

The questions and answers below are in response to the Presolicitation Conference for the Antarctic Support Contract (ASC). It is the Government's intent to post responses to all questions concerning the Presolicitation Conference with information known at this time. The National Science Foundation (NSF) reserves the right to amend answers to any questions at any time. All official information regarding this competition is posted to FedBizOpps. Therefore, potential offerors should check the FedBizOpps website on a daily basis for any updated information. No additional questions are being received on the Presolicitation Conference.

The final RFP is anticipated to be released in October 2008. Additional information regarding the ASC is located at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfgs/support_ant/index.jsp

#	Presolicitation Questions/Comments and Answers	September 26, 2008
1	Q. What DCAA/DCMA information does NSF exactly want; reports, etc.? For what period of time; the last 2, 3 or 5 years? A: This will be further clarified in the RFP.	
2	Q. Does NSF intend to conduct a two-step procurement, in which the first-round would be a down select based solely or principally on the bidder's DCAA/DCMA and past performance information? If not, does NSF intend to add specific language to Section M of the RFP to notify bidders as to how NSF will evaluate the DCAA/DCMA and past performance information and use it in making an award decision? A: 1) A two-step is not anticipated. 2) As in the DRFP, evaluation criteria will be set out in the Final RFP regarding DCAA/DCMA and past performance information. Past performance evaluation criteria is set out in the DRFP at Section M.6.2.	
3	Q. Is an employee's domicile the same as the employee's home of record at the time of hiring? If not, please define. A: Transportation from domicile to work will not be an allowable cost except to and from Antarctica. Domicile, as defined in Black's Law Dictionary, is where an individual has a permanent home or principal residence.	
4	Q. If so, will NSF reimburse the contractor for transportation costs incurred from the domicile (multiple legs) to incidental training or orientation while on route to the Antarctic under the exception? A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a direct billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.	
5	Q. Is it the NSF's intent not to reimburse official business travel between the contractor's location and NSF? A: Contiguous United States TDY costs are allowable consistent with the Cost Accounting Standards Disclosure Statement provided by the offeror and in accordance with FAR 52.216-7, Allowable Cost and Payment.	
6	Q. Will the NSF reimburse the transportation cost of travel for training that is required for in the Antarctic, even though the training and travel is not performed in conjunction with the employee's travel to the Antarctic? A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a direct billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.	
7	Q. During the conference, mention was made of Ice-related training as a direct cost, leaving the impression that training not affecting actual "on-Ice" operations is not reimbursable. Please clarify. For example, is the HQ Information Technology training that is necessary to support centralized communications, data capture, and re-transmission of that data to the Grantees, NSF, and other Governmental agencies an off-Ice activity; therefore it is not reimbursable?	

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	A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a direct billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.	
8	<p>Q. Similarly, is it the NSF's intent to not reimburse the contractor for training that is required by U.S., New Zealand, and Chilean laws or regulations? For example, New Zealand law requires specific health and safety training for personnel who will not deploy to the Antarctic.</p> <p>A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a direct billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.</p>	
9	<p>Q. We greatly appreciate the NSF's outstanding management of the 26-28 August 2008 Pre-Solicitation Conference. The information provided at the Pre-Solicitation Conference to potential Offerors will undoubtedly improve the alignment of contractor proposals with the NSF's Antarctic Support requirements. We also appreciate the NSF's decision to hold one-on-one Offeror meetings. It is requested that the timing of the meetings, currently scheduled for January 2009 just prior to proposal submission, be moved to a date earlier in the procurement cycle. Questions asked and clarifications provided early in the proposal process will improve not only the quality of contractor proposals submitted to the NSF, but also provide the NSF with ample time to issue RFP modifications that may be required to ensure that all Antarctic Support requirements are specified to the Offerors. It is requested that the meetings be scheduled in early October and before the release of the final RFP if possible.</p> <p>A: All information concerning pre-proposal meetings will be made available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
10	<p>Q. Please confirm that the successful Antarctic Support Contract Offeror will not be required to assume the current contractor's lease for the Centennial, Colorado Headquarters facility.</p> <p>A: The contractor is not required to use the existing facilities of the current contractor in Centennial, Colorado, and may propose other locations for the contiguous United States headquarters facility. The lease for the Centennial facility is not controlled by the Government. The furnishings and equipment in the Centennial facility are owned by the Government and can be made available for any operating location proposed.</p>	
11	<p>Q. Please confirm that business travel costs such as the expense to bring TDY personnel into the ASC headquarters for a limited duration work assignment is an allowable direct charge to the contract.</p> <p>A: Contiguous United States TDY costs are allowable consistent with the Cost Accounting Standards Disclosure Statement provided by the offeror and in accordance with FAR 52.216-7, Allowable Cost and Payment.</p>	
12	<p>Q. We recognize and agree with the NSF's need to limit the number of contractor personnel participating in the Site visit to McMurdo and South Pole Stations. The possible use of a lottery to select which companies can participate in the Site visit presents significant concern to include the possible participation by companies who may not submit a proposal to the NSF in response to the solicitation, participation by companies not qualified to perform the requirements of the Antarctic Support Contract and the possible exclusion of viable Offerors whose proposed approaches to the NSF would benefit from the information obtained during the site visit. It is requested that the NSF limit attendance to all prime contractor teams committed to the submission of proposals in response to the solicitation and that the maximum capacity of 20 attendee slots be divided equally by the number of qualified Offerors.</p> <p>A: Information on site visits will be posted on FedBizOpps and at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
13	<p>Q. What is the total FY2008 IT&C investment in dollars? What is the forecasted investment?</p> <p>A: Copies of the 2006 and 2007 Annual Program Plans are posted at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. Future investments are subject to the availability of funds.</p>	

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14	<p>Q. What are the information services offered to the grantees and the policies for competing resources, such as bandwidth? For example, is the 2+ Terabytes of storage at South Pole Station available to grantees? How is it allocated? How is the data transferred daily from South Pole allocated between competing grantees and programs?</p> <p>A: a. Grantees submit annual IT support requirements in POLAR ICE as part of the annual Support Information Package (SIP) requirements gathering and resource allocation process. Formal service offerings are captured in the POLAR ICE SIP pages for <i>Computers</i> and <i>Communications</i>. Offerors will be given the opportunity for guest access to POLAR ICE. b. Requirements are collectively balanced against available resources. When collective requirements exceed available resources, the ASC works with the Grantees to reduce demand to a supportable level. Often the NSF Science Program Manager is consulted in the process to validate Grantee hard requirements and assist in equitable allocations of constrained resources. c. The 2 Terabyte Network Attached Storage at South Pole is not allocated for direct science data storage. It supports routine station operations and user account network storage allocations. Primary data storage for Grantees is the responsibility of the Grantee to provide via instrumentation design. The only dedicated high volume storage for Grantee data is the local South Pole staging storage within the South Pole TDRSS Relay (SPTR) system. The SPTR file store/forward system incorporates rules that assign maximum data transfer allocations, and a fair allocation rule allows a user to exceed a daily allocation conditioned on the status of other authorized users completing their allocation. This is a simplified synopsis of the file allocation rules.</p>	
15	<p>Q. The integration and implementation costs for replacing the legacy applications such as MAPCON will be significant. What financing model does the NSF envision?</p> <p>A: It is the responsibility of the offeror to propose their approach which will be evaluated in accordance with Section M of the RFP.</p>	
16	<p>Q. What is the timeframe the NSF expects for completing its legacy systems replacement strategy?</p> <p>A: It is the responsibility of the offeror to propose their approach, which will be evaluated in accordance with Section M of the RFP.</p>	
17	<p>Q. What is the NSF's current thinking for long-term South Pole Station data transmission solutions?</p> <p>A: NSF maintains liaisons with the commercial satellite sector and U.S. Government agencies to maintain dialogs for emergent opportunities from existing resources. NSF maintains surveillance on FCC filings for future systems that offer potential and engages the applicant in dialog when warranted. NSF has initiated concept studies to look at feasibility of space and terrestrial solutions. These results are constantly fed into a trade-space that is periodically reviewed for updating a strategic roadmap.</p>	
18	<p>Q. Will the cost/benefit analysis for Port Hueneme mentioned during the briefing be made available to Offerors so that we may more fully understand all of the costs and benefits (including any free services) under the current arrangement?</p> <p>A: NSF does not have a cost-benefit analysis for Port Hueneme. Operating costs for Port Hueneme are available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
19	<p>Q. In the Contract Presentation by Ms. Millisor, it was indicated that the clause regarding subcontractor fee would be deleted. Please verify that the clause to be deleted is B.7.d (paragraphs 1 and 2) Allowability of Subcontractor Award Fee of page 6 of 142 of the draft RFP</p> <p>A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the final RFP.</p>	
20	<p>Q. The NSF has made substantial improvements in the commercial viability of the DRFP by clarifying that the Available Award Fee Pool will be established by the NSF in order to provide sufficient incentive to all bidders, and by the elimination of the clause restricting subcontractor fee. We still have a concern that the DRFP had significant cost items as cost reimbursable non fee bearing. Will these clauses also be revised to</p>	

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	<p>allow fee and incentivize effective contractor management of these costs?</p> <p>A: The cost reimbursable items that do not bear fee do not comprise a significant part of the contract dollars.</p>	
21	<p>Q. Several presenters referenced the Annual Program Plan. Will NSF make the most recent Annual Program Plan available to bidders, including annual baseline budget details through posting on the procurement library?</p> <p>A: Copies of the 2006 and 2007 Annual Program Plans (APP) are posted at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. It is NSF's intent to also make available copies of more recent APPs.</p>	
22	<p>Q. With reference to Dr. Borg's briefing on the Science Proposal Process, Slide 4, can NSF please elaborate further on the statement that the support contractor is not to "do the science" for the PI? Specifically, are there written guidelines that are applicable to the type of support that is to be provided? If not, can the NSF provide additional clarification on the boundaries that the contractor must observe? Is it correct to assume that assistance that prevents negative impacts to health, safety, and the environment is always to be rendered?</p> <p>A: Dr. Borg's comments were meant to indicate that the NSF draws a clear distinction between the responsibilities of the researcher and that of the support contractor. NSF expects the contractor to facilitate all aspects of the research being conducted in Antarctica, but the contractor will not undertake or propose research activities itself. Assistance that prevents negative impacts to health, safety and the environment is always to be rendered.</p>	
23	<p>Q. As a follow-on to Question 22, when is it appropriate for the contractor to render assistance in the case that a research activity experiences equipment failure? Who decides what degree of assistance is appropriate (e.g., NSF, the contractor, others)? For example, if something breaks in transit and the contractor can repair it with minimal effort, would the contractor make that repair on its own initiative? At what level of cost does NSF get involved in the decision? Can the NSF estimate the frequency and severity of equipment failures that require contractor intervention?</p> <p>A: In the example cited, the NSF would expect the contractor to provide assistance to the researcher within its own capabilities, and providing that this assistance would not adversely affect other planned activities. The contractor will need to exercise good judgment in this area. NSF approval will be required if the assistance would impact other activities or would result in a change of scope to the research activity.</p>	
24	<p>Q. With reference to Dr. Borg's briefing on the Science Proposal Process, Slide 5, when changes in the research occur, who decides what level of additional support the contractor will provide? Can the NSF estimate the frequency and magnitude of changes that the contractor must typically accommodate?</p> <p>A: In general, the researcher will work with the contractor to propose the change in scope of the research activity and will take the lead in presenting this to NSF. The request is made either to on-site NSF representatives in Antarctica or to the NSF program manager responsible for the project.</p> <p>The frequency and magnitude of changes that the contractor will need to accommodate for research activities is directly related to its efficiency and effectiveness in planning and executing the support.</p>	
25	<p>Q. With reference to Questions 23 and 24, can the NSF provide an estimate of what level of changes to the logistical support plan occur during the year as a result of equipment failures and/or research changes?</p> <p>A: The frequency and magnitude of changes that the contractor will need to accommodate for research activities is directly related to its efficiency and effectiveness in planning and executing the support.</p>	
26	<p>Q. With reference to Dr. Isern's briefing on Science Support, Slide 6, will the NSF provide a copy of Polar Ice for prospective Offerors to assess the contractor's role in the proposal evaluation process (e.g., a test site and/or more extensive samples of the inputs and outputs)?</p>	

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	<p>A: Basic structural information concerning USAP systems is available in the Pre-Solicitation Conference presentations at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/conference/conference_presentations.jsp. Access to live planning data in POLARICE will not be provided, however, access to synthetic data used to train new users of the POLARICE system will be made available for POLARICE. Additional information for access to USAP business systems (i.e., POLARICE, MAPCON) will be posted in FedBizOpps.</p>	
27	<p>Q. With reference to Dr. Isern's briefing on Science Support, Slide 26, please clarify who employs the research assistants (e.g., NSF, contractor, or grantees)?</p> <p>A The Antarctic Support Contractor employs the research assistants.:</p>	
28	<p>Q. With reference to Ms. Penhale's briefing on Environmental Stewardship, Slide 6, does the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) specifically apply to NSF activities in Antarctica, or does NSF apply a similar policy?</p> <p>A. NSF's compliance with the Antarctic Treaty Act is NSF's mechanism through which it complies with NEPA</p>	
29	<p>Q. With reference to Ms. Penhale's briefing on Environmental Stewardship, Slide 6, what is the contractor's role in the EIA process? Can NSF elaborate on this process?</p> <p>A: At the direction of the NSF Environmental Officer and with input from the appropriate stakeholders (NSF/OPP staff, grantees, and contractor staff) the contractor will prepare EIA documents for review and approval by NSF.</p>	
30	<p>Q. With reference to Ms. Penhale's briefing on Environmental Stewardship, does the Federal Facilities Compliance Act (Public Law 102-368) apply? What liability does the contractor bear for hazardous waste disposal activities?</p> <p>A: The Federal Facilities Compliance Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-368) does not apply to waste management on the Antarctic continent. In general, waste management activities on the continent are subject to the Antarctic Conservation Act 16 U.S.C. 2401 et seq as amended, and its implementing regulations at 45 CFR Part 671. For activities occurring within the United States or on vessels, the contractor bears the responsibility for compliance with all applicable laws and regulations for its waste management activities. Unless otherwise specified in the contract (or waste management permit issued pursuant to Part 671) the contractor incurs the liability for its hazardous waste disposal activities.</p>	
31	<p>Q. With reference to Mr. Karcher's briefing on Safety, Slide 10, Mr. Karcher indicated that there was typically only one NSF representative "on the ice" during the season. Where is (are) the NSF representative(s) typically located? What is their decision making authority?</p> <p>A: The NSF can deploy an NSF Representative to any location in Antarctica, but in general there are only representatives at McMurdo and South Pole Station. A full description of the authority of the NSF Representatives can be found in the NSF/DoD memorandum of agreement. Persons serving in an official NSFREP capacity are formally designated by the Director, OPP, and serve in a program management role. These positions do not have any inherent contractual authority.</p>	
32	<p>Q. With reference to Mr. Karcher's briefing on Safety, Slide 13, does the NSF indemnify the contractor for emergency response activities? If not, are there minimum insurance (e.g., medical malpractice) requirements?</p> <p>A. NSF does not indemnify contractor activities in accordance with the Anti-Deficiency Act. See also draft RFP Section H.18.</p>	
33	<p>Q. Will the NSF reimburse the contractor for transportation cost incurred from the domicile to the</p>	

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	<p>contractor's headquarters for temporary assignments and performance of work in preparation for the next season?</p> <p>A: Contiguous United States TDY costs are allowable consistent with the Cost Accounting Standards Disclosure Statement provided by the offeror and in accordance with FAR 52.216-7, Allowable Cost and Payment.</p>	
34	<p>Q. If the award fee pool is to be determined by NSF, what categories will be included in the award fee pool? What categories will be excluded from the award fee plan?</p> <p>A: This is a CPAF contract with a fixed award fee pool. NSF will determine the maximum fee which will be based on the pool of dollars available for award fee by the Government.</p>	
35	<p>Q. Given the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) contracts for the research vessels are assignable in regards to the ASC; please clarify how any replacement vessels in the forward years are being solicited.</p> <p>A: A replacement for the Laurence M. Gould is currently being solicited by NSF's incumbent contractor. It is anticipated that a replacement for the Nathaniel B. Palmer will be solicited prior to the end of its charter.</p>	
36	<p>Q. Will bidding for replacement vessels be full and open, how will same be executed (including from what office) and must replacement vessels be built in US shipyards?</p> <p>A: This is not part of the current RFP.</p>	
37	<p>Q. The presenter described the use of Polar Ice as an important Db to enable the OPP, Contractor and all stakeholders to conduct science support planning. The Draft RFP does not contain information on Polar Ice and access to the database is restricted. A description of the data field labels contained in Polar Ice may enable Offerors to better understand the use of Polar Ice in the science support planning process. Will the Government provide a data 'dictionary' for Polar Ice? Please note this question does not request access to the Db itself or to specific data contained within Polar Ice, but rather the data fields and their definitions.</p> <p>A: Basic structural information concerning USAP systems is available in the Pre-Solicitation Conference presentations at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/conference/conference_presentations.jsp. Access to live planning data in POLARICE will not be provided, however, access to synthetic data used to train new users of the POLARICE system will be made available for POLARICE. Additional information for access to USAP business systems (i.e., POLARICE, MAPCON) will be posted in FedBizOpps.</p>	
38	<p>Q. The presentation discussed the Government's need to limit the number of attendees on the McMurdo/ South Pole site visit to 20 total seats with possible selection by random lottery if more seats were requested than available. To enable optimal attendance by prime contractors, will the Government consider restricting requests for attendance to intended prime contractors? Further, will the Government allow prime contractors to in turn allocate their apportioned number of site visit attendees among their team? This approach would allow primes to determine the composition of their team's attendees, and ensure an equitable allocation and use of limited seats among all Offerors.</p> <p>A: Information on site visits will be posted on FedBizOpps and at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
39	<p>Q. A suggestion was made to move the one-on-one meetings to an earlier date from the presently scheduled Jan 2009 timeframe. The contracting officer invited Offerors to comment on their preferences. This Offeror prefers to keep the date for its one-on-one to a date in January 2009, but no later than 30 days before proposal submittal. Should the Government decide to move the dates for those Offerors requesting an earlier timeframe, would the Government accommodate those Offerors who prefer to stay with the January schedule? Rationale is that one-on-ones may be of better utility after the site visits are completed.</p> <p>A: All information concerning pre-proposal meetings will be made available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	

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40	<p>Q. I am seeking the Attendees List from the ASC website.</p> <p>A: The attendee list is posted at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/conference/index.jsp</p>	
41	<p>Q. In the milestone schedule provided, Pre Proposal One-on-Ones are scheduled for January 2009. Would it be possible to have the One-on-Ones any sooner? In any event, we would like to request scheduling of one-on-ones for our team as soon as possible after RFP release.</p> <p>A: All information concerning pre-proposal meetings will be made available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
42	<p>Q. We understand that the Government will not reimburse daily commuting costs. Are there any other program related travel costs that will be unallowable cost (e.g., program office TDY and offsite training)?</p> <p>A: Contiguous United States TDY costs are allowable consistent with the Cost Accounting Standards Disclosure Statement provided by the offeror and in accordance with FAR 52.216-7, Allowable Cost and Payment. NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a direct billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.</p>	
43	<p>Q. In order to develop a cost strategy and establish a level of contractor investment, it is important to have a clear understanding of the available award fee. When will the Government provide the amount of available award fee (in terms of dollars or percentage of estimated fee bearing cost)?</p> <p>A: The amount of award fee for the first period of performance will be included in the final RFP.</p>	
44	<p>Q. Reference to the planned site visits: Will the NSF supply specific travel dates and site-specific agendas soon?</p> <p>A: Information on site visits will be posted on FedBizOpps and at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
45	<p>Q. Reference to the pre-solicitation conference announcement that if there are more contractors signed up for the site visits than slots available, contractors will be selected by random lottery: We request that NSF make provisions to accommodate all contractors.</p> <p>A: Information on site visits will be posted on FedBizOpps and at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
46	<p>Q. Reference to the planned site visits: When will the attendees be receiving notification and Medical and Dental packets?</p> <p>A: Information on site visits will be posted on FedBizOpps and at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
47	<p>Q. Reference to the pre-proposal one-on-ones: Will the NSF consider accelerating the one-on-one schedule? From a proposal development perspective, a much earlier one-on-one interface is better</p> <p>A: All information concerning pre-proposal meetings will be made available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
48	<p>Q. Reference to the pre-proposal one-on-ones: What are the specific criteria that the NSF will use to determine if questions or comments reveal proprietary information?</p> <p>.A. NSF will apply the Procurement Integrity Act (41 USC 423) as implemented by FAR 3.104-1, the Trade Secrets Act (18 USC 1905), and the Freedom of Information Act as implemented (5 USC 552 et al.) in addressing submitted information.</p>	
49	<p>Q. Reference to site visits: With regard to communication with McMurdo and South Pole Stations' science, contractor, and other personnel, what restrictions will be put on attendees?</p>	

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	A: Information on site visits will be posted on FedBizOpps and at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp .	
50	<p>Q. Reference to the USAP Annual Program Plan: Can a copy of the most recent Integrated Master Schedules (IMS) for McMurdo, South Pole, Palmer and the Vessels be made available at the reading room website?</p> <p>A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
51	<p>Q. Reference to the IT&C presentation p. 79, NSF InfoSec policy as the basis for 17 5000-series Resource Directives: Will the NSF detail specifically which of the 5000-series these are?</p> <p>A: These policies are available publicly on USAP.gov at http://www.usap.gov/technology/.</p>	
52	<p>Q. Reference to the IT&C presentation p. 81, and the SPAWAR IA: What does the acronym IA refer to?</p> <p>A: It stands for "Information Assurance." This is the group within SPAWAR which performs information security assessments and reviews for NSF.</p>	
53	<p>Q. Reference to IT&C presentation p. 102: Of the 5 candidate satellites, which two are not in USAP service?</p> <p>A: The two satellites not presently in service to South Pole Station are GOES-7 and TDRS F3.</p>	
54	<p>Q. Reference to IT&C presentation p. 115: Please confirm that the AIL contractor supports <i>Arctic</i> Program requirements for Iridium SIM cards.</p> <p>A: The ASC contractor coordinates all Iridium SIM card usage for OPP, which includes a limited number of cards being used by other programs, including the Arctic. These costs are tracked by the ASC contractor and managed as reimbursable activities by NSF.</p>	
55	<p>Q. Reference to Christchurch N.Z. presentation: What are the current procurement sources for Extreme Cold Weather gear?</p> <p>A: Offerors will have to perform their own market research for commercial vendors that provide Extreme Cold Weather gear.</p>	
56	<p>Q. Reference to Environmental Stewardship in the USAP presentation: Will past seasons' copies of EIA, field camp, and station audits be available for inspection at the reading room website?</p> <p>A: This information will be posted at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
57	<p>Q. Reference to Environmental Stewardship in the USAP presentation: Will potable water and wastewater survey data be available at the reading room website?</p> <p>A: This information will be posted at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
58	<p>Q. Reference to Safety Programs presentation: Will copies of Search and Rescue after-action reviews/mishap investigations be made available at the reading room website?</p> <p>A: Copies of the Search and Rescue After Action Reports are not available.</p>	
59	<p>Q. Reference to the Safety Programs presentation: Will copies of previous seasons' safety risk analyses be made available at the reading room website?</p> <p>A: Risk assessments will not be posted in the reading room.</p>	

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60	<p>Q. Reference to Overview of Operations Functions presentation: Will copies of the USAP's fuel distribution and storage procedures, standards, and guidelines be made available at the reading room website?</p> <p>A: Standard Operating Procedures are available in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p>	
61	<p>Q. Reference to Overview of Operations Functions presentation: Regarding retail operations, can an itemized year's worth of inventory turnover be made available at the reading room website?</p> <p>A: This information will be posted at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	
62	<p>Q. Reference to the USAP Master Permit: Please provide a copy of the USAP Master Permit.</p> <p>A: This information is available in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p>	
63	<p>Q. Reference to ongoing construction projects: What, if any, construction projects valued over \$10,000 are anticipated to be ongoing during the transition period? Please provide the name, location, and remaining level of effort in time and funding required to complete these projects.</p> <p>A: The scope of the individual construction and special projects will be developed post-award as requirements occur during the term of the contract. The Final RFP will have a Government provided NTE for major construction and special projects. This portion will not be part of the total evaluated cost for Section M purposes. Major construction and special projects' requirements will be determined post-award and will be incorporated by modification into the contract and will be consistent with the pertinent Annual Program Plan.</p>	
64	<p>Q. Reference to the MOA with MSC: Please provide a copy of the MSC MOA and most recent charter cost for both the tanker and the cargo ship.</p> <p>A: The NSF has an overall MOU with the Department of Defense which allows for use of any MSC assets. There is not a specific MOA with Military Sealift Command for Operation Deep Freeze. The NSF/DoD MOU is available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. Cost and charter information will be made available on the website.</p>	
65	<p>Q. Reference to section C, paragraph 6.3 "Technical Management Administration Constraints", subparagraph (d), of the DRFP which states: "The contractor will assume responsibility for existing leases and charters and operator agreements (e.g. Christchurch Airport Authority, NZ, and Punta Arenas, Chile)": Would the NSF please provide complete copies of the leases and charters and operator agreements in order for the contractor to assess its potential liabilities?</p> <p>A: NSF will make these available in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp</p>	
66	<p>Q. Reference to section E, paragraph E.3, of the DRFP "Standards for Acceptance", which states: "Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Contracting Officer, all work performed and presented for acceptance shall be free from error." This seems to imply that the NSF is demanding perfect performance from the prime contractor and any subcontractors. What is the intention of this clause and how does the NSF expect to use this clause in administering the contract?</p> <p>A: This paragraph will be deleted in the RFP.</p>	
67	<p>Q. Reference to section H, paragraph H.4, of the DRFP, which states: "Additionally, all personnel performing work being reimbursed to the contractor as a direct cost, or by the contractor to its affiliates, consultants, or subcontractors as a direct cost under any sub-agreement, must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents." In many companies, non-US personnel perform contract-related work and charge the contract directly for the hours worked as disclosed in their approved CASB Disclosure Statements. For example, accounting and finance functions or invoicing may be done at a corporate headquarters in the US. Would the NSF please clarify its requirement for the use of only US personnel on the contract? Does this requirement flow to all</p>	

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	<p>subcontractors as well?</p> <p>A: Section H.4 Award of Contract to U.S. Firms and Citizens Only will be revised in the final RFP.</p>	
68	<p>Q. Reference to Section H, paragraph H.5 of the DRFP, "Assignment of Subcontracts" states: "All subcontracts awarded by the contractor for which the cost of the subcontract is being reimbursed to the contractor as a direct cost (regardless of subcontract type, or property and/or services being acquired) shall reserve NSF's rights to unilaterally assign the subcontract for administration to NSF or any other organization selected by NSF." The clause only refers to the administration of subcontracts. Does the NSF intend to accept the full liabilities; responsibilities and obligations of the prime contractor as reflected in the assignable subcontract such as the ability to inspect/reject work, make payment, etc. to be assigned to NSF? Are there any particular flow-downs the NSF wants included in the prime contractor's subcontracts to fully implement this requirement?</p> <p>A: Section H.5 of the draft RFP will be clarified in the final RFP.</p>	
69	<p>Q. 1) Reference to section H, paragraph H.16 of the DRFP, which requires the prime contractor to enter into Associate Contract Agreements, but does not specify the time by which such agreements are to be in place. 2) In addition, should the prime contractor require its subcontractors to enter into their own Associate Contract Agreements? 3) Would the NSF provide copies of the current agreements?</p> <p>A: 1) See DRFP Section H.16d) for when agreements should be submitted to the NSF CO. 2) It is not a requirement of H.16. 3) No Associate Contractor Agreements exist at this time.</p>	
70	<p>Q. Reference to section G, paragraph G.1 of the DRFP allows for monthly invoices. However, FAR 52.216-7, Allowable Cost and Payment, allows the contractor to invoice every two weeks for payments. Please change G.1 to allow billing every two weeks for cost portions of the contract and monthly for FFP portions of the contract.</p> <p>A: NSF will only accept invoices on a monthly basis per Section G.1 of the DRFP.</p>	
71	<p>Q. Reference to section H, paragraph H.20 of the DRFP, which requires the contractor to indemnify the Government. Indemnification of the Sovereign by a contractor is not reasonable since the Government as the Sovereign can change laws, regulations, and practice. This may be interpreted to prevent the contractor from seeking any request for equitable adjustment or claim under the contract. Please elaborate on and/or delete this requirement.</p> <p>A: NSF will take this under advisement.</p>	
72	<p>Q. Reference to section I of the DRFP includes FAR 52.245-9, Use and Charges. This clause is prescribed when the Government will collect fees for the rental of Government property. This clause is normally used when the contractor will use Government furnished property in the manufacture of items for sale. It does not appear appropriate for this RFP. Please clarify or delete the clause.</p> <p>A: This clause will remain in the RFP.</p>	
73	<p>Q. Reference to section Attachment L-1 of the DRFP, can the template for resumes can be reformatted if the information and numbering stay the same?</p> <p>A: All offerors shall follow the prescribed format.</p>	
74	<p>Q. Reference to section clause B.5 of the DRFP, which has \$0 for base fee. Are offerors not allowed to propose a base fee, only an award fee for this contract?</p> <p>A: NSF will not consider authorizing a base fee. NSF will establish the award fee pool.</p>	
75	<p>Q. Reference to section clause B.7, Award fee, of the DRFP: The grading scale is extremely strict. An 86-90 is usually a good score on Award Fee Boards but per the DRFP this would only earn 40%. We request that the NSF consider adjusting the award fee scale.</p>	

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	A: The award fee scale is presented in the RFP as it was intended. Alternatives to the award fee scale will not be considered.	
76	<p>Q. Reference to section C of the DRFP. The statement of objectives (SOO) has embedded Government statements such as "will," "shall," and "must" statements. Are statements, phrases, and clauses that use these terms outlining mandatory elements of the PWS?</p> <p>A: This will be clarified in the final RFP.</p>	
77	<p>Q. Reference section C. 7.2.J., of the DRFP. Please provide a list of Marine Science 'Common Use Equipment' and definitions.</p> <p>A: This information will be posted at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.</p>	