

**TO ALL INTERESTED OFFERORS FOR THE BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT (BAA)
REFERENCE: FBO NUMBER GOES-R-0001, REVISED JULY 14, 2003:**

1. Is the price confirmation letter in 2.6 (8) included in the page count?

No.

2. The Government refers to "charts" but does not define the term or include rules for fonts etc. on charts. Please clarify.

Charts are standard 8 ½ x 11-inch paper with a minimum font size of 10 point; however, 12 point is preferred. There is not a limitation on the maximum font size. In general, please be sure that the charts are legible (i.e., do not require a magnifying glass or other special enlarging equipment.) The format should be either Microsoft PowerPoint or .PDF.

3. Are foldout 11" by 17" pages allowed, and should these be counted as two pages? Please clarify.

Foldouts are acceptable and will count as two pages.

4. The BAA requires a font size of 10 point or 12 point, proportionately spaced. Does the font size requirement apply to Tables and Figures? Typically, an 8 point font allows for acceptable readability and composition of figures and tables. Please clarify.

For Tables and Figures, the font size is a minimum size of 10 point.

5. The instructions do not specify the requirement for margins and whether proprietary notices, page numbers and other identifiers containing no evaluation information are permitted in the margins. Please clarify.

The use of standard margins and identifiers is acceptable. We require margin spacing of .5 inches, minimum. Page Numbers are also required. Potential Respondents are advised that the Respondent's proposal text and identifiers must not exceed the Government printer margin. The Government does not intend to manipulate or reformat the Respondent's files to attempt to make the print out complete.

6. How should the PDF files be submitted? By E-mail or on compact disk (CD)? Please clarify.

The Respondent is required to submit any .PDF files on CD media, in addition to the required ten (10) hard copies.

7. The instructions do not indicate how the responses should be bound; e.g., in three ring binders or in loose copy. Please clarify.

The Government prefers submission of the material in 3-ring binders; however, loose, GBC (Plastic Spines) or other bindings are also permitted.

8. Is a Table of Contents required, and is this included in the page count?

A table of contents is preferred. If provided, it will not be included in the page count.

9. In the TD, Section 2.4, Table 1, please clarify the meaning of TS.

The Government intended TS to signify the trade studies, such as “Trade Study 1.

- 10.** In the TD, Section 2.4, Table 1, it appears that the table identifies which services are included in the space segment. Is the requirement to identify where in the matrix the Offeror will be concentrating their research only required for Offerors bidding Task 1?

Task Studies are not confined to Task Area 1. Those services in Table 1 are currently on the space segment; however, the Government anticipates that other alternatives may exist for these services. As a reminder, the Trade Studies should be researched across all Task Areas where such services are indicated. All Respondents are also advised that they must identify what they intend to research. Table 1 only lets the Respondent know what questions the Government is attempting to answer as a result of the research studies. Please note that the Government is interested in pertinent research proposals and does not have a predisposed notion for the concept of the Architecture. In general, the Government is interested in considering architectures that are “state-of-the-art”, provide more precise imagery and sounding data, promote cost efficiency in terms of development and support, and reduce error rates and downtime, when compared to the current GOES satellite system capabilities.

- 11.** In the TD, Section 2.4, Table 1, does “distributed” refer to the Government’s baseline architecture for the space segment with an A and B satellite in each of two orbital locations, or should the term be interpreted more broadly?

Please use the “Government Baseline” only as a guide, as it is the current systems architecture. The purpose of this solicitation of studies is to explore alternative architectures that will meet or exceed the Government’s capability requirements (see MRD). Respondents are advised that they should not be limited by material presented in past Government-Industry briefings.

- 12.** The [Respondent] wishes to meet with the GOES-R Program Staff to discuss its capabilities and potential architectures that it or its team members can offer for this proposed study contract. Can these meetings take place, or does the Broad Agency Announcement institute a “black-out”, prohibiting any such contacts?

This BAA is a “Federal Agency Procurement”, as defined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) in Sub-Part 3.104-3. The NOAA program officials on the GOES-R team, including but not limited to the Program Manager, Contracting Officer, support contractors, and other NOAA program officials “participate substantially” in the acquisition of these architecture studies, and should be considered “participants in the acquisition process” (FAR 15.201(c)).

The BAA was issued on 11 July 2003, and the responses will lead to the award of multiple binding contracts. Therefore, the readers are directed to the discussion on procurement integrity in FAR 3.104ff, and more pointedly to FAR 15.201(f) regarding the conduct of Government program officials exchanging information with industry about an acquisition, prior to the receipt of proposals.

The term “blackout” is not entirely appropriate, since the Government encourages pertinent questions after the release of the BAA solicitation. However, questions about this BAA architecture study procurement must be directed to the Contracting Officer exclusively. The answers and questions will be promptly distributed to all interested potential Respondents at the same time. Respondents are cautioned not to make contact with program officials other than the Contracting Officer.

Since GOES-R program officials may reside in NASA as well as NOAA; e. g., in the NASA program offices managing the GOES instrument procurements, potential Respondents are also cautioned to limit instrument and accommodation discussions from straying into discussion about a proposed GOES-R task area architecture study being proposed or under consideration by NOAA.

The Respondents shall not initiate any discussions referencing this BAA with Government Personnel (NOAA/NASA) or their supporting contractors. This policy shall be adhered to until Award of Contract. For clarification or interpretation, questions shall be forwarded to the NOAA Contracting Officer.

Finally, it should be noted that potential respondents do not gain any unfair competitive advantage simply by nature of their incumbency on current NOAA or NASA contracts. Information that is public and available will be provided to all interested potential GOES-R architecture study Respondents through the designated NOAA web site.

- 13.** In Section 2.1, in the next to last paragraph, it states: "It is desirable to develop an end-to-end GOES-R architecture that can be a starting point for a future NOAA Observing System Architect (NOSA) Architecture. More information on the NOSA notional architecture can be found at the GOES-R Architecture Study web site in Section 2.7." Section 2.7 shows the Web site address as: http://www.osd.noaa.gov/goesr_arch_study/index.htm. At the current time, the referenced document is not available at this web site. When will it be available?

Detailed information may not be available until after the award of the study contracts. We intend to place briefing charts on NOSA on the web page prior to 28 July, but this information is fairly general in content at this time.

- 14.** Does the page count include the cover page, table of contents, and acronym list?

No, these specific pages will be excluded from the page limitation.

- 15.** Will all funds be disbursed at the contract award?

No. At the award of the contracts the Government plans to obligate approximately one-third of each contract's value, which will be sufficient for the first segment of the study. We plan to obligate the remainder of the funds prior to month 4. Funds may be immediately incurred by the study Contractors upon award, and may be billed in proportional fixed price increments upon the successful completion of each discrete study segment.

- 16.** What would be an appropriate date for an authorization to proceed for scheduling purposes?

The Government plans to award all BAA contracts on or about 22 Oct 03.

- 17.** Regarding the MRD references appendices, they are not attached to the document. When will they be placed on the website?

Please check the web site again. We have added those references.

- 18.** In the first paragraph of each Task Area description, there is a similar statement asking how the Respondent's proposed design (or recommended approach) addresses a long list of detailed topics. This list requests a lot of information that won't be available until

the study is conducted, such as ROM costs, recommended WBS, and design or development schedule. Rather than anticipating the results, would you be open instead to a response that describes our understanding of the important elements of this Task Area and the recommended trade studies as well as our approach to conducting these trades? If this was acceptable, then the list of topics you provided would be addressed in the Study and not specifically dealt with in the Response to the BAA.

These were intended to be some of the desired outcomes of the Tier 1 study. Therefore, In the Respondent's White Paper, the understanding and approach for answering the detailed list in the task areas should be addressed.

19. Are you expecting any supporting information on Tier 2 or do you expect to determine the work content after the results of Tier 1 are available?

The focus of the white papers must be on the Tier 1 effort, but the Government is expecting suggested additional trades, refinement of trades, and other enhancements in Tier 2 that will also need to be evaluated as part of the BAA source selection. Potential Respondents are advised that the Tier 2 study will be handled as a unilateral option, and that the Government will make a determination on whether to exercise it after completion of Month 8 in the Tier 1 study.

20. On page 15 of the TD, please explain the term "replenishment strategy" for Task Area 3.

The Government anticipates a 14-year mission for GOES-R. What is the proposed replacement or upgrade strategy needed to sustain, enhance, and stay current with advancing technology for the Task Area 3 systems?

21. In the Technical Description (TD), Section 2.6 (2), the respondent is limited to one proposal per task area, whether as an individual Respondent, Prime, or Sub-contractor." Does this provision preclude a prime from paying for support from instrument vendors or Launch Vehicle providers who by the nature of their business may need to support more than one prime?

The Government believes that the Instrument Requirements Documents (IRDs) and other information in the public domain on the webpage provide enough information about the instruments for potential Respondents to complete the Task Area 1 space segment architectures, so that the prime will not be forced to subcontract or team with an instrument vendor for this study. The one **exception** that the Government grants is that the Launch Vehicle providers may subcontract to multiple primes in the same Task Area segment without penalty. The parent company of the Launch Vehicle provider may also simultaneously propose as a prime. This instance is the single exception permitted by the Government whereby a single business entity is not limited to one proposal per task area, whether as an individual Respondent, Prime, or Sub-contractor.

22. The TD at Section 2.6 (2) states, "The respondent is limited to one proposal per task area whether as an individual Respondent, Prime, or Sub-contractor." It is assumed that this prohibition is put in place to enforce the BAA provision "No Respondent will be paid twice for the same work." However, this statement could be construed to require any teaming agreements or subcontract arrangements to be exclusive. Is this the Government's intent?

No. The Government discourages any teaming agreements at this time.

- 23.** Are separate divisions or operating units of a company considered to be separate respondents? If it is not the Government's intention to require exclusive teaming and subcontract arrangements is it permissible for a single entity to support more than one prime provided that there is sufficient organizational separation between the teams performing the work involved? Such organizational separation could support different primes by different divisions of an entity or the setting up of firewalls between the teams supporting different primes.

Separate divisions or operating units of one company are considered to be the same company. Therefore, they are ineligible to be awarded more than one contract for the same task area, whether as a Prime and Subcontractor or a Prime and Independent on the same task. Again, one **exception** exists, as noted above: the Launch Vehicle providers may subcontract to multiple primes on the same Task Area segment without penalty. Also, the parent company to the Launch Vehicle provider may propose as a prime.

- End of Questions and Answers -