

10/15/18/2

Selection Statement  
For  
Research in Antenna and Microwave Technology

Background

This procurement is for the acquisition of 182,000 direct labor hours, including subcontractor and consultant hours, of support to NASA LaRC to conduct research design, development, and measurement tasks in microwave and millimeter wave and antenna technology. Some of the specific areas of effort to be performed include the development of control, structures and electromagnetic interdisciplinary approaches to Large Space Antenna Systems and performance technology; development of experimental antenna feeds and systems to demonstrate the performance of antenna systems in space; studies in advanced communications antennas and backscatter; development of advanced sensors suitable for applications such as reentry plasma diagnostics; and studies in advanced signal processing techniques for applications such as detection of wind shear with Doppler radars. The required effort will be accomplished through issuance of task assignments over a period of sixty (60) months at an estimated cost-plus-fixed-fee value of \$10.8 million.

Evaluation Procedures

Prior to issuance of the Request for Proposal (RFP), the Contracting Officer appointed Technical and Business Evaluation Committees to conduct the evaluation of the submitted proposals. The evaluation plans established by the Committees were approved by the Contracting Officer and the approved evaluation factors were identified in the RFP as follows:

- A. Mission Suitability
- B. Estimated Cost and Fixed Fee
- C. Experience and Past Performance
- D. Other Factors
  - 1. Financial Responsibility
  - 2. Contract Terms and Conditions
  - 3. Facilities and Equipment
  - 4. Subcontracting Plan for Small and Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns
  - 5. Security
  - 6. Plan for New Technology Reporting
  - 7. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Compliance

The Mission Suitability factors and subfactors and scoring systems were identified in the RFP as follows:

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Proposed Technical Approach	220
2. Understanding the Requirement	220
3. Personnel Assigned	320
4. Management	<u>240</u>
	1,000

The RFP specified that the Mission Suitability factors and subfactors would be scored and that Estimated Cost and Fixed Fee, Experience and Past Performance, and Other Factors would not be scored but would be given essentially equal consideration in the final selection.

Only one proposal was received. The Technical Evaluation Committee evaluated the technical and management proposals for acceptability in accordance with the approved Evaluation Plan identifying the strength and weaknesses for each technical factor and subfactor. The proposal was not assigned adjective ratings and scored since it was the only one received.

A competitive range of one was established since only one proposal was received. The Contractor was requested in writing to submit a revised management proposal addressing the committee's various concerns resulting from the evaluation.

#### Sources

A Research and Development Sources Sought was published in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD) to identify potential sources and have them submit information on their R&D capabilities in the area of antenna and microwave technology. Eight (8) firms responded to the Sources Sought; however, only four (4) of the eight (8) firms submitted data regarding their capabilities and relevant experience. The requirement was synopsized in the CBD prior to release of the solicitation.

Ninety-two (92) firms were solicited and a proposal was received only from Research Triangle Institute.

#### Evaluation Findings

The Committees' evaluations of the one proposal received determined that the total cost for the associated effort was reasonable. In addition, the validity of the proposed cost in terms of the offeror's understanding of the technical and management requirements and cost realism was assessed. A summary of the Committees' findings for the one proposal received from Research Triangle Institute is set forth below:

#### Mission Suitability

RTI provided a very good technical approach to support the indicated research areas specified in the Statement of Work and included some new research approaches to enhance the content of the research programs. The proposal demonstrated an excellent understanding of the problems involved and discussed

areas where the research could be extended. RTI's understanding is further demonstrated by their recognition of the need to involve qualified subcontractors and consultants to broaden the required skill mix in addition to their own highly qualified personnel. The proposal reflected strong and thorough approaches for performing the effort associated with the windshear radar, advanced aircraft, the aeroassist flight experiment, and large space antenna tasks. In the management area, the offeror proposed a sound plan for maintenance of a competent staff over the contract term and for managing and executing contract work efficiently and effectively. No substantive weaknesses were found.

#### Estimated Cost and Fixed Fee

The cost evaluation was based upon the offeror's proposed cost-plus-fixed-fee to perform the research effort. The committee's evaluated the validity of the proposed cost in terms of the offeror's understanding of the technical requirements and cost realism. It was determined that the proposed amount essentially mirrored the performance strategy.

#### Experience and Past Performance

In reviewing relevant experience and past performance, the offeror's performance is reported as very good both from a technical and administrative standpoint.

#### Other Factors

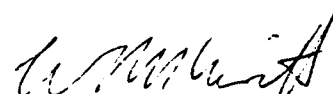
The evaluation of these business elements produced no indications of circumstance that might impair successful performance.

#### Selection Decision

In reviewing the findings of the Evaluation Committees, it was determined that the offeror demonstrated a strong technical approach, a thorough understanding of the requirements, and has proposed highly qualified personnel to perform the required effort.

It is concluded that the Evaluation Committee performed their duties in accordance with established procedures and the approved Evaluation Plan. It is further concluded that the Committees' evaluation was conducted on a fair and objective basis.

Based on the highly favorable findings set forth above in the areas of Mission Suitability, Estimated Cost and Fixed Fee, Experience and Past Performance, and Other Factors, Research Triangle Institute is selected for negotiations leading to a contract award for Research in Antenna and Microwave Technology.

  
William R. Kivett  
Contracting Officer