

Department of Agriculture



Business Opportunities

Office : Farm Service Agency

Location : Acquisition Management Division, Contracts Operations
Branch

Solicitation number : Reference-Number-RFI-AG-3151-07-0001

Title : R -- RFI for Food Aid Quality Study

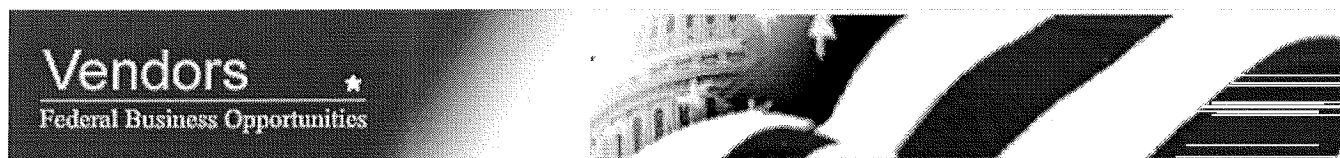
Synopsis - Posted on Apr 18, 2007

Food Aid Quality Study 01 - Posted on Apr 18, 2007

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R -- RFI for Food Aid Quality Study

- [Food Aid Quality Study 01](#) - Posted on Apr 18, 2007
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General Information

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Contracting Office Address

Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, Acquisition Management Branch, Special Projects Section, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0567, Washington, DC, 20250-0567, UNITED STATES

Description

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) desire to ascertain the interest in and capability of potential offeror?s to conduct a comprehensive review of product specifications used in the purchase of food aid products from the private sector.

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation. In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Respondents are solely

responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI. Responses to this RFI will not be returned. Respondents will not be notified of the result of the review.

Point of Contact

Renea Morton, Contract Specialist, Phone 202-205-9434, Fax 202-690-0689, Email renea.morton@wdc.usda.gov - Joyce Bowie, Supervisory Contract Specialist, Phone 202-720-7335, Fax 202-690-0689, Email joyce.bowie@wdc.usda.gov

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**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
PURSUANT TO FAR 15.201(e)
FOOD AID QUALITY STUDY**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) desire to ascertain the interest in and capability of potential offeror's to conduct a comprehensive review of product specifications used in the purchase of food aid products from the private sector.

Our objectives of the review are:

- 1) To simplify the language and format of the existing food aid commodity contract specifications.
- 2) To standardize the language and format of the specifications so that each commodity contract specification looks the same and reads similarly.
- 3) To use commercially-accepted terms and practices where appropriate to enable suppliers to deliver an acceptable product.

We also intend to make improvements as necessary in the product sampling and testing protocols presently in effect to be used in tandem with the commodity contract specifications. When made part of commodity acquisition contracts, these protocols will assure the agencies and manufacturers that the product ordered was the product delivered.

Our objectives for improvement of the sampling and testing protocols are:

- 1) To assure a statistically sound sampling protocol for each food aid product.
- 2) To assure a standardized, scientifically sound testing protocol that could be used by private or US Government laboratories to determine whether products meet specifications.
- 3) To assure that the product provided meets the nutritional requirements of the beneficiary.

Existing commodity contract specifications may be found at the following website:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=coop&topic=pas-ex-cr>

We seek information on the following matters, including but not limited to:

- 1) Sources of expertise in food product specification development.
- 2) Availability of commercial specification formats in general use.

- 3) Availability of commercial specifications in use in the private commodity trade, which describe an essentially similar product to the food aid product.
- 4) Sources of expertise in HACCP processes and/or ISO 9000.
- 5) Sources of expertise in sampling analysis and protocol development.
- 6) Standards of laboratory testing procedures.
- 7) Standards of international laboratory testing certification.

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Based on the written results of this RFI, if funding is available and a study is deemed reasonable, the government may submit a follow-on announcement in FEDBIZOPPS requesting formal proposals.

When responding to this RFI, please clearly label all proprietary information and any other limitations on disclosure to: 1) potential offeror's cursory plan on how they would carry out all of the above referenced objectives; 2) description of potential offeror's capacity to carry out all of the above referenced objectives (no more than approximately five (5) pages); 3) description of any risks and/or assumptions associated with any of the objectives; and 4) an estimate of the amount of time needed to carry out these activities. Note there are no page limitations on technical response.

Technical questions, suggestions and responses to this RFI shall be submitted electronically, by no later than 4PM EST on May 16, 2007, to Renea Morton at renea.morton@wdc.usda.gov.

Point of Contact

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