

2010 RFI Questions and Answers

(02/17/2010)

2010 RFI FAQs:

2010 RFI Question 1: Will NASA require all funds (\$28.8 million) by April 2011 or will there be an opportunity to spread the payment of those funds over a period of time?

Answer 1: NASA requires full funding by April 11, 2011. Any discussion on terms of payment or payment schedules will be worked out once recipients are identified and transfer agreements are developed.

2010 RFI Question 2: Is the \$22.8 million in costs exclusively the cost to NASA for preparing an Orbiter for display and transporting the Orbiter to its point of destination?

Answer 2: The cost is \$28.8 M, not \$22.8M. The \$28.8M cost represents what NASA requires from each recipient to pay NASA for preparing an Orbiter for display and transporting the Orbiter to its point of destination. The \$28.8M cost is not in NASA's FY11 budget and therefore must be paid by each recipient.

2010 RFI Question 3: Can we obtain a breakdown of costs to include: (1) estimated ferrying costs from Florida to final destination; (2) estimated safing costs; (3) additional costs for preparing the Orbiters that are not related to safing and transportation and (4) any fees that might be unrelated to the actual costs for preparing the Orbiters for shipment.

Answer 3: The \$28.8M cost is the sum of two component costs: \$8.3M for "Ferry" and \$20.5M for "Display Preparation". NASA defines these two tasks as mandatory work to provide an Orbiter to a recipient, and NASA has determined that NASA must perform this work. Note that cost estimate of the two components have different estimating uncertainties, such that the actual cost of one component vs. the other may increase. NASA is confident, however, that the total cost to prepare and transport each vehicle will not exceed \$28.8M.

(1) The \$8.3M "Ferry" cost is the work to fly the Orbiter to an airport near the display site. The airport must meet specific criteria that allow landing the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft with attached Orbiter. The Orbiter will remain in Ferry Flight Configuration. The major tasks include: actual ferry of Orbiter, offload & tow to final location; positioning the orbiter on jack stands and de-servicing Hydraulic System #1; renting two NASA approved mobile Cranes, on loading/offloading the Orbiter to/from Shuttle Carrier Aircraft (SCA); shipment of Ground Support Equipment (GSE) required from and to NASA KSC; travel cost and rentals of hi-lifts, access stands, etc.; and Shuttle Carrier Aircraft and Shuttle Landing Facility costs to conduct the ferry operation.

(2) NASA is not seeking reimbursement for safing costs. Safing the Orbiter vehicles is a NASA obligation and requires putting the Orbiters in a condition in which they may be stored indefinitely at NASA KSC, away from the public.

(3) \$20.5M is required for Display Preparation which includes the reinstallation of safed Orbiter vehicle systems or substitutes for Orbiter vehicle systems; provision of new special hazard notices and controls; and configuration of the vehicle to allow it to be ferried to and reside in its final destination. Tasks include set up of the Crew Module in flight configuration, installation of structural shells and skins for the previously removed Orbital Maneuvering System pods, Forward Reaction Control System, and internal cabin structural panels, as well as final closeout of the payload bay, wings and the aft compartment. "Display Preparation" is not a museum display showcasing the Orbiter. Display preparation also includes costs for NASA to configure the Orbiter for Ferry Flight per existing Space Shuttle Program ferry flight requirements; preparation and sign-off of the Ferry Flight Readiness Statement, as well as preparation and delivery of the NASA display site "kit". Also included is the ground support equipment (GSE) required to support final NASA public display site requirements, including "Data" packs (MSDS-equivalent for remaining passive hazards; Orbiter system configuration summary).

(4) There are no "fees" in addition to the Display Preparation and Ferry work as defined by NASA above.

Any work beyond NASA's definition of "Display Preparation" and "Ferry" is not considered mandatory by NASA and is not included in the \$28.8M external funding requirement.

2010 RFI Question 4: What amount of time might NASA consider for recovering all of its costs? (if that is offered as an option)

Answer 4: NASA requires full funding by April 11, 2011. Any discussion on terms of payment or payment schedules would have to be worked out once recipients are identified and transfer agreements are developed.

2010 RFI Question 5: What payment schedule (cash flow) might NASA consider for that time period? (again, if that is offered as an option)

Answer 5: NASA requires full funding by April 11, 2011. Any discussion on terms of payment or payment schedules would have to be worked out once recipients are identified and transfer agreements are developed.

2010 RFI Question 6: Will NASA permit the temporary storage of an Orbiter at a site other than the place of final display as long as the environmental conditions associated with that site meet all conservation and preservation guidelines for the display of aerospace artifacts and as long as the requesting organization provides suitable

evidence of its capability and intention to follow through with plans to display the Orbiter?

Answer 6: The last Orbiter is to be ferried its final destination not later than Dec 2011. Shuttle Carrier Aircraft and Shuttle Carrier Aircraft infrastructure will be dismantled following the final Shuttle Ferry flight. It would therefore be reasonable to assume that if NASA supported a proposal for temporary storage, the storage location would have to be near/adjacent to the final Shuttle Display location, and would not require any additional transportation of any kind by NASA.

2010 RFI Question 7: Is there a more up to date or recent RFI for the SSME's than that numbered # NNH09OI001L?

Answer 7: SSMEs are no longer being offered through *any* RFIs.

2010 RFI Question 8: Are you accepting proposals and responses regarding the SSMEs? Or is it too late for those and now you're only doing the orbiters?

Answer 8: SSMEs are no longer being offered through *any* RFIs. Only Orbiters are included in updated 2010 RFI.