

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000**

**Selection of Contractor
For
Intelligent Systems Research and Development Support (ISRDS)
NNA08205346R**

September 12, 2008

On September 4, 2008, I, along with certain NASA Source Evaluation Board (SEB) Ex-Officio members, met with the SEB members appointed to evaluate the proposals for the procurement of ISRDS for the Office of the Director of Exploration Technology. During this meeting, the SEB presented the findings from its Evaluation Report. We discussed the relative merits of the proposals to assure that I had a full understanding of its evaluation.

I assessed the SEB's findings and evaluation of proposals. This Source Selection Statement reflects my independent judgment and is based upon a comparative assessment of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the proposals, considering the evaluation criteria prescribed in the Request For Proposal (RFP). My selection decision is set forth below.

Procurement Description

The Intelligent Systems Division (hereafter, referred to as Code TI or the Division) is part of the Exploration Technology Directorate (Code T) at the NASA Ames Research Center. Code TI conducts scientific research, develops technologies, builds applications, and infuses and deploys advanced information systems technology into NASA missions and other federal government projects. This procurement is for support in the following areas: 1. Autonomous Systems and Robotics (ASR), 2. Collaborative & Assistant Systems (CAS), 3. Discovery and Systems Health (DaSH), 4. Robust Software Engineering (RSE), and 5. Software Systems Engineering and Software Project Management.

This procurement was conducted as a full and open competition and will result in a single award Indefinite-Delivery Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) Cost-Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF) contract. The period of performance consists of a two-year base period, and three one-year priced options, resulting in a maximum performance period of five years.

Evaluation Procedure

Proposals were evaluated in accordance with the requirements of FAR Subpart 15.3, "Source Selection," as supplemented by NFS Subpart 1815.3, "Source Selection."

Section M of the solicitation, paragraph M.2 Evaluation Approach, advised Offerors that the Government may award a contract based solely on the initial offers received, without discussion of such offers. Accordingly, each Offeror was required to submit its initial proposal to the Government using the most favorable terms from a price and technical standpoint.

The RFP identified three evaluation Factors: Mission Suitability, Past Performance, and Cost. Of the evaluation factors identified above, Mission Suitability is somewhat more important than Past Performance, and Past Performance is significantly more important than Cost. Evaluation factors other than Cost, when combined, are significantly more important than Cost. Of these evaluation factors, the RFP stipulated that, in addition to an adjectival rating, only Mission Suitability would be numerically scored in the evaluation process.

The Mission Suitability Factor consists of four Subfactors. The Subfactors are shown below with their respective point allocation, which signifies their weight.

MISSION SUITABILITY	
Subfactors	Assigned Weight
Management Approach Organizational Structure/Partnering Approach Response to Case Study A Response to Case Study B Key Personnel Staffing, Recruitment, Retention, and Training Phase-in Plan Total Compensation Plan Organizational Conflicts of Interest Avoidance Plan	450
Technical Understanding	350
Safety and Health Plan	100
Small Business Utilization	100
TOTAL	1000

Potential Mission Suitability adjectival ratings are: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, and Poor.

With regard to the Past Performance Factor, the RFP provided for evaluation by the use of the level of confidence ratings of "Very High Level of Confidence," "High Level of Confidence," "Moderate Level of Confidence," "Low Level of Confidence," "Very Low Level of Confidence," and "Neutral/Unknown Level of Confidence," depending on the SEB's assessment of each proposal in this area. For each Offeror and its major subcontractors, the SEB evaluated overall Past Performance with respect to comparability in contract size, content, and complexity to the requirements of the instant acquisition. This Factor provides an opportunity to evaluate the quality of goods and services provided by the Offerors in the past to the Government and other organizations as either a prime or subcontractor. The Past Performance evaluation was based on the information

provided by the Offeror in its Past Performance Volume II, and an assessment of customer questionnaires submitted on behalf of each Offeror and of its major subcontractors.

For the Cost Factor, the SEB performed a cost realism analysis on the proposed cost, which resulted in an assessment of probable cost. The SEB assigned a level of confidence of High, Medium, or Low in the probable cost assessment for each proposal.

Solicitation and Receipt of Proposals

Prior to issuance of the formal RFP, in an effort to better inform industry of NASA's requirements and improve communications, Ames Research Center issued Highlights Documents containing pertinent ISRDS information and a draft RFP requesting industry comments and recommendations on all aspects of the Government's proposed approach to satisfy these requirements. Industry was encouraged to ask questions about the ISRDS requirement and the procurement process. The comments and recommendations received in response to these communications with industry were carefully evaluated and incorporated in the formal RFP as appropriate. A Government response to each comment/recommendation was prepared. The formal RFP was issued electronically on the World Wide Web (WWW) on May 12, 2008. Two amendments were issued and placed on the WWW for the benefit of all respondents. Amendment One was posted May 20, 2008, and Amendment Two was posted June 9, 2008, with proposals due June 26, 2008.

Four proposals were received in response to the RFP by the specified closing time and date. The Offerors' names and addresses (listed alphabetically) are as follows:

Eloret Corporation

465 S. Mathilda Ave., Suite 103
Sunnyvale, California 94086

Engineering Research and Consulting, Inc. (ERC)

4901 Corporate Drive, Suite E
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Science and Technology Corporation (STC)

10 Basil Sawyer Drive
Hampton, Virginia 23666

Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies (SGT)

7701 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Oral proposals were received for a portion of Mission Suitability. Each written proposal consisted of three separate volumes, corresponding to the three respective evaluation Factors, in accordance with Section L of the Solicitation and FAR Parts 15.101 and

15.306. A copy of each proposal was issued to each of the seven voting members of the SEB.

Evaluation Process

After receipt of proposals, the SEB members individually reviewed each proposal and met to discuss individual findings. Following the Mission Suitability Oral Presentation given by each Offeror, the SEB identified strengths and weaknesses for Mission Suitability for each proposal. In Mission Suitability, the identified strengths and weaknesses were categorized either as a "Significant Strength" or "Significant Weakness" or, if not significant, as a "Strength" or "Weakness." The strength and weakness findings were used to establish adjectival ratings and numerical scores for each Mission Suitability Subfactor. No "Deficiencies" were identified in any of the Mission Suitability proposals. The SEB also identified strengths for the Past Performance Factor, based on the proposals and questionnaires completed by past and current customers. No adverse past performance information or weaknesses were identified for any of the Offerors in this Factor. Each identified Past Performance strength was categorized as either a "Significant Strength" or, if not significant, as a "Strength." During its evaluation, the SEB used these findings to establish Level of Confidence ratings for this Factor. The SEB also evaluated cost realism for each proposal, performed a probable cost assessment, and assigned a level of confidence in the probable cost assessment.

I reviewed the SEB's findings of strengths and weaknesses for Mission Suitability and the resultant adjectival ratings and numerical scores. I reviewed the findings and confidence ratings for Past Performance. I reviewed the Cost evaluation results, including the proposed costs, the probable costs, and the confidence levels in the probable cost assessments. I fully considered all of this information prior to making my final selection decision.

EVALUATION FINDINGS OF THE SEB

Mission Suitability Factor

The following addresses the Mission Suitability findings for all Offerors, and comments specifically on Significant Strengths and Significant Weaknesses.

Eloret

Eloret's Mission Suitability proposal received a Fair rating and the lowest score. The total numerical point score received by Eloret for this Factor is in the lower portion of the Fair range.

In the Management Approach Subfactor, no Significant Strengths and two (2) Significant Weaknesses were identified. The Significant Weaknesses were assigned because 1) the Offeror's proposed organizational structure did not provide clear internal or external lines of authority nor did it specify how the work would be divided among the teaming

partners; and 2) the Offeror's proposed approach on key personnel was unreasonable given the requirements of the ISRDS SOW. No other Strengths and two (2) other Weaknesses were identified.

In the Technical Understanding Subfactor, no Significant Strengths and two (2) Significant Weaknesses were identified. The Significant Weaknesses were assigned because 1) the Offeror's proposal did not demonstrate understanding of all technology areas, nor provide an effective and efficient approach to managing the work; and 2) the Offeror's proposal failed to address certain areas of the SOW and failed to identify risk areas and recommended approaches to minimize the probability and impact of risks. No other Strengths and no other Weaknesses were identified.

In the Safety and Health Plan Subfactor, the Offeror met the requirements of the Subfactor. No strengths or weaknesses were identified.

In the Small Business Utilization Subfactor, one (1) Significant Strength and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. The Significant Strength was assigned because the proposed participation of a small business as a prime and a small disadvantaged business (SDB) as a significant teaming partner would ensure that small businesses are utilized and that small business goals are exceeded. No other Strengths and no other Weaknesses were identified.

ERC

ERC's Mission Suitability proposal received a Fair rating and the second lowest score. The total numerical point score received by ERC for this Factor is in the higher portion of the Fair range.

In the Management Approach Subfactor, no Significant Strengths and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. No other Strengths and three (3) other Weaknesses were identified.

In the Technical Understanding Subfactor, no Significant Strengths and one (1) Significant Weakness were identified. The Significant Weakness was assigned because the Offeror's proposal failed to demonstrate its comprehension of each of the requirements of the SOW, and did not adequately address how the work would be accomplished. No other Strengths and one (1) other Weakness were identified.

In the Safety and Health Plan Subfactor, no Significant Strengths and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. No other Strengths and one (1) other Weakness were identified.

In the Small Business Utilization Subfactor, the Offeror met the requirements of the Subfactor. No strengths or weaknesses were identified.

STC

STC's Mission Suitability proposal received a Very Good rating and the second highest score. The total numerical point score received by STC for this Factor is in the lower portion of the Very Good range.

In the Management Approach Subfactor, no Significant Strengths and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. One (1) other Strength and no other Weaknesses were identified.

In the Technical Understanding Subfactor, one (1) Significant Strength and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. The Significant Strength was assigned because the Offeror clearly demonstrated a sound understanding of all of the technical requirements of the SOW and proposed a coherent, integrated approach to accomplishing the work. One (1) other Strength and no other Weaknesses were identified.

In the Safety and Health Plan Subfactor, the Offeror met the requirements of the Subfactor. No strengths or weaknesses were identified.

In the Small Business Utilization Subfactor, one (1) Significant Strength and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. The Significant Strength was assigned because the proposed participation of an SDB as a prime and the detailed plans for other small business participation would ensure that small businesses are utilized and that small business goals are exceeded. No other Strengths and no other Weaknesses were identified.

SGT

SGT's Mission Suitability proposal received a Very Good rating and the highest score. The total numerical point score received by SGT for this Factor is in the higher portion of the Very Good range.

In the Management Approach Subfactor, one (1) Significant Strength and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. The Significant Strength was assigned because the Offeror's approach to Key Personnel would be exceptionally effective for managing a research and development contract of this size and complexity. Two (2) other Strengths and no other Weaknesses were identified.

In the Technical Understanding Subfactor, one (1) Significant Strength and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. The Significant Strength was assigned because the Offeror clearly demonstrated a complete, balanced and consistent approach that would mitigate risks and provide short-term and long-term benefits for each of the technical areas of the SOW. Two (2) other Strengths and no other Weaknesses were identified.

In the Safety and Health Plan Subfactor, the Offeror met the requirements of the Subfactor. No strengths or weaknesses were identified.

In the Small Business Utilization Subfactor, no Significant Strengths and no Significant Weaknesses were identified. One (1) other Strength and no other Weaknesses were identified.

Past Performance Factor

The following addresses the Past Performance strengths for all the Offerors. No weaknesses were identified for any of the Offerors.

Eloret

The evaluation of Eloret's Past Performance resulted in a Moderate Level of Confidence. No Significant Strengths were identified. One (1) other Strength was identified, because the Offeror demonstrated past success in its ability to hire uniquely qualified individuals including foreign nationals under multiple contracts cited.

ERC

The evaluation of ERC's Past Performance resulted in a Moderate Level of Confidence. No strengths were identified.

STC

The evaluation of STC's Past Performance resulted in a Very High Level of Confidence. One (1) Significant Strength was identified, because the Team received good to excellent ratings on multiple past performance questionnaires for relevant technical work that is highly germane to the requirement. One (1) other Strength was identified, because the Team demonstrated the ability to hire and retain uniquely qualified individuals, including foreign nationals with varying immigration statuses.

SGT

The evaluation of SGT's Past Performance resulted in a Very High Level of Confidence. One (1) Significant Strength was identified, because the Team received very good to excellent ratings on multiple past performance questionnaires for relevant technical work that is highly germane to the requirement. One (1) other Strength was identified, because the Team demonstrated the ability to assess and reassign staff based on technical performance and to resolve problems encountered in a timely manner, resulting in enhanced contract performance.

Cost Factor

The SEB evaluated each Offeror's Cost proposal. This included verifying that each Offeror is in compliance with the RFP requirements; evaluating the reasonableness of the proposed rates for fringe benefits, overhead, and G&A; and ascertaining that proposed

labor rates are reasonable for the labor market in which the contract will be performed. The cost elements were analyzed, including subcontractors' costs, proposed labor rates and skill mix, indirect rates and fee. A probable cost determination was completed for all of the Offerors, and all of the Offerors received a confidence level rating reflecting the Government's confidence that the Offeror's probable costs are realistic for the work to be performed and consistent with the various elements of the Offeror's technical proposal.

Eloret had the second highest total proposed and probable cost, with a High confidence level rating.

ERC had the lowest total proposed and probable cost, with a High confidence level rating.

STC had the highest total proposed and probable cost, with a High confidence level rating.

SGT had the second lowest total proposed and probable cost, with a High confidence level rating.

SELECTION DECISION OF THE SOURCE SELECTION AUTHORITY FOR INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Introduction: FAR Part 15.308 "Source Selection Decision" states: "The source selection authority's (SSA) decision shall be based on a comparative assessment of proposals against all source selection criteria in the solicitation. While the SSA may use reports and analyses prepared by others, the source selection decision shall represent the SSA's independent judgment. The source selection decision shall be documented, and the documentation shall include the rationale for any business judgments and tradeoffs made or relied on by the SSA, including benefits associated with additional costs. Although the rationale for the selection decision must be documented, that documentation need not quantify the tradeoffs that led to the decision."

My selection decision represents my independent judgment. I carefully reviewed all of the SEB's findings to ensure a full understanding thereof. I did not simply count and compare the numbers of strengths and weaknesses; rather, I considered the potential impact of a strength or weakness, and its relevance to this proposed effort, against the selection criteria prescribed in the RFP.

Assessment of the SEB's findings:

I concur with all of the SEB's findings. As the Source Selection Authority, I hereby adopt all of the findings of the SEB without exception.

Selection Discussion:

Eloret

I concur with all of the findings identified by the SEB for Eloret under the Mission Suitability Factor, and the assigned rating of Fair, with the lowest Mission Suitability score. Eloret's proposal had no deficiencies; there were both strengths and weaknesses in the Mission Suitability proposal; and weaknesses outbalanced any strengths. In my opinion, the four (4) Significant Weaknesses – in particular, the Significant Weakness for Eloret's failure to demonstrate an understanding of all technology areas and its failure to demonstrate an effective and efficient approach to managing the work – would appreciably increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance by this Offeror.

In Past Performance, I agree with the SEB that the Moderate Level of Confidence rating is appropriate.

I also agree with the High confidence assigned to Eloret's probable cost assessment, and note that Eloret had the second highest total proposed and probable cost.

I hereby determine that no further consideration will be given to Eloret's proposal, because the three remaining proposals, discussed below, are all stronger in Mission Suitability, are all equal to or stronger in Past Performance, and Eloret's probable cost is higher than the proposal that I herein select. And, as discussed above, I take particular note of, and am particularly concerned with, Eloret's four (4) Significant Weaknesses under Mission Suitability, particularly the one Significant Weakness I reference above.

ERC

I concur with all of the findings identified by the SEB for ERC under the Mission Suitability Factor, and the assigned rating of Fair, with the second lowest Mission Suitability score. ERC's proposal had no deficiencies and no strengths. There were weaknesses in the Mission Suitability proposal, including one (1) Significant Weakness under the Technical Understanding Subfactor, for its failure to demonstrate comprehension of each of the requirements of the SOW and for not adequately addressing how the work would be accomplished. In my opinion, this Significant Weakness would appreciably increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance by this Offeror.

In Past Performance, I agree with the SEB that the Moderate Level of Confidence rating is appropriate.

I also agree with the High confidence assigned to ERC's probable cost assessment, and note that ERC had the lowest total proposed and probable cost.

I hereby determine that no further consideration will be given to ERC's proposal, because the two remaining proposals, discussed below, are both stronger overall. Firstly, the two

remaining proposals are both stronger in both Mission Suitability and Past Performance. Secondly, the RFP prescribes that the Cost Factor is significantly less important than the other two Factors (both individually and when combined). Even though ERC has the lowest total probable cost, its total probable cost is not significantly lower than the total probable cost of the proposal that I herein select. ERC's advantage in Cost is, in my opinion, far outweighed by its weaknesses in Mission Suitability and its lower rating in Past Performance – particularly its Significant Weakness in the Technical Understanding Subfactor of Mission Suitability which, as discussed above, causes me particular concern.

STC

I concur with all of the findings identified by the SEB for STC under the Mission Suitability Factor, and the assigned rating of Very Good, with the second highest Mission Suitability score. STC's proposal had no deficiencies and no weaknesses. There were four (4) strengths in the Mission Suitability proposal, including two (2) Significant Strengths. I am particularly impressed by STC's Significant Strength in the Technical Understanding Subfactor, namely, for its sound understanding of all of the technical requirements of the SOW and the coherent, integrated approach it proposed to accomplish the work; this Significant Strength, in my opinion, would greatly enhance the potential for successful contract performance.

In Past Performance, I agree with the SEB that the Very High Level of Confidence rating is appropriate.

I also agree with the High confidence assigned to STC's probable cost assessment, and note that STC had the highest total proposed and probable cost.

SGT

I concur with all of the findings identified by the SEB for SGT under the Mission Suitability Factor, and the assigned rating of Very Good, with the highest Mission Suitability score. SGT's proposal has no deficiencies and no weaknesses. There were seven (7) strengths in the Mission Suitability proposal, including two (2) Significant Strengths. In my opinion, these two (2) Significant Strengths – for, respectively, SGT's exceptionally effective approach to Key Personnel, and for the complete, balanced and consistent technical approach it proposed for each of the technical areas of the SOW – would greatly enhance the potential for successful contract performance. I am, in particular, extremely impressed by SGT's proposed management approach relating to Key Personnel which, in my opinion, would be exceptionally effective for managing a research and development contract of this size and complexity; this Significant Strength, along with the deep technical understanding and risk mitigation demonstrated by SGT, reflected in its other Significant Strength, would greatly enhance the potential for successful contract performance.

In Past Performance, I agree with the SEB that the Very High Level of Confidence rating is appropriate.

I also agree with the High confidence assigned to SGT's probable cost assessment, and note that SGT had the second lowest total proposed and probable cost.

Selection:

I carefully studied all of the SEB's evaluation findings. Thereafter, on September 8, 2008, I chose to review, personally, the Mission Suitability and Past Performance volumes of the proposals of STC and SGT.

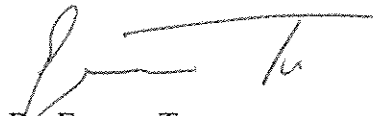
Management Approach is the Subfactor of Mission Suitability that carries the most weight and, accordingly, is of greatest concern to me. In this Subfactor, SGT rightfully received a higher numerical score, and a higher adjectival rating, than STC. In my independent judgment, the management approach of SGT is substantially superior, particularly for its exceptionally effective approach relating to Key Personnel which allocates roles and technical responsibilities within its organizational structure in a very smart and incisive manner. I consider these attributes to be one of two discriminators in favor of SGT.

The other discriminator in favor of SGT is in the Cost Factor. SGT has a lower proposed and probable cost than STC.

I find no discriminator in the Past Performance Factor.

The superiority of SGT in Mission Suitability indicates that SGT will provide superior contract performance and customer satisfaction. This conclusion is supported by a Very High Level of Confidence arising from the Past Performance of SGT. Further, the lower cost of SGT for its superior proposal clearly indicates that SGT will provide the best value to the Government.

I thus select SGT for contract award.



Dr. Eugene Tu
Source Selection Authority