

Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology (T4)

Pre-Solicitation Conference

June 8, 2010

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ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS



Administrative Remarks

- ➤ Ask Questions Cards distributed during registration
- ➤ Briefings, Q&A, Attendee List, and all relevant information will be posted online at the following websites under VA118-10-RP-0052
 - https://www.fbo.gov/
 - http://www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/tac
 - ➤https://www.voa.va.gov/
- > Restrooms
- ➤ No Smoking
- Please Put All Beepers/Cell Phones in Silent Mode



Administrative Remarks

> Lunch Options

- Lunch Box option available in the lobby
- ➤ McDonald's left on Route 71
- ➤ Several food establishments: Celtic Cottage, Surf Taco, Richard's Deli and LaScala Pizzeria along Brighton Avenue right on Route 71, left on 2nd Ave & right on Brighton Ave.
- ➤ Monmouth University Campus Food Court not available

Beverages

- ➤ Vending Machine
- Coffee bar, water, soft drinks available in lobby



Technology Acquisition Center (TAC)

- > Sharon Fernandes, Contracting Officer
- > Brandon Utt, Contract Specialist
- > James Cozzolino, Contract Specialist
- > Ed Erskine, Technical Representative
- ➤ Michael Hier, Procurement Analyst



Pre-Solicitation Agenda

June 8, 2010 - Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ

- > 8:00 9:00 Registration and Networking
- 9:00 9:30 T4 Overview
- > 9:30 10:30 Solicitation Presentation (Sections A-K)
- ➤ 10:30 11:30 Proposal Submission/Evaluation Criteria (Sections L and M)
- >11:30 12:00 Responses to Draft Solicitation Questions
- **▶12:00 12:15** Submit Questions
- >12:15 2:00 Lunch
- > 2:00 3:30 Brief Responses to Questions
- > 3:30 4:00 Closing Remarks



Ground Rules

- ➤ Information presented during this briefing represents the Draft Solicitation for the T4 program
- ➤ The Final Solicitation will take precedence over this briefing and all previous Draft Solicitation documents
- ➤ ALL Questions/Comments related to T4 must be directed to Sharon Fernandes, Contracting Officer
- ➤ Government responses to questions should be considered as ADVISORY



WELCOME TO THE T4 PRE-SOLICITATION CONFERENCE

Mrs. Wendy McCutcheon
Executive Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
Technology Acquisition Center



T4 Overview



OI&T Mission

> OI&T partners with business units to enable VA to provide Veteran-centric service through the delivery of available, adaptable, secure, and cost effective technology services. OI&T represents VA's IT program internally and externally to the Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), other Federal agencies, and interested parties



Getting Up To Speed

- ➤ Since T4 Industry Day/One-on-One Sessions in April 2010...
 - > Requirement further defined
 - **➤** Market research completed
 - **▶** Draft Solicitation Released May 21st 2010



Moving Ahead

- ➤ The Purpose of a Pre-Solicitation Conference
 - >Clarify requirement, solicitation and strategy
 - ➤ Address questions/comments to create a better product
 - ➤ Expedite the process after release of final solicitation



Proposed Schedule

> Final Solicitation Release – June 30th, 2010

- Proposals Due –July 30th, 2010
- > Award –September 30th, 2010

> NOTE: All updates shall be posted via FedBizOpps



T4 – The Concept

- ➤ The T-21 Assessments identified a need to rapidly respond to requirements gaps
- ➤ VA requires rapid means of accessing competent industry capabilities without the traditional acquisition lead time
- Provide a broad range of Information Technology and telecommunication services and incidental hardware/software needed to accommodate varied user demands, while yielding a competitive environment
- A single focal point for managing the multiple award contract vehicle



T4 – Acquisition Strategy

- > Full and open competition
- > ID/IQ performance-based service contract
- Time-and-Materials (T&M) /Labor Hour, Cost Reimbursement (CR) & Firm-Fixed Price (FFP) task orders
- Ordering period five years
- Best value formal source selection
- Multiple awards
- **➤ Up to 15 Prime ID/IQ Contracts**
- Reserves 7 Prime awards: four SDVOSB and three VOSB
- ➤ Minimum Order will be \$50,000
- Aggregate Program Ceiling of \$12B (no individual contract ceilings)



T4 SOLICITATION



Solicitation Section A

- Section A Solicitation/Contract Form
- > Standard Form (SF) 33
 - ➤ Block 9 Requests 1 signed copy in the form of an Adobe Acrobat PDF file to capture the signature(s) for submission
 - ➤ Block 14 Acknowledgement of Amendments required. List Amendment Numbers with dates. If required, submit a second SF 33 to acknowledge all amendments
 - ➢ Block 15A Name and Address of Prime Offeror (correct identification of Prime for which contract will be administered)



Solicitation Section B

- > Section B Supplies or Services and Prices/Costs
 - Contract Line Items (CLINs) for Firm-Fixed Price, Time-and-Material/Labor Hour, and Cost Reimbursement for Five-Year Ordering Period
 - CLINs for Reporting Requirements: Contractor Monthly Status, Performance, Government Furnished Equipment, Manpower, and Small Business Participation
 - ➤ Section B CLINs are un-priced. All price proposals must be submitted in accordance with Volume V-Price Files and Section J, Attachments 008 and 009



Solicitation Sections C

- Section C Description/Specification/Work Statement
 - ➤ The T4 Performance Work Statement (PWS) has been structured to reflect the breadth and depth of Information Technology (IT) and telecommunication services spanning the life cycle of a system or project
 - ➤ Major Areas include: Program Management Support; Systems/Software Engineering; Software Technology Demonstration and Transition; Test & Evaluation, Independent Verification & Validation, Enterprise Network, Cyber Security, Operation and Maintenance, Training and IT Facilities



PWS Paragraph 6.0 Security Requirements

- > VA Personnel Security Requirements
 - ➤ The position sensitivity impact [LIMITED, MODERATE, SUBSTANTIAL, or MAJOR] and level of background investigation [National organization Check with Written Inquiries (NACI), Moderate Background Investigation (MBI), or Background Investigation (BI)] for each Task Order shall be designated as appropriate
 - ➤ VAAR 852.273-75, Security Requirements for Unclassified Information Technology Resources (Interim Oct 2008)
 - ➤ Adherence to Security Handbooks under VA Directives 0710, 1600, 6102, and 6500



PWS Paragraph 6.0 Security Requirements (cont.)

- Data Security and Privacy
 - Contractor personnel may have access to privileged and confidential materials of the U.S. Government
 - Some materials are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 and Title 38
 - Some materials are protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule

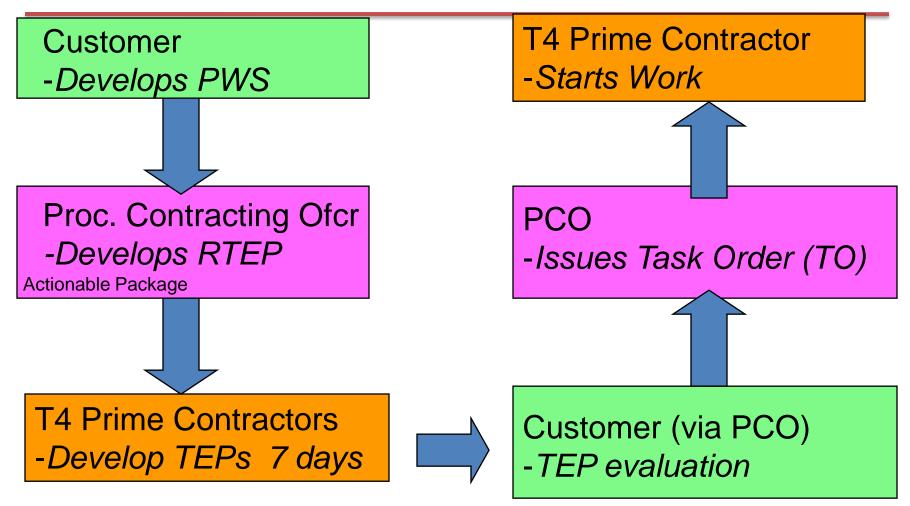


PWS Paragraph 6.0 Security Requirements (cont.)

Classified Efforts

- T4 may support other Federal Agencies such as Department of Defense
- Support acquired for Federal Agencies may involve secure networks, facilities, and sensitive information
- Contractors should anticipate providing personnel with security clearances up to the Top Secret Level

PWS Paragraph 7.3 Task Execution Plan (TEP) Process



Average cycle time goal is 19 business days from issuance of RTEP to contract award



PWS Paragraph 8.1 Performance Reports

- > Contractor's Progress, Status and Management Report
 - > Prime contractors shall submit Monthly Status Reports
 - Contents include a rollup summary of each awarded task order in such areas as: metrics, schedule, critical items, accomplishments, open issues, subcontractor performance, projected activities, and small business participation
- Contract Performance Report (CPR)
 - > Prime contractors shall submit Monthly Performance Reports
 - ➤ Contents include a rollup summary of each awarded task order in such areas as: high level funding summary, expenditures and percentage of work completed. Report required for T&M and CR awards.
- > Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) Report
 - > Prime contractors shall submit Monthly GFE Reports
 - ➤ Contents include a rollup summary of each awarded task order in such areas as: type of equipment, tracking numbers, location, value, and transfer information



PWS Paragraph 8.1 Performance Reports (cont.)

> Personnel Contractor Manpower Report

- > Prime contractors shall submit Monthly Manpower Reports
- ➤ Contents include a rollup summary by project title of each awarded task order in such areas as: listing all personnel working at a VA facility, access to VA networks, clearance levels, facility locations, and security training requirement

Small Business Participation Report

- > Prime contractors shall submit Monthly Participation Reports
- ➤ Contents include a rollup summary of each awarded task order in such areas as: period covered, dollars of participation as prime, and subcontracting breakdown by percentage

Other reports could be required

- Based on individual task orders
- > Earned Value Management System



PWS Paragraph 8.2 Meetings and Reviews

Project Office Initial Program Reviews

> Post Award Conferences

> Monthly Program Reviews

Quarterly Prime Program Reviews

> Task Order Kickoff Meetings



Solicitation Sections D-G

- Standard Clauses Applicability specified per task order
- Section D Packaging and Marking
- Section E Inspection and Acceptance
- Section F Deliveries or Performance
- Section G Contract Administration Data



Solicitation Section H

- Section H Special Contract Requirements
 - **≻**H-1 On-Ramp
 - During the duration of the T4 contracts, the Government reserves the right to add SDVOSB and/or VOSB concerns as prime contractors, if any SDVOSB and/or VOSB T4 prime contractors no longer qualify as SDVOSB or VOSB concerns
 - ➤ This reservation is limited to the situation where any SDVOSB and/or VOSB prime contractor no longer qualifies as an SDVOSB or VOSB concern because they are acquired by a non-SDVOSB or non-VOSB concern



- > H-2 Small Business Participation Requirements
 - ➤ All contractors, whether they are large or small businesses, shall make a good faith attempt to meet their T4 small business participation goals as set forth in their Small Business Participation Plan (SBPP)
 - ➤ The prime contractor is cautioned that failure to make a good faith effort to meet their small business participation goals, or provide detailed supporting documentation and/or rationale when participation percentages fall short of goals as specified in their Small Business Participation Plan (SBPP) may prevent the contractor from competing on future task orders and/or may result in termination for default



- > H-3 Organizational Conflict of Interest
 - ➤ It is recognized by the parties that the efforts to be performed by the contractor under this contract are of such a nature that they may create a potential organizational conflict of interest as contemplated by Subpart 9.5 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).
 - ➤ It is the intention of the parties that the contractor will not engage in any contractual activities which may impair its ability to render unbiased advice and recommendations, or in which it may gain an unfair competitive advantage as a result of the knowledge, information and experience gained during the performance of this contract. It does not include the normal flow of benefits from incumbency.

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- > H-4 Hours of Work
- > H-5 Incorporation of Rates and Labor Descriptions
- > H-6 Consent to Add/Delete Subcontractors
- **≻** H-7 Year 2000 Compliance



> H-8 Metrics

- Contract Level Metrics:
 - Customer Satisfaction: 90% satisfaction rate (Customer Surveys)
 - ➤ Schedule: 90% of all task orders completed within the negotiated schedule
 - ➤ Cost: 90% of all task orders completed within the negotiated price for items in the contractors control
 - ➤ Small Business Program Support: 80% of all small business participation goals are met
- Task Order Level Metrics:
 - > Quality of service
 - > Cost effectiveness
 - > Timeliness of performance
 - > Small business participation
 - Customer satisfaction



Solicitation Section I

- ➤ Subcontracting, Clause 52.244-2
- ➤ Time-and-Materials/Labor-Hour Proposal Requirements-Non-Commercial Item Acquisitions With Adequate Price Competition, Clause 52.216-29
- ➤ Payments Under Time-And-Materials and Labor-Hour, Clause 52.232-7
- Utilization of Small Business Concerns, Clause 52.219-8



- ➤ Small Business Subcontracting Plan, Clause 52.219-9; VAAR Clause 852.219-9,
- > Service Contract Act of 1965, Clause 52.222-41
- ➤ Evaluation of Compensation for Professional Employed, Clause 52.222-46
- Identification of Uncompensated Overtime, Clause 52.237-10



Solicitation Sections J and K

> Section J − List of Attachments

- Contractor's Progress Status and Management Report
- Contract Performance Report for T&M
- **➤** Contract Performance Report for CR
- > Government Furnished Equipment Report
- > Personnel Manpower Report
- > Past Performance Assessment Questionnaire
- Small Business Participation Report
- > Pricing Attachment CONUS Years 1-5/Summary
- > Pricing Attachment OCONUS Years 1-5/Summary
- **➤ Labor Rate Table/Cost Summary**
- Contract Description List
- > Performance Questionnaire POC List
- > Labor Category Descriptions
- > Performance Assessment Plan
- ➤ Section K Representations, Certifications and Other Statements of Offerors



PROPOSAL SUBMISSION / EVALUATION



Solicitation Section L

- ➤ Section L, Instructions, Conditions and Notices to Offerors
 - Proposal transmission via the Electronic Contract Management System (ECMS)
 - https://www.vendorportal.ecms.va.gov
- > Proposal formatting/packaging
 - > Page size and margins specified in solicitation
 - Page limitations will be imposed for some files
 - ➤ All of the proposal files may be compressed (zipped) into one file entitled "(Prime Offeror)_proposal.zip" using WinZip version 6.2 or later version or all of the proposal files may be submitted individually
 - > Table provided for content requirements



Solicitation Section L

- Volume I Technical Files
- ➤ Volume II Past Performance Files
- ➤ Volume III Veterans Involvement Files
- ➤ Volume IV Small Business Participation Plan Files
- Volume V Price Files
- ➤ Volume VI Solicitation, Offer and Award Documents and Certifications/Representations



Solicitation Section M

- Section M Evaluation Factors for Award
- ➤ Any awards to be made will be based on the best overall (i.e. best value) proposals that are determined to be the most beneficial to the Government, with appropriate consideration given to the following five (5) evaluation factors:
 - > Technical
 - **≻** Past Performance
 - > Veterans Involvement
 - **➤ Small Business Participation Plan (SBPP)**
 - > Price



Factors and Sub-Factors

- Factor I Technical
 - ➤ Sub-factor (a), Sample Tasks, is significantly more important than sub-factor (b), Management
 - ➤ a. Sample Tasks includes three sample tasks of equal importance
 - ▶ b. Management
- > Factor II Past Performance
- > Factor III Veterans Involvement
- Factor IV Small Business Participation Plan
- **→** Factor V Price



Factors and Relative Importance

- ➤ The Technical factor is significantly more important than the Past Performance factor, which is slightly more important than the Veterans Involvement factor, which is of equal importance to the SBPP factor, which is slightly more important than the Price factor.
- ➤ All non-price factors, when combined are significantly more important than the Price factor.



Consideration for Award

- ➤ To receive consideration for award, a rating of no less than "Acceptable" must be achieved for the Technical factor, all Technical sub-factors, and the SBPP factor.
- Offerors are cautioned that the awards may not necessarily be made based upon the lowest prices offered.
- ➤ The Government intends to award up to 15 contracts, which will include reserve awards of four contracts to SDVOSBs and three contracts to VOSBs, within the competitive range.



Two Step Award Selection Process

- ➤ In Step One, the Government will select multiple offerors for awards from those proposals included within the competitive range without regard to the size of the offeror.
- ➤ If at least four SDVOSB offerors and three VOSB offerors are selected for award no further progression to Step Two will be required.
- ➤ If either four SDVOSB offerors and/or three VOSB offerors are not selected for award in Step One, large businesses and non-SDVOSB/VOSB small business offerors will be eliminated from further consideration and progression to Step Two will occur.



Two Step Award Selection Process

- ➤ In Step Two, the Government will award contracts to SDVOSB and VOSB offerors remaining in the competitive range up to a total (combined awards from Step One and Two) of four SDVOSB contracts and a total (combined awards from Steps One and Two) of three VOSB contracts.
- ➤ If none of the proposals remaining in the competitive range are from SDVOSB or VOSB offerors, the Government reserves the right to make no further awards.



TECHNICAL VOLUME



Technical Volume

- > Sample Tasks
 - > Three Sample Tasks will be released with Final RFP
 - ➤ The Sample Tasks are designed to test the offeror's expertise and innovative capabilities to respond to the types of situations that may be encountered in performance
 - ➤ Caution: Offerors will not be given an opportunity to correct or revise a Sample Task response
 - ➤ The Government does not intend to grant any extensions to the due date of the Sample Tasks after release



Evaluation - Technical

- ➤ Samples Tasks Evaluation of the offeror's sample tasks will consider the following:
 - ➤ <u>Understanding of Problems</u>: The proposal will be evaluated to determine the extent to which the offeror demonstrates a clear understanding of all features involved in solving the problems and meeting the requirements presented by the sample task; and the extent to which uncertainties are identified and resolutions proposed.
 - Feasibility of Approach: The proposal will be evaluated to determine whether the offeror's methods and approach to meeting the sample task requirements provided the Government with a high level of confidence of successful completion within the required schedule. The evaluation will also consider the realism of the allocated hours and labor categories being proposed in the offeror's response to the sample tasks.



Evaluation – Technical Continued

➤ Completeness: The proposal will be evaluated to determine the extent to which the offeror's methods and approach have adequately and completely considered, defined, and satisfied the requirements specified in the sample tasks. The proposal will be evaluated to determine the extent to which each requirement has been addressed.



Evaluation – Technical (cont.)

- Management Proposal
- ➤ The following areas should be addressed in the Management Proposal
 - > Techniques and Controls
 - **➤** Contractor/Subcontractor Core Competency
- Evaluation of the offeror's Management Proposal will consider the following:
 - ➤ <u>Understanding of Problems</u> The proposal will be evaluated to determine the extent to which the offeror demonstrates a clear understanding of all features involved in solving the problems and meeting the management requirements
 - Feasibility of Approach The proposal will be evaluated to determine whether the offeror's management techniques and controls and personnel will meet the Performance Work Statement (PWS) requirements and whether the proposal provides the Government with a high level of confidence of successful performance



PAST PERFORMANCE



Evaluation - Past Performance

- ➤ Past Performance evaluation will assess the relative risks associated with an offeror's likelihood of success in performing the solicitation's requirements as indicated by that offeror's record of past performance.
- "Offeror" refers to the proposed prime contractor and all proposed major subcontractors
- "Major subcontractors" is defined as the primary subcontractor in each functional area of the PWS
- ➤ The prime contractor and proposed major subcontractors will be assessed individually and the results will then be assessed in their totality to derive the offeror's Past Performance rating



Evaluation - Past Performance (cont.)

- ➤ Past Performance shall be assessed based on the quality, relevancy and recency (prime contracts, task/delivery orders, and/or major subcontracts awarded during the past three years from the date of issuance of the final solicitation) of the offeror's past performance, as well as that of its major subcontractors, as it relates to the probability of successful accomplishment of the required effort
- ➤ Areas of relevance include contracts which are similar in scope to the T4 PWS
- ➤ The Government may use data provided in the offeror's proposal and data obtained from other sources



Submission - Past Performance (cont.)

- ➤ Prime offerors shall submit up to five instances of Government contracts (prime contracts, task/delivery orders, and/or major subcontracts) awarded during the past three years from the date of issuance of the final solicitation
- Major subcontractors shall submit up to three instances of Government contracts (prime contracts, task/delivery orders, and/or major subcontracts) awarded during the past three years from the date of issuance of the final solicitation
- Past Performance Volume shall contain the following sections:
 - Section 1 Contract Descriptions
 - **>** Section 2 − Performance
 - Section 3 Subcontracts
 - **>** Section 4 − New Corporate Entities
 - > Section 5 Past Performance Assessment Questionnaire



Submission - Past Performance

(cont.)

- ➤ For all contracts identified in Section 1, the offeror shall complete Part I of the Performance Risk Assessment Questionnaire and e-mail the Questionnaire to both the Government contracting activity and technical representative responsible for the past/current contract. In cases where the performance had been conducted as a subcontractor, the questionnaire shall be provided to the prime contractor points of contact (POC) in addition to the Government POC
- ➤ The POCs shall be instructed to electronically complete Part II of the Questionnaire and e-mail the entire Questionnaire within 15 calendar days of the release of the RFP
- ➤ The offeror shall also e-mail to the Contracting Officer a list of all the POC's who were sent a Questionnaire. The Government must receive this list within 10 calendar days after release of the RFP



VETERANS INVOLVEMENT



Evaluation - Veterans Involvement

- ➤ In accordance with VAAR 852.215-70, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and Veteran-Owned Small Business Evaluation Factors, the Government will assign evaluation credit for an offeror (prime contractor) which is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) or a Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB)
- ➤ Offerors who agree to subcontract 12% or more of the contract value to a SDVOSB or VOSB will also receive evaluation credit
- ➤ IAW VAAR 852.219-72, Evaluation Factor for Participation in the VA Mentor-Protégé Program, the Government will assign credit to businesses with approved Mentor-Protégé Agreements. Mentor- Protégé Agreements involving SDVOSB or VOSB concerns from any Federal Agency will be considered.



SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION PLAN (SBPP)



Evaluation — SBPP

- ➤ All offerors (large and small) will be evaluated on the level of small business commitment that they demonstrate for the proposed acquisition, and their prior level of commitment to utilizing small businesses in performance of prior contracts
- > The following shall evidence small business participation:
 - ➤ The extend to which such firms, as defined in FAR Part 19 and Public Law 109-461, are specifically identified in proposals
 - ➤ The extent of commitment to use such firms (enforceable commitments will be weighted more heavily than non-enforceable ones)
 - > The complexity and variety of the work small firms are to perform



Evaluation – SBPP (cont.)

- > The realism of the proposal
- ➤ Past Performance of the offeror in complying with the requirements of the clauses at FAR 52.219-8; Utilization of Small Business Concerns, and, for all large business offerors, FAR 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan
- > The extent of participation of such firms in terms of the value of the total acquisition
- ➤ The extent to which the offeror provides detailed explanations/documentation supporting the proposed participation percentages, or lack thereof



Evaluation – SBPP (cont.)

> Goals

- Small Business: 35% of the total contract value, inclusive:
- Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB): 10% of the total contract value
- Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB): 12% of the total contract value
- Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB): 5% of the total contract value
- Women-Owned Small Business: 5% of the total contract value
- Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUB Zone) Small Business: 3% of the total contract



Submission - SBPP

- ➤ All offerors, both small and large businesses, are required to submit Small Business Participation Plan information that shall include the following:
 - > Type of Business
 - Small Business Participation Goals completion of Total Contract Value Goals Table
 - > List Principal Supplies/Services to be Subcontracted
 - > Prior Performance Information
 - > Extent of Commitment enforceable commitments

➤ Offerors (Large Businesses) shall provide a Small Business Subcontracting Plan in accordance with applicable clauses



PRICE EVALUATION



Evaluation —Price

- ➤ The total evaluated contract price will equal the sum of the total labor price and the total of the Materials/Other Direct Costs (ODC) and Travel price (including associated General and Administrative (G&A)/Material Handling Costs/Other Indirect Loadings) for the five-year base period.
- ➤ The offeror and each subcontractor will provide their fully loaded labor rates for separately priced On-Site, Off-Site, and OCONUS work locations for each of the five base years of the contract. Each fully loaded labor rate will be multiplied by its corresponding level of effort for the five year base period. The estimated ODCs required by Section L, plus applicable G&A/Material Handling Costs provided by the offeror will be added by each contract year.



Submission - Price

- The offeror shall provide the loaded labor rates, and allocate the number of labor hours for the prime and each subcontractor, for each year of the five year base period.
- ➤ Labor rates must be provided for On-Site, Off-Site, and OCONUS work locations. On-Site locations are defined as Government owned and/or operated facilities. Off-Site locations are defined as non-Government owned and/or operated facilities (i.e., the offeror's local work facility, etc.).
- The offeror must provide a separate fully loaded rate associated with each labor category for each individual year of the five-year base contract. When subcontracted effort is proposed, rates must be clearly distinguished as the contractor's rate or the subcontractor's rate.



Submission - Price

- ➤ Offerors are cautioned to ensure that the allocation of work among the prime contractor and the subcontractors indicated in the Price proposal corresponds to the distribution of work indicated in the Management proposal.
- ➤ Each labor category specified by the Government in the solicitation must be addressed by either the prime, at least one of the subcontractors or both (i.e., no un-addressed labor categories). The mix of effort by contractor or subcontractor must be clearly distinguished by percentage.
- The Price proposal shall also include an additional file (PRMETH.PDF) that contains a concise narrative description of the pricing methodology and the manner in which the total price was derived.