

Second Clarification to NNH10CAO001K

Clarifications to NNH10CAO001K are contained in this file. However please note this does not change any of the requirements already contain with the existing BAA. This clarification applies to Thrust Area 1 – Payload Integration and Operations Support Services. Specifically, the updates apply to the support services for project-specific integration and operations support on an as needed basis.

Released – October 18, 2010

- Open through December 31, 2011
- Intent of this announcement is to provide a way for the private researcher (commercial, university, non-profit, etc) to submit a proposal to help enable ISS as a National Lab by providing support equipment or services
 - Thrust Area 1 - Payload Integration and Operations Support Services
 - Support services may include project-specific integration and operations support on an as needed basis in response to specific requirements as they emerge

Examples: Thrust Area 1

Payload Integration and Operations Support Services

- Support services may include project-specific integration and operations support on an as needed basis in response to specific requirements as they emerge
 - This has been referred to as “on-call implementation partners”
 - These are organizations that can
 - Serve as the interface between the researcher and the payloads office
 - Translate ISS payloads process and data requirements to the research community
 - Translate the research requirements into the ISS data requirements
 - Serve as the advocate for the payload
 - There will be two approaches to awards for the support services depending on the cost of the work to be performed
 - Approach 1 – Awards as Blanket Purchasing Agreements – A Blanket Purchasing Agreement (BPA) is an agreement awarded with a menu of capabilities or services that are available from multiple vendors that may be able to provide a given capability. When a capability is required by the government, the government will request a short proposal from the vendors under the BPA. After the government performs an evaluation of these proposals, a call order(s) is issued by the government to a vendor(s) that can provide the needed capability set forth under the BPA. Call orders issued under a BPA can only be used for individual awards that are \$100K or less. This award mechanism will be useful for educational activities or for simple payload integration projects but will most likely be exceeded for complex payload integration work.
 - Requested Proposal

- A proposal against this area of the BAA should contain the menu of services the implementation partner can provide (see below) and the cost for that service
 - Since an award under this approach will be limited to \$100K, no individual service cost should exceed \$100K
- Expected Contract Type
 - Blanket Purchasing Agreement (BPA) under the simplified acquisition process
 - One year contract with possible extensions to a maximum of 5 years
 - Companies will be able to update costs once per year to account for rate changes
 - BPAs will contain a “menu” of services available as well as the terms and conditions upon which NASA and the company have agreed (see examples on the next chart)
 - When NASA has need of simple or educational integration services whose value we expect to be less than \$100K, we will issue a Call Order for those services to the companies that have indicated they can provide the services
 - Companies that are interested in bidding on the specific Call Order will provide a one-page bid back to NASA
- Example Tasks for Implementation Partners
 - Provide any or all payload integration services listed:
 - Perform verification for flight certification including acceptance, safety and interface requirements
 - Provide mission management input and support including payload preparation, integration, safety, mission planning, and operations
 - Conduct crew training
 - Support NASA bench reviews
 - Monitor and provide input as required for real-time payload operation
 - Receive payload back at turnover from NASA and de-integrate as required for analysis
 - Provide unique services based on hardware owned by the implementation partner (educational activities, cold stowage contingency capabilities, sample analysis services for other users, etc.)
 - Other services not defined here (specify)
- Approach 2 – Awards as Contracts or Cooperative Agreements – either a contract or a cooperative agreement will be used when an individual award will be more than \$100K. This will be used for complex payload integration work. For this award, NASA will release an amendment to the BAA requesting proposals for a specific set of payload integration work on a specific set of research objectives. This amendment will have a due date for companies that wish to propose to this specific set of work.

- Requested Proposal
 - A proposal against an amendment of the BAA for a specific set of payload integration work should follow the proposal guidelines in the BAA.
- Expected Contract Type
 - Contract or Cooperative Agreement for the specific research space flight unique integration work
 - Example Tasks for Spaceflight Unique Integration work under this approach
 - Define requirements necessary to ensure translation of ground research to space flight
 - Perform ground testing necessary to ensure the flight hardware can meet the new research objectives
 - Evaluate options for hardware modifications to accommodate new research objectives
 - Modify existing hardware to accommodate new research objectives
 - Includes design, build and certification testing of modified hardware
 - Perform verification for flight certification including acceptance, safety and interface requirements
 - Provide mission management input and support including payload preparation, integration, safety, mission planning, and operations
 - Conduct crew training
 - Support NASA bench reviews
 - Monitor and provide input as required for real-time payload operation
 - Receive payload back at turnover from NASA and de-integrate as required for analysis

Questions	Formal Question	Input to the Answers
1	<p>Offeror will be proposing numerous technical task areas (i.e., menu items), none of which will approach a value of \$1M when considered individually. For any future Call Order it is impossible to predict the number of technical tasks that may be associated with any one Call Order. In other words, it is impossible to know at this time if we would ever exceed \$1M on any one Call Order. Therefore, should we follow the proposal response instructions found in BAA Item 3-Proposals with dollar value less than \$1M, or Item 4- Proposals over \$1M ?</p>	<p>Please see the recent update/clarification to the BAA posted with these Qs and As. The Government plan at this time is to use the BPA for the Educational Partners tasks or simple integration work which is expected to be under \$100K. For requirements that are expected to be greater than the \$100K threshold for issuing call orders the Government will use another procurement vehicle like a cooperative agreement or a contract. Since the BPA will be used for situations of \$100K or less you should follow the instructions for Proposals with a dollar value less than \$1M.</p>
2	<p>Per the clarification of NNH10CAO001K received 9/20/10, the Requested Proposal for Implementation Partner information indicates "Companies that are interested in bidding on the specific Call Order will provide a one-page bid back to NASA". The Offeror envisions the following type of One Page Response - Provides menu item costs at the appropriate payload complexity level for the Call Order requirements. Additionally, travel associated with the required tasks will be priced consistent with the customer's location. And finally, project engineering and business management will be estimated based on a Cost Estimating Relationship applied to the sum of the technical and travel tasks. - Is our one-page response aligned with NASA's Approach? If not, can you please clarify NASA's expectations?</p>	<p>The BPA and resulting call orders will be used for those situations expected to be \$100K or less. Another type of procurement vehicle will be used for situations greater than \$100K. It is anticipated that for any particular call order that the Government anticipates issuing that Offerors will submit a "quick" (1 page or so) pricing proposal. For other types of situations such as a cooperative agreement or contract, more information may be requested. In either case, the Government will provide more specific pricing instructions so Offerors are clear on what needs to be provided.</p>

3	<p>This question is dependent on the answer to Question 1. If our proposal should be formatted per Item 4 Tech Volume Instructions, Section H. Project Management will be required, which indicates a linked Integrated Master Schedule is to be provided. Please confirm an IMS is not required for an Implementation Partner proposal, as task description are provided for review and selection purposes for future Call Orders.</p>	<p>For items procured under Call Orders on the BPA, no integrated master schedule is required. For other types of situations such as a cooperative agreement for a complete payload integration job, an IMS may be requested.</p>
4	<p>Reference: Section II, Paragraph C, Sub-paragraph 4c. Is the TINA threshold being raised to the current value of \$700 K? Cost and pricing data is required if contract award is greater than the TINA threshold; in this context, is contract award the result of this initial proposal or as a result of a Call Order award?</p>	<p>No - The TINA threshold is not being raised or adjusted. A BPA (and subsequent call orders issued under the BPA) are not technically contracts (see answer 5 below). Furthermore, the Government expects to use the BPA and issuance of call orders in those cases that are \$100K or less.</p>
5	<p>Reference: 3.b Section II (C.4a). Is a BPA considered a procurement contract in this context?</p>	<p>No. A BPA is not a contract. A BPA does not obligate funds. Refer to FAR 13.202(e);16.702(c)(1). The terms of a BPA do not guarantee that the Government will place an order with the Contractor. Refer to FAR 13.202(e)(ii);16.702(a).</p>
6	<p>Reference: BAA-NNH10CAO001K. Does NASA intend to provide terms and conditions for the BPA to the contractor?</p>	<p>Yes. NASA will provide terms and conditions for the BPA once the BPA is completed and ready for release.</p>
7	<p>Reference: BAA - NNH10CAO001K. The Offeror fully understands the cost proposal instructions stated in BAA, however the cost proposal instructions are not typical to BPA type procurements. Will there be unique proposal (including cost) instructions in portions of the BAA for the Implementation Partner proposal (with BPA award)?</p>	<p>Depending on the situation (greater than \$100K or \$100K or less) the Government may award call orders under a BPA or use another type of procurement vehicle (ex: cooperative agreement or contract). There may be more specific cost instructions depending on the type of procurement vehicle used. If more specific cost instructions are required, the Government will provide those specific instructions directly to potential Offerors and they may not be in the BAA itself.</p>