

SELECTION STATEMENT

SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SYSTEMS ENGINEERING FOR RESEARCH FACILITY INTEGRATED SYSTEMS (SERFIS)

On April 28, 1998, I met with the Source Evaluation Team (SET) that was appointed to evaluate proposals for SERFIS; Systems Engineering for Research Facility Integrated Systems. The SET presented the acquisition history, the evaluation procedures, the substance of the Qualitative Merit factor, the evaluation of the Cost/Price factor, and the Relevant Experience and Past Performance factor.

PROCUREMENT DESCRIPTION

The procurement will provide complete systems engineering of mechanical, fluid, and automation systems for research facilities including design, development, fabrication, installation, integration, testing, activation, and maintenance.

The solicitation provided for the expectation that multiple indefinite delivery contracts (indefinite quantity type) would be awarded. Each contract will provide for a minimum of \$-0- and a maximum of \$38,000,000 for the 5-year contract period of performance. Delivery orders will be placed under the contracts on a fixed-price basis or cost reimbursable basis.

OFFERORS

A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on the Internet on the NASA Langley Procurement Home Page on October 30, 1997. The SERFIS final RFP was issued on the Internet on December 17, 1997. The following firms submitted proposals by the specified time and date of 4:00 p.m. local time, January 28, 1998.

Aero Systems Engineering, Inc.
DynCorp Information and Engineering Technology, Inc.
ManTech Systems Engineering Corporation
Sverdrup Technology, Inc.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Prior to the issuance of the solicitation, I appointed an SET to conduct an evaluation of proposals received in response to the solicitation. The SET developed a detailed Evaluation Plan which was included in Section M of the solicitation.

Technical Consultants were appointed to review various portions of the technical proposals (Factor 1 - Qualitative Merit). These consultants provided written evaluations of the proposals in accordance with the evaluation plan contained in the solicitation. They met with the SET to elaborate on their evaluations. A Cost/Price Analyst from the Office of Procurement was similarly utilized for Factor 2, Cost.

The SET reviewed and assessed the proposals against three (3) factors: Qualitative Merit, Cost/Price, and Relevant Experience and Past Performance which are defined later in this document.

Initially, the members of the evaluation team reviewed each technical and business proposal in sufficient depth to identify any proposals that were considered to be unacceptable, as set forth in NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) 1815.608-70. None were found to be unacceptable.

Each team member then reviewed in depth each technical proposal documenting strengths and weaknesses (indicating major and minor where applicable) for each QEC. Each team member assigned a rating to each QEC for each Offeror.

Upon completion of the review of individual proposals, the evaluation team convened and collectively discussed each technical proposal. A team consensus on the proposal strengths and weaknesses was developed for each QEC. A consensus rating was assigned to each QEC for each Offeror.

The SET conducted an analysis of each Offeror's cost proposal to determine its reasonableness, its acceptability, and the extent to which it reflected performance addressed in the technical proposal. The cost analysis did not impact the assigned ratings for any of the Offeror's QECs. A probable cost was developed for each Offeror.

The information provided by each Offeror regarding relevant experience and past performance was assessed to determine the extent to which contract objectives (including technical, management, schedule, and cost) have been achieved on related efforts.

The SET assigned one of the following ratings for relevant experience and past performance: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, or Poor. The definitions for the relevant experience and past performance ratings were included in Section M of the solicitation.

The SET's initial documentation included a summary of the ratings assigned to each QEC, Relevant Experience and Past Performance, and the proposed and probable costs.

Based on the findings, the Selection Official elected to select a competitive range of those Offerors that had a reasonable chance of being selected for award. Written and/or oral discussions were held with the following firms:

Aero System Engineering, Inc.
DynCorp Information and Engineering Technology, Inc.
Sverdrup Technology, Inc.

ManTech Systems Engineering Corporation was excluded from the competitive range based upon the remaining proposals being significantly superior. The Selection Official concluded that the relative position of ManTech's proposal could not be improved upon through discussions.

Each Offeror in the competitive range was afforded an equal opportunity to revise its proposal. A common cutoff date was established for submission of the revised proposals. The SET then reconvened to evaluate the revised proposals and determine changes to the assigned ratings or probable costs. The basis of changes were documented. The SET updated and resubmitted the documentation initially presented to the Selection Official. The Selection Official then selected the successful Offerors from the competitive range.

EVALUATION FACTORS

The RFP set forth the following evaluation factors:

- Factor 1 - Qualitative Merit
- Factor 2 - Cost
- Factor 3 - Relevant Experience and Past Performance

The Factor 1 Qualitative Evaluation Characteristics (QECs) are as follows:

- QEC 1 - Understanding the Requirement and Approach
- QEC 2 - Adequacy of Resources
- QEC 3 - Management and Operations
- QEC 4 - Approach to Meeting the 8% Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) Participation Goal
- QEC 5 - ISO 9000 Compliance Plan

EVALUATION RESULTS

Factor 1 - Qualitative Merit

Set forth below is a summary of the SET's findings with regard to the three proposals in the competitive range in descending order of Qualitative Merit ranking, beginning with the highest ranked offer.

DynCorp Information & Engineering Technology, Inc. received an "Exceeds" rating for QECs 1, 2, 3, and 4 and a "Meets" for QEC-5.

Major strengths were given to DynCorp's proposal in response to QEC-1, Understanding the Requirements and Approach. The proposal received major strengths for the sample delivery order project plan and schedule; and for the software development process. Major strengths were given for DynCorp's comprehensive approach to cost estimating: demonstrated understanding of specific design process elements; approach for tracking, managing, and reporting projects; and well thought out response to handling schedule delays.

For QEC-2, Adequacy of Resources, major strengths were assigned for the proposed teaming arrangement, approach to maintaining a stable work force and extensive fabrication capability. A major strength was given to the DynCorp proposal in response to QEC-3, Management and Operations. A well thought out work arrangement was proposed which offers an excellent approach to managing and accomplishing Delivery Orders.

Major strengths were given to the DynCorp strong response to QEC-4, Approach to 8% Disadvantaged Business Participation Goal, which exceeded the RFP specified goal.

Overall, eighteen major strengths and no major weaknesses were identified for the DynCorp proposal.

Sverdrup Technology, Inc. received an "Exceeds" rating for QECs 1 and 5, and a "Meets" for QECs 2 through 4.

Major strengths were given to Sverdrup's proposal in response to QEC-1, Understanding the Requirements and Approach. The proposal received a major strength for the sample delivery order project plan. The proposal demonstrated a thorough understanding of the system requirements development process. Strengths were given for their demonstrated understanding of the software development process, a comprehensive approach to cost estimating, and an excellent approach to providing design products. The proposal provided a comprehensive process for tracking progress on projects. It also provided a thorough response to handling schedule delays.

A major strength was given to the Sverdrup proposal in response to QEC-2, Adequacy of Resources. They proposed extensive engineering, computer, and networking equipment and facilities. A major strength was given to the Sverdrup proposal in response to QEC-3, Management and Operations. for the lines of authority within their organization.

Sverdrup was given a major strength for QEC-4, Approach to 8% Small Disadvantaged Business Participation Goal, for their demonstrated success in the use of SDBs. Also, a major strength was given for QEC-5, ISO 9000 Compliance Plan, for the company's ISO status, plans, and accomplishments.

Overall, sixteen major strengths and no major weaknesses were identified for the Sverdrup proposal.

Aero Systems Engineering, Inc. (ASE) received an “Exceeds” rating for QEC 5, “Meets” for QECs 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Major strengths were given to ASE’s proposal in response to QEC-1, Understanding the Requirements and Approach. Their proposed project plan indicated an excellent understanding of wind tunnel systems. Their software development process was excellent. The proposal provided a comprehensive approach for cost estimating and a systematic approach to all phases of design. A major strength was given to the ASE proposal in response to QEC-2, Adequacy of Resources, for its relevant facilities which can be used to support special studies and design analyses. A major strength was given to the ASE proposal in response to QEC 5, ISO 9000 Compliance Plan, for the company’s ISO status and accomplishments.

Overall, twelve major strengths and no major weakness were identified for the ASE proposal.

Factor 2 - Cost

The SET’s cost evaluations were based on the costs and fixed fee proposed by each Offeror for the five year contract period of performance. Upward probable cost adjustments were made to two of the Offerors and a downward probable cost adjustment was made to one of the Offerors. However, the ranking of the companies’ proposed and probable costs did not change as a result of these adjustments. The ranking (low to high) for both proposed and probable cost is as follows: DynCorp, ASE, and Sverdrup. The difference between the highest and lowest probable cost was approximately 17 percent.

Relevant Experience and Past Performance (REPP)

Sverdrup demonstrated a very good to excellent overall level of performance. They demonstrated experience in mechanical and fluid systems but limited in automation systems. They have extensive relevant experience with aerodynamic research facilities, equipment, and systems. Sverdrup received an adjective rating of “Excellent.”

ASE demonstrated a good to excellent overall level of performance. They demonstrated experience in all required disciplines and have extensive experience with aerodynamic research facilities, equipment, and systems. ASE received an adjective rating of “Very Good.”

The DynCorp Team demonstrated good to excellent overall level of performance. They have demonstrated experience in mechanical and fluid systems and limited experience in automation systems. They have lengthy experience with recertification of pressurized systems. DynCorp received an adjective rating of “Good.”

SELECTION DECISION

After the SET's presentation, I reviewed and assessed the evaluation findings. I took into consideration that multiple awards could **be** made under the solicitation.

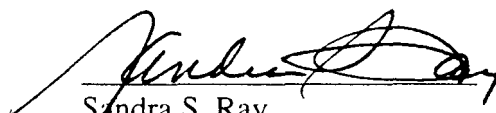
I reviewed and assessed the Qualitative Merit Factor and noted that all three firms in the competitive range met or exceeded all qualitative evaluation criteria.

I then noted the comparative position of the proposals from the standpoint of cost based on the SET's assessment. I noted that DynCorp's proposed and probable costs were the lowest, ASE's proposed and probable costs were the second lowest, and Sverdrup's proposed and probable costs were the highest.

Finally, I noted the comparative positions of the proposals from the standpoint of "Relevant Experience and Past Performance." I noted that Sverdrup received the highest adjective rating, ASE received the next highest, and DynCorp received the lowest.

Based upon meeting or exceeding all qualitative evaluation criteria, reasonable costs, and good to excellent Relevant Experience and Past Performance, Aero Systems Engineering, Inc, DynCorp Information & Engineering Technology, Inc., and Sverdrup Technology, Inc. are selected for contract awards.

I have concluded that the SET performed their duties in accordance with the approved Evaluation Plan and procedures set forth in Section M of the solicitation. I further conclude that the SET's evaluation was comprehensive, objective, and fair.


Sandra S. Ray
Source Selection Official

4/30/98
Date