OFFICE OF ACQUISITIONS
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER: N02RC81020-56

Amendment No.: One

Date of Issuance: June 30, 2008

The above numbered Request For Proposal (RFP) is amended as set forth below. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offerors remains unchanged: 3:00 PM Local Time, July 16, 2008.

Offerors MUST acknowledge receipt of the amendment prior to the hour and the date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by separate letter, telegram, or Electronic Mail which includes a reference to the RFP and Amendment number(s). For your convenience, the Proposal Intent Response Form is provided in SECTION J - List of Attachments of this RFP, for this purpose.

FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERORS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

This Amendment revises the RFP as stated below:

 Following are respones to questions received concerning the Statement of Work. There are no changes in the RFP.

Task A (Call Center):

1.) What are the technical specifications for the Call Center data management system? (i.e., Is it a web-based application? Accessible from outside the NIH environment, or an Intranet Application? Type of backend database used to store data?)

The Call Center data application is a web based .NET 2.0 application.
The application is only available inside the NIH network.
The data is stored in Microsoft SQL Server 2003.
The contractor has no responsibility for the IT support and maintenance of the Call Center Application.

2.) Since the incumbent has significant knowledge of the current Call Center operation and data management system, can the NCI provide additional description information on how the data center currently operates and interfaces with the contractor for referring patients to CCR clinical trials? Or point us to an appropriate descriptive web site?

There is no data center, per se. There is a web based system, which can be accessed by the call center, the research staff, and the contractor. The call center staff logs into the system and enters information given by the callers. Then based on the cancer type, the system provides instruction to the call center staff about where to transfer the call. The system then provides additional information which can automatically be emailed to the caller. The research teams can access any information in the system and can add new callers or add additional information to existing records. (The call center staff and the research staff have access to separate sets of screens.) The contractor is responsible for keeping the information provided on the screens current, as well as creating basic reports that include information about the number of calls, the caller's relationship to the patient, the source of the call, etc.

Task B (Web Site):

1.) What version of ASP.NET is in use on the NCI Clinical Trials Web site?

Version 2 of ASP.NET

2.) What language is used for the corresponding code files - C# or VB.NET?

C# is used.

3.) What relational database management system is used to store clinical trials information (e.g., MS SQL Server 2003, Oracle 9i)?

Call Center Application is run on MS SQL Server 2003 The CCR Clinical Trials Application C3D, is run on Oracle Clinical The CCR Protocol Management application, iRIS, is run on Oracle 10G

4.) Is the contractor expected to evaluate the current Quality Control and Quality Assurance plans and directly update this documentation as it relates to the Clinical Trials Web site, or are the QC and QA procedures standardized across multiple NCI web-based systems?

Currently the QC/QA for our website and all posted information is being conducted by the contractor using a variety of resources. It will be up to the offerors to either continue with the present system or to create their own plan for insuring that the posted information is kept current. Since this contract relies on creativity and resourcefulness, new ideas are always encouraged.

5.) What other Web sites currently promote the NCI Clinical Trials Web site?
Presently all of our electronic mailings, as well as our hard copy recruitment materials, provide links to our website. In addition, continuing ad campaigns on major search engines drive traffic to the site. We also work with many non-profit organizations, who will allow us to put links on their websites or into their newsletters. It will be up to the offeror to suggest other alternatives. As mentioned in the Background Statement in the RFP, the work performed under the new contract should maintain and build upon the foundation that has been developed under the existing contract. Again, new ideas are always sought since we do not want a stagnant program. The underlying philosophy, however, is described in the Background Statement.

Task C (Patient Recruitment Tasks):

1.) Is the contractor required to use an NIH listserv for maintaining mailing lists, or may the contractor internally maintain electronic mailing lists for the purpose of distributing eNewsletters and eLetters?

The listserv that we use is not an NIH listserv. The contractor will be expected to maintain the existing list, as well as to work to increase the membership.

2). For Task C3, will the contractor be required to distribute paper surveys, conduct phone interviews (CATI), collect data via Web-based surveys, or some combination of these methods?

To date our surveys have been conducted electronically. Again, continuing creativity and refinement is encouraged.