The questions and answers below are in response to the Draft Request for Proposal (DRFP) for the Antarctic Support Contract (ASC). It is the Government's intent to post responses to all questions concerning the DRFP 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 DRFP.

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/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp

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1	reserved
2	reserved
3	reserved
4	reserved
5	reserved
6	reserved
7	reserved
8	Q: What is NSF's stance on the procurement process having a window for private two-way communication with the program office? A: At this time, private communication between the program office and interested offerors is not being conducted. After the release of the RFP, scheduled communications between offerors and NSF will be posted to FedBizOpps.
9	Q: Will contracts awarded to private companies for the Antarctic Support Contract be subject to the Defense Base Act? A: No, the contract will not be subject to the Defense Base Act.
10	Q: What is the NSF's policy surrounding the use of foreign companies as sub-contractors for specific technical expertise? A: Involvement of foreign companies is limited to the instances described in H.4.(i)-(iii).
11	Q: Will a Statement of Work be issued for this project A: A Statement of Work will not be issued by the NSF for this competition. In the pending RFP, Section C will be comprised of a Statement of Objectives (SOO). In response to this SOO the Offerors will submit a Performance Work Statement (PWS) for evaluation (which will be located in Section J as Attachment 2).
12	Q: In the Draft SOO Version 1 dated April 30, 2008, Section C.11.1 b) and Section C.11.2, Infrastructure & Professional Services Minimum Requirements paragraphs a), b), c) and d) indicate that fire protection services will be required under this contract. However, in the Statement of Objectives in the draft RFP dated June 30, 2008 the only references to fire protection services are in Section C.6.2 f) Technical Management and Administration Minimum Requirements and Section C.6.3 k), Technical Management and Administration Constraints are the only references alluding to

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	a fire protection services requirement. Will there be a requirement for the contractor to provide Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), structural fire protection, and the related fire prevention and inspection services? A: While the Draft SOO published on 18 April 2008 was more specific regarding NSF's expectations for contractor supplied fire fighting services than in Section C of the Draft RFP (posted 18 June 2008), offerors for the ASC should describe how they propose to provide the USAP with a complete and comprehensive program for fire protection for all aspects of Antarctic operations including structural, airfield, field camp, and vehicle elements.
13	Q: We have worked on a number of government contract pursuits; in those RFPs the government leaves the management of awarded award fees to the Offeror and subcontractor as part of their teaming agreement. Requiring the Offeror to share award fees with subcontractors (rather than as a negotiable element of their teaming agreement) will (possibly) cause the Offerors to reconsider their subcontracting plans, reducing the number of subcontracts they award. A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the Final RFP.
14	Q: Section C.6.2.f states that the contractor must "…develop emergency response plans and maintain a capability to properly mitigate and respond to emergencies… with appropriately trained personnel." Please clarify the requirements for emergency response services to include Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and structural emergency response services. The referenced requirements (Section C.6.2. f) and (Section C.6.3. k) are too vague to determine staffing and the NSF's expectations in this mission critical area. Please define the government's expectations for fire prevention and fire extinguisher inspection/maintenance services. A: (1) To the maximum degree possible and practical USAP expects compliance with the following standards for airfield/aircraft fire protection:NFPA 403, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Services at Airports* USAF T.O. 00-125-72, *Ground Servicing of Aircraft and Static Grounding/Bonding* AMCI 11-208 and AFP 32-2004 (MOOTW, Military Operations Other Than War) To the maximum degree possible and practical USAP expects compliance with the following standards for structural fire protection: NFPA family of codes and standards (especially NFPA Std. 1500, *Firefighter Occupational Health and Safety Program)* (2) The expectation is that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be structured so as to provide prompt, appropriate care to injured or ill USAP participants. Useful models include state or local EMS systems or the military health system.
15	Q: Is indoor air purification an integral part of this project? A: Air purification is not an integral part of this project.
16	Q: Reference CLINS 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300. Considering the *New Construction/Special Projects* nature of these desired estimates, will the NSF provide specific project SOWs for the development of target costs, target profits and profit adjustment formula? A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. 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.

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17	Q: Reference the Fixed-Price Incentive (Firm target) contract elements addressed in CLINS 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300. We note that 48 CFR - specifically, 48 CFR 16.403-1 - does not reference an "over/under range" determination. Please elaborate on this metric. A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.
18	Q: Reference to Section C in general. Will a table of standards (e.g., NFPA, API, IBC, FISMA, OSHA, etc) be provided in the final RFP? A: Offerors are responsible for locating standards available to the general public and applicable to a given situation.
19	Q: Reference Section C.6.2.k. To what specific standard(s) are USAP medical facilities managed? A: Fixed USAP medical facilities are managed and operated to provide ambulatory and urgent care services. No surgical capability exists at any USAP station.
20	Q: Reference Section C.6.3.w. Will NSF provide bidders a copy of the master permit? A: NSF will make a document available in the library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
21	Q: Reference Section C.7.2.i. What are the support requirements relating to the existing POLARICE database, and how is this related to the database referred to in this section? A: This section references the POLARICE application. 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
22	Q: Reference Section C.7.2. j. Was the NSF intent that this sentence read: "The contractor shall *procure using government funds*, operate, maintain, and replace as required common…"? A: The sentence is intended to be read as written.
23	Q: Reference Section C.8 in general. What are the ruggedness standards for the IT hardware being used to support the USAP? A: NSF has not established specific standards for ruggedness. In keeping with OMB Circular A-119 (revised), "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," which states, "*All federal agencies must use voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards in their procurement and regulatory activities, except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical*," NSF will work with the awardee to determine appropriate standards on a case-by-case basis, determined by the nature of the application. In some cases for extreme environmental conditions, performance that exceeds even rigorous requirements such as MIL-STD-810 may be needed, and other cases, standard commercial consumer grade standards may be applicable. The offeror is expected to apply its skill/expertise as required to address this issue."
24	Q: Reference to Section C.8 in general. What is the minimum CMMI level rating that the NSF will consider adequate? A: The Final RFP will be amended to require CMMI Level 3 certification as the minimum acceptable level.

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25	Q: Reference Section C.8.2.c. Was the NSF intent that this sentence read: "Provide *within sustaining funds* general and special purpose electronic systems and services beyond conventional Information Technology and Communications (IT&C) …"? A: The phrasing of Section C.8.2.c is written as intended.
26	Q: Reference Section C.8.2.d. Will the contractor be responsible for maintenance and calibration of other government agency equipment, i.e., SPAWAR, USAF and NASA? A: The contractor will not be responsible for calibration of equipment for other government agencies.
27	Q: Reference Section C.8.2 i. Does a USAP service catalog exist today? If so, can it be used as a baseline to develop the catalog as required in this item? A. (1) No, there is no pre-existing service catalog. (2) The service catalog is to be developed by the offeror and included in the offeror's proposal. The offeror's final service catalog will be approved post-award.
28	Q: Reference Section C.8.3. Will the bidders have access to the stated Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs)? A: NSF will make those available to the offerors in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
29	Q: Reference Section C.9.3.c. Specifically that "American Petroleum Institute (API) guidelines and regulations must be followed to the maximum extent within the USAP." We note that API is an extensive organization with standards and guidelines that overlap and duplicate standards and guidelines addressed and covered by many other regulatory bodies and/or professional organizations, (e.g., addressing subjects such as safety, fire protection, IT security, etc.). Is it the aim of the NSF to make the API a primary standards organization for the USAP? A: It is not the intent of NSF to have API be the overarching standards organization for NSF.
30	Q: Reference Section H.1 a. Does this listing represent the minimum requirement or the entire requirement for key personnel? A: This listing represents the minimum requirement of key personnel; however, Offerors may propose additional key personnel.
31	Q: Reference Section H.4. The section initially states that "The U.S. Firm awarded this contract shall employ only U.S. Citizens". Later in the same section it states "…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*." Should the first sentence read "…shall employ only U.S. Citizens or permanent residents"? A: Section H.4 Award of Contract to U.S. Firms and Citizens Only will be revised in the final RFP.
32	Q: Reference Section H.22, Domicile Transportation. This section states that transportation of employees from domicile to work places shall not be an allowable cost under this contract. We request that NSF provide a definition of domicile. 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.

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33	Q: Reference Section L.11.10.7. This section directs the contractor to submit a schedule of all proposed direct and indirect rates by fiscal year. We assume labor rates would fall in this category. Please clarify your definition of direct rates. A: The distribution of direct and indirect costs must be consistent with the Cost Accounting Standards Disclosure Statement provided by the offeror.
34	Q: Reference Section L.12.1. Please confirm that the stated Total Small Business percentage as well as the Small Business Category percentages are based on total *subcontract* dollars, and not total contract dollars. A: It will be based on total contract dollars not subcontract dollars.
35	Q: Reference Section L.15. Should this state "The *maximum* offer acceptance period is 365 calendar days…."? A: Section L.15. is correct as written in the RFP.
36	Q: Reference Section B.2. Regarding the Cost Reimbursable CLINs, does the NSF plan to provide defined estimates to be used by all Offerors in bidding these CLINs? A: NSF is reconsidering those CLINs. It is the offeror's responsibility to acquire necessary cost information to make these estimates via on-line library information, pre-solicitation conference, site visits and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
37	Q: Ref. DRFP Section B.2, Section B.6, Section J.1. In the performance of the contract, the Cost Reimbursable (CR) structure defined in the Draft RFP incentivizes the contractor to emphasize timeliness (of delivering material and personnel) over cost savings in order to minimize risk to the performance of the Award Fee CLINs. Additionally, Section J.1 calls for "*Surveillance Plan(s), inclusive of Performance Metrics (for other than CPAF-C portions of the contract)*", but it is not clear how these performance metrics would apply to a cost reimbursable structure to incentivize the contractor to better achieve the goals of the NSF. Would the NSF consider a Cost Plus Incentive Fee (CPIF) structure for materials, ODCs, travel, etc. to recognize the risk in delivering all required material and personnel to their final destination on time, and to better balance cost and timeliness incentives? If so, the Surveillance Plan could then be structured to directly affect the incentive fee earned by the contractor under these CLINs. A: NSF is not currently considering a CPIF structure. Surveillance Plans (SP) will be required to evaluate and document the contractor's performance through the life of the contract. For instance, the CPAF portion of the contract will have a SP called the Award Fee Plan and non-CPAF portions will have a SP that doesn't include an Award Fee Plan.
38	Q: Ref. DRFP Section B.2, B.4. Reference Draft RFP Section B2 and Section B4, FPIF CLINs 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300 for Construction/Special Projects: It is not clear how Construction/Special Projects would be authorized and funded under these CLINs. A: NSF is reconsidering the use of FPIF CLINs. Major construction and special projects will be separately authorized and funded via contract modification.
39	Q: Ref. DRFP Section B.2, Section B.4. Does the NSF intend to order services under these CLINs through task orders? If so, would the NSF consider adding FAR 52.216-18 Ordering and 52.216-19 Order Limitations to the RFP, modifying 52.216-1 in Section L to include the Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract type, and providing additional direction concerning task order proposal procedures and expectations? A: NSF does not intend to order services through Task Orders.

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40	Q: Ref. DRFP Section B.2, B.4. Would the NSF also consider adding FFP and CPFF Task Order CLINs to provide contracting flexibility for special projects? A: 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.
41	Q: Ref DRFP Section B2 and Section B4. FPIF CLINs 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300 for Construction/Special Projects: The table in Section B2 provides fill-ins for Cost/Price, Fee, and Total Price, and Section B4 provides blanks for total cost, target profit, and target price as well as a figure for ceiling price. However the FPIF definition in FAR 52.216-16 provides for a formula for adjusting profit based on the variance between target and negotiated cost. There is no place defined in the referenced sections for the over and under profit adjustment percentages. Where should the Offeror describe its proposed cost adjustment formula within its proposal? A: The proposed cost adjustment formula should be discussed in the cost proposal where applicable; however the final RFP will not include any FPIF CLINs.
42	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2, Section F.2, Section L.9.3.5. Option Period 4, Item 5000 through 5600, is October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022. This is CPAF, FPIF, and CR, and represents the performance of the USAP mission support during this period. Transition-out, Item 6000, is October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, and is CR only. We assume CLIN 6000 only covers transition out activities. Who is responsible for the performance of the mission during the period October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, the Austral Summer? If NSF intends that this support be performed under this contract, we recommend that CLINs 6000 through 6600 be defined with a period of performance of October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, to cover performance of the USAP mission support through the 2022-2023 Austral Summer, and define a new CLIN 7000 for the Cost Reimbursable CLIN for transition out activities. Alternatively, the Period of Performance for CLINs 5000 through 5600 could be extended to March 31, 2023. A: The incumbent contractor.
43	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.7. Section B.7 (b) Award Fee Determination presents an award fee schedule with a zero award fee given at less than an 80 percent award fee score. Will the NSF consider a scale based on Outstanding, Very Good, Satisfactory, Marginal, and Unsatisfactory ratings, with a sliding scale of compensation based on meeting the Outstanding, Very Good, Satisfactory, and Marginal ratings, together with a less stringent award fee plan to compensate the contractor for work acceptably performed? For example, something like the following might be considered: A: The award fee schedule is presented in the RFP as it was intended. Alternatives to the award fee schedule will not be considered.
44	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.7, Section J.1, Section L.9.1.8. Will the NSF consider including the submission requirements for this plan in Section L? We would recommend that the proposed Award Fee Plan be included as an attachment to Volume I - Transmittal Letter And Administrative Information (as referenced by Section J.1 Listing of Attachments on Page 79 of the Draft RFP). A: The proposed Award Fee Plan should be located in Section J as Attachment 1. Applicable surveillance plans for the non-CPAF portion of the contract should be located in Section J as Attachment 8.
45	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.7, Section J.1, Section L.9.1.8. Section J.1 defines both an Award Fee Plan and a Surveillance Plan, while Section L.9.1.8 only refers to a surveillance plan. Was the "surveillance plan" defined in Section L.9.1.8 meant to cover both of the documents defined in Section J.1? If so, we would recommend that the page limitation for Volume II - Technical Proposal

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	be increased so that both of these documents can be adequately addressed. Or is the "surveillance plan" in Section L.9.1.8 a summary of the salient points of the Award Fee Plan & Surveillance Plan, which are to be delivered separately? A: (1) No. Section J, Attachment 1, is for the Award Fee Plan for the CPAF contract type set out for Integrated Operations and Science Support. Section J, Attachment 8, is for Surveillance Plan(s) for other portions of the contract. (2) There will be no page limitations for the award fee plan. (3) Non-CPAF portions of the contract will require a separate Surveillance Plan from the Award Fee Plan. The non-CPAF Surveillance Plans will be located at Section J, Attachment 8 and also will not have a page limit.
46	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.7. Section B7 (f) Payment of Award Fee states that "*There will be no provisional, interim or advance billing of award fee prior to a final determination of award fee earned and execution by the Contracting Officer of a contract modification authorizing payment.*" If the payment of Provisional Award Fee to the contractor is not allowed, this approach will result in negative cash flow for both the contractor and its team members for the duration of the year long award fee period. The Federal Acquisition Regulations allow for the payment of Provisional Award Fee as well as the government's ability to recoup any overpayment of Award Fee in the event the contractor does not perform to the government's expectations. Provisional Award Fee allows the contractor the ability to absorb contract related unallowable costs as they occur and thus provides the contractor's program manager greater flexibility to respond to unanticipated events/costs. The provisional payment of Award Fee does not diminish the significance of the government's evaluation of the contractor's performance, and in fact can increase the contractor's efforts by increasing the contractor's desire to perform at the highest levels on the contract. Contractors will perform at a higher level to ensure that they do not get into a situation where they would have to repay the government, nor to find themselves in a situation where they would lose the ability to bill provisional award fee. The payment of Provisional Award Fee also provides the government with the ability to establish more stable funding baselines and allocation requirements. Based on the above considerations, would the NSF consider changing Section B.7 (f) to allow payment of provisional award fee? A: No. NSF currently is not considering provisional award fee. Refer to Draft RFP, Section B, Paragraph 7.f, Payment of Award Fee, states that no provisional interim or advance billing of award fee will be authorized.
47	Q: Ref DRFP Section C, Section J, Section L; Section M. Section C of the Draft RFP makes reference to the Offeror proposed Performance Work Statement (PWS) as per the following: "*THE AWARDEE'S PWS WILL BE INCORPORATED AT CONTRACT AWARD.*" Section J of the Draft RFP (item 2) lists the PWS as an attachment to the contract, to be proposed by the Offeror. However Section L does not provide any specific instructions regarding the development of a PWS and its place in the final proposal submission. Further, Section M.6.1.3.1 states "*The Government will assess the Offeror's schedule and milestones for implementing the entire proposed PWS*" but does not provide specific criteria regarding the evaluation of the PWS itself. Will the NSF consider identifying in Section L the requirements for a proposed PWS to be included as a separate Attachment to Volume II, not subject to the page limitations? A: The PWS should be submitted under Section J, Attachment 2 in Volume I and will not be subject to page restrictions Changes to Section L language regarding the PWS are being considered. The PWS will be evaluated under "Technical Approach" – Section M.6.1.2 Sub factor 2.
48	Q: Ref DRFP Section C, Section J, Section L, Section M. Does the NSF intend to evaluate the proposed PWS? If so, will the NSF consider adding evaluation criteria in Section M that will specify how the PWS will be assessed in the source selection process? A: Yes. The PWS will be evaluated under "Technical Approach" – Section M.6.1.2 Sub factor 2

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49	Q: Ref SOO, DRFP Section C.6.3, J.1. The DRFP Reference states, "*The contractor will assume responsibility for existing leases and charters and operator agreements (e.g. Christchurch Airport Authority, NZ, and Punta Arenas, Chile)*". Section J.1 indicates that a "listing" of assignable leases/charters and assignable subcontracts will be posted to the USAP website. Will the actual lease/charter/subcontract agreement documents be posted to the USAP website, or made available in an NSF on-site Bidders Library? A: Copies of charters and leases will be made available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
50	Q: Ref SOO, DRFP Section C.7.2. The DRFP Reference states, "*The contractor shall provide an information database for interactive science planning with investigators and ensure continuity with legacy data.*" Could the NSF provide in the Library the format, size, location, and database technology used (e.g. Oracle, MS SQL Server, MS Access, etc.) for all of the legacy databases? 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
51	Q: Ref SOO, DRFP Section C.8.3. The DRFP Reference states, "*The contractor must comply with the terms/conditions of Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) as amended and extended, which define IT&C service and supplier relationships.*" Could the NSF provide all MOAs for IT&C service and supplier relationships, either in the On-Line Library or as an attachment to the RFP? A: NSF will make those available to the offerors at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
52	Q: Ref SOO, DRFP Section C.9.2.h. The DRFP Reference states, "*The contractor shall provide and manage housing and berthing for program personnel at all stations, at field camps, and on research vessels.*" We understand that currently there are separate practices for housing and berthing of military personnel. Will all dorms at McMurdo be available to all personnel or do restrictions apply for military or other personnel? A: The current practice is to keep military personnel berthing consolidated to maintain unit integrity. Single room accommodations are provided for aircrew to ensure minimal disruption for adequate crew rest. Offerors may propose any strategy for berthing management, provided that unit integrity is maintained and the aircrews are able to receive adequate crew rest.
53	Q: Ref DRFP Section E. How does the Government intend to inspect and accept construction projects? Would the NSF consider adding FAR 52.246-12, Inspection of Construction, to Section E.1 of the Draft RFP? A: Applicable FAR clauses addressing construction activities outside the United States will be addressed in each construction modification issued during the performance of the contract. .
54	Q: Ref DRFP Section E.1, Section E.2, Section E.3. What documentation will the NSF require the contractor to provide to support the Contracting Officer's formal acceptance of a construction project? Will the Contracting Officer provide the signed, final document within 30 calendar days of its receipt indicating final acceptance for payment purposes? A: At a minimum, the contractor will need to provide a letter of acceptance from the NSF Facilities Engineering Program Manager (FEPM), as well as any other supporting documentation to support final payment. This will include, but not be limited to, full documentation of transactions to support the transfer to real property, if applicable.

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55	Q: Ref DRFP Section E.1, Section E.2, Section E.3. How will final acceptance of services and supplies provided by the contractor be documented so that the contractor has a document to support payment by the NSF? A: Information provided in the DRFP is sufficient and adequate at the current stage of the procurement process. Invoices should be documented in accordance with Government Approved Accounting Procedures (GAAP).
56	Q: In Section E.3, the term "*…free from error…*" is ambiguous and subjective. We recommend that the NSF consider removing Section E.3 from the solicitation, given that adequate protections for the NSF already exist within the clauses defined in Section E.1, and will exist (by definition) in the PWS incorporated into the contract. A: NSF is taking this under advisement.
57	Q: Sections G.1 through Section G.2 of the DRFP discuss monthly invoicing requirements. Our understanding is that the current contractor is required to manage a Cash Account, and the Monthly Cash on Hands Report reflects the status of this account. However, the Draft RFP does not appear to reflect any requirement to maintain a Cash Account as is currently done. Instead, the contractor would perform the work, obtain invoices from subs and bill the government on a monthly basis. Please provide more details regarding the requirement in Section F.4.2 for Monthly Cash on Hands reporting on a monthly basis, as well as any specific requirements to maintain a Cash Account. A: DRFP Section F, paragraph 4.2, Monthly Cash on Hand Reports will be deleted in the Final RFP.
58	Q: DRFP Section F.7, Item 003 in Table. The DRFP reference requires the contractor to "*prepare management, Standard Operating Procedures, and PM manuals as provided for in the PWS and submit these manuals to NSF for review and approval.*" The initial versions of these documents are to be delivered within the first 24 months of the contract. Will the procedures and operational manuals from the current contract be available in the On-Line Library? A: NSF will make those available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
59	Q: Ref DRFP Section H.4. The referenced text says "*The U.S. Firm awarded this contract shall employ only U.S. citizens.*" As written, this seems to prohibit award to companies that employ non-US citizens in other capacities. We assume the intent of Section H.4 is that only U.S. citizens will be employed in the performance of this contract. We therefore recommend that the wording be changed to the following: "Only U.S. Firms are eligible for award of this contract. The Firm awarded this contract shall employ only U.S. citizens in the performance of this contract." A: Section H.4 Award of Contract to U.S. Firms and Citizens Only will be revised in the final RFP.
60	Q: Ref DRFP Section H.11, Section J.1. The Listing of Attachments in Section J.1 on page 79 reflects "*Capital Equipment Greater Than or Equal to $25,000"*, and "*Capital Equipment With Acquisition Cost Greater Than $5,000 and less than $25,000*", but does not reflect items that are less than $5,000 in value. Could the NSF provide, either in the On-Line Library or as an attachment to the RFP, a list of all the Hardware and Software that will be made available for the contractor's use? This would include hardware and software at all performing locations, in particular the items that are less than $5,000 in value. A: Because of the scope of the operation, a full inventory of all government property is not available for non-accountable items. The government has or will provide inventories of all property and equipment except that valued at less than $5,000. Listings of accountable property (GFE and GFP) are available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. The successful offeror will be

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	required to conduct an inventory of GFE as part of transition activities. A listing of all licensed software will be made available.
61	Q: Ref Section 6.3 of the Statement of Objectives. {It} references the requirement for the contractor to establish and operate a project headquarters in the contiguous United States. Section H.14 states that the Government will furnish, at no cost to the contractor, the necessary office space, utilities, telephone service, general purpose office equipment, and office furniture for its personnel assigned to work under this contract at Government locations in Antarctica and at operating locations in New Zealand and South America. In the past, the Government has provided office space, utilities, telephone service, general purpose office equipment, and office furniture at Port Hueneme and general purpose office equipment and office furniture at the contractor's contiguous United States project headquarters. Is it NSF's intention to continue to use Port Hueneme? If yes, will office space, etc. be provided at Port Hueneme? A: NSF will consider alternate locations for shipping and receiving of materials and supplies.
62	Q: There is considerable equipment and furniture (to include network and computing hardware) at the current contractor's Denver office that is GFE. Will this equipment and furniture be available to the successful bidder, or should bidders assume they will be responsible for furnishing the contiguous United States headquarters? A: The successful offeror will be responsible for furnishing the contiguous United States headquarters. Any usable GFE in the current contractor's headquarters can be made available.
63	Q: Ref DRFP Section H.17. We assume that the intent of Section H.17 is that (1) the contractor is to provide fully qualified personnel with all required licenses, certifications, etc.; (2) the contractor is responsible for any unique training (e.g., Ethics Training) or training for transferable skills (e.g., Cisco Network Administration); and (3) training that is unique to the ASC (e.g. basic survival training unique to the Antarctic environment, etc.) is chargeable to the contract. However, it appears from the Draft RFP reference that ***any*** training pertinent to the ASC (e.g., orientation, basic survival training unique to the Antarctic environment, specialized equipment training for the Antarctic environment, etc.) must be approved prior to the training occurring. A literal interpretation of the referenced clause is extremely restrictive, requiring approval by NSF for any training pertinent to the ASC. Please clarify under what circumstances training must be pre-approved by the COTR. A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.
64	Q: Ref DRFP Section H.17. The DRFP Reference states, "*The contractor shall be responsible for all costs including labor hours associated with the equivalent training of replacement personnel when contractor personnel who have received Government-funded training leave and are replaced.*" This clause places an unreasonable burden on the contractor as a certain amount of turnover is expected (for example, seasonal replacements) and even within a season emergency circumstances might require replacement personnel who must be trained. If the intent of this requirement is that the contractor should absorb costs associated with excessive turnover of personnel, will the NSF consider modifying the requirement to include a time boundary? For example, the requirement could be modified to state, "The contractor shall be responsible for all costs including labor hours associated with the equivalent training of replacement personnel when contractor personnel who have received Government-funded training are replaced within six months of completion of the training, except when emergency circumstances require personnel replacement." By doing so, the contractor would not be penalized for training of new personnel who come on board as a result of expected seasonal turnover or when replacements occur due to emergency situations. A: The allowability of costs will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the CO.

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65	Q: Ref DRFP Section H.22. Section H.22 of the Draft RFP states, "*Transportation of employees from domicile to work places shall not be an allowable cost under this contract.*" Can the NSF please provide additional clarification regarding its definition for "domicile" and "work places"? If the intention is to exclude local travel that is within a 50 mile radius of the contractor's place of work, we recommend that Section H.22 be modified to read as per the following: "Local travel reimbursement within a 50-mile radius from the Contractor's facility or the Contractor's assigned duty station is not authorized. This includes travel, subsistence, and associated labor charges for travel time. Travel performed for personal convenience or daily travel to and from work at the Contractor's facility or local Government facility (i.e., designated work site) shall not be reimbursed hereunder. Travel, subsistence, and associated labor charges for travel time for travel beyond a 50-mile radius of the Contractor's facility or assigned duty station are authorized." A: Domicile, as defined in Black's Law Dictionary, is where an individual has a permanent home or principal residence. Transportation from domicile to work will not be an allowable cost except to and from Antarctica.
66	Q: Ref DRFP Section H.28, I.2. Section H.28 of the Draft RFP defines the data rights for software among other data items. This appears to conflict with FAR 52.227-19 Commercial Computer Software License within Section I.2 of the Draft RFP. Does the NSF intend for FAR 52.227-19 to control software rights related to commercial software provided under contract, rather than Section H.28 of the RFP? A: Clarification will be provided in the final RFP.
67	Q: Would the NSF consider replacing Section H.28 of the RFP with FAR 52.227-14 Rights in Data-General and Alternate III? This would provide protection for computer software purchased, developed, or otherwise obtained by the contractor at contractor's expense. A: Clarification will be provided in the final RFP.
68	Q: Ref DRFP Section L.6.3.6. It appears that some words were inadvertently dropped from the first sentence in this section. We assume this was meant to be, "Title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letter, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages are excluded from the page count limitations of each volume." A: This will be changed to read: Items excluded from page count limits include volumes indicating "not page limited", the Award Fee Plan, Surveillance Plan(s), Performance Work Statement, title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letters, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages.
69	Q: Ref DRFP Section L.10.2. The referenced section states that, "*The Offeror shall identify a minimum of three (3) contracts which meet the recency definition and are considered relevant to this requirement.*" Many Government customers have recently turned to using large IDIQ contracts covering a very broad scope of work (e.g. Government Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs)). Given this circumstance, will the NSF consider allowing the Offeror to use individual Task Orders performed under large IDIQ contracts for past performance citations? The Task Order citation would then be evaluated for relevancy, performance quality, etc. as defined in Section M.6.2. A: Individual Task Orders performed under IDIQ contracts may be used for past performance; however, no more than one Task Order may be used per IDIQ contract.

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70	Q: Would the government consider establishing a separate CLIN for contract labor? A: NSF will not consider establishing a separate CLIN for contract labor.
71	Q: Would the government consider establishing a separate CR CLIN for fuels? A: NSF is reconsidering this issue.
72	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2. At what point will the bidders know the construction and special projects that will be required for cost estimating the bid? 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.
73	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2. If CLIN 1400 remains FPIF, then, are the non-recurring engineering costs included? A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.
74	Q: Ref DRFP Sec B.2, CLIN 1400 and X300. Is the government willing to change CLINs 1400 in the base year and X300 in the option years, which call for construction and special projects, from a FPIF type contract to a CR type contract CLIN that is task-order driven? If not, how does NSF plan to ensure that the contractor is eligible for positive profit incentives, tied to risks associated with on-ice construction and special work? Are there any circumstances (such as the contractor's agreement to accept additional fiscal controls and EVMS requirements) under which the government would be willing to make such a change? A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.
75	Q: Will the government entertain doing the Award Fee determination semi-annually, as is the case with many other Award Fee programs? A: NSF will not consider performing the award-fee determination semi-annually.
76	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.6.2.o. (Technical Management and Administrative Minimum Requirements). Does the government expect to require full implementation of EVMS for all projects? A: Appropriate EVMS will be required on NSF-specified projects as per Section C.6.2.o.
77	Q: Will the government provide a list of government-provided software applications and equipment to be maintained by the contractor so that the contractor can determine scope of effort to bid? A: NSF will make those available in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
78	Q: If an NACI is required, will the NSF reimburse the bidder for this cost. Given the potential cost and time for an NACI check, would this apply to contract labor? A: Allowable costs will be determined in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations and the Cost Accounting Standards.
79	Q: Will the government identify what government-provided COTS software the contractor must interface with and maintain? Will the project management and controls software be GFE or contractor provided?

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	A: (1) Unless otherwise required by the RFP, the contractor shall propose software and explain the system capabilities in their proposal. (2) Further information will be provided in the RFP, if not earlier in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
80	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.6.3.t. Will the government provide a table or list which maps specific certification requirements to specific positions? A: The Government will not provide such a table or list.
81	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.7.2.i. Is this requirement currently met with the existing POLARICE system or is this a new requirement? Will POLARICE be a GFE application system? A: POLARICE will be a GFE application system and is not a new requirement; the contractor may choose to propose an alternative.
82	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.7.2. Does the term "provide" imply that there will be no GFE equipment for this purpose? If it is Contractor-acquired, will the contractor be reimbursed? A: (1) GFE and GFP of accountable property will be provided. It is the offeror's responsibility to acquire necessary information via the on-line library, pre-solicitation, site visits and pre-proposal one-on-ones for non-accountable property. (2) Yes, if an allowable cost.
83	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.8.2.c. Will the government provide a list of general and special purpose electronic systems and services to be maintained by the contractor beyond those discussed in other areas of the RFP? A: NSF's intention is to make those available a characteristic list typifying current conditions in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. The contractor is expected to monitor operational and customer requirements as they evolve/change and respond accordingly.
84	Q: Will the final RFP require a specific CMMI level certification? A: The final RFP will be amended to require CMMI Level 3 certification as the minimum acceptable level.
85	Q: Will the government provide a listing of GFE IT&C infrastructure and services that the contractor will be expected to maintain? Will the contractor be authorized to use this GFE infrastructure in the performance of this contract? A: (1) The Government will provide a list of major IT&C infrastructure that typifies the systems the contractor is responsible for. A listing of notional services (high-level) can be provided, but detailed services are to be proposed by the contractor in the Service Catalog. (2) Yes.
86	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.8.2.j. Is it the government's intent for this clause to apply only to new technology project work or is it to apply to all O&M components and spare parts sent to Antarctica? A: NSF is taking this under advisement.
87	Q: Ref DRFP Section E.2. At which "destination" will the government inspect supplies to be furnished under the contract – in the U.S. (such as at Port Hueneme), at a forward staging facility or "gateway," in Antarctica, or somewhere else? A: CONUS – "Destination" would be at the U.S. Distribution Center proposed by the offeror. OCONUS – "Destination" would be at point of departure to the Antarctic.
88	Q: For purposes of invoicing under paragraph (a)(1) of clause Section H.26 (an abridged version of FAR 52.247-48, generally applicable, per FAR 47.305-4(c), where inspection will occur at origin), at what point will the government consider supplies to have been "shipped" to their "destination" – when the contractor ships them (via common carrier or otherwise) from its facility in the U.S. to Antarctica, when the supplies reach a forward staging facility or "gateway," only when the supplies

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	actually arrive in Antarctica, or at some other point? A: NSF's current management procedures indicate that items are considered "shipped" when they have been properly transferred from the vendor to the US shipping and receiving location for trans-shipment to Antarctica. Presently this takes place at Port Hueneme (CONUS), or at forward locations (e.g. Christchurch) for materials purchased outside the USA (OCONUS).
89	Q: Ref DRFP Section H.29.c. The draft RFP refers to NSF networks and facilities, it is our understanding the USAP is a distinct and separate network. Will the final RFP make a distinction between NSF and USAP network infrastructure that the contractor will be expected to maintain? A: The USAP network is not connected to the NSF network in Arlington, VA. However, it is considered to be managed and owned by NSF.
90	Q: Ref DRFP Section J. Does the word "not" belong in the first sentence? A: The word "not" does not belong in the first sentence of Section J.
91	Q: Ref DRFP Section L.6.3.6 (Proposal Page Limitations and Submissions). There appears to be missing text in this paragraph. Suggest this requirement be reworded from "…Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letter, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages" to (italics added for emphasis) "…Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letter, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages *are not counted against the page limit.*" A: This will be changed to read: Items excluded from page count limits include volumes indicating "not page limited", the Award Fee Plan, Surveillance Plan(s), Performance Work Statement, title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letters, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages.
92	Q: Ref DRFP Section L.11.10.2 (Purchasing System). Please clarify the requirement to have a government approved purchasing system in place of the legacy P1000 system furnished by the government? A: Section L.11.10.2 is self explanatory as written.
93	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.1 TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS. There are two major issues regarding polar transportation and logistics: (1) Signaling to industry what you want and (2) Encouraging some mechanism that would allow the winning bidder to actually provide what you want. The need for this later mechanism arises because providing transportation and logistics in a polar environment has some substantial differences from commercial transportation and logistics requirements. For example, the severe limitations on providing regular and predictable transportation during some periods, makes concepts such as just-in-time extremely impractical. Effectively addressing these differences requires a level of transportation and logistics innovation capability that is unlikely to exist in the companies submitting bids for this project. A possibility for overcoming this problem is to create a Center for Polar Transportation and Logistics jointly between the winning bidder and a university or universities with broad expertise in transportation and logistics. The Center could provide ongoing assessment of the PT&L process and technology performance, aid in developing new processes, aid in selecting and/or developing new technology for both planning and operation, and provide education regarding PT&L to scientists proposing to do polar work. I do not know how you might encourage development of such a center in the RFP. Some points that might be included to signal to industry what you want are: Provide innovative processes and modern information and decision technology to insure efficient and effective support transportation and logistics. Provide a measurable continuous improvement environment for both process and technology evolution. Provide mechanisms for assuring that the processes and

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	technology for polar transportation and logistics are comparable in quality to that used by industry. A: NSF is not providing a response as no question is contained in the comment.
94	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2, CLIN's 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 are specified for Fixed Price Incentive Fee Construction and CLIN's 1600, 2500, 3500, 4500, and 5500 are specified for materials and shown to be Cost Reimbursable. Will materials associated with construction and special projects be cost reimbursable? A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.
95	Q: Ref DRFP Section B.2. Will the Government award future construction projects on an IDIQ basis? Ref DRFP Section B.2. CLIN's 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 are specified for Fixed Price Incentive Construction with the rest of the CLIN's being cost plus award fee or cost reimbursable. For each individual construction project: will the Government award future construction projects on an IDIQ basis? A: (1) The IDIQ contract type will not be applicable to the ASC. (2) Construction and special projects will be negotiated in the contents of the Annual Program Plan each year and added to the contract through contract modifications.
96	Q: What is the maximum dollar threshold for repairs and alterations that constitute a FPIF construction project vs. CPAF services? A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.
97	Q: What is the anticipated lead time that the Government will provide to the contractor for pricing FPIF construction task orders? A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. Also, FPIF construction task orders will not be applicable to the ASC. The awardee will be given adequate time to develop construction requirements as part of the Annual Program Plan.
98	Q: How long are FPIF construction bids for individual projects expected to be valid for? A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. The awardee will be given adequate time to develop construction requirements as part of the Annual Program Plan which should be valid during the year covered in the Annual Program Plan.
99	Q: How will the Government handle delays in construction, caused by events beyond control of the contractor, that may cause contract change orders? A: These events will be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the contract terms and provisions as contained in the applicable modification.
100	Q: CLIN's 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 are specified for Fixed Price Incentive Construction with the rest of the CLIN's being cost plus award fee or cost reimbursable. We understand concerns over historic project schedule and cost growth that may have led to the decision to shift construction to fixed price. However, considering the impact to operational flexibility and the additional administrative and contractual impact on the Government associated with fixed price construction in Antarctica, would the Government consider other approaches to accomplishing schedule and cost control? Examples include a separate award fee pool and plan for construction that is directly tied to schedule and cost; and a requirement for earned value management metric A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. 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.
101	Q: Historically all shared services were accounted for under cost plus. Will the Government expect all shared services to be priced against the basic O&M contract? Examples include cargo loading

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	and unloading, safety, quality, procurement, material logistics, general management supervision, human resources, finance, PPE gear, project controls, etc. A: Incremental costs for construction and special projects need to be budgeted for that specific project.
102	Q: CLINs 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 request that the Offeror submit a target cost, over/under range, and a share ratio. Will all Offerors be instructed to use the Government's allocated ceiling price as the target price for each of the above CLINs? This will allow the Government to evaluate price more uniformly between Offerors with the evaluation based on the Offerors proposed target profit and the share ratio and over/under range. A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.
103	Q: CLINS 1500, 1600, 1700; 2400, 2500, 2600; 3400, 3500, 3600; 4400, 4500, 4600; 5400, 5500, 5600 are shown as CLINs for Offerors to develop proposed cost/pricing data. Without workload data, developing accurate costs for all commodities and services associated with these CLINs may lead to an extraordinary range of pricing among Offerors and in turn make it extremely difficult for the Government to evaluate proposals. Will the Government consider changing these CLINs to 'plug' numbers? A: Information regarding the pricing of leases and charters will be provided in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp Other direct costs, materials and travel are being reconsidered for inclusion in the Integrative and Operations Science Support CLIN.
104	Q: Will the RFP requirement that teaming subcontractors receive a percentage of the prime contract fee be waived or modified, now that the contract also contains FFP and FPIF CLINs? A: NSF is deleting this provision in the final RFP. The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs.
105	Q: In past USAP RFPs, NSF has established CR amounts for Offerors to plug into their cost proposal for these types of activities. These costs were based on historical costs and/or NSF's projections. The rationale for this was based on the difficulty to specify with any certainty detailed specifications in the future. Offerors would add to these plugged amounts their loadings to complete their price proposals. Will the Government consider establishing a similar schedule for Offerors to use, or will the actual RFP have the data necessary to more accurately cost these ID/IQ type items? A: NSF will provide a Government NTE for construction and special projects. Information regarding the pricing of leases and charters will be provided in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp Other direct costs, materials and travel are being reconsidered for inclusion in the Integrative and Operations Science Support CLIN.
106	Q: Provisional or interim payment of fee is currently not authorized by the Government. Will the Government consider authorizing a base fee? A: NSF will not consider authorizing a base fee.
107	Q: Section C requires Offerors to develop a PWS and Section L requires Offerors submit their PWS as part of the proposal. Will the Government allow Offerors to submit their PWS and WBS as separate un-page counted addendums to Vol. II, Technical Approach? A: Both PWS and WBS should be proposed under Volume I and will not be subject to page limitations.
108	Q: This portion of the proposal states that the contractor will provide a Performance Work Statement (PWS) in response to this Statement of Objectives (SOO). However, in order to estimate labor and materials for any PWS, Offerors will need workload data for the contract. Will the Government provide workload data to be used by Offerors to create their Basis of Estimate?

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	A: NSF will not provide work load data. Offerors can find information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
109	Q: Will the Government provide projected program participant population data, stratified by time and location? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
110	Q: Will the On-Line Library include such documents as incumbent position descriptions, SOPs, Plans, and hiring and wage/benefit information? A: SOPs will be made available for most functions; however, position descriptions and wage/benefit will not be provided. The SOPs will be provided in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
111	Q: Will the Government consider placing all On-Line Library information in an electronic format e.g. on the USAP website? A: No, the material will remain on the NSF's re-compete website at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp A link from the USAP.gov site to NSF.gov site will be provided.
112	Q: Will the Government provide access to all systems data and databases utilized to perform the current operations? A: Access to a snapshot of current systems data for the MAPCON, P-1000, Cargo Tracking System, and Personnel Tracking System, which is publicly releasable, will be provided. Access to synthetic data used to train new users of the POLARICE system will be made available for POLARICE. This information will be provided after the RFP is issued in a form to be determined.
113	Q: How much time will be allocated to Offerors at OPP and incumbent contractor locations? A: There will be no site visit of NSF and OPP. Information on site visit(s) will be posted on FedBizOpps.
114	Q: NSF DRFP requires the contractor to oversee and assess all aspects of safety risk management in Antarctica and refer enforcement issues to the NSF, if required. Based on the above NSF safety risk management oversight and assessment requirements, is it the Government's desire that the contractor's proposed Safety and Occupational Health Program be a primacy document for the contractor to oversee and assess all aspects of safety/risk management in Antarctica (in addition to interfacing and complimenting the safety programs of other participating organizations and institutions)? A: The contractor's safety and occupational health program should be the standard for non-military USAP operations for a wide spectrum of USAP participants, including the contractor's employees and unaffiliated individuals. Business judgment will be required in applying appropriate policies and standards to specific participants and situations. The contractor will act as NSF's full-time safety representative. In the event of any disagreement on safety matters, NSF has final authority, normally through the respective NSF Representative or NSF Station Manager.
115	Q: The SOO states Contractor shall manage and operate health care facilities comparable to urgent care centers in the US and staff appropriately. Urgent health care centers in the US vary greatly in levels of capability. Will the Government please designate the level(s) of urgent care they require Offerors to provide when developing their staffing?

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	A: The level of urgent care should meet the reasonably anticipated health care needs of a medically and dentally screened population. Consideration should also be given to the occupational and non-occupational hazards to which USAP participants may be exposed.
116	Q: Will the Government provide a comprehensive equipment density/inventory list (regardless of item dollar value) displaying type (make, manufacturer), year of manufacture, whether the equipment was purchased or leased that includes all project locations? A: Listings of accountable property (GFE and GFP) are available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp Because of the scope of the operation, a full inventory of all government property is not available for non-accountable items. A listing of all licensed software will also be made available. It is the offeror's responsibility to acquire necessary information via the on-line library, pre-solicitation, site visits and pre-proposal one-on-ones for non-accountable property.
117	Q: When will the Government provide a list of the GFE/GFP? A: Because of the scope of the operation, a full inventory of all government property is not available for non-accountable items. The government has or will provide inventories of all property and equipment except that valued at less than $5,000. Listings of accountable property (GFE and GFP) are available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. The successful offeror will be required to conduct an inventory of GFE as part of transition activities. A listing of all licensed software will be made available.
118	Q: Will the Government provide Offerors copies of all charters and leases so that we may review their contractual provisions, legal aspects and costs, etc.? A: Copies of charters and leases will be made available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. There is no operating agreement for Port Hueneme.
119	Q: Are the following documents going to be provided in the On-Line Library? - Waste Management Plan and Users Guide A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
120	Q: Are the following documents going to be provided in the On-Line Library? - Compliance Plan for the USAP Master Permit. A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
121	Q: Are the following documents going to be provided in the On-Line Library? - Environmental Protection Plan A: The information can be found at www.ats.aq\index_e.htm
122	Q: Can NSF provide Exhibit A to the Master Permit – Inventory of Materials Containing Designated Pollutants? A: 45 CFR 671.3 (a) defines d*esignated pollutant* as "any substance designated as such by the Director pursuant to subpart E of this part; any pesticide, radioactive substance, or substance consisting of or containing any chemical listed by source, generic or chemical name at 40 CFR 61.01, Table 116.4A of 40 CFR 116.4; subpart D of 40 CFR part 261, 40 CFR 302.4, part 355, and part 372; and any substance which exhibits a hazardous waste characteristic as defined in subparts B and C of 40 CFR part 261; but shall not include any banned substance. Information on materials

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	containing designated pollutants can be found at http://nsf.gov/od/opp/antarct/aca/nsf01151/start.jsp
123	Q: Can NSF provide Exhibit B to the Master Permit – Release Characterization Data? A: NSF intends to make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
124	Q: Can NSF provide Exhibit C to the Master Permit – Environmental Review documents A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
125	Q: When will the Government provide a copy of the "USAP Medical Screening Guideline"? A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
126	Q: The SOO states: The contractor shall provide an information database for interactive science planning with investigators and ensure continuity of legacy data. How and when will the Government provide access to the system(s) that contain the legacy data? A: 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.
127	Q: The DRFP states the contractor shall provide, operate, maintain, and replace as required common use field equipment, including installed equipment and systems mounted on research vessels and aircraft. When will the Government provide this listing? A: Because of the scope of the operation, a full inventory of all government property is not available for non-accountable items. The government has or will provide inventories of all property and equipment except that valued at less than $5,000. Listings of accountable property (GFE and GFP) are available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. The successful offeror will be required to conduct an inventory of GFE as part of transition activities. A listing of all licensed software will be made available.
128	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.8.2.c. The SOO states "Provide general and special purpose electronic systems and services beyond conventional IT&C." Will the Government please define the term 'beyond conventional', and designate by location the requirement? A. The term "beyond conventional" is intended to convey the fact that the scope of the IT&C service domain includes functions and services that are not typically found in standard IT outsourcing environments. The isolation of the Antarctic service environment requires provisioning of capabilities that are normally acquired via third parties in less extreme locations. Examples include fixed satellite service, satellite earth station, design/construction/operations, component level electronic and bench repair, etc.
129	Q: The 1998 RFP contained systems description and specifications to include name, function, origin, technical description, functional description, utilizations, attributes. Will the Government provide a listing of all existing IT systems, architectures, definitions and specifications of each? A: NSF will provide information on major applications as well as a listing of licensed applications in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
130	Q: Will the Government provide the methods of interface for these current IT systems to the Government cost accounting systems?

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	A: There is no interface with the current government cost accounting systems.
131	Q: What GFE legacy mission applications are currently in place? A: NSF will provide information on major applications as well as a listing of licensed applications in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
132	Q: Is there a replacement schedule for any of the existing software systems? A: NSF does not have a replacement schedule for existing software systems.
133	Q: At what point in time will the Government provide copies of all Memorandum of Agreements? A: NSF will make those available to the offerors in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
134	Q: The contractor shall develop engineering designs as required for new infrastructure or modifications to existing facilities. All engineered designs shall be stamped by a professional engineer and/or architect as appropriate. Is it correct to assume that all construction work will be designed by the contractor? A: This will depend on the specific construction requirement and will be determined as the need arises after the award is made.
135	Q: What is the anticipated average size of the projects over the next five years? A: The size of construction and special projects will be determined on an as-needed basis.
136	Q: The SOO states that the contractor must manage, operate and maintain the USAP bulk fuel storage and distribution systems. Will the Government provide equipment specifications, facilities and capacities of the equipment at each location? A: The NSF has site plans and details and documents of all facilities, storage, and distribution systems that depict the equipment and capacities including procedures and O&M manuals. These will be made available to offerors in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
137	Q: How much fuel will be delivered and delivery schedule requirements for each location? A: Currently, the USAP purchases approximately 6.4 million gallons of fuel annually for McMurdo and the South Pole Stations and 70 thousand gallons for Palmer Station. These amounts will vary based on annual requirement.
138	Q: Ref DRFP Section C.9.2.p. Paragraph “p” states: “The contractor shall manage, operate, construct, and maintain USAP facilities to provide for safe and efficient operations.” Will the Government provide a definition for Special Projects? A: Construction and special projects will be defined and negotiated within the APP every year. Special projects can be defined as those NSF has determined to fall outside the scope of the normal operations and maintenance of the USAP,examples include: Icecube, South Pole Station Modernization.
139	Q: Will the Government provide information on the required approvals and funding process for minor and major construction projects, and the annual timeline for each approval/funding step? A: Major construction and special projects will be negotiated within the APP. The timeline for each approval/funding step will also be determined with the applicable APP.
140	Q: Will the Government provide a list of Construction in Progress (CIP)? A: This will be made available in the on-line Library at

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	http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
141	Q: Will the Government provide a list of projects approved/funded for FY 2010? A: There is no list of approved projects for FY2010 at this time.
142	Q: Will the Government provide a list of forecasted and prioritized requirements for major facility projects? A: This information is not available.
143	Q: Will construction projects in progress be transferred to the successor contactor? If so, will they be cost reimbursable? A: This will be addressed during the transition-in period. These costs will fall under the Major construction/special project NTE CLIN.
144	Q: Will the Government provide a listing of current suppliers for all types of materials and services? A: This information is not available.
145	Q: Will the Government provide the last three years of the Annual Program Plan? A: NSF will provide this information in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
146	Q: Please identify which training will be reimbursed by the Government? A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise. Please see Section H. 17.
147	Q: The SOO defines the USAP Freight Cost Model. Will the Government provide a copy of the "Freight Cost Model"? A: NSF will provide all current FCM information.
148	Q: Will the Government provide electronic copies of the existing ACAs? A: No Associate Contractor Agreements exist at this time.
149	Q: Ref DRFP Section H.17.b. Does this clause apply to our team mates? A: This clause applies across the team.
150	Q: Will the Government identify the employee position(s) that require security clearances? A: There are no positions that require security clearance at this time.
151	Q: Does the Government intend for Section H.22 or Section H.23 to apply for Mobilization/Demobilization of employees? A: Sections H.22 and H.23 do not apply to Mobilization/Demobilization of employees.
152	Q: Will the Government consider adding construction related FAR clauses to Section I.2 such as: FAR 52.232-27, "Prompt payment for construction contracts" A: FAR clauses associated with construction activities outside the United States will be addressed in applicable post-award modifications for construction requirements.
153	Q: Will the Government consider adding construction related FAR clauses to Section I.2 such as: FAR 52.232-5, "Payments under Fixed Price Construction Contracts"

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	A: FAR clauses associated with construction activities outside the United States will be addressed in applicable post-award modifications for construction requirements
154	Q: Will the Government consider adding construction related FAR clauses to Section I.2 such as: FAR 52.232-16, "Progress Payments" A: FAR clauses associated with construction activities outside the United States will be addressed in applicable post-award modifications for construction requirements
155	Q: Ref DRFP Section J.1. In Item #1, the Award Fee Plan is shown to be proposed by Offerors vs. provided by the Government. Will this plan be a separate submittal from Vol. II, Technical Approach and excluded from the page count? A: The award fee plan should be proposed as Section J, Attachment 1 and is excluded from the page count.
156	Q: Ref DRFP Section L.6.3.9. Will the Government consider allowing 11" x 17" foldouts in the technical volume, and if so for each 11" x 17" to be counted as two pages? A: The RFP will be changed to allow up to ten (10) 11"x17" fold-outs in the Technical Volume. Each fold-out will count as one page. All fold-outs will be single-sided.
157	Q: For EXCEL spreadsheets in the cost volume may we use foldouts on 11" x 17" paper? A: The RFP will be changed to allow unlimited single-sided 11" x 17" fold-outs for the Cost Volume.
158	Q: Due to the complexity of the organization, will the Government allow D-size drawing for organization/staffing charts? A: The maximum size for fold-outs or drawing is 11" x 17".
159	Q: Since Volume I (Administrative) is submitted early and amendments are to be acknowledged on SF 33, what if an amendment comes out after submittal of Volume I? A: This will be addressed in the final RFP at Section L.
160	Q: Since Section B is required in this volume, but it would not be complete until the cost is done, does a blank copy go in with Volume I and then a completed copy with the rest of the volumes? A: This will be addressed in the final RFP at Section L.
161	Q: Will the Government consider making project schedules relative to the transition plan not within the page count? A: All information related to the transition will be subject to the page count of the Technical Volume.
162	Q: If so, could these be 11" x 17"? A: The RFP will be changed to allow up to ten (10) 11"x17" fold-outs in the Technical Volume. Each fold-out will count as one page. All fold-outs will be single-sided.
163	Q: Will the Government consider allowing clients to return questionnaires no later than the submission date of the past performance volume? A: Past Performance questionnaires are due as prescribed in the RFP.
164	Q: Will the Government consider providing clients alternative methods of returning questionnaires, such as e-mail and postal service? A: If the decision is made to allow the alternative methods, then the RFP will be modified to reflect that.
165	Q: Will the Government spell out the acronym IT&C in the client past performance questionnaire to

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	prevent misunderstanding? A: The Past Performance questionnaire will be modified to spell out the acronym.
166	Q: Will the Government specify the cost reimbursable amounts to be used in Offeror proposals or will the Government provide workload data adequate to support an estimate? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
167	Q: Award Fee, NSF has designated 0 – 80% as a single Award Fee Score Category earning an Award Fee Amount of 0%. This performance spread seems overly broad and limiting on the ability of a contractor to earn fee. We would suggest the NSF consider use of 0 – 60% performance rating. In addition, there does not appear to be any NSF proposed Base Fee to cover the contractor's costs for unallowable cost or negative cash flow. A: The award fee scale is presented in the RFP as it was intended. Alternatives to the award fee scale will not be considered.
168	Q: Pt. Hueneme is not listed as a required place of performance. Is this an oversight, or is the government open to options for ship based cargo operations? A: The NSF will consider alternate locations for shipping and receiving of materials and supplies.
169	Q: Does the government plan to provide an outline of the currently used environmental education program and/or the specific education requirements for Offerors to respond to in the final RFP? A: Information on the environmental education program can be found within the 07-08 Environmental Work Plan Summary which will be made available at the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
170	Q: Will the Government provide detailed information about the specific property, equipment and applications it will require the contractor to maintain and/or replace in the final RFP? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
171	Q: Will the Government provide detailed information about the existing leases, charters and operator agreements it will require the contractor to assume in the final RFP? A: Copies of charters and leases will be made available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
172	Q: There is no mention of structural fire fighting capability requirements. Is this a contractor requirement? A: Offerors for the Antarctic Support Contract should describe how they propose to provide the USAP with a complete and comprehensive program for fire protection for all aspects of Antarctic operations including structural, airfield, field camp, and vehicle elements.
173	Q: There is no mention of specific training requirements for scientists. Will the government provide information about the current program or specific field safety and other mandated researcher or participant training requirements to be facilitated by the contractor in the final RFP? A: Information about the field safety program will be provided in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. Program requirements for field safety apply equally to all personnel.
174	Q: Will the government include some basic information such as average numbers of scientists and

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	science projects per station and vessel in the final RFP? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
175	Q: There is no mention of a requirement for Cryogenic or Analytical Chemistry support. Is there a requirement for either of these at any of the stations? A: Requirements for these programs depend on research proposals.
176	Q: Will the Government require its PolarIce database for ongoing use as a science-planning tool? A: POLARICE will be a GFE application system and is not a new requirement; the contractor may choose to propose an alternative.
177	Q: Will the Government provide detailed information about the legacy mission applications it will require the contractor to maintain and/or replace in the final RFP? A: NSF will provide information on major applications as well as a listing of licensed applications in the on-line library athttp://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
178	Q: Will the Government provide detailed information about the USAP facilities, utilities, infrastructure systems, and mechanical/electrical equipment it will require the contractor to maintain in the final RFP? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
179	Q: Will the Government provide detailed information and requirements describing the food service facilities, population estimates, and the level of service required at each station in the final RFP? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
180	Q: Will the Government provide detailed information and requirements describing NSF personnel, military, and its direct subcontractor requirements for housing, and any specific requirements it has for housing of scientists and contractor staff at all locations in the final RFP? A: The current practice is to keep military personnel berthing consolidated to maintain unit integrity. Single room accommodations are provided for aircrew to ensure minimal disruption for adequate crew rest. Offerors may propose any strategy for berthing management, provided that unit integrity is maintained and the aircrews are able to receive adequate crew rest.
181	Q: Will the Government provide detailed information and specific requirements about the power, water, water treatment and waste- water disposal systems it will require the contractor to maintain at each station in the final RFP? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
182	Q: Will the Government define "USAP aircraft and vessels" and the level of coordination and planning is required by the contractor for military and commercial aircraft and vessels in the final RFP? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation

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	conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones. NSF will take this under advisement.
183	Q: Under what circumstances if any can New Zealand citizens be hired to work in Antarctica for the contractor? A: Please see the exceptions to Section H.4 of the RFP.
184	Q: This section requests information on the Offeror and all Subcontractors' financial condition. Is this request fulfilled by providing the information requested in Section L.8.2.g for both the Offeror and major subcontractors not covered by a teaming agreement (if any)? A: This request is fulfilled by responding to all paragraphs of Section L.8
185	Q: The final RFP should contain a definition of "construction" and "special projects" as they relate to these FPIF CLINS. For example, can science projects be considered special projects? If so, which ones and, if so, what is the definition of construction that should be included in this FPIF CLIN vs. the costs to be included in non-fee bearing Science Support CLINS? A: Construction and special projects will be defined and negotiated within the APP every year. Special projects can be defined as those NSF has determined to fall outside the scope of the normal operations and maintenance of the USAP,examples include: Icecube, South Pole Station Modernization. NSF will not be including any FPIF CLINs in the final RFP.
186	Q: Offeror is required to propose target, over/under range and share ratio. Ceiling price is established by the government at $90M for CLIN 1400 and $20M for each of the other CLINs. Specific requirements for construction/special projects has not been provided, without which the contractor cannot estimate a target for these FPIF CLINs. 1) Does the Gov't intend to provide with the RFP the requirements upon which the ceilings are based? 2) If requirements will not be provided in the RFP, will the Gov't consider restructuring these CLINS into IDIQ CLINs under which FPIF task orders would be issued for projects as requirements become known? Under this scenario the Gov't could define the ceiling in this RFP as a percentage of target rather than a specific dollar amount and that percentage would apply to all task orders. A: NSF will not be including any FPIF CLINs in the final RFP. The IDIQ contract type will not be applicable to the ASC. Construction and special projects will be negotiated in the contents of the Annual Program Plan each year and added to the contract through contract modifications.
187	Q: "Cost-Plus-Award Fee States that maximum award fee is to be provided by the government." 1) Shouldn't maximum award fee be proposed by the Offeror? 2) If the government is to provide the maximum award fee, how will it be calculated? A: 1) No. 2) NSF will determine the maximum fee which will be based on the pool of dollars available for award fee by the Government. See Section B.7.b
188	Q: "Award Fee shows table of award fee earning potential based on evaluation score." The award fee schedule with it's discrete award of fees for arbitrary score milestones could leave the contractor with a disproportionally low award fee, particularly if the contractor must spend a few years rebuilding. Will NSF consider a 1:1 correspondence between award fee score percentage and award fee earned - for example 89% score would yield 89% award fee rather than the present scheme there the contractor would receive only 40%? A: The award fee scale is presented in the RFP as it was intended. Alternatives to the award fee scale will not be considered.
189	Q: "If the contractor is part of a consortium, joint venture, and/or other teaming arrangement, the entire team shall share in this contract award fee structure and separate additional fee for teaming partners shall not be considered an allowable cost under the contract." 1) Does this clause disallow fee for all subcontractors to a joint venture prime contractor? If not: 2) Does this clause disallow fee

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	for subcontractors with which a joint venture prime has, prior to submission of the prime's proposal, entered into an agreement to subcontract exclusively for certain requirements under this procurement? A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the final RFP.
190	Q: "Contractor shall be paid award fee upon submittal of proper invoice." Will there be time limits on how long the NSF can take to determine award fee and process payment after receipt of proper invoice? A: Requirements for processing award fee payments will be established in the final RFP.
191	Q: "In response to NSF's responsibility to be a steward of the Antarctic environment in the conduct of its activities, the contractor shall continue the environmental education program for all USAP participants." 1) Is this program outside of the proposed SOO and therefore not priced? 2) If it is part of the SOO to be priced - will the Government provide the parameters and content of the program? A: Environmental education and stewardship is part of everything NSF does in the Antarctic and should be fully integrated throughout the contractor's proposal. This program is a requirement of the SOO and should be included in any pricing. The Government expects the Offeror to propose the parameters and contents of the program. It is the offeror's responsibility to acquire necessary information via the on-line library, pre-solicitation, site visits and pre-proposal one-on-ones. Information on the environmental education program can also be found within the 07-08 Environmental Work Plan Summary in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
192	Q: "The contractor will assume responsibility for existing leases and charters and operator agreements (e.g. Christchurch Airport Authority, NZ, and Punta Arenas, Chile)." What are the costs and the terms of the agreements? A: Copies of charters and leases will be made available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. There is no operating agreement for Port Hueneme.
193	Q: "The contractor must ensure that Government furnished legacy mission applications transitioned to the contractor remain functional until replaced. 1) Will the government furnish any applicable license? 2) Will the Government tell us what these systems are so the bidders will know if any specialty resources are necessary? A: (1) Necessary licenses will be transferred from the incumbent contractor. (2) NSF will provide information on major applications as well as a listing of licensed applications in the on-line library athttp://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
194	Q: "Unless specifically waived by NSF, the contractor must comply with Federal occupational safety and health standards, and, in other countries, the host national, regional and local standards when more stringent than U.S. standards." Will a list of the current waivers be provided? A: There is no list of standing waivers. OSHA standards will be the default standards, but due to the unique environment and nature of operations, some OSHA standards are not applicable, highly impractical, or impossible to implement. NSF is willing to consider alternatives described in proposals. In situations after award where a Federal standard applies, but the contractor wishes to implement an alternative means of controlling risk, the contractor shalll seek NSF guidance.
195	Q: Are shipments subject to ITAR rules? A: The contractor is responsible for knowing when ITAR is applicable.

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196	Q: Period of performance goes through March 2023 in Section F.2 and Sept 2023 in Section F.3. Which is correct? A: Period of Performance is through March 31st 2023
197	Q: "Work under this Contract shall be performed in accordance with an Annual Program Plan developed by the Contractor in consult with the NSF." Will the APP replace the Contract CLINs each year? A: The Annual Program Plan is developed within the Contract CLIN structure.
198	Q: "After Operations report will serve as the quarterly technical report in the quarter of the year in which it is due." There is mention here of quarter reports, is there a requirement for them? There is no requirement listed in the deliverables section. A: The final RFP will be edited to remove the reference to the After Operations Report. The intent is only to have quarterly technical reports in the future and no consolidated annual report.
199	Q: "Payments under this contract will be made either by check or by wire transfer through the Treasury Financial Communications System at the option of the Government."1) The current contract is funded with a Federal Reserve Letter of Credit. Will the Government provide similar funding arrangements for the contract resulting from this procurement? 2) If the contractor is invoicing what are the terms? A: 1) The Final RFP will not include reference to Advance Payments. 2) Standard invoicing terms will apply.
200	Q: "Project Director; Deputy Director or Chief Operating Officer; Department or Division Directors; Chief Information Officer (CIO)"-- has the Government established minimum qualifications for these Key Personnel positions? If so, where is this documentation provided? A: NSF will not establish minimum qualifications for personnel. Offerors will be required to provide qualifications of their key personnel in their proposals.
201	Q: "The Government will furnish, at no cost to the contractor, the necessary office space, utilities, telephone service, general purpose office equipment, and office furniture for its personnel assigned to work under this contract at Government locations in Antarctica and at operating locations in New Zealand and South America." 1) What about the assignment of the existing lease and GFE in the Denver office. Are all the furnishings and equipment GFE? 2) Is the warehouse at Punta Arenas provided? A: (1) 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. (2) The warehouse facilities in Punta Arenas are leased through a subcontract with the current prime and are not government-furnished.
202	Q: "The contractor shall be responsible for all costs including labor hours associated with the equivalent training of replacement personnel when contractor personnel who have received Government-funded training leave and are replaced." 1) Will the NSF provide a list of government funded training? Does this apply on an annual basis or over the life of the contract? A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a billable expense to the contract. NSF expects the contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.
203	Q: "Government emergency vehicles and medical personnel may be used in emergency situations affecting contractor personnel whose life may be in danger or suffering unendurable pain.

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	Government facilities may be used in these instances as the first point of treatment. Transfer to other than Government medical treatment facilities shall be accomplished as soon as possible and as determined by attending medical authorities. Reimbursement to the Government for emergency treatment will be in accordance with Federal Statutes and Government Regulations." 1) Does the government expect reimbursement for all emergency medical treatment on ice? 2) Is there an expectation that the contractor will provide non-emergent care at permanent stations? A: (1) The government does not expect reimbursement for emergency medical treatment in Antarctica. However, the Contracting officer reserves the right to determine the allowability of these costs on a case by case basis. (2) Yes.
204	Q: "Transportation of employees from domicile to work places shall not be an allowable cost under this contract." Does this apply to daily commuting only? A: Domicile, as defined in Black's Law Dictionary, is where an individual has a permanent home or principal residence. Transportation from domicile to work will not be an allowable cost except to and from Antarctica.
205	Q: "The Contractor Shall not submit an invoice for payment until the supplies covered by the invoice have been shipped to the destination." Does this mean the contractor is not allowed to bill the NSF for material purchased until that material reaches the FOB destination? A: NSF's current management procedures indicate that items are considered "shipped" when they have been properly transferred from the vendor to the US shipping and receiving location for trans-shipment to Antarctica. Presently this takes place at Port Hueneme, or at forward locations (e.g. Christchurch) for materials purchased outside the USA.
206	Q: Vol III Past Performance "1) States that "Relevancy is defined as past performance which exhibits: …same division of company doing the work. 2) Also states "…Past performance information may include data on efforts performed by other divisions, corporate management, and critical subcontractors or teaming contractors, if such information is relevant to the subject acquisition and will influence the performance of the proposed effort." 1) In first statement, does "same division...doing the work" mean we provide only past performance references from our joint venture parent company's contracts? 2) Does "...may include data on efforts performed by other divisions..." mean that we may provide information on a joint venture's parent company divisions' experience, but not as actual past performance references? A: 1) Past performance regarding other divisions, corporate management, and critical subcontractors or teaming contractors shall be relevant where the past performance exhibits: "similar scope and contracting environment…; same division as company doing the work; same critical subcontractor interaction; same division; same teaming offeror; …". Section L.10.1 provides specific information. 2) Yes.
207	Q: Vol III Past Performance "The Offeror shall identify a minimum of three (3) contracts "What is the maximum number or contracts allowed? Is there a requirement for references from subcontractors? A: 1) While 3 is the minimum, there is no maximum number, as long as the information provided falls within the page limitation of 30 pages for the Past Performance Volume. 2) It is at the offeror's discretion to provide relevant and recent past performance information on subcontractors.
208	Q: "The cost model shall reflect the offeror's overall technical solution and must incorporate any additional proposed firm-fixed price areas." Please explain what additional proposed firm-fixed price areas there may be. The only FFP CLIN is the Transition CLIN. A: At this time the only FFP CLIN is the Transition-in CLIN. The final RFP will address this change.
209	Q: "The instructions for Section 3 of the Cost Volume state that "Other information such as Government Furnished Property/Government Furnished Equipment (GFP/GFE), base support …" is

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	to be included. Is the Government looking for Offerors to identify in this Section those GFP/GFE and base support needs that are above and beyond what's identified in the RFP? A: Section L. 28 of the draft RFP specifically directs the offeror to identify additional GFP/GFE requirements in excess of that identified in the RFP. While Section L.11.9, SECTION 3 addresses where the GFP/GFE should be located in the Cost Volume, Section M.6.3.1 states "the evaluated cost/price may include adjustments to offset any competitive advantage from the use of additional GFP/GFE… (e.g. GFE/GFP/GFF not furnished to all offerors)".
210	Q: "The instructions for Section 2 of the Cost Volume state that the supporting data should include information on the purchasing system, accounting system, etc… "How is this different from the purchasing and accounting systems information that's required to be included in Section 1 of the Cost Volume? A: This appears duplicative and NSF is taking the comment under consideration and will address the issue in the Final RFP.
211	Q: "There are conflicting statements within the Subcontracting Plan paragraph: 1) The goals listed below represent the dollar percentage of subcontract dollars. Or 2) The dollar amount provided will be compared to total contract dollars to determine a percentage of total contract dollars for each of the categories:" 1) Are the Subcontract Plans goals based on percent of Total Contract Dollars or Subcontract Dollars? 2) If the answer is Total Contract Dollars does that total include FPIF Construction CLINS and Cost Reimbursable CLINS such as Leases & Charters, Materials, and Travel? A: (1) It will be based on total contract dollars not subcontract dollars. (2) The final RFP will not include any FPIF CLINs. Total contract dollars will include the cost of all CLINs.
212	Q: "The Extent of Participation of Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns Factor shall be evaluated using the "meets/fails to meet" criteria." We receive a pass/fail grade based on likelihood of successful accomplishment. Is this grade simply a result of proposing the target ratio or goal of 28.3% and meeting all individual sub factor goals or is it more subjective? A: NSF will evaluate pursuant to Section M.6.4.
213	Q: "Oral Presentations - The offeror's presentation shall be given by the Program Manager and is limited to three hours including time for questions and answers." Are other key personnel allowed to attend and participate during the question and answer session? A: At this time no decision on oral presentations have been made. If oral presentations are required, detailed instructions as to their conduct will be provided to offerors in a timely manner.
214	Q: Page 3, Note A: This section states that Offeror may propose areas for consideration for a Firm Fixed Price (FFP) contract. Section M does not discuss how Offerors' proposals that include a FFP contract type will be evaluated but it does mention in Section M6.13 e incentive/disincentive plans will be evaluated. For example, will Offerors' proposals that include both CPAF and FFP contract types be evaluated more favorably than lower cost Offeror proposals that are exclusively CPAF? A: At this time the only FFP CLIN is the Transition-In CLIN. The final RFP will address this change.
215	Q: Page 6, Section B.7.d.1: It is unclear how the terms "consortium, joint venture, or other teaming arrangement" is intended to apply. The first two examples of the subsection, "consortium" and "joint venture" necessarily imply a prime contractor, or Offeror, relationship. We agree that any prime contractor (Offeror) should share the award fee amongst the prime contractor (Offeror) members. However, the lack of clarity in what is considered an "other teaming arrangement" could have far-reaching and unusual consequences that are not predictable. We recommend the Government consider that fees will be shared by the member companies of the prime contractor (Offeror).

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	A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the final RFP.
216	Q: Page 6, Section B.7.d.1: With regard to the "Allowability of subcontractor Award Fee," the Prime Contractor should not be penalized for providing niche/specialty/small business subcontractors that bring important value to NSF. This is not considered fee on fee in the industry, and given the challenges the ASC provides, the Prime Contractor should have the contractual flexibility to motivate its subcontractors with various forms of contract vehicles that best suit their role(s) and accomplishments of the Work. We would suggest that NSF consider making subcontractor fee an allowable cost for niche/specialty and small business subcontractors. A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the final RFP.
217	Q: Page 9, Section C.5.b, bullet 1: The draft RFP states here that the contractor is expected to "Consistently take steps to understand the NSF's priority business and operations issues and opportunities." What interfaces and mechanisms will the NSF use for the contractor to align to the NSF's priorities? What are the preferred points of contact for the technical management and administration elements of the contract? A: 1) NSF is taking this under consideration and will address this in the final RFP. 2) Prior to award, all questions should be addressed to the Contracting Officer. Post-award POCs will be provided in the awarded contract.
218	Q: Page 9, Section C.5.b, bullet 2: The draft RFP states here that the contractor is expected to "Share the risks and responsibilities of joint implementations and initiatives." Does the NSF expect the contractor to share the funding and financial risks of implementations and initiatives jointly agreed upon such as facility upgrades, process improvements, software applications, etc.? A: The intent is for the contractor and the government to share in the success or failure as a balance against risk of non-performance. Performance metrics proposed must reflect the offeror's willingness to share in this risk or failure.
219	Q: Page 9, Section C.5.c: This section states that, "Offerors should not infer or imply any other constraints on solutions, other than as specified in this document." There is great merit in this approach to gather insightful and creative solutions that demonstrate the Offerors' understanding of the program and willingness to partner with the NSF in a cooperative relationship. However, coupled with the broadly defined objectives of section C, this approach does not adequately guide the Offerors in preparing an accurate proposal because there is no knowing the NSF's constraints or appetite for innovation without further guidance. It is difficult to understand how the NSF can fairly compare Offerors' proposals as each Offeror will suggest varying degrees of innovation to the program in their technical proposals, with no guidance in, or constraint of, the level of funding available. How does the NSF intend to evenly evaluate the technical proposals and the reasonableness of the cost proposals considering there are so few constraints and data provided to make a reliable cost benefit analysis? A: The evaluation criteria will be set out in Section M and all proposals will be evaluated in accordance with those criteria. Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
220	Q: Page 15, Section C.8.1: The draft RFP states here, "The capability of IT&C should evolve to an innovation tool that is used to transform USAP business and mission processes that enables effective and efficient operations, administration and support of science in the USAP." Should the Offerors infer that a new software tool is to be developed that expands the capability of IT&C to change ("transform") the existing USAP business and mission processes? If so, how will this be funded? A: The offeror is expected to align IT&C with USAP mission needs/goals. IT&C is used for continuous or transformational improvement to processes and needs used to address mission

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	needs/goals. Offerors may propose any IT&C concept believed to meet this requirement.
221	Q: Page 16, Section C.8.3.a: The draft RFP states here, "The contractor must ensure that Government furnished legacy mission applications transitioned to the contractor remains functional until replaced." Should the Offerors infer that the legacy mission applications are to be replaced? If so, how will this be funded? A: a. The legacy applications currently support a mixture of USAP program processes and internal contractor processes and utilize obsolete database software. B. The Government intends to disassociate Government ownership of all licensed software applications that support internal contractor processes or are incidental to the execution of the contract. C. For processes or services that directly support the execution of the contract, the Government is interested in models for software-as-a-service or pure services outcomes where software functioning is transparent and where the ownership of the application does not reside with the Government. d. In cases where the Government does not retain ownership of the application, Government ownership of data is a requirement. e. Government ownership of the data shall be facilitated by a Government owned data warehouse, requiring contractor provided or facilitated systems to export data into the data warehouse. f. The Government has yet to determine the concept for development of the data warehouse and associated business intelligence tools.
222	Q: Page17, Section C.8.3.c: The draft RFP states here, "The contractor must comply with the terms/conditions of Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) as amended and extended, which define IT&C service and supplier relationships." At what point in the procurement process will the NSF provide, as is stated in Section C.5.c, the Offerors these MOAs and other documents? A: NSF will make those available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
223	Q: Page 91, Section L.6.3.9, Section L.6.3.10, and Page 92, Section L.6.3.11: Is duplexing allowable or encouraged? Section L.6.3.9 requires 1-1/2 inch left margin (to allow for binder), which would indicate single-sided text, but Section L.6.3.11 states to mark "Page Intentionally Left Blank" which would indicate duplex printing. Also, Section L.6.3.10 states that pages are to be numbered in lower right corner, which would also indicate single-sided. Regarding the page numbering and margin, if duplexing is encouraged, should the page numbering be on the outside of the page (right for odd-numbered pages, left for even-numbered pages), and the 1-1/2" margin be on the inside of the page (left for odd-numbered pages, right for even-numbered pages)? A: NSF will require single-sided text.
224	Q: Page 91, Section L.6.3.6: This section is not clear. The first sentence is a list, not a sentence. What is the intended meaning? A: Items excluded from page count limits include volumes indicating "not page limited", the Award Fee Plan, Surveillance Plan(s), Performance Work Statement, title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letters, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages
225	Q: Page 91, Section L.6.3.9: The section states, "Text must be wrapped around for figures and tables." What is the meaning of this? Does this mean that there must be text to the left or to the right of all figures and tables rather than allowing some figures and tables span the entire width of the page? A: If text is required, other than for cost or pricing data, the text is to be wrapped within each cell of the spreadsheet so there is no truncation or loss of information.
226	Q: Page 91, Section L.6.3.9: The section states, "Foldout pages are not permitted." We

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	recommend that you do allow foldout pages for, at a minimum, schedules. A: The RFP will be changed to allow up to ten (10) 11"x17" fold-outs in the Technical Volume. Each fold-out will count as one page. All fold-outs will be single sided. The RFP will be changed to allow unlimited single-sided 11" x 17" fold-outs for the Cost Volume.
227	Q: Page 91, Section L.6.3.10: This section states, "Pages in each volume must be numbered sequentially and consecutively." Can you give an example of what is required? Should the page numbering be something like "Volume I - 1"? A: Page numbering should be done sequentially. The volume identifier should be next to each page number.
228	Q: In the event of a protest of contract award will the successful contractor be allowed to access the incumbent contractor's records and employees during the proposed six month transition period? A: This will be determined on a case by case basis.
229	Q: As the quantity and complexity of future science projects significantly influence the requirements for science support, are long range plans for science projects available to contractors in sufficient detail for a contractor to bid a FFP for CLIN 1100 (Base Period) and four Option Periods? A: The long range science program is not known in sufficient detail at this time. This information will be addressed post-award.
230	Q: As the quantity and complexity of future construction projects significantly influence the firm fixed price of construction, are long range plans and/or the USAP Master Plan for construction projects available to contractors in sufficient in detail for a contractor to bid a Fixed Price Incentive for CLIN 1400 (Base Period) and four Option Periods? A: The final RFP will not include FPIF CLINs. 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. Long range plans and USAP Master Plan from the current contract represent concepts and ideas for informational purposes only. They are available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
231	Q: For CLIN 1100 (Base Period) and four Option Periods, how is the amount of award fee to be provided by the Government determined? A: Requirements for processing award fee payments will be established in the final RFP. Award fee information will be included in the final RFP.
232	Q: Where does the Offeror find an explanation of CLIN 1300, Data for items 1000 and 1100 (Not separately Priced (NSP))? A: Information related to the data items will be provided in the final RFP. All data for CLIN 1100 will be included in that CLIN and not separately priced. All data generated for other CLINs will be included in the price for those CLINS and not separately priced.
233	Q: Does Cost Reimbursable for CLINs 1500, 1600 and 1700 imply that there is no award fee allowed for these Base Period CLINs and their Option Periods? Many ODCs are normally part of the value-added services that typically warrant fee. A: ODCs associated with construction and special projects will be included in the contract modifications for those CLINs. ODCs will not impact the award fee pool.
234	Q: The FPIF CLINs include an annual ceiling price amount established by NSF. It's assumed that there will be multiple construction/project services over an individual performance period. Is this a funding limitation only intended to be the maximum amount for all construction/project services for a given performance period?

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	A: NSF will not be including any FPIF CLINs in the final. 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
235	Q: Will NSF provide award fee history data (including any information regarding rollover of unearned fee) regarding the current contract? A: Award fee history will not be provided.
236	Q: Section B.7 says " The contractor may earn an award fee for superior performance in accordance with the following: award fee score 0 - 80 award fee amount 0%....."It appears that a contractor may have very good performance and an award fee score of 80% and get zero fee on this $100M plus per year contract. It is recommended that the contract incentives should be more graduated and aligned with the key expectations of NSF. It is recommended that there should be a combination of a base fee, incentive fee and award fee. The base fee would insure the contractor got some reward for good routine work. The incentive fee would give NSF the opportunity to incentivize the contractor for quantitative goals of NSF such as percent of experiments supported well, cost savings, safety results, etc. The award fee would reward the contractor for more subjective performance such as quality of mission support, logistics excellence, etc. It is important that the contractor have adequate incentive opportunity to perform with excellence, support the mission and have continuous improvement and cost savings over time rather than be rewarded with small fee potential on rising contract costs. A: The award fee scale is presented in the RFP as it was intended. Alternatives to the award fee scale will not be considered.
237	Q: The award fee score/scale appears to incentivize superior performance but penalizes anything less than superior performance. Please explain the rationale behind the award fee scale identified in Section B.7(b), Award Fee Determination? Would the Government consider a base fee for the CPAF services? Is it standard for NSF to unilaterally change Award Fee determination parameters and schedule? A: (1) NSF's intent to incentivize superior performance. (2) NSF will not consider a base fee for the CPAF services. (3) For the ASC, NSF will reserve the right to adjust the evaluation schedule by unilateral contract modification, issued prior to the start of the affected award fee period(s).
238	Q: With reference to Section B.7 paragraph d): "Allowability of Subcontractor Award Fee" requires all teaming subcontractors and partners to share the award fee. Is there a concern that this will properly incentivize potential Offerors to provide superior performance? A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the final RFP.
239	Q: With reference to Section B.7 paragraph d) (2): How will the Government determine whether a company is "part of a … teaming arrangement" and thus their fee is not eligible for reimbursement as cost? For instance, a vendor who provides a discrete service, such as maintaining or repairing equipment, would presumably not be considered a teaming partner. However, how would the Government consider a firm that was proposed by more than one Offeror to provide a specific service under subcontract for the life of the contract? Going one step further, a firm that was proposed by only one Offeror to provide a specific service under subcontract for the life of the contract? A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the final RFP.
240	Q: With reference to Section B.7 paragraph f): This clause indicates that the contractor invoices the Government annually for award fee. For other than award fee, what is the method the Government uses for cost reimbursement to the contractor? What is the frequency of reimbursement?

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	A: The award fee will be invoiced annually. Other costs will be invoiced under the CLIN in which they were incurred. For invoice requirements see Section G.1 "Invoice Requirements" that provides for monthly billing.
241	Q: With reference to Section B.8: Section on Incremental Funding indicates the contract and options will not be fully funded. Will the final RFP include fully funded individual awarded contract years or will there be incremental funding within a contract year? A: The contract will be incrementally funded.
242	Q: Is the Government willing to describe their motivation for moving from a contract with a detailed SOW developed by the Government to a general SOO and a PWS developed by the contractor? A: NSF believes this was adequately addressed in the SOO. Please refer to DRFP Section C Paragraph C.5.c – Contract Objectives.
243	Q: With reference to Section C.1 paragraph g): What is the seasonal variation in workload for the functional objective for Scientific Support at each location? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
244	Q: With reference to Section C.5 paragraph c): When will the opportunity to examine extensive documentation of the as-is current support contract begin? When will the examination of the physical sites be scheduled? A: (1) Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones. (2). Information on site visit(s) will be posted on FedBizOpps.
245	Q: With reference to Section C. 6.1 a): There are many service providers to the USAP; NYANG, SPAWAR, USTRANSCOM, to name a few. What is meant by "integrate" in this clause? A: NSF believes DRFP Section C Paragraph 6.1 a) – Technical Management and Administration Objectives - is self-explanatory.
246	Q: With reference to Section C.6.2 n): "The contractor shall develop procedures for medical evacuation of USAP personnel from Antarctica during the operating season." Is this a unilateral decision on the part of the contractor or does the Government currently have established protocols for what constitutes medical evacuation during the operating season? A: In all cases, medical evacuations are done in coordination with the NSF. The contractor does not have the authority to unilaterally evacuate personnel from Antarctica.
247	Q: With reference to Section C.6.2 p): "The contractor shall provide cost and resource loaded schedules for all activities in Antarctica in accordance with the Annual Program Plan." Where may we find the Annual Program Plan? A: NSF will provide this information in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
248	Q: With reference to Section C.6.2 t): Does such a repository currently exist? If not, how does the contractor access "past" knowledge and activities? A: NSF is reconsidering the wording of the DRFP Section C Paragraph 6.2 t) – Technical

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	Management and Administration Minimum Requirements.
249	Q: With reference to Section C.6.3 b): "….. applications which the contractor will be responsible for maintaining and taking appropriate steps to ensure that they will remain functional until replacement." Are the applications referred to all-encompassing for the effective and efficient management of the mission? If the Government furnished property/equipment/applications cannot be maintained in a functional condition until replacement, will the Contractor be responsible for the cost of replacement? A: a. A core requirement is continuity of operations. The practical reality is that USAP program operations will be dependent upon the broad slate of legacy applications during the transition period. b. The timeline for systems refresh/replacement/phase-out for any Government furnished system that the offeror proposes is determined by the offeror keeping in mind contractual requirements for information security (refer to RFP Section H). c. The offeror would have to demonstrate that to the Government that unsupportability is due to factors beyond the offeror's control or responsibility. If demonstrated successfully, the Government would work strategy and costs with the offeror under the terms of the contract.
250	Q: With reference to Section C.6.3 d): Who will be responsible for resolution of any disputes (including any resulting costs) relating to the period before the new Contractor assumes these leases, charters, and operating agreements? A: NSF will be responsible for the leases and any disputes before the new contractor assumes them.
251	Q: With reference to Section C.6.3 g): "All personnel must have a current National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background investigation or the equivalent for foreign nationals." May we infer that the program may be staffed with other than U.S. citizens? A: Employment of foreign nationals is limited to the instances described in H.4.(i)-(iii)..
252	Q: With reference to Section C.6.3 i): Will the Contractor be responsible for making arrangements to dispose of the radioactive waste in a Commercial disposal site? A: The contractor will be responsible for making arrangements to dispose of radioactive waste in a licensed commercial facility.
253	Q: With reference to Section C.6.3 t): Is the CISO separate from the CIO? Should the CISO position also be considered as key staff? A: The CISO is a separate position from the CIO. Offerors may propose additional key personnel.
254	Q: With reference to Section C.7.2 a): How and when does the NSF identify potential projects to the Contractor? What fraction of potential projects identified to the contractor become approved projects that are executed? Can the Government provide historical data with respect to the number of potential projects that are identified as such that become approved projects? A: Science projects are identified through the NSF's annual research review process. Information describing NSF's grant process, to include awards since 1989, is publicly available at http://www.nsf.gov/awards/about.jsp
255	Q: With reference to Section C.7.2 f): Is the annual science support plan part of the APP listed in the table that appears under Section CF.7 (d) or is it a separate report that should be listed in this table? A: The APP contains both planned operations and maintenance and project support activities. Research project support costs should be included in the APP (budget) submitted to NSF annually.
256	Q: With reference to Section C.7.2 i): POLARICE currently provides an information database for interactive science planning with investigators and ensures continuity of legacy data. Is the

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	Foundation implying that this program is not functioning satisfactorily and, as such, requires replacement? Please elaborate on the requirements for "interactive science planning." A: No, the program is very functional and serves the needs of the research community. There is no intention of replacing this system. However, it is inevitable that over time enhancements to the system may be required to ensure that POLARICE continues to provide a high level of functionality. "Interactive science planning" refers to the desire to have a tool whereby investigators can provide their planning requirements and these can then be iterated by the contractor, NSF, and the Principal Investigator (PI) with the goal of developing a research support plan to guide deployment of a research project in the field.
257	Q: With reference to Section C.8.2 e): Do assessments performed under the Capability Maturity Model Integrated (CMMI) according to procedures developed by the Carnegie-Mellon University meet this requirement? A: This is an acceptable approach
258	Q: With reference to Section C.8.2 h): Please elaborate on the contents of this catalogue. Is this catalogue intended to inform the leaders of potential and approved projects (C.7.2 (a)) or is there a wider audience? If a wider audience, what is that audience? A: (1) No, the catalog is not intended to inform the leaders of potential and approved projects. (2) The audience is the USAP Participants.
259	Q: With reference to Section C.8.3 a): Where may we find the details of the Government furnished legacy mission applications referenced here? A: NSF will provide information on major applications as well as a listing of licensed applications in the on-line library athttp://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
260	Q: With reference to Section C.8.3 c): Will NSF make MOAs available for review? A: NSF will make those available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
261	Q: With reference to Section C.9.2 f): Please define what is meant by "work trade centers". A: A work trade center is a term used to refer to a functional grouping of personnel by trade. For example, there is a carpentry workcenter, a vehicle maintenance workcenter, etc. This is not meant to impose any restrictions on what may be included in a work trade center.
262	Q: With reference to Section C.9.2 l) & m): "ALL engineering disciplines" covers a very broad spectrum of disciplines in which an engineer may become registered. Could the Foundation be more specific with regard to this requirement? A: The contractor shall provide professional engineering/architectural services for the core disciplines of civil, architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering functions. Other specializations in sub-disciplines can be acquired as needed.
263	Q: Is a professional license from any state of the Union acceptable for this requirement? Are professional licenses from more than one discipline required (e.g., civil, electrical, and mechanical?) A: Yes it is acceptable to hold a license in any state.
264	Q: With reference to Section C9.2 r): Will the Contractor be responsible for making arrangements to dispose of the solid waste in a Commercial disposal facility? A: The contractor will be responsible for making arrangements to dispose of waste in a licensed commercial facility.
265	Q: With reference to Section C.10.2 a): Does the Offeror have to use AMC and MSC for

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	transportation of personnel, materials and equipment to Antarctica? There are options that would be more cost effective than these Government provided services. A: The offerors will be required to use AMC and MSC for transportation to Antarctica at this time.
266	Q: With reference to Section F.2: As the contractor will commence performance in the middle of a Fiscal Year, will the contractor be required to "assume" the Annual Program Plan for FY2011 prepared by the incumbent contractor? A: The Annual Program Plan (APP) for October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 will be executed by the incumbent contractor. The APP for April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 will be prepared by the successful offeror during the transition-in period.
267	Q: With reference to Section F.3 paragraph d) (6): If NSF exercises the unilateral right to modify the APP, will the Contractor be entitled to an Equitable Adjustment under the Changes Clause to address any resulting cost, schedule, and fee impacts? A: Requests for equitable adjustments will be determined on a case by case basis.
268	Q: With reference to Section F.3 paragraphs d) (8) & (9): Please clarify the application of the flexible APP to the FPIF line items. It appears that the APP for the first FY of the contract would be developed during the transition-in period. Is it correct to assume that APP would be a deliverable under the FPP portion of the contract (transition-in) and, if so, what role would the incumbent contractor play in its development in the case that the incumbent is not the successful Offeror? That is, what should an Offeror assume that participation to be in the development of a fixed-price bid? A: The final RFP will not include any FPIF CLINs. The Annual Program Plan (APP) for October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 will be executed by the incumbent contractor. The APP for April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 will be prepared by the successful offeror during the transition-in period. FFP SubCLINS associated with the integrated operations and science support CLIN will be developed post-award. The successful offeror may have the opportunity to propose FFP SubCLINs after gaining experience with the ASC.
269	Q: With reference to Section F.5 paragraph b): A quarterly technical report is referenced in this requirement. Are details available on the content of this report? A: The final RFP will be edited to remove the reference to the After Operations Report. The intent is only to have quarterly technical reports in the future and no consolidated annual report.
270	Q: With reference to Section F.6 paragraphs b) (2) and c) (2): Will a current copy of reports be provided to potential bidders? If so, when? A: This information is available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
271	Q: With reference to Section F.7: Deliverable #003, Management, Standard Operating Procedures and Preventive Maintenance Manuals. Is it safe to assume there are operating instructions and maintenance guidelines currently available for all installed equipment and rolling stock currently used on the program, or is it something the successful contractor is expected to create? A: NSF will or has made this information available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
272	Q: With reference to Section G.4: Subparagraph (a) states that only the Contracting Officer has authority to approve changes in any requirements under the contract. However, subparagraph (b) indicates that a COTR has at least some level of authority to direct changes. Please clarify. A: NSF believes there is no conflict between DRFP Sections G.4 a) and Section G.4 b) Authority of

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	Government Personnel. COTR authority is limited to technical direction and reprogramming of funds.
273	Q: With reference to Section H.1 (a): The positions of Department or Division Directors as key personnel appear to imply an organizational hierarchy beneath the Project Director/Deputy. Is this organization and the actual position titles completely up to the Offeror or does the NSF have some minimum requirement for number? Are there particular divisions or departments that the NSF requires (e.g., IT, Communications)? A: Position, title, and structure are determined by the offeror. The offeror is free to propose an organizational structure.
274	Q: With reference to Section H.8: " the contractor shall not perform design-build work...with an estimate of $1,000,000 or greater." However, CLINs 1400, 2300, 3300, 4300, and 5300 call for 10's of millions of dollars of construction projects. Is it a requirement of this contract that the contractor do construction contracts? Does Section H.8 apply? Please explain. A: 1) Yes. 2) Yes, CO authorization is required for any design/build construction project with an estimated cost of $1M or greater.
275	Q: With reference to Section H.13: Is it correct to assume that at a minimum, submitting a grant proposal for Antarctic Research to NSF would constitute an OCI for a potential Offeror or teammate of same? A: It is a conflict of interest for the successful offeror, teammate, or subcontractor to submit a grant proposal for Antarctic research to NSF.
276	Q: With reference to Section H.14 paragraph a): Noticeably absent in this discussion are the domestic facilities required to support the program. Are the leases for the facility in Centennial, CO and facilities at Port Hueneme assignable to the new contractor? A: Copies of charters and leases will be made available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. There is no operating agreement for Port Hueneme. Centennial, CO is not an NSF-leased facility. The incumbent is leasing the property which is assignable.
277	Q: With reference to Section H.14 paragraph b) (3) (i): Aren't the stevedoring services referred to provided by the support contractor? A: Stevedoring services at McMurdo Station, Antarctica are provided by the Naval Cargo Handling Batallion One (NCHB-1) of Cheatham Annex, Virginia. The contractor contracts for stevedoring services in Christchurch, New Zealand.
278	Q: With reference to Section H.16: Will the existing and prior Associate Contractor Agreements be made available for review? A: No Associate Contractor Agreements exist at this time.
279	Q: With reference to Section H.17 paragraph c): How is the contractor compensated for the periodic training required to maintain the aforementioned registrations, certifications and licenses required in part Section H.17, b), e.g. PDUs, CEUs, etc.? A: NSF will only allow training unique to the Antarctic operation to be a billable expense to the contract. NSF expects contractor employees to be trained professionals in their areas of expertise.
280	Q: With reference to Section H.17 paragraph d): If, for example, CLIN 1100 is awarded as a Cost Plus Award Fee (CPAF) CLIN, will the re-training not be considered a cost of contract performance and thus be reimbursable regardless of the circumstances necessitating the training? A: The allowability of costs will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the CO.

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281	Q: With reference to Section H.18: Please clarify whether Workers' Compensation coverage is intended for work performed in Antarctica or a foreign location. A: Offerors are responsible for “compliance with applicable Federal and State workmen’s compensation and occupational disease statutes”.
282	Q: With reference to Section H.18 paragraph f): Paragraph (f) provides for reimbursement to the Contractor for certain contractor liabilities for "Loss of or damage to property ... or Death or bodily injury." Most subcontractor and employee/former employee litigation and claims do not involve loss or damage to actual real or personal property. Please clarify whether "lose of or damage to property" is intended to include damages resulting from other property interests such as those commonly involved in lawsuits or administrative claims involving, for example, subcontractors, employees, or third parties. A: NSF does not believe additional clarification is required. Damages may be determined on a case-by-case basis.
283	Q: With reference to Section H.19: “Reimbursement to the Government for emergency treatment will be in accordance with Federal Statutes and Government Regulations.” If we read this correctly and the contractor is responsible under the firm-fixed-price areas of this contract to reimburse the Government for the use of Government facilities and transportation the event of injury or illness of contractor personnel, will the Government provide current statistics on the frequency of these occurrences? A: The Government does not expect reimbursement for emergency medical treatment in Antarctica. However, the Contracting officer reserves the right to determine the allowability of these costs on a case by case basis.
284	Q: With reference to Section H.20 paragraph b): This provision seems inconsistent with the provisions of Section H.18 providing for reimbursement of these types of costs under most circumstances. Please clarify. A: The final RFP will clarify H.20 b and H.18 g(3).
285	Q: With reference to Section H.22: “Transportation of employees from domicile to work places shall not be an allowable cost under this contract.” The contractor has historically been reimbursed for transportation of employees from their point of origin (domicile) to Los Angeles and on to Christchurch. Does this represent a change in policy? A: Domicile, as defined in Black’s Law Dictionary, is where an individual has a permanent home or principal residence. Transportation from domicile to work will not be an allowable cost except to and from Antarctica.
286	Q: With reference to Section H. 28 a): Please clarify that "Subject Data" does not include legal information either. A: Legal information is not referenced in the definition of “subject data” in Section H Paragraph H.28 a) – Right and Data (May 2008).
287	Q: With reference to Section L.7: In what section of the proposal is the Performance Work Statement (PWS) to be provided? If in Volume II, is it correct to assume that this would not be included in the page count? A: The PWS will be submitted as Section J, Attachment 2 and will not be subject to page limitations.
288	Q: Could you explain the difference in Attachments L-4 and L-5? A: NSF is taking the comment under consideration and will address the issue in the final RFP.

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289	Q: Will the Government agree to provide the opportunity for potential Offeror's (Prime Contractor and any subcontractors) to meet with the NSF and engage in a collaborative dialogue on the draft RFP? Such meetings, which we have participated in for other Government procurements, serve to enhance incorporation of comments into the final RFP. A: After the release of the RFP, scheduled communications between offerors and NSF will be posted to FedBizOpps.
290	Q: Clarity is needed in the definition of the Offeror, contractor; subcontractor; team members; teaming partners; and major, critical team subcontractor(s). For example, in Section B.7.d.1 (Page 6 of 142) it states that "…the entire team share in the contract award fee structure and separate additional fee for teaming partners shall not be considered..." Sections L.10.1 states that past performance provided by the Offeror can include information from critical and teaming subcontractors. We encourage NSF to modify the final RFP to include the following language: "The term 'team members' refers to the respective company(s) that make up the 'Offeror' whether they are part of a joint venture, Limited Liability Corporation, or a subcontractors to a Prime Contractor or Limited Liability Corporation. The term 'major (critical or teaming) subcontractors' refers to subcontractors who perform a significant role in the performance of the PWS, but are not part of the 'Offeror', are not part of the 'Offeror' management team, and work under the direction of the Offeror but are covered by a teaming agreement. 'Major (critical or teaming) subcontractors' can be named in the proposal but do not share in the award fee pool, but may share in the incentive fee pool, based upon their performance." The term 'teaming partner' can be deleted. A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the final RFP.
291	Q: Neither the Draft RFP nor procurement website library currently contains sufficient information necessary to prepare an accurate and reasonable cost proposal. In addition, the value of a cost proposal to a WBS level 3 for the entire term of the contract has minimal value without sufficient detail on the current budget, out year performance work requirements, workload, inventory and conditional assessment of all equipment and facilities, inflation rates for labor, materials, and equipment. Given the annual funding limitations and lack certainty of the requirements for the term of the contact, we recommend that the NSF provide the bidders with the current year budget and Annual Program Plan (APP) and a proposed APP and request the Offerors to provide a detailed Cost Proposal for the first year, and proposed plans in how to reduce costs in out years. A: NSF plans to make additional information available in the on-line Library. The final RFP will not include any FPIF CLINs. The Annual Program Plan (APP) for October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 will be executed by the incumbent contractor. The APP for April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 will be prepared by the successful offeror during the transition-in period.
292	Q: Section B.1 and Section B.2 (Page 1 to 3 of 142) – Hybrid Contract Type & Price/Cost Schedule; Section B.4 Fixed-Price Incentive (Firm Target) CLINs. Section B.1 refers to the use of Fixed-Price-Incentive (Firm Target) (FPIF) as a component of this hybrid contract type and its application in Section B.2 to CLINs 1400, 2300, 3300, 3300, 4300 and 5300 which represent Construction/Special Projects. FAR 16.403-1 outlines the application of FPIF contracts and their limitations. Specifically, "this contract type may be used only when …. adequate cost or pricing information for establishing reasonable firm targets is available at the time of initial contract negotiation." The Draft RFP does not contain a sufficient level of detail describing specifications and/or requirements of these work activities for the bidder to develop adequate cost or pricing information for establishing firm targets. While bidders could develop a price as a result of an assumed basis of estimate, this could create a situation where the price does not represent a comparative basis across contractors nor, more importantly, in conformance with the government's performance requirements. It appears that the NSF may intend to provide Government-provided values to be used for proposal pricing purposes for these work components (Section M.6.3.2, Page 140 of 142). Please verify if that is correct and if so please provide clear wording in Section L of the final RFP to clarify. If not, we recommend that the final RFP include performance specifications and requirements for the bidder to price this scope of work and/or to exclude these CLINS from the

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	Price/Cost Schedule until such time as these requirements could be provided. Our preference would be to change the contract type to either CPIF or CPAF. A: NSF will not be including any FPIF CLINs in the final RFP.
293	Q: Regarding Section B.1 and Section B.2 (Pages 1 to 3 of 142), please describe what is meant by "over/under range" and "share ratio". These are not terms used by either the FAR clause 52.216-16, or FAR 16.403-1. Instead, if FPIF is to be used, then to be consistent with FAR requirements we believe the appropriate items to be proposed include a target cost, a target profit, and a profit adjustment formula. Please clarify. In addition, if the Government will require the proposal of an "over/under range" and "share ratio" for the FPIF CLINs, please provide instructions in Section L to specify where this information should be in included in the proposal documents. A: NSF will not be including any FPIF CLINs in the final RFP.
294	Q: Section B.2 (Page 1 of 142), CLIN 1500, 1600, ODCs. These two CLINs appear to be non-fee bearing. Given, a significant portion of the contract value is ODCs, this reduction in the potential fee pool may result in a decrease in competitive participation on this procurement. Excluding material and other direct costs from the fee bearing contract base will result in an unbalanced distribution of fee across the CLINs. Further, the absence of incentive to manage material and ODC costs is inconsistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation and not in the best interests of the Government. It is recommended that material and ODCs required to fulfill the requirements of the Statement of Objectives be allocated to the appropriate CLINS as fee-bearing costs with incentives to reduce overall costs or that Material and ODC cost CLINs be changed to CPIF or CPAF. A: This is a CPAF contract with a fixed award fee pool. ODCs associated with construction and special projects will be included in the contract modifications for those CLINs. ODCs will not impact the award fee pool.
295	Q: Will the ODCs that will be part of the Construction/Special Projects FPIF contract portions also be excluded from fee? A: NSF will not be including any FPIF CLINs in the final RFP. ODCs associated with construction and special projects will be included in the contract modifications for those CLINs. ODCs will not impact the award fee pool.
296	Q: Note A (Page 3 of 142) states that the Offeror may propose areas for consideration for a Firm Fixed Price (FFP) contract. Section M.6.3.2 (Page 140 of 142) states that the Government will utilize total evaluated cost. How will Offeror proposals that include FFP areas be factored into the total evaluated cost, e.g. cost and fee are not segregated in FFP proposals? How does the Government intend to ensure consistent and fair evaluation across potentially divergent Offeror bids? A: 1) At this time the only FFP CLIN is the Transition-in CLIN. The final RFP will address this change. NSF will not be including any FPIF CLINs in the final RFP. 2) NSF will re-write Section M.6.3.2 in the final RFP to clarify that all offerors' proposals will receive a consistent and fair evaluation.
297	Q: Regarding Section B.4 (Page 4 of 142), given the absence of scope/workload data to support an estimate for Construction/Special Projects, is it correct to assume that the Fixed Price Incentive CLINs are IDIQ and that task orders will be negotiated on an as needed basis throughout the contract's period of performance? If this assumption is correct, clarification of the CLINs to specify IDIQ contract type is requested. A: The IDIQ contract type will not be applicable to the ASC. Construction and special projects will be negotiated in the contents of the Annual Program Plan each year and added to the contract through contract modifications. NSF will not be including any FPIF CLINs in the final RFP.
298	Q: Regarding Section B.5 (Page 4 of 142), can the Government make clear in the Final RFP what the Government's intent is with respect to the provision of a Government-provided value for

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	maximum award fee? A: Maximum award fee is based on the pool of dollars available for award fee by the Government.
299	Q: Regarding Section B.5 (Page 4 of 142), the Base Fee for these cost-reimbursable CLINs currently indicates $0. In addition, in Section B. 7, the Award Fee calculation currently indicates that unless the Contractor is evaluated at least 81 or higher, then no Award Fee will be provided either. These CLINS represent value-added services performed by the Contractor. We believe a more equitable manner of treating these fees is to allow a minimum base fee. A: The award fee scale is presented in the RFP as it was intended. Alternatives to the award fee scale will not be considered.
300	Q: Regarding Section B.6 (Page 4 of 142), will the final RFP include Government-provided values for the cost reimbursable amounts to be used in Offeror proposals or will the Government provide workload data adequate to support an estimate? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
301	Q: Regarding Section B.7.b.1 (Page 5 of 142), Award Fee scores and amounts are not equitably distributed to properly provide incentive. If a Contractor scores at 80, they are treated the same as a Contractor who scores at 20, or 50, even though the level of services provided is substantially different. In addition, the difference of Award Fee between a 90 score and a 91 score is an additional 40% award fee even though the score itself is not substantially different. Further, this difference between 90 and 91 is actually rewarded higher than the difference between 95 and 96 (which only receives an additional 20%). We do not believe this inequitable distribution of award fee is in the best interest of the Government. Please reconsider this award fee distribution. We would recommend a more continuous curved distribution of Award Fee based incrementally on performance. A: The award fee scale is presented in the RFP as it was intended. Alternatives to the award fee scale will not be considered.
302	Q: Regarding Section B.7.c.2 (Page 5 of 152), in addition to potential for unearned award fee to be rolled over, will the NSF include provisions for the contractor to receive provisional fee based on the applicable FAR Clause? A: No. NSF currently is not considering provisional award fee. Refer to Draft RFP, Section B, Paragraph 7.f, Payment of Award Fee, states that no provisional interim or advance billing of award fee will be authorized.
303	Q: In Section B.7.d (Page 6 of 142), Allowability of Subcontractor Award Fee, the Prime Contractor should be encouraged to provide niche/specialty/Small Business subcontractors that bring important value to NSF without inclusion in the Prime Contractor Fee pool. This is not considered fee on fee in the industry, and given the challenges the ASC provides, the Prime Contractor should have the contractual flexibility to motivate its subcontractors with various forms of contract vehicles that best suit their role(s) and accomplishments of the Work. We would suggest that NSF consider making subcontractor fee an allowable cost for niche/specialty and small business subcontractors. A: Section B.7(d) will be removed from the final RFP.
304	Q: Section B.9 Funds Limitation (Page 6 of 142), please define in this context what NSF means by "special projects" or provide examples of previous or anticipated "special projects." A: Construction and special projects will be defined and negotiated within the APP every year. Special projects are projects that NSF has determined to fall outside the scope of the normal operations and maintenance of the US Antarctic Program. These include: Icecube, South Pole Station Modernization, etc. The scope of special projects for the future is unknown at this time.

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305	Q: We would suggest the provision of detailed performance information across the major work scope areas be provided in the final RFP or through posting to the Library. For example, in the area of Transportation and Logistics, the following information would be necessary for the development of a complete and accurate proposal. Similar level of detailed information would likewise be necessary for Technical Management and Administration, Science Support, Information Technology and Communications, and Infrastructure, Operations and Professional Services. A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s), and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
306	Q: What is the annual cost to operate CBC Packing? What is the fee structure - cost of labor, materials, lease, services, etc. per year? What is the quantity and cost of packaging and crating by packaging type i.e. skid box, multiwall, pallet, Milvan, etc. per year? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s), and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
307	Q: What annual cost of freight is incurred from materials procured via PO, by location? A: Offerors will have insight into these costs from the Annual Program Plans located in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp Specific cost of freight by location is not available.
308	Q: How many SAAM and MAC Channel flights are supported per year? A: NSF will make historical airlift information available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
309	Q: What is the total cost of the resupply vessel and days on charter. A: NSF will make this information available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
310	Q: What role does bar-coding play at all locations? A: Currently, bar-coding is used in a number of applications, such as point of sale, materials management and cargo tracking. Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s), and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
311	Q: Please provide the vehicle fleet list by station to include make, model, and year, to include the number of scheduled maintenance and unscheduled maintenance performed and associated annual cost. A: Vehicle fleet list ($25000+ as of 30 Sep 2007) is available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
312	Q: Please provide inventory reports of each warehouse to include, manufacturer, part number, description, calls, demand, min, max, safety stock, and any protected stock. A: NSF will make this information available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
313	Q: What method of inventory accountability is currently being provided in Punta Arenas and the research vessels? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s), and pre-proposal one-on-ones.

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314	Q: What is the quality control criteria and maintenance procedure for cold weather clothing in Christchurch and Punta Arenas? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s), and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
315	Q: Regarding Section C.5.c (Page 9 of 142), this paragraph references the availability of extensive documentation of the as-is state of the current support contract. How and when will the Government provide this documentation to the Offeror? It is requested that the documentation include but not be limited to current staffing, bounding scope parameters, current workload data, inventory to be transitioned to the contractor and the most recent performance metrics for use by Offeror in developing a baseline for proposed improvements. A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s), and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
316	Q: Regarding Section C.6.1.b (page 10 of 142) – Is the NSF requiring the Bidder to self perform the medical program because the words "or integrate" are not included as they are in Section C.6.1.a? If so, is the intention that all medical personnel, including physicians be employees of the Prime Contractor? A: 1) Offerors are free to propose any management arrangement that is appropriate to meet the program's needs. 2) No.
317	Q: Regarding Section C.6.3.b (Page 12 of 142), please provide a list of the property, equipment, and applications referenced in this section? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
318	Q: Regarding Section C.6.3.d (Page 12 of 142), please provide copies of the existing leases, charters and operating agreements as part of the final RFP. In addition to the examples provided, please provide any leases, charters and operating agreements for Port Hueneme, Denver, and Research Vessel Locations. Also, are operating agreements in place for "other southern ocean gateways"? A: Copies of charters and leases will be made available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp. There is no operating agreement for Port Hueneme.
319	Q: Regarding Section C.6.3.m (Page 13 of 142), please identify the systems and infrastructure currently in place for medical, dental, and psychological programs? A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
320	Q: Regarding Section C.6.3.o (Page 13 of 142), can you provide site maps to identify the current explosive storage locations for each station? A: NSF will make this information available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
321	Q: Regarding Section C.8.3.a (Page 16 of 142), please provide an inventory list of the Government Furnished legacy mission applications that will be transitioned to the contractor. A: NSF will provide information on major applications as well as a listing of licensed applications in the on-line library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp

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322	Q: In Section C.8.3.c (Page 17 of 142), please provide the specific terms/conditions of the referenced Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) so we can ensure inclusion of all MOA requirements within our PWS. A: NSF will make those available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
323	Q: Regarding Section C.9.1 (Page 17 of 142), please provide the inventory list of the USAP permanent and temporary facilities, roads, airfields, ports, utilities, fuel systems and infrastructure not included in the capital lists published on the NSF website that the contractor is required to support. A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
324	Q: Regarding Section C.9.2.d (Page 17 of 142), please provide the inventory list and current condition assessment of mechanical/electrical equipment not included in the capital lists published on the NSF website that the contractor is required to manage, operate and maintain. A: Offerors will have the opportunity to assess current condition during site visits. NSF does not have this information.
325	Q: Regarding Section C.9.2.e (Page 17 of 142), please provide the inventory list and current condition assessment of vehicles, mechanicals equipment and utilities not included in the capital lists published on the NSF website that the contractor is required to manage, operate and maintain. A: Offerors will have the opportunity to assess current condition during site visits. NSF does not have this information.
326	Q: Regarding Section C.9.2.o (Page 18 of 142), please provide the inventory list and current condition assessment of all USAP bulk fuel storage and distribution systems not included in the capital lists published on the NSF website that the contractor is required to manage, operate and maintain. A: Offerors will have the opportunity to assess current condition during site visits. NSF does not have this information.
327	Q: In Section F.4 Financial Reporting (Page 25 to 26 of 142), this section references Monthly Cash on Hands Report (Section F.4.2) and a Quarterly Expense Report (Section F.4.3) which references Funds Advanced (if applicable). Other than these references, it is not clear whether or not there are any advance payments of Government funds anticipated under this contract. This issue is significant because it could impact the bidder's non-reimbursable borrowing costs (and resultant fee requirements) to pay for some/all of the contract costs prior to reimbursement from the government. We recommend that the final RFP include specific references about the government's intention to utilize advance payments under the terms of this contract. A: DRFP Section F, paragraph 4.2, Monthly Cash on Hand Reports will be deleted in the Final RFP.
328	Q: Regarding Section G (Page 45 and 46 of 142), it is our understanding that the current contractor is paid in advance for costs projected to be incurred. Will these terms apply to a contract that may result from DRFP DACS08P2160? If not, how will the contractor be compensated for cost of money on non-fee bearing CLINS. Also, what are the terms for NSF issuance of payments? A: 1) The Final RFP will not include reference to Advance Payments. 2) Cost of Money will be compensated in accordance with FAR requirements. 3) Standard invoicing terms will apply.
329	Q: Regarding Section H.14 (Page 56 of 142), are any government services being provided at Port Hueneme? Please list and describe.

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	A: Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
330	Q: In Section H.14 (Page 56-57 of 142), Government Furnished Office Space, Furnishings, and Services, will NSF provide a hold harmless clause in the Contract for third party liability from these Government-provided services. A: NSF will not provide a hold harmless clause.
331	Q: Section H.14 (Page 57 of 142) states: "The Government will supply bulk fuel at no charge to the contractor at McMurdo and South Pole Station, Antarctica." Please define specifically what "bulk fuel" includes. Does this statement mean the NSF provides all fuel for the program including diesel, jet, gasoline, propane and any/all other fuels required to operate all three stations and vessels? Are the fuel requirements for Construction/Special Projects included? A: Bulk fuel refers to AN-8, GP-5, and Mogas. All other fuels are the responsibility of the contractor.
332	Q: Regarding Section H.22 (Page 63 of 142), this special contract requirement states that transportation of employees from domicile to work places is not an allowable cost under this contract. The vast majority of employees are deployed to Antarctic work locations from their homes. Is it correct to assume that this special contract requirement does not disallow deployment costs? Deletion or clarification of the clause is suggested as a means of avoiding confusion. A: Domicile, as defined in Black's Law Dictionary, is where an individual has a permanent home or principal residence. Transportation from domicile to work will not be an allowable cost except to and from Antarctica. Deployment costs are not considered to be transportation from domicile to work costs.
333	Q: Regarding Section I, considering the cost-reimbursable services to be provided in the performance of the contract, we believe FAR Clause 52.228-7 should be added to the contract. A: Please refer to Section H.18 in the draft RFP.
334	Q: For Section I (Page 71 to 73 of 142), please clarify the applicability or non-applicability of the Defense Base Act 52.228-3. A: The contract is not subject to the Defense Base Act.
335	Q: For Section I (Page 71 to 73 of 142, please clarify the applicability of non-applicability of Performance and Payment Bonds 52.228-15 and the Davis Bacon Act 52.222-6 for large USAP construction projects, like construction of South Pole Station, since they're not listed in Section I.2. Please also include. 52.243-5, Changes and Changed Conditions. A: FAR clauses associated with construction activities outside the United States will be addressed in applicable post-award modifications for construction requirements.
336	Q: In Section I.4 (Page 76 of 142), 52.222-49 - Service Contract Act - Place of Performance Unknown is included, but 52.222-41 Service Contract Act of 1965, as Amended, in Section I.2 is not. If the Service Contract Act does apply, could you please provide direction as to the wage determination that will be applied to the various work locations (e.g. Antarctic Stations, New Zealand, Chile, PMO location, etc)? We think it is to the Government's advantage to have the SCA apply to greatest extent possible to allow consistent evaluation across cost proposals. A: The Service Contract Act does not apply outside the United States.
337	Q: Regarding Section J.1 (Page 79 of 142), this section appears to require the Offeror to develop and submit a PWS. However, currently Section L has no provision for submitting the PWS in the proposal. Is it the Government's intent that the PWS be prepared after award during transition by the selected Offeror? If not, is the format, page count, etc. of the PWS at Offeror discretion or will

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	the Government incorporate instructions into Section L? Additionally, in what Volume of the proposal should the PWS be included? Is the PWS an evaluated element of the proposal? A: It is NSF's intent that the PWS be submitted with the offeror's initial proposal. NSF is considering furnishing offerors a prescribed format for the PWS. The PWS will be included as part of Section J of the offeror's submission. The PWS will be evaluated as part of the offeror's proposal as described under "Technical Approach" – Section M.6.1.2 Sub factor 2 of the RFP.
338	Q: With respect to the requirement in Section L.6.3 (Pages 90 and 91 of 142) for the 10 CD-ROM electronic copies for Volumes I-V, will NSF desire 10 CDs each with an entire set of Volumes I-V on them or a total of 50 CD-ROMs, each containing only a single copy of each of the five volumes? A: The Final RFP will state the number of CDs to be submitted.
339	Q: With respect to the requirement in Section L.6.3 (Pages 90 and 91 of 142) regarding the requirement for the CDs to be Word 2003 compatible, are pdf versions of existing materials such as financial statements and previously signed documentation such as certifications acceptable? Are Excel files acceptable for portions of Volume IV Cost/Price? A: PDF versions of documents are acceptable for existing documents that require scanning, however, they must be word searchable and Section 508 compliant. Refer to Section L.11.10.8 which provides for Excel 2003 compatible formats.
340	Q: Section L.6.2.2 (Page 90 of 142) states that the Offeror "shall not include cost/price information in any other Volume", but Section L.8.2.c (Page 94 of 142) requires the proposed prices to be included in Volume I inserted in Section B. Is it the intent that the Offeror not include cost/price information in volumes other than Volume I and Volume IV? A: The final RFP will be modified to clearly state that cost/price information should be included in Volumes I and IV.
341	Q: Please verify that Section L.6.3.6 (Page 91 of 142) is a listing of items that are excluded from page count? A: Items excluded from page count limits include volumes indicating "not page limited", the Award Fee Plan, Surveillance Plan(s), Performance Work Statement, title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letters, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages.
342	Q: Section L.6.3.9 (Page 91 of 142) calls for 8.5 x 11 inch pages, and specifies that foldout pages are not permitted. We would like to recommend an exception for 11 x 17 foldout pages to be used for project schedules, for readability. A: The RFP will be changed to allow up to ten (10) 11"x17" fold-outs in the Technical Volume. Each fold-out will count as one page. All fold-outs will be single sided. The RFP will be changed to allow unlimited single-sided 11" x 17" fold-outs for the Cost Volume.
343	Q: Regarding Section L.6.3.9, Section L.6.3.10, and Section L.6.3.11 (Pages 91 and 92 of 142), is double-sided printing required and/or encouraged? Section L.6.3.9 requires 1-1/2 inch left margin (to allow for binder), which would facilitate single-sided text, but Section L.6.3.11 states to mark "Page Intentionally Left Blank" which would indicate double-sided printing. Also, Section L.6.3.10 states that pages are to be numbered in lower right corner, which would be appropriate for single-sided printing. If double-sided printing is required/encouraged, should the page numbering be on the outside of the page (right for odd-numbered pages, left for even-numbered pages), and the 1-1/2" margin be on the left for odd-numbered pages and the right for even-numbered pages? A: Page numbering should be done sequentially. The volume identifier should be next to each page number. All printing will be done single-sided.

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344	Q: Section L.8.2.c (Page 94 of 142) requires the proposed prices to be included in Volume I inserted in Section B, but Section L.7.1 (Page 92 of 142) appears to require an earlier submittal due date for Volumes I and Volume III. The cost information required in Volume IV will likely still be under finalization when Volume I is required to be submitted so the information required to be filled in on Section B and submitted with Volume I per Section L.8.2.c will likely not be final. We would suggest only requiring the proposed price information (Section B) to be submitted with Volume IV. A: This will be addressed in the final RFP at Section L.
345	Q: Regarding Section L.8.2.g (Page 94 of 142), will the Government establish a value threshold for Subcontracts required to submit financial statements? We suggest applying this requirement to subcontractors proposing under teaming agreements. A: The final RFP will be modified to indicate a $1M threshold for submission of subcontractor financial statements.
346	Q: Section L.9.3.4 (Page 100 of 142), in the Transition-in requirements the draft RFP requests "The Offeror will provide the schedule and milestones for implementing the entire proposed PWS based on the understanding of programs overall mission, objectives and requirements and it ability to manage its subcontracts an efficient, effective and optimized manner. The Offeror shall provide information that demonstrates the viability of the plan and the extent the offeror's approach will streamline processes resulting in greater effectiveness." These requirements which address the approach across the entire PWS seem out of place in the transition phase-in section and would more closely align with Section L.9.2 Technical Approach. We would suggest moving this paragraph to Section L.9.2 and moving the corresponding Section M paragraph to the Technical Approach evaluation. A: NSF will take this under consideration. The final RFP will be modified to indicate that the PWS is to submitted at the time of proposal submission.
347	Q: Section L.10.2 (Page 100 of 142) specifies that a minimum of three contracts be submitted. Is there a maximum number of past performance contracts allowable? A: Three past performance contracts is the minimum to be submitted; the page limitation for the Past Performance Volume is 30 pages. It is at the offeror's discretion to provide relevant and recent past performance information.
348	Q: Is it desired that past performance contract information requested in Section L.10.2 and Section L.10.3 (Pages 100 and 101 of 142) be provided for critical or teaming subcontractors (if any)? Or is it just a minimum of three contracts for the Offeror only? A: While 3 is the minimum, there is no maximum number, as long as the information provided falls within the page limitation of 30 pages for the Past Performance Volume. It is at the offeror's discretion to provide relevant and recent past performance information.
349	Q: In Section L.11.9 (Page 104 of 142) for requirements of the cost volume, it states that Section 1 should include descriptions of the estimating, purchasing and accounting system. Section 2 states the section is to include "purchasing system, accounting system, etc." Should the Offeror provide the details of its purchasing and accounting systems in both Section 1 and Section 2 of the cost volume? A: NSF will clarify this language in the final RFP.
350	Q: While Section M.3.2 (Page 135 of 142) states that the proposals will be evaluated for risk, there is no complementary evaluation for cost/benefit. How will the NSF evaluate the technical proposals and the reasonableness of the cost proposals given that the draft RFP provides too minimal constraints and data to make a reliable cost benefit analysis? A: The evaluation criteria will be set out in Section M and all proposals will be evaluated in accordance with those criteria. Proposal risk will address risks with the offeror's proposed approach. Offerors can find relevant information regarding NSF's requirements in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp, during the pre-solicitation conference, site visit(s) and pre-proposal one-on-ones.
351	Q: Section M.7 (Page 141 and 142 of 142) contemplates orals, but Section L is silent on orals other than a standard clause on proposal costs. Will orals be conducted as a part of this solicitation? If

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	so, please include the detailed requirements for orals. We would encourage orals and would encourage the orals to include participation by the entire key personnel team and not just the Program Manager. A: At this time no decision on oral presentations have been made. If oral presentations are required, detailed instructions as to their conduct will be provided to offerors in a timely manner.
352	Q: The Draft RFP requires Offerors to prepare their own Performance Work Statements (PWS) based on the Statement of Objectives (SOO) included in the DRFP. Is it the Government's intention to evaluate the PWS as an element of each Offerors proposal, or can we assume that the successful Offeror will provide the PWS during transition based on the Technical and Management approach accepted by NSF as the winning solution? A: The PWS should be submitted under Section J, Attachment 2 in Volume I and will not be subject to page restrictions The PWS will be evaluated under "Technical Approach" – Section M.6.1.2 Sub factor 2.
353	Q: Section C.6.3 (h) and Section C.6.3 (j) Indicate that OSHA safety and health standards and emergency response-related consensus standards apply unless specifically waived by the NSF. Can NSF provide a list of current waivers? A: There is no list of standing waivers. NSF is willing to consider alternatives described in proposals. In situations after award where a Federal standard applies, but the contractor wishes to implement an alternative means of controlling risk or providing service, the contractor shall seek NSF guidance.
354	Q: Section C.9.3 a) The contractor must comply with IBC codes unless waived by NSF. Can NSF provide a list of current waivers? A: There is no list of standing waivers. NSF is willing to consider alternatives described in proposals. In situations after award where a Federal standard applies, but the contractor wishes to implement an alternative means of controlling risk or providing service, the contractor will seek NSF guidance.
355	Q: Section H.3 Medical and Dental Qualification of Contractor Personnel – references the Medical Screening Guidelines for the United States Antarctic Program (2003). Guidelines available on line through the NSF web site reading room (EHS) are dated 2000-2001. Can NSF provide the cited reference? A: Section H.3 will be changed to remove (2003) in the final RFP. The guidelines are available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
356	Q: Section L.6.3.6 states in part-" Title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letter, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages." This is an incomplete sentence/statement. Can we assume that that this sentence is intended to exempt the items listed from stated page limitations? A: Items excluded from page count limits include volumes indicating "not page limited", the Award Fee Plan, Surveillance Plan(s), Performance Work Statement, title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letters, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages."
357	Q: Section L.9.3.3 (b) requires that the transfer of existing USAP databases to new format/systems and their capabilities be demonstrated. Will NSF provide existing databases to enable the

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	preparation of those demonstrations as part of proposal preparation? A: Access to a snapshot of current systems data for the MAPCON, P-1000, Cargo Tracking System, and Personnel Tracking System, which is publicly releasable, will be provided. Access to synthetic data used to train new users of the POLARICE system will be made available for POLARICE. This information will be provided after the RFP is issued in a form to be determined.
358	Q: Section **B.8, INCREMENTAL FUNDING** states: "This contract shall be subject to incremental funding with $TBD presently available for performance under this contract. It is estimated that funds presently available are sufficient to permit the contractor's performance through TBD. In accordance with the Limitation of Funds clause in Section I of this contract, no legal liability on the part of the Government for payment of money in excess of $ TBD shall arise unless and until additional funds are made available by the Contracting Officer through a modification to this contract." The wording of this section indicates that NSF intends to allocate funding in advance to pay for contract performance requirements. The DRFP is silent, however, on the method that NSF intends employing to allow the contractor access to allocated funds. Does NSF intend to deposit the funds in a joint NSF/Contractor bank account that grants the contractor unrestricted access to available funds? A: No. There will be no joint NSF/Contractor bank account.
359	Q: In the interest of allowing participating firms as much time as possible to prepare the right for the USAP site visits we would like to request the following be provided as soon as feasible and possible: A. Anticipated dates for the site visits. B: Number of personnel participating from each company. A: Information on site visit(s) will be posted on FedBizOpps.
360	Q: Section C, paragraph C.5(c), reads in part "The NSF seeks a competitive, innovative and integrated solution set (management, technical and business) for USAP support. It is fully recognized and expected that technology and requirements will evolve during the life of the contract. To that end, only the highest level objectives and the constraints mandatory to the acquisition are provided in this Statement of Objectives so as to encourage potential Offerors to be innovative and creative in responding with their proposed solution. Offerors should not infer or imply any other constraints on solutions, other than as specified in this document. The Government strongly encourages innovative, systems integration-type solution sets that address NSF's requirements." Further, the paragraph goes on to state "Ample time and opportunity will be provided for potential Offerors to examine extensive documentation of the as-is state of the current support contract and several of the physical sites to determine the full set of requirements that need to be addressed in proposals." Neither the current draft RFP nor the NSF OPP/USAP website provides sufficient historical data or anticipated workload to adequately construct basis of estimates for staffing, ODCs, or other costs. Only the incumbent contractor has visibility in this data resulting in an advantage over non-incumbent bidders with respect to realistic cost estimating. Therefore, in conjunction with the objectives stated in Draft RFP Section C.5(c), this Offeror requests that NSF provide the latest, approved Annual Program Plan, redacted of any cost information considered proprietary. A: NSF will make this available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp.
361	Q: The Draft RFP is silent on the requirements and any limitations for attendees on the site visits. Given the necessary medical screening requirements for bidder personnel and approvals by NSF, as well as travel the preparation workload imposed on NSF and the current USAP contractor, please provide information on anticipated dates for site visits and any limitations on the number of personnel permitted to attend from each company. A: Information on site visit(s) will be posted on FedBizOpps.

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362	Q: Section J, Listing of Attachments, shows Item 2, Performance Work Statement (PWS) as an Offeror-provided document. Because we have been unable to find a requirement to submit an actual PWS in the proposal instructions, we assume that the PWS will be a required submittal after contract award. Please confirm. A: It is NSF's intent that the PWS be submitted with the offeror's initial proposal. NSF is considering furnishing offerors a prescribed format for the PWS. The PWS will be included as part of Section J of the offeror's submission. The PWS will be evaluated as part of the offeror's proposal as described under "Technical Approach" – Section M.6.1.2 Sub factor 2 of the RFP.
363	Q: Please confirm that the list of proposal contents provided in Section L.6.3.6, e.g., title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, etc., are meant to be excluded from the specified page limitations for a volume. A: Items excluded from page count limits include volumes indicating "not page limited", the Award Fee Plan, Surveillance Plan(s), Performance Work Statement, title page/cover pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, list of figures/acronyms, list(s) of tables and drawings, indexes, tab/page dividers, Letters of Commitment, client authorization letters, past performance information cover letters, past performance questionnaires, Subcontractor Consent Forms, and totally blank pages.
364	Q. Section C.9 / Section 9.2 / Section J /: The contractor shall provide and operate site-appropriate social, recreational, and entertainment functions in Antarctica: This involves the funding of the recreation department which handles cash transactions. How will the for-profit/cash transaction issue be addressed? 2) We do not see any details in regards to the two other for-profit/cash transaction departments, retail sales and beverage sales. Have they been removed from the final solicitation? Will they be awarded separately? 3) If the retail/beverage module stood alone when would this Draft RFP be available? Timetable? 4) Are there specific audit recommendations that the NSF will be considering for the final RFP? A: In reference to parts 2 and 3, a separate RFP will not be issued. NSF will clarify its intentions in the final RFP.
365	Q: ODC definition is not clearly defined so it is unclear what ODCs are included in the cost reimbursable CLINs. Additionally, driving the materials and ODCs into the competitive pricing is difficult for NSF to evaluate, transfers the technical risk to the Government, and this approach is frequently protested. Question: Will NSF Government define the ODCs (i.e.what costs are ODCs) ? A: ODCs are defined in FAR Part 15.408, Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses.
366	Q: Will NSF provide their rationale for requiring the contractor to provide this estimate when there is no data available to make an estimate and, traditionally, this is a plug number. A: Assuming this question is referring to major construction and special projects, NSF will be providing a NTE dollar amount. Alternatively, if this is addressing ODCs and travel, then this will be addressed in the final RFP.
367	Q: Will NSF provide data necessary to estimate ODCs and Materials and Supplies? Because of the difficulty of evaluation of materials and ODCs pricing and the fact that the cost reimbursable nature of these elements will move the technical risk to the Government, we recommend the Government use a plug number. This will level the playing field and provide an easier evaluation scenario. A: This will be addressed in the final RFP.
368	Q: The Cost Model, Attachment L-4 format requires narrative functional descriptions of the basis of estimate for each WBS in the top half of the template and a breakout of costs at the bottom of the template. We respectfully request that the requirement be separated into one document for the

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	basis of estimate and one Excel workbook containing an integrated cost model. To facilitate preparation and audit of our proposals, we request that we be allowed to use our normal and disclosed estimating and accounting systems as the format of the integrated cost model and the BOE, with attached supporting information as required by NSF for evaluation. A: NSF is taking this under advisement and will address the issue in the final RFP.
369	Q: Please identify the performance periods for which costs and information are to be submitted on Attachments L-4 and L-5. A: NSF is taking the comment under consideration and will address the issue in the final RFP. Offerors will be required to propose costs and information for all performance periods of the contract.
370	Q: Ref. Section L.11.10.9 (i) - Do you mean 'cross referenced' rather than 'linked 'in Para (i) requiring the cost/price data in the Cost Model to be linked to the Technical Proposal word document? A: NSF's intention is to mean "cross referenced." This will be corrected in the final RFP.
371	Q: Ref. Section L.11.10.9 (d) – (a) Is Attachment L-5 intended to be the RFP cross-reference matrix referred to in the last sentence of the paragraph or in addition to the matrix requirements described in Section L.14? (b) Please identify what information is required on the cross-reference matrix to facilitate NSF tracking "proposed labor to tasking to support the cost realism analysis". The cross reference matrix in Section L.14 does not appear to require this information. A: The cross-reference matrix information in Section L. 14 should be in addition to the information proposed in attachment L-5 and will support the cost realism evaluation in this area.
372	Q: Ref. Section L.11.10.9 (g) - Attachment L-4 Cost Model requires a functional description by WBS. Please clarify what additional information is required in the "functional or summary analysis" referenced in Section L.11.10.9 (g). A: The offeror is responsible for addressing the information required by Section L.11.10.9 (g) in the proposal.
373	Q: Ref Section M.6.3.2 Evaluation Factor 3 – Cost/Price - (a) In Section M.6.3.1 and Section M.6.3.2 there are several references to estimated cost versus evaluated cost. Please clarify the difference between the Offeror's proposed estimated cost and the Offeror's evaluated cost. (b) What information is required from the Offeror to develop a total evaluated cost for the Government to utilize for evaluation purposes, referenced in Section M.6.3.2? A: NSF is taking the comment under consideration and will revise this area in the final RFP.
374	Q: Ref. Section M.1.4 and Section M.6.3.1 - (a) The list of Government furnished items in Section M.1.4 differs from the list in Section M.6.3.1. (b) Please provide a detailed listing of all Government furnished items to be made available to all Offerors, including facilities, equipment, property, software, hardware, documentation and base support. A: (a) The final RFP will clarify this issue. (b) Listings of accountable property (GFE and GFP) are available at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/ support_ant/index.jsp. Because of the scope of the operation, a full inventory of all government property is not available for non-accountable items. A listing of all licensed software will also be made available. It is the offeror's responsibility to acquire necessary information via the on-line library, pre-solicitation conference, site visits, and pre-proposal one-on-ones for non-accountable property.
375	Q: Ref Section M.6.3.4 - The paragraph states that proposals will be compared to the 'anticipated

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	costs of performance'. Does the Government intend to compare the proposals with an Independent Government Estimate or the funding profile? A: The offeror's proposed costs will be evaluated for realism and reasonableness.
376	Q: I have a question regarding the upcoming Antarctic Support Contract Pre-Solicitation Conference; will the same material be presented each day or will a different aspect of the solicitation be presented each day? A: Different material will be presented on each day. Presentation slides are available in the on-line Library at http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfqs/support_ant/index.jsp
377	Q: Do CLIN's 1600 and 1700 for ODC's, materials, travel, fuel, etc. pertain to all CLINS or CLIN 1100 only? A: CLIN 1100 only.