Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract

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National Science Board (NSB)
Committee on Awards and Facilities
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Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract (ASESC)

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ASESC Overall Strategic Objectives

• A partner to enable a world class Antarctic science program, with seamless integration between operations and research support

• A contract that supports innovation that will keep USAP at the cutting edge of working in Antarctica

• A contractor that has world-class expertise in information technology, operations, and logistics to support the USAP’s complex mission

• A contractor with a successful track-record of project delivery

• A contractor with a focus on safety, including sexual harassment and assault prevention programs

• The incorporation of diversity and inclusion at the forefront of NSF and USAP priorities
## ASESC Pre-solicitation Activities to Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Industry Day</td>
<td>February 18, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Session: Non-Procurement Instruments</td>
<td>January 12, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Request for Information (RFI): Non-Procurement Instruments</td>
<td>March 15, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Notice: Instrument Type Determination</td>
<td>May 25, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-on-One Discussions with Interested Parties</td>
<td>November 6-13, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFI: Contract Type, Structure, Period of Performance, and Draft Statement of Work</td>
<td>November 30, 2023</td>
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ASESC Strategy

- NSF is in the process of completing acquisition planning and drafting the solicitation document

- NSF will operate under the authority of the FAR to conduct a competitive, FAR-based procurement.

- NSF is considering the following:
  - An advisory two-step process included in the solicitation,
  - A single award indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity (ID/IQ) contract
  - A cost reimbursable type contract with fee (e.g., award, incentive, fixed)
  - Task Orders for specific business lines or programs/projects within the contract scope
  - Contract duration equal to or longer than the current contract period of performance
## ASESC Future Procurement Milestones

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Draft RFP Released</td>
<td>Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Release of RFP</td>
<td>Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited Extent Site Visit</td>
<td>Fiscal Year 2025, Quarter 1</td>
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ASESC Contract Ceiling

- DACS and OPP are working to set the contract ceiling

- Considerations when establishing a contract ceiling
  - Independent Government Cost Estimate
  - Current and Historical Contract Costs
  - Market Research
  - Cost Drivers
  - Current and Future Needs

- The cumulative value of all task orders shall not exceed the established contract ceiling.
Contract Termination

• All FAR-based contracts include contract termination provisions
  • Termination for Cause
  • Termination for the Government’s Convenience

• Termination is not an unfettered right of the Government

• The specific clauses are determined by the contract type
Period of Performance

• The period of performance will be equal to or longer than the current contract

• When establishing the period of performance (PoP), NSF considers:
  • The PoP of the current contract,
  • Reviews of contracts for similar services at other agencies,
  • Input from interested parties, and
  • In-house expertise

• A PoP for this acquisition will be included in the draft solicitation and interested parties will be invited to comment and review
Subcontracting

• A contract of this size and scope will include several subcontractors

• NSF does not have privity of contract with subcontractors and it is against contract law and the Government’s policy to deal directly with subcontractors

• To hold prime contractors accountable for performance and to mitigate risks of Government responsibility for subcontractor performance problems, influence on subcontractor selection is restrained by the regulations

• NSF is considering the inclusion of a Subcontractor Management Plan as part of the solicitation and resulting award.
Balancing Infrastructure and Science

• Each season is planned with priorities in mind for science, sustainment, and improvements

• This upcoming season, NSF will work closely with stakeholders to ensure the appropriate resources are allocated for several upcoming AIR projects

• Stewardship is included in the Statement of Work for the new contract to emphasize the importance of balancing the program over the long-term
Risks and Mitigations

• Transition to the New Contract
  • A delay in the solicitation and/or award of the contract will negatively impact transition
  • Mitigation would be to extend the current contract

• Workforce
  • Attrition at the end of a contract can produce leadership gaps
  • Turnover before or at contract award can result in “brain drain”
Safety and Remote Locations

• Clearly defined requirements and standards
  • These will be included in the solicitation and resulting award

• Contractor oversight processes sufficient to identify issues and demonstrate corrective actions
  • Included in the Statement of Work

• Government oversight
Contractor Morale

- Club and Recreation Improvements
  - Equipment
  - Finishes and Furniture
  - Chalet Renovation
  - Additional Recreation Staff

- Work Center Improvements
  - Finishes and Furniture

- Food and Store Improvements
  - Equipment
  - Pricing

- Dorm Improvements
  - Bedding
  - Finishes and Furniture