contract.
 - (3) If a subcontracting plan acceptable to the Contracting Officer is not negotiated within the time limits prescribed by the contracting activity and such failure arises out of causes within the control and with the fault or negligence of the offeror, the offeror shall be ineligible for an award. The Contracting Officer shall notify the Contractor in writing of the reasons for determining a subcontracting plan unacceptable early enough in the negotiation process to allow the Contractor to modify the plan within the time limits prescribed.
 - (4) Prior compliance of the offeror with other such subcontracting plans under previous contracts will be considered by the Contracting Officer in determining the responsibility of the offeror for award of the contract.
 - (5) It is the offeror's responsibility to develop a satisfactory subcontracting plan with respect to small business concerns and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and women-owned small business concerns, and that each such aspect of the offeror's plan will be judged independent of the other.
 - (6) The offeror will submit, as required by the Contracting Officer, subcontracting reports in accordance with the instructions thereon, and as further directed by the Contracting Officer. Subcontractors will also submit these reports to the Government's Contracting Officer or as otherwise directed, with a copy to the prime Contractor's designated small and disadvantaged business liaison.
- d) Each plan must contain the following:
 - (1) Goals, expressed in terms of percentages of total planned subcontracting dollars, for the use of Small, small disadvantaged, women-owned, and HUBZone small business concerns as subcontractors.
 - (2) A statement of total dollars planned to be subcontracted. A statement of total dollars to be subcontracted to each of the following type of small business concerns: Small, Small Disadvantaged, Women-Owned, and HUBZone Small Businesses.
 - (3) A description of the principal types of supplies and services to be subcontracted with an identification of which supplies and services are expected to be subcontracted to small, small disadvantaged, women-owned and/or HUBZone small business concerns.
 - (4) A description of the method used to develop the subcontracting goals.
 - (5) A description of the method used to identify potential sources for solicitation purposes.
 - (6) A statement as to whether or not indirect costs were included in establishing subcontracting goals. If they were, a description of the method used to determine the proportionate share of indirect costs to be incurred with small, small disadvantaged, women-owned, and HUBZone small business concerns.
 - (7) The name of the individual employed by the offeror who will administer the offeror's subcontracting program and a description of his/her duties.

- (8) A description of the efforts the offeror will make to assure that small, small disadvantaged, women-owned, and HUBZone small business concerns have an equitable chance to compete for subcontracts.
- (9) Assurances that the offeror will include in all subcontracts the contract clause "Utilization of Small Business Concerns." Assure that all subcontractors, other than small businesses, in excess of \$500,000 adopt a plan similar to the plan agreed upon by the offeror.
- (10) Assurances that the offeror (and any required subcontractors) will cooperate in studies or surveys as required and submit required reports (SF 294 and SF 295) to the Government.
- (11) List the types of records the offeror will maintain to demonstrate procedures that have been adopted to comply with the requirement and goals in the plan, including establishing source lists. Also, the offeror shall describe its efforts to locate small, small disadvantaged, women-owned, and HUBZone small business concerns and award subcontracts to them.

For additional information about each of the above elements required to be contained the subcontracting plan, see FAR Clause 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan, and the Sample Subcontracting Plan which is provided as an attachment to this RFP in SECTION J.

(14) **HUBZone Small Business Concerns**

Small Business offerors located in underutilized business zones, called "HUBZones," will be evaluated in accordance with FAR Clause 52.219-4, NOTICE OF PRICE EVALUATION PREFERENCE FOR HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS, which is incorporated by reference in ARTICLE I.3. of this solicitation. Qualified HUBZone firms are identified in the Small Business Administration website at <http://www.sba.gov/hubzone>.

(15) **Extent of Small Disadvantaged Business Participation**

In accordance with FAR part 15.304(c)4, the extent of participation of Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) concerns in performance of the contract in the authorized SIC Major Groups shall be evaluated in unrestricted acquisitions expected to exceed a total estimated cost of \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 for construction) subject to certain limitations (see FAR 19.1201 and 19.1202). The factor entitled "Extent of Small Disadvantaged Business Participation" as set forth under the Evaluation Criteria in Section M shall be used for this purpose. Credit under this evaluation factor is not available to SDB concerns that receive a Price Evaluation Adjustment (PEA) under FAR 19.11. Therefore, an SDB will be evaluated on this factor only if that SDB concern waives the PEA. **Waiver of the price evaluation adjustment shall be clearly stated in the proposal.**

Offerors shall include with their business proposal, SDB targets, expressed as dollars and percentages of total contract value, in each of the applicable, authorized SIC Major Group(s). The applicable authorized SIC Major Group for this project is **8731**. A total target for SDB participation by the prime contractor, that includes any joint ventures and team members, shall be provided as well as a total target for SDB participation by subcontractors. In addition, offerors must provide information that describes their plans for meeting the targets set forth in their proposal. **This information shall be provided in one clearly marked section of the business proposal, which shall describe the extent of participation of SDB concerns in the performance of the contract.**

If the evaluation includes an SDB evaluation factor or subfactor that considers the extent to which SDB concerns are specifically identified, the SDB concerns considered in the evaluation shall be listed in any resultant contract. Offerors should note that addressing the extent of small disadvantaged participation **is not in any way intended to be a substitute** for submission of the subcontracting plan, if it is required by this solicitation. An example of the type of information that might be given follows:

EXAMPLE		
Targets for SDB Participation - SIC Major Group 87		
	SDB Percentage of Total Contract Value	Dollars
Total Contract Value- \$1,000,000	25%	\$250,000
SDB Participation by Prime (Includes joint venture partners and team members)	10%	\$100,000
SDB Participation by subcontractors	15%	\$150,000

(16) Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Research Involving Human Subjects

It is the policy of the NIH that women and members of minority groups and their subpopulations must be included in all NIH supported biomedical and behavioral research projects involving human subjects, unless a clear and compelling rationale and justification is provided that inclusion is inappropriate with respect to the health of the subjects or the purpose of the research. This new policy results from the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 (Section 492B of Public Law 103-43) and supersedes and strengthens the previous policies (Concerning the Inclusion of Women in Study Populations, and Concerning the Inclusion of Minorities in Study Populations) which have been in effect since 1990. The new policy contains some new provisions that are substantially different from the 1990 policies.

All investigators proposing research involving human subjects should read the "NIH Guidelines For Inclusion of Women and Minorities as Subjects in Clinical Research" which have been published in the Federal Register of March 28, 1994 (FR 59 14508-14513), [(this was reprinted to correct typesetting errors from Federal Register dated March 9, 1994 (FR 59 11146-11151)], and reprinted in the NIH GUIDE FOR GRANTS AND CONTRACTS of March 18, 1994, Volume 23, Number 11.

Offerors may obtain copies from these sources or from the contact person listed in the RFP.

Unless otherwise specified in this solicitation, the Government has determined that the work set forth herein does not involve a gender specific study or a single or limited number of minority population groups. Therefore, the NCI believes that the inclusion of women and minority populations is appropriate for this project. (See TECHNICAL EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD for more information.)

The format for the Annual Technical Progress Report for Clinical Research Study Populations (See SECTION J - LIST OF DOCUMENTS, EXHIBITS AND OTHER ATTACHMENTS of this RFP) shall be used in proposal preparation.

(17) Inclusion of Children in Research Involving Human Subjects

It is NIH policy that children (defined below) must be included in all human subjects research, including, but not limited to, clinical trials, conducted under a contract funded by the NIH, unless there are scientific or ethical reasons not to include them. For the purposes of this policy, contracts involving human subjects include categories that would otherwise be exempt from the DHHS Policy for Protection of Human Research Subjects (sections 101(b) and 401(b) of 45 CFR 46), such as surveys, evaluation of educational interventions, and studies of existing data or specimens that should include children as participants. This policy applies to both domestic and foreign research contracts.

For purposes of this policy, a child is defined as an individual under the age of 21 years.

Inclusion of children as participants in research must be in compliance with all applicable subparts of 45 CFR 46 as well as other pertinent laws and regulations whether or not such research is otherwise exempted from 45 CFR 46. Therefore, any proposals must include a description of plans for including children, unless the offeror presents clear and convincing justification for an exclusion. In the technical proposal, the offeror should create a section titled "Participation of Children." This section should provide either a description of the plans to include children and a rationale for selecting or excluding a specific age range of child, or an explanation of the reason(s) for excluding children as participants in the research. The RFP will contain a review criterion addressing the adequacy of plans for including children as appropriate for the scientific goals of the research, or justification of exclusion.

All investigators proposing research involving human subjects should read the "NIH Policy and Guidelines on the Inclusion of Children as Participants in Research Involving Human Subjects" which was published in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts on March 6, 1998 and is available at the following URL address:

<http://www.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not98-024.html>

Offerors may also obtain copies from the contact person listed in the RFP.

(18) Reimbursement of Costs for Independent Research and Development Projects (Commercial Organizations Only)

The primary purpose of the Public Health Service (PHS) is to support and advance independent research within the scientific community. This support is provided in the form of contracts and grants totaling approximately 7 billion dollars annually. PHS has established effective, time tested and well recognized and accepted procedures for stimulating and supporting this independent research by selecting from multitudes of proposals those research projects most worthy of support within the constraints of its appropriations. The reimbursement of independent research and development costs not incidental to product improvement, through the indirect cost mechanism, would circumvent this competitive process.

To ensure that all research and development projects receive similar and equal consideration, all offerors may compete for direct funding for independent research and development projects they consider worthy of support by submitting those projects to the appropriate Public Health Service grant and/or contract office for review. Since these projects may be submitted for direct funding, the successful offeror agrees that no costs for any independent research and development project, including applicable indirect costs, will be claimed under any contract resulting from this solicitation.

(19) Salary Rate Limitation in Fiscal Year 2000

Offerors are advised that pursuant to P.L. 106-113, no NIH Fiscal Year 2000 (October 1, 1999 – September 30, 2000) funds may be used to pay the direct annual salary of an individual through any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation at a rate in excess of the Executive Schedule, Level II* (direct salary is exclusive of Overhead, Fringe Benefits and General and Administrative expenses). This does not preclude the offeror from absorbing that portion of an employee's annual salary (plus the dollar amount for fringe benefits and associated indirect costs) that exceeds a rate of the Executive Schedule, Level II*. The salary rate limitation set by P.L. 106-113 applies only to Fiscal Year 2000 funds, however, salary rate ceilings for subsequent years may be included in future DHHS appropriation acts. Multi-year contracts awarded pursuant to this solicitation may be subject to unilateral modifications by the Government if an individual's annual salary exceeds any salary rate ceiling established in future appropriations acts. The Executive Schedule, Level II* annual salary rate limit also applies to individuals proposed under subcontracts. P.L. 106-113 states in pertinent part:

"None of the funds appropriated in this Act for the National Institutes of Health and the Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Services Administration shall be used to pay the salary of an individual through a grant or extramural mechanism at a rate in excess of Executive Level II."

***This rate may change periodically. For your information, the rate can be found at:
<http://www.opm.gov/oca/2000tbls/Execses/html/execschd.htm>**

(20) Institutional Responsibility Regarding Conflicting Interests of Investigators

EACH INSTITUTION MUST:

- (a) Maintain an appropriate written, enforced policy on conflict of interest that complies with 42 CFR Part 50 Subpart F and/or 45 CFR Part 94 as appropriate and inform each investigator of the Institution's policy, the Investigator's reporting responsibilities, and the applicable regulations. If the Institution carries out the NIH funded research through subgrantees, contractors or collaborators, the Institution must take reasonable steps to ensure that Investigators working for such entities comply with the regulations, either by requiring those investigators to comply with the Institution's policy or by requiring the entities to provide assurances to the Institution that will enable the Institution to comply with the regulations.

- (b) Designate an Institutional official(s) to solicit and review financial disclosure statements from each Investigator who is planning to participate in NIH-funded research.
- (c) Require that by the time an application/proposal is submitted to the NIH each investigator who is planning to participate in the NIH-funded research has submitted to the designated official(s) a listing of his/her known Significant Financial Interests (and those of his/her spouse and dependent children): (i) that would reasonably appear to be affected by the research for which the NIH funding is sought; and (ii) in entities whose financial interests would reasonably appear to be affected by the research. All financial disclosures must be updated during the period of the award, either on an annual basis or as new reportable Significant Financial Interests are obtained.
- (d) Provide guidelines consistent with the regulations for the designated official(s) to identify conflicting interests and take such actions as necessary to ensure that such conflicting interests will be managed, reduced, or eliminated.
- (e) Maintain records, identifiable to each award, of all financial disclosures and all actions taken by the institution with respect to each conflicting interest for: (1) in the case of grants, at least three years from the date of submission of the final expenditures report or, where applicable, from other dates specified in 45 CFR Part 74.53(b) and (2) in the case of contracts, 3 years after final payment or, where applicable, for the other time period specified in 48 CFR Part 4 Subpart 4.7, Contract Records Retention.
- (f) Establish adequate enforcement mechanisms and provide for sanctions where appropriate.
- (g) Certify, in each application/proposal for funding to which the regulations applies, that:
 - 1) there is in effect at the Institution a written and enforced administrative process to identify and manage, reduce or eliminate conflicting interests with respect to all research projects for which funding is sought from the NIH;
 - 2) prior to the Institution's expenditure of any funds under the award, the Institution will report to the awarding component the existence of a conflicting interest (but not the nature of the interest or other details) found by the Institution and assure that the interest has been managed, reduced or eliminated in accord with the regulations; and for any interest that the Institution identifies as conflicting subsequent to the expenditure of funds after award, the report will be made and the conflicting interest managed, reduced, or eliminated, at least on a temporary basis within sixty days of that identification;
 - 3) the Institution agrees to make information available, upon request, to the awarding component regarding all conflicting interests identified by the Institution and how those interested have been managed, reduced, or eliminated to protect the research from bias; and
 - 4) the Institution will otherwise comply with the regulations.

Institutional Management of Conflicting Interests

- (a) The designated official(s) must: (1) review all financial disclosures; and (2) determine whether conflict of interest exists, and if so, determine what actions should be taken by the Institution to manage, reduce or eliminate such conflict of interest. **A conflict of interest exists when the designated official(s) reasonably determines that a Significant Financial Interest could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, or reporting of the NIH-funded research.**

Examples of conditions or restrictions that might be imposed to manage actual or potential conflicts of interests include, but are not limited to:

- (i) public disclosure of significant financial interests;
 - (ii) monitoring of research by independent reviewers;
 - (iii) modification of the research plan;
 - (iv) disqualification of the Investigator(s) from participation in all or a portion of the research funded by the awarding component;
 - (v) divestiture of significant financial interests; or
 - (vi) severance of relationships that create actual or potential conflicts of interests.
- (b) An Institution may require the management of other conflicting financial interests in addition to those described in paragraph (a) of this section, as the Institution deems appropriate.

(21) ROTC Access and Federal Military Recruiting on Campus

Section 514 of the FY 1997 Appropriations Act prohibits NIH from providing contract funds to educational institutions that the Secretary of Defense determines have a policy or practice (regardless of when implemented) that either prohibits, or in effect prevents (1) the maintaining, establishing, or operation of a unit of the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps at the covered education entity; or (2) a student at the covered educational entity from enrolling in a unit of the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps at another institution of higher education.

Further, contract funds may not be provided to educational institutions that have a policy or practice that prohibits or prevents (1) entry to campuses, or access to students (who are 17 years of age or older) on campuses, for purposes of Federal military recruiting; or (2) access by military recruiters for purposes of Federal military recruiting to information pertaining to students (who are 17 years of age or older) enrolled at the covered educational entity.

(22) Solicitation Provisions Incorporated by Reference, FAR 52.252-1 (February 1998)

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

FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (48 CFR CHAPTER 1):

Submission of Offers in the English Language, FAR Clause 52.214-34, (April 1991).

Submission of Offers in U.S. Currency, FAR Clause 52.214-35, (April 1991).
Facilities Capital Cost of Money, FAR Clause 52.215-16, (October 1997).

Order of Precedence-Uniform Contract Format, FAR Clause 52.215-8, (October 1997).

Preaward On-Site Equal Opportunity Compliance Evaluation, (Over \$10,000,000), FAR Clause 52.222-24, (February 1999).

b. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

A detailed work plan must be submitted indicating how each aspect of the statement of work is to be accomplished. Your technical approach should be in as much detail as you consider necessary to fully explain your proposed technical approach or method. The technical proposal should reflect a clear understanding of the nature of the work being undertaken. The technical proposal must include information on how the project is to be organized, staffed, and managed. Information should be provided which will demonstrate your understanding and management of important events or tasks.

(1) Technical Discussions

The technical discussion included in the technical proposal should respond to the items set forth below:

a) Statement of Work

(1) Objectives

State the overall objectives and the specific accomplishments you hope to achieve. Indicate the rationale for your plan, and relation to comparable work in progress elsewhere. Review pertinent work already published which is relevant to this project and your proposed approach. This should support the scope of the project as you perceive it.

(2) Approach

Use as many subparagraphs, appropriately titled, as needed to clearly outline the general plan of work. Discuss phasing of research and, if appropriate, include experimental design and possible or probable outcome of approaches proposed.

(3) Methods

Describe in detail the methodologies you will use for the project, indicating your level of experience with each, areas of anticipated difficulties, and any unusual expenses you anticipate.

(4) Schedule

Provide a schedule for completion of the work and delivery of items specified in the statement of work. Performance or delivery schedules shall be indicated for phases or segments, as applicable, as well as for the overall program. Schedules shall be shown in terms of calendar months from the date of authorization to proceed or, where applicable, from the date of a stated event, as for example, receipt of a required approval by the Contracting Officer. Unless the request for proposal indicates that the stipulated schedules are mandatory, they shall be treated as desired or recommended schedules. In this event, proposals based upon the offeror's best alternative schedule, involving no overtime, extra shift or other premium, will be accepted for consideration.

b) Personnel

Describe the experience and qualifications of personnel who will be assigned for direct work on this program. Information is required which will show the composition of the task or work group, its general qualifications, and recent experience with similar equipment or programs. Special mention shall be made of direct technical supervisors and key technical personnel, and the approximate percentage of the total time each will be available for this program.

OFFERORS SHOULD ASSURE THAT THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, AND ALL OTHER PERSONNEL PROPOSED, SHALL NOT BE COMMITTED ON FEDERAL GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR MORE THAN A TOTAL OF 100% OF THEIR TIME. IF THE SITUATION ARISES WHERE IT IS DETERMINED THAT A PROPOSED EMPLOYEE IS COMMITTED FOR MORE THAN 100% OF HIS OR HER TIME, THE GOVERNMENT WILL REQUIRE ACTION ON THE PART OF THE OFFEROR TO CORRECT THE TIME COMMITMENT.

(1) Principal Investigator/Project Director

List the name of the Principal Investigator/Project Director responsible for overall implementation of the contract and key contact for technical aspects of the project. Even though there may be co-investigators, identify the Principal Investigator/Project Director who will be responsible for the overall implementation of any awarded contract. Discuss the qualifications, experience, and accomplishments of the Principal Investigator/Project Director. State the estimated time to be spent on the project, his/her proposed duties, and the areas or phases for which he/she will be responsible.

(2) Other Investigators

List all other investigators/professional personnel who will be participating in the project. Discuss the qualifications, experience, and accomplishments. State the estimated time each will spend on the project, proposed duties on the project, and the areas or phases for which each will be responsible.

(3) Additional Personnel

List names, titles, and proposed duties of additional personnel, if any, who will be required for full-time employment, or on a subcontract or consultant basis. The technical areas, character, and extent of subcontract or consultant activity will be indicated and the anticipated sources will be specified and qualified. For all proposed personnel who are not currently members of the offeror's staff, a letter of commitment or other evidence of availability is required. A resume does not meet this requirement. Commitment letters for use of consultants and other personnel to be hired must include:

- The specific items or expertise they will provide.
- Their availability to the project and the amount of time anticipated.
- Willingness to act as a consultant.
- How rights to publications and patents will be handled.

(4) Resumes

Resumes of all key personnel are required. Each must indicate educational background, recent experience, specific or technical accomplishments, and a listing of relevant publications.

(2) Technical Evaluation

Proposals will be technically evaluated in accordance with the factors, weights, and order of relative importance as described in the TECHNICAL EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD.

(3) Additional Technical Proposal Information

- a) Proposals which merely offer to conduct a program in accordance with the requirements of the Government's scope of work will not be eligible for award. The offeror must submit an explanation of the proposed technical approach in conjunction with the tasks to be performed in achieving the project objectives.
- b) The technical evaluation is conducted in accordance with the weighted technical evaluation criteria by an initial review panel. This evaluation produces a numerical score (points) which is based upon the information contained in the offeror's proposal only.

(4) Other Considerations

Record and discuss specific factors not included elsewhere which support your proposal. Using specifically titled subparagraphs, items may include:

- a) Any agreements and/or arrangements with subcontractor(s). Provide as much detail as necessary to explain how the statement of work will be accomplished within this working relationship.
- b) Unique arrangements, equipment, etc., which none or very few organizations are likely to have which is advantageous for effective implementation of this project.

- c) Equipment and unusual operating procedures established to protect personnel from hazards associated with this project.
- d) Other factors you feel are important and support your proposed research.
- e) Recommendations for changing reporting requirements if such changes would be more compatible with the offeror's proposed schedules.

c. BUSINESS PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Basic Cost/Price Information

The business proposal must contain sufficient information to allow the Government to perform a basic analysis of the proposed cost or price of the work. This information shall include the amounts of the basic elements of the proposed cost or price. These elements will include, as applicable, direct labor, fringe benefits, travel, materials, subcontracts, purchased parts, shipping, indirect costs and rate, fee, and profit.

(2) Proposal Cover Sheet

a) The following information shall be provided on the first page of your pricing proposal:

1. Solicitation, contract, and/or modification number;
2. Name and address of Offeror;
3. Name and telephone number of point of contact;
4. Name, address, and telephone number of Contract Administration Office, (if available);
5. Name, address, and telephone number of Audit Office (if available);
6. Proposed cost and/or price; profit or fee (as applicable); and total;
7. The following statement: By submitting this proposal, the offeror, if selected for discussions, grants the contracting officer or an authorized representative the right to examine, at any time before award, any of those books, records, documents, or other records directly pertinent to the information requested or submitted.
8. Date of submission; and
9. Name, title and signature of authorized representative.

This cover sheet information is for use by offerors to submit information to the Government when cost or pricing data are not required but information to help establish price reasonableness or cost realism is necessary. Such information is not considered cost or pricing data, and shall not be certified in accordance with FAR 15.406-2.

b) The information submitted shall be at the level of detail described below.

1. Direct Labor

Provide a time-phased (e.g., monthly, quarterly, etc.) breakdown of labor hours, rates, and cost by appropriate category. Key personnel will be separately estimated as above and identified. Give the basis for the estimates in each case.

2. Materials

Provide a consolidated price summary of individual material quantities included in the various tasks, orders, or contract line items being proposed and the basis for pricing (vendor quotes, invoice prices, etc.).

3. Subcontracted Items

Include parts, components, assemblies, and services that are to be produced or performed by others in accordance with offeror's design, specifications, or direction and that are applicable only to the prime contract. For each subcontract over \$500,000, the support should provide a listing by source, item, quantity, price, type of subcontract, degree of competition, and basis for establishing source and reasonableness of price, as well as the results of review and evaluation of subcontract proposals when required by FAR 15.806.

4. Raw Materials

Consists of material in a form or state that requires further processing. Provide priced quantities of items required for the proposal.

5. **Purchased Parts**

Includes material items not covered above. Provide priced quantities of items required for the proposal.

6. **Fringe Benefits**

Show fringe benefits as a separate line item. Include the rate(s) and/or method of calculating fringe benefits. Provide a copy of your fringe benefit rate or institutional guidelines.

7. **Indirect Costs**

Indicate how offeror has computed and applied offeror's indirect costs, including cost breakdowns, and provide a basis for evaluating the reasonableness of proposed rates. Indicate the rates used and provide an appropriate explanation. Where a rate agreement exists, provide a copy.

8. **Special Equipment**

If direct charge, list any equipment proposed including description, price, quantity, total price, purchase or lease, and the basis for pricing.

9. **Travel**

Provide the cost of travel including destination, duration, purpose, per diem, transportation, and the basis for pricing.

10. **Other Costs**

List all other costs not otherwise included in the categories described above (e.g., computer services, consultant services) and provide basis for pricing.

To assist in the preparation of future cost estimates, the Projected Consumer Price Index may be accessed at: <http://amb.nci.nih.gov/cpi.htm>

(3) **Qualifications of the Offeror**

- a) You are requested to submit a summary of your "General Experience, Organizational Experience Related to this RFP, Performance History and Pertinent Contracts."

(1) **General Experience**

General experience is defined as general background, experience and qualifications of the offeror. A discussion of proposed facilities which can be devoted to the project may be appropriate.

(2) **Organizational Experience Related to the RFP**

Organizational experience is defined as the accomplishment of work, either past or on-going, which is comparable or related to the effort required by this RFP. This includes overall offeror or corporate experience, **but not** the experience and/or past performance of individuals who are proposed as personnel involved with the Statement of Work in this RFP.

(3) **Performance History**

Performance history is defined as meeting contract objectives within delivery and cost schedules on efforts, either past or on-going, which is comparable or related to the effort required by this RFP.

(4) Pertinent Contracts

Pertinent contracts is defined as a listing of each related contract completed within the last three years or currently in process. The listing should include: 1) the contract number; 2) contracting agency; 3) contract dollar value; 4) dates contract began and ended (or ends); 5) description of contract work; 6) explanation of relevance of work to this RFP; 7) actual delivery and cost performance versus delivery and cost agreed to in the contract(s). For award fee contracts, separately state in dollars the base fee and award fee available and the award fee actually received. The same type of organizational experience and past performance data should be submitted.

(5) Pertinent Grants

List grants supported by the Government that involved similar or related work to that called for in this RFP. Include the grant number, involved agency, names of the grant specialist and the Science Administrator, identification of the work, and when performed.

You are cautioned that omission or an inadequate or inaccurate response to this very important RFP requirement could have a negative effect on the overall selection process. Experience and past performance are factors which are relevant to the ability of the offerors to perform and while not an evaluation factor they are considered in the source selection process.

(4) Other Administrative Data

a) Property

- (1) It is DHHS policy that Contractors will provide all equipment and facilities necessary for performance of contracts. Exception may be granted to furnish Government-owned property, or to authorize purchase with contract funds, only when approved by the Contracting Officer. If the offeror is proposing that the Government provide any equipment, other than that specified under Government Furnished Property in the RFP, the proposal must include comprehensive justification which includes:
 - (a) An explanation that the item is for a special use essential to the direct performance of the contract and the item will be used exclusively for the purpose. Office equipment such as desks, office machines, etc., will not be provided under a contract except under very exceptional circumstances.
 - (b) No practical or economical alternative exists (e.g., rental, capital investment) that can be used to perform the work.
- (2) The offeror shall identify Government-owned property in its possession and/or Contractor titled property acquired from Federal funds, which it proposes to use in the performance of the prospective contract.
- (3) The management and control of any Government property shall be in accordance with DHHS Publication (OS) 686 entitled, "Contractor's Guide for Control of Government Property (1990)," a copy of which will be provided upon request.

b) Submission of Electronic Funds Transfer Information with Offer, FAR Clause 52.232-38, (May 1999)

The offeror shall provide, with its offer, the following information that is required to make payment by electronic funds transfer (EFT) under any contract that results from this solicitation. This submission satisfies the requirement to provide EFT information under paragraphs (b)(1) and (j) of the clause at 52.232-34, Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer--Other than Central Contractor Registration.

- (1) The solicitation number (or other procurement identification number).
- (2) The offeror's name and remittance address, as stated in the offer.
- (3) The signature (manual or electronic, as appropriate), title, and telephone number of the offeror's official authorized to provide this information.
- (4) The name, address, and 9-digit Routing Transit Number of the offeror's financial agent.
- (5) The offeror's account number and the type of account (checking, savings, or lockbox).
- (6) If applicable, the Fedwire Transfer System telegraphic abbreviation of the offeror's financial agent.

(7) If applicable, the offeror shall also provide the name, address, telegraphic abbreviation, and 9-digit Routing Transit Number of the correspondent financial institution receiving the wire transfer payment if the offeror's financial agent is not directly on-line to the Fedwire and, therefore, not the receiver of the wire transfer payment.

c) **Financial Capacity**

The offeror shall indicate if it has the necessary financial capacity, working capital, and other resources to perform the contract without assistance from any outside source. If not, indicate the amount required and the anticipated source.

d) **Incremental Funding**

An incrementally funded cost-reimbursement contract is a contract in which the total work effort is to be performed over a multiple year period and funds are allotted, as they become available, to cover discernible phases or increments of performance. The incremental funding technique allows for contracts to be awarded for periods in excess of one year even though the total estimated amount of funds expected to be obligated for the contract are not available at the time of the contract award. If this requirement is specified elsewhere in this RFP, the offeror shall submit a cost proposal for each year. In addition, the following provisions are applicable:

Sufficient funds are not presently available to cover the total cost of the complete multiple year project described in this solicitation. However, it is the Government's intention to negotiate and award a contract using the incremental funding concepts described in the clause entitled "Limitation of Funds." Under that clause, which will be included in the resultant contract, initial funds will be obligated under the contract to cover an initial period of performance. Additional funds are intended to be allotted from time to time, to the contract by contract modification, up to and including the full estimated cost of the contract, to accomplish the entire project. While it is the Government's intention to progressively fund this contract over the entire period of performance up to and including the full estimated cost, the Government will not be obligated to reimburse the Contractor for costs incurred in excess of the periodic allotments, nor will the Contractor be obligated to perform in excess of the amount allotted.

The "Limitation of Funds" clause to be included in the resultant contract shall supersede the "Limitation of Cost" clause found in the General Clauses.

e) **Facilities Capital Cost of Money, FAR 52.215-16, (October 1997)**

(This is applicable if you are a commercial organization.)

- (a) Facilities capital cost of money [(see FAR 15.408(h)] will be an allowable cost under the contemplated contract, if the criteria for allowability in subparagraph 31.205-10(a)(2) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation are met. One of the allowability criteria requires the prospective Contractor to propose facilities capital cost of money in its offer.
- (b) If the prospective Contractor does not propose this cost, the resulting contract will include the clause Waiver of Facilities Capital Cost of Money.

(End of Provision)

If the offeror elects to claim this cost, the offeror shall specifically identify or propose it in the cost proposal for the contract by checking the appropriate box below.

- The prospective Contractor has specifically identified or proposed facilities capital cost of money in its cost proposal and elects to claim this cost as an allowable cost under the contract. Submit Form CASB-CMF (see FAR 31.205-10).
- The prospective Contractor has not specifically identified or proposed facilities capital cost of money in its proposal and elects not to claim it as an allowable cost under the contract.

(5) **Subcontractors**

If subcontractors are proposed, please include a commitment letter from the subcontractor detailing:

- a) Willingness to perform as a subcontractor for specific duties (list duties).
- b) What priority the work will be given and how it will relate to other work.
- c) The amount of time and facilities available to this project.
- d) Information on their cognizant field audit offices.
- e) How rights to publications and patents are to be handled.
- f) A complete cost proposal in the same format as the offeror's cost proposal.

(6) **Proposer's Annual Financial Report**

All offerors included in the competitive range will be required to submit a copy of the organization's most recent annual financial report.

OR

A copy of the organization's most recent annual report must be submitted as part of the business proposal.

(7) **Representations and Certifications**

One copy of the Representations and Certifications attached as SECTION K shall be completed and be signed by an official authorized to bind your organization. Additionally, a completed copy of the Representations and Certifications shall be submitted from any proposed subcontractor.

(8) **Travel Costs/Travel Policy**

a) **Travel Costs - Commercial**

In accordance with Title II, section 201 of the Federal Civilian Employee and Contractor Travel Expense Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-234), costs for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses incurred by Contractor personnel shall be considered to be reasonable and allowable to the extent they do not exceed on a daily basis the per diem rates set forth in the Federal Travel Regulations, General Services Administration (GSA). Therefore, if travel costs are applicable and proposed by offerors, please be advised that they shall be calculated using the per diem rate schedule as established by GSA. Reimbursement of travel costs under any contract awarded from this RFP shall be in accordance with FAR 31.205-46.

b) **Travel Policy**

All offerors included within the competitive range will be required to submit one copy of their written travel policy. A written travel policy for any proposed subcontractors shall also be submitted at that time. If an offeror (or any proposed subcontractor) does not have a written travel policy, the offeror shall so state.

OR

One copy of the offeror's (and any proposed subcontractor's) written travel policy shall be included in the business proposal (original only). If an offeror (or any proposed subcontractor) does not have a written travel policy, the offeror shall so state