

Source Selection Statement
for the
Atmospheric Sciences Research and Technology Support Services
(ASRATSS) Contract

On November 8, 2001, I met with the Source Evaluation Board (SEB) appointed to evaluate proposals received in response to the ASRATSS RFP (NASA Solicitation number 1-064-RE.1025). The SEB's presentation included procurement background information, evaluation procedures, and the results of the proposal evaluation.

I. Acquisition

ASRATSS is a follow-on procurement for the requirements currently performed under NASA contract number NAS1-19570. ASRATSS will provide Atmospheric Science Research, Data Center, and Instrument Technology Development support services for the NASA Langley Research Center.

A cost plus award fee, performance based contract has been determined to be the most appropriate contract type for this procurement. The base contract term is for two years with three 1-year options. Specific work requirements will be defined in performance based Notifications of Work (NOW). Each NOW will contain performance standards specific to the type of work to be performed. This procurement was conducted as a full and open competition.

II. Sources

The Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on June 15, 2001 for industry comments. Following the release of the Draft RFP, the SEB conducted a Presolicitation Conference at Langley Research Center on June 28, 2001. Seventeen (17) firms attended the conference. The final RFP was released on July 20, 2001. Past Performance information was received on August 23, 2001 for early evaluations, with Volume I and the remainder of Volume II submitted on September 6, 2001. Proposals were received from the following four companies:

Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC)
Raytheon Technical Services (RTSC)
Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)
Science Systems and Application Incorporated (SSAI)

III. Evaluation Procedures

Prior to issuance of the RFP, I appointed the SEB to develop the RFP and to conduct the evaluation of proposals received in response to the RFP. I directed the SEB to conduct

the evaluation in accordance with subpart 1815.3 of the NASA FAR Supplement, using the evaluation criteria defined in the RFP and the procedures set forth in the Source Evaluation Plan. These criteria and procedures were followed throughout the evaluation process.

The RFP set forth the following three evaluation factors:

- Factor I: Mission Suitability
- Factor II: Cost
- Factor III: Past Performance

The RFP stated that in the overall selection, Mission Suitability, Cost, and Past Performance would be of essentially equal importance; and that Mission Suitability and Past Performance, when combined, would be significantly more important than Cost.

The Mission Suitability Subfactors and the weights assigned were:

Subfactor 1	Understanding the Requirements	400
Subfactor 2	Management Plan	450
Subfactor 3	Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) Plan	100
Subfactor 4	Safety and Health Plan	50

The SEB used the numerical and adjectival scoring system defined in the NASA FAR Supplement for the Mission Suitability factor to assign an adjective rating and score for Mission Suitability and for each Subfactor within Mission Suitability. The SEB also rated but did not score Past Performance, in accordance with the RFP. Finally, the SEB determined the probable cost for each proposal, assigned a confidence level for each probable cost, and performed a cost realism assessment.

The evaluation was performed by the SEB using the evaluation criteria set forth by section M of the RFP, the evaluation numerical and adjectival rating and scoring system in the NASA FAR Supplement for Mission Suitability and Past Performance, and the Mission Suitability Cost Realism Adjustment Table from the RFP. The evaluation was performed by the SEB without the use of committees or subcommittees. Consultants were used to assist the SEB in performing the evaluation of specific technical aspects of the proposals, and the Professional Compensation, SDB, Small Business, and Safety and Health Plans. The evaluation began with each voting member of the SEB reviewing the early submittal of Past Performance information to identify any negative past performance for rebuttal by the offeror. Then each member began reviewing past performance information. Strengths and weaknesses were developed and identified as major or minor and then initial individual ratings were developed. After the proposal due date, each member began the review of Volume I - Technical, and Management Oral Presentation Package (TMOPP) while the Contract Specialist and Cost Analyst reviewed the remainder of Volume II to determine if any proposals should be rejected as patently unacceptable. All four proposals were found to merit in-depth evaluation.

Each voting member then began to independently review each TMOPP in preparation for the Oral presentations and the rebuttal of any negative Past Performance by the offeror during Orals. Following each offeror's oral presentation each member of the team documented strengths and weaknesses for both the Volume I TMOPP and Past Performance. After completion of individual evaluations and all Oral presentations, the SEB developed consensus strengths and weaknesses for each individual offeror. Once this was completed the SEB developed a consensus adjectival rating and score for each subfactor within Factor I, and then developed a consensus adjectival rating and score for the overall Mission Suitability factor. The SEB then developed a consensus rating for each offeror under Factor III – Past Performance. Offerors (including subcontractors) without a record of relevant past performance were rated neither favorably nor unfavorably under Factor III. The consensus findings for all factors were reviewed across each offeror to ensure that the evaluation criteria were consistently applied.

Thereafter, the SEB assessed the Volume II Business proposals to evaluate the proposed cost and to make adjustments to arrive at a probable cost to the Government for each offeror. The SEB made adjustments to arrive at a probable cost for each offeror by reflecting the incumbent capture at the proposed rate and incumbents direct labor rates. Other adjustments such as escalation, non-mission critical equipment replacement costs and deviations in staffing levels and skill mix adjustments were included. Pursuant to NASA FAR Supplement 1815.305(B)(c), as part of performing the cost realism analyses a level of confidence was made in the probable cost assessment for each proposal. Upon finalizing the probable cost assessment, the SEB determined the cost realism adjustments (if any) based on the table provided in the RFP. Because no offeror is privy to all of the incumbent rates, cost realism adjustments did not include cost increases/decreases due to incumbent rates. (No Mission Suitability point deductions for any of the offerors resulted from the Cost Realism evaluation).

The results of the initial evaluations were presented to the Contracting Officer (CO) on October 30, 2001. All the comments and questions of the CO were resolved. The RFP stated the Government's intent to award a contract without discussions. In the CO's judgement the findings supported award without discussions, and the SEB concurred with the CO. The SEB therefore proceeded directly with a formal presentation to me on November 8, 2001.

IV. Evaluation Results

I have carefully reviewed the SEB's findings and discussed with the SEB the technical merits and strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. The SEB proposed ratings and scores for Factor I, a proposed and probable cost including a confidence level for Factor II, and a rating for Factor III for all four offerors. I concur with the SEB findings below.

FACTOR I: MISSION SUITABILITY

Set forth in order of ranking from (high to low) is a summary of the Mission Suitability findings for the four offerors.

SAIC

SAIC received 16 significant strengths, no significant weaknesses, and an overall rating of "Very Good" for Factor I - Mission Suitability. Under Subfactor 1, Understanding the Requirements, SAIC demonstrated an excellent understanding of the programmatic risk associated with the requirements. Their technical approach and methodology for overall support was outstanding. Specifically, SAIC provided an outstanding technical approach and methodology for SOW 3.0 Science support, 3.1 Algorithm Development Implementation and Maintenance, 3.2 Modeling, 3.3 Analysis, Interpretation and Validation, 3.4 Mission and Payload Operations, and 3.5 Field Mission support. These elements together represent the largest element of support requirements. Under Subfactor 2, Management Plan, SAIC again demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of programmatic risks associated with the management aspects of this contract. Their approach for attracting and maintaining competent staff was outstanding. The overall corporate resources available to meet our short and urgent requirements were comprehensive with logical mechanisms to making these resources available in a very short timeframe. Their overall approach for providing administrative and logistical support was excellent. Their transition and phase in plan was flawless with an excellent plan for managing the transition in only one month; thus, reducing risk for ongoing critical mission activities. The professional compensation plan offered by SAIC was comprehensive and highlighted employee owned stock ownership benefits. For subfactor 3, Small Disadvantaged Business Plan, SAIC showed a comprehensive and strong commitment for the use of SDB's. This plan is reinforced by the realism of the proposed goals and the fact that they are currently exceeding the goals under the current ASRATSS contract and have a well recognized and awarded history of exceeding goals. They also proposed a mentor – protégé program agreement with one of their SDB subcontractors.

RTSC

RTSC received 19 significant strengths, one significant weakness, and an overall rating of "Very Good" for Factor I - Mission Suitability. Under Subfactor 1, Understanding the Requirements, RTSC offered a comprehensive and thorough understanding of the programmatic risks associated with the technical requirements of this contract. Their technical approach and methodology was outstanding in the SOW elements 3.4 Payload and Mission Operations, 3.5 Field Mission support, 4.2 ASDC Operations support, and 6.0 Administrative and Logistical support. The Technology Advisory Council, which included Government representation, was rated very highly as a effective way to manage the development and infusion of new technology. In addition, the ability of RTSC to leverage their corporate buying power of IT hardware, software, and services was especially beneficial. This combined with their excellent approach to reducing labor costs

for SOW 4.0 while increasing scope and performance was outstanding. Finally for Subfactor 1, their understanding of key positions and grouping of the NOWs combined with the extensive experience and commitment of the proposed program manager was a significant benefit to the Government. Under Subfactor 2, Management Plan, RTSC demonstrated a full understanding of the management risks associated with this contract. In addition, the management approach for attracting and maintaining competent staff was comprehensive. The proposed web-based Task Information and Planning System (TIPS) was highly regarded because of the ability for the Government to have read/write access. RTSC's overall corporate resources were outstanding and in particular their ability to leverage corporate resources for operating the ASDC 7 x 24 was outstanding. Their approach for administrative and logistical support was outstanding. The plan for hiring and transition of the incumbent staff was very well thought out. However, RTSC received a significant weakness related to their proposed facility to house the off-site personnel and mission critical equipment. An overly ambitious construction schedule, combined with the lack of a back-up plan, resulted in a high risk that mission critical equipment supporting CERES might not be moved, checked out, and made operational to provide timely support to ongoing mission activities and the anticipated near term launch. RTSC offered an outstanding Professional Compensation Plan. For subfactor 3, Small Disadvantaged Business Plan, RTSC showed a comprehensive and strong commitment for the use of SDB's. This plan proposed to exceed the goals specified in the RFP by 8%. RTSC is currently exceeding their goals under other contracts. They also proposed a mentor - protégé program agreement with one of their SDB subcontractors.

SSAI

SSAI received 14 significant strengths, two significant weaknesses, and an overall rating of "Very Good" for Factor I - Mission Suitability. Under Subfactor 1, Understanding the Requirements, their technical approach and methodology for SOW elements 3.0 Overall Science support, 3.5 Field Mission support, and 6.0 Administrative and Logistical support was outstanding. They offered a comprehensive approach, plan, and end to end *process for meeting the requirements of each sample NOW in a dynamic and evolving technology environment*. The discussion of key positions was outstanding and comprehensive. The proposed Program Manager was outstanding because of his extensive experience on contracts of similar size and scope. Under Subfactor 2, Management Plan, their approach for attracting and maintaining competent staff was outstanding. SSAI had a very thorough, well thought out management approach for organizing, assigning and tracking NOW's. This, combined with a web-based system Task Management with Government read/write access capability and their proactive communication philosophy with the Government Task Monitors, made for an outstanding *management approach for the contract*. *Their approach to providing administrative and logistical support was excellent*. Their transition and phase in plan, which included a comprehensive approach to minimizing changeover difficulties and for incumbent capture was outstanding. The professional compensation plan offered by SSAI was comprehensive and outstanding. It highlighted a high percentage of award fee sharing and excellent health benefits for the employees. For Subfactor 3, Small Disadvantaged

Business Plan, SSAI had a significant weakness in the realism of the plan to achieve the goals because of the limited experience of the subcontractors proposed. For Subfactor 4, Safety and Health Plan, SSAI failed to address several aspects considered to be significant safety and health issues on this contract.

CSC

CSC received 9 significant strengths, no significant weakness, and an overall rating of "Very Good" for Factor I - Mission Suitability. Under Subfactor 1, Understanding the Requirements, CSC's technical approach and methodology was outstanding in the SOW elements 3.5 Field Mission support and 6.0 Administrative and Logistical support. Under Subfactor 2, Management Plan, CSC organizational structure with their subcontractor team members was outstanding. Their management approach for attracting and maintaining competent staff was comprehensive, thorough, and well thought out. CSC's approach for administrative and logistical support was outstanding. CSC offered an outstanding Professional Compensation Plan highlighting award fee sharing and incumbent seniority recognition. The Small Business subcontracting plan was outstanding including a logical well thought out plan to exceed the goal by 10% with a group of highly capable Small Business subcontractors. For Subfactor 3, Small Disadvantaged Business Plan, CSC showed a comprehensive and strong commitment for the use of SDB's. This plan proposed to exceed the goals specified in the RFP by approximately 14%. The plan was realistic and CSC has demonstrated their ability on past contracts of substantially exceeding the SDB goals. They also have an approved mentor - protégé program agreement with one of their SDB subcontractors. For Subfactor 4, Safety and Health Plan, CSC's plan was extensive and highlighted all the important issues regarding safety and health issues for personnel supporting this contract.

FACTOR II: COST

I carefully analyzed the cost evaluations, and closely questioned the SEB on the adjustments made to derive probable costs for the four offerors. The cost evaluations were based upon the proposed cost and fee to perform the required effort. There was approximately a 13 % difference between the highest and lowest proposed cost. The ranking from low to high for the proposed cost was as follows:

RTSC
SAIC
CSC
SSAI

The SEB evaluated the validity of the proposed costs in terms of the offerors' understanding of the requirements and cost realism. Cost realism adjustments did not exceed the 5% level thus no adjustments were made to the scores for Mission Suitability for any of the offerors.

A probable cost for each offeror was made to reflect incumbent capture at the proposed rate and incumbents direct labor rates. Other adjustments such as escalation, non-mission critical equipment replacement costs, and deviations in staffing levels and skill mix were made to individual offerors. After the adjustments the difference in probable cost was approximately 6% from highest to lowest. The rankings based on probable cost from lowest to highest is as follows:

RTSC
CSC
SAIC
SSAI

Although RTSC ranking was lowest on probable cost, the Government has a low confidence level in the established probable cost. The Government has a moderate confidence level in the established probable cost for both CSC and for SSAI. The Government has a high confidence level in the established probable cost for SAIC.

FACTOR III: PAST PERFORMANCE

Set forth in order of adjective ratings from high to low is a summary of the Past Performance findings for the four offerors (offerors with identical ratings are listed alphabetically).

SAIC

SAIC received an "Excellent" rating for past performance. SAIC demonstrated exceptional coverage of all elements of the SOW with directly applicable experience and exemplary, efficient, and timely performance on contracts with comparable objectives, size and complexity. In addition, the SAIC team of subcontractors proposed demonstrated exceptional, relevant past performance in meeting all objectives for this contract. Customer surveys verified this excellent level of performance by SAIC and the team with consistently high award fee scores and comments regarding the high quality of the professional staff in achieving research objectives.

CSC

The CSC team received a Past Performance rating of "Very Good". CSC was rated as excellent in the Atmospheric Sciences Data Center and Administrative and Logistical support elements (4.0 and 6.0) of the SOW, with adequate experience in the Science (3.0) element of the SOW, and little relevant experience in Technology Development element (5.0) of the SOW. The proposed CSC subcontractor team was rated excellent in most areas of the SOW. Customer surveys showed mostly excellent to very good performance ratings, with only one subcontractor receiving ratings that were not satisfactory in a few management elements.

RTSC

The RTSC team was rated as "Very Good" for Past Performance. RTSC received excellent ratings for relevant experience in all elements of the SOW, and customer surveys verified an exemplary level of performance in all technical and managerial aspects associated with contracts of similar size and scope. The subcontractors proposed demonstrated limited relevant experience in most elements of the SOW with the exception of systems administration and user services within the ASDC. Customer survey forms for the subcontractors verified an excellent level of performance with the exception of one customer survey that showed a fair to poor technical and management performance rating pertaining to work performed in the area of algorithm implementation.

SSAI

SSAI received a "Very Good" rating for Past Performance. SSAI was rated as excellent and demonstrated comprehensive relevant experience in all elements of the SOW. Customer verified an outstanding level of technical and management performance associated with these contracts. A subcontractor demonstrated limited experience in SOW element 3.4 (Mission/Payload operations). Customer surveys however showed excellent technical and managerial performance on contracts of smaller size and scope. In addition, for one significant subcontractor past performance narratives and customer surveys were not submitted.

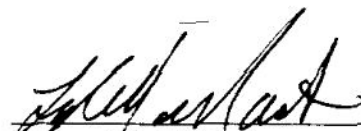
V. Basis for Selection

In making my decision, I considered all three Factors equally. I am convinced that the SEB conducted a thorough, fair, and objective evaluation of all proposals.

I have reviewed and analyzed the SEB evaluation findings. While all ratings for Factor I - Mission Suitability were "Very Good", SAIC had the highest numerical score among the four offerors. Their plan for transition/Phase-in was exceptional having the least risk to the Government's critical mission activities. They had an outstanding technical approach and methodology for the largest support element in the Statement of Work (element 3.0): algorithm development, implementation and maintenance; modeling; analysis, interpretation and validation; mission/payload ops and field missions. In considering Factor III - Past Performance all the offerors were rated as "Very Good", with the exception of SAIC, which was rated "Excellent". SAIC and their team has excellent performance in all the relevant work areas, offering comprehensive coverage of all the technical services required by the Statement of work. Finally, under Factor II - Cost, the variation of probable cost was less than 6% among all offerors, and was

approximately 5% between the low offeror (RTSC) and SAIC. Also, the Government's confidence level in the established probable cost for SAIC was the highest of the proposed offerors. In my judgement the relatively small variance in cost between SAIC and the two lower-cost offerors is more than offset by SAIC's superior technical approach to the contract's largest support element and low-risk transition/phase-in, as well as the excellent performance of its team across all areas of the Statement of Work. This is consistent with the evaluation criteria in the RFP which states that Mission Suitability and Past Performance, when combined, are significantly more important than Cost.

Therefore, SAIC is selected for contract award, since in my judgement this offeror's proposal represents the best value to the government.



Leonard R. McMaster
Source Selection Authority

11-29-01
Date